

President Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
Yongdingmenjie, Beijing 100032
People's Republic of China

Dear President Hu,

I am writing to express my grave concern that an estimated 1.5 million people have been displaced as a result of Olympic Games venue construction and related projects since 2000. Most people were reportedly forcibly evicted from their homes with little or no compensation. Moreover, people who have protested or petitioned the government because of these grievances have been beaten and even jailed.

These evictions and detentions are clear violations of China's international human rights obligations, relating to the right to housing and freedom of expression. China's constitution, which protects "human rights" and the right to criticize the government, is also being undermined.

Individuals in detention in relation to speaking out against these evictions include petitioner Shuang Shuying and petitioner Ye Guozhu. In order to develop the rule of law in China, I urge the authorities to undertake an investigation of these reports of forced evictions and the arbitrary detentions, and identify means of redressing those wrongs.

Yours sincerely,