

Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Education, Minister of Electricity and Energy, Minister of the President's Office, and President of the National League for Democracy

President's Office
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar

April 20, 2016

Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

We wish to express our admiration for your lifetime dedication to promoting democracy and protecting human rights. Your recent efforts to work with Htin Kyaw's government to release political prisoners, political activists, and students in your country is vitally important for advancing human rights in Myanmar and Asia; the efforts reflect the great value of human liberty. It is with our own strong belief in your deep commitment to human rights that we are sending you this letter.

We are reaching out to you, with the hope that you will assist us in seeking the freedom of our husbands—Xing Qingxian (幸清贤) and Tang Zhishun (唐志顺)—two Chinese political activists, who were abducted in October 2015 in Myanmar and then secretly sent back to China. They have since vanished without a trace – likely to have been held in secret detention by Chinese police. Chinese authorities have repeatedly refused to provide any information about their whereabouts or the exact charges against them. On April 18-19, requests from us and their lawyers to visit them were denied again by officials.

We hope that the new democratic government in Myanmar, under your leadership, will investigate the circumstances surrounding our husbands' disappearance and illegal extradition. We hope that your office will intervene through public and private diplomatic channels to help secure their release.

Our husbands were seized in Myanmar on October 6, 2015, in Mong La, Shan State, in what was apparently a joint action by Myanmar and Chinese police. According to eyewitnesses, on that day, Myanmar police officers from Mong La Special Region No. 4 removed Xing Qingxian and Tang Zhishun from Room 8348 in Huadu Guesthouse in Mong La. It is believed that the police in Myanmar were working with Chinese police from China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Yunnan Province. One policeman showed Myanmar police identification to the owner of the guesthouse. Two days later, police searched our homes in China and confiscated computers and other items.

While authorities have not provided any information about our husbands to families or their lawyers, the State-owned China Central TV (CCTV) ran a [story](#) about our husbands saying that they had been extradited from Myanmar. Authorities have replied to an inquiry from UN human rights Special Procedures, stating that our husbands are being held for "illegally crossing borders," but we have never received any official notice about the nature of their detentions or any charges they are facing. Mr. Xing and Mr. Tang both suffer from potentially life-threatening health problems that require daily medical attention and proper medication. Without any information about their conditions, we

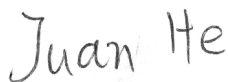
are extremely worried about their health and fear they may have been subjected to torture and mistreatment in secret detention by Chinese police.

Our husbands have been active human rights defenders. When they were seized in Myanmar, they were trying to help a Chinese boy—the 16-year-old son of a couple, both human rights lawyers, who have been under detention in an undisclosed location since July 2015. The boy, who had been abducted together with his father by Chinese police on July 9, 2015, was prevented from traveling to Australia to attend school. Afterwards, authorities put him under house arrest while his father and mother were criminally detained in retaliation for their work as human rights lawyers. The boy had asked for assistance to escape from his house arrest and pursue his studies abroad. Our husbands had responded to the boy's call and offered to help the boy to escape persecution because of his ties to his parents. After the abduction in Myanmar, the boy was also sent back to China and authorities have put him under de facto house arrest again at his grandparent's residence.

It is very encouraging for us to see a neighboring country move towards democracy under your leadership. We understand that the relations between the two governments are delicate matters, but we believe that the people in Myanmar and in China share common dreams for freedom and the protection of human rights.

We hope that the new democratic government of Myanmar will conduct an investigation into the kidnapping and illegal extradition of our husbands from your country back to China, where they have been disappeared and face great risk of torture. We deeply appreciate any intervention that you, with your great moral stature, will personally make to help secure the freedom and safety of our husbands.

Sincerely yours,



He Juan (何娟), wife of Xing Qingxian.



Gao Shen (高沈), wife of Tang Zhishun.