

HIS EXCELLENCY MR LIU XIAOMING  
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Your Excellency

### **Detention of Jiang Tianyong**

I am very concerned about the detention of the human rights defender and former Chinese lawyer, Mr. Jiang Tianyong. He went missing on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 on the way back to Beijing after visiting Xie Yang's wife. He had accompanied her and three other lawyers to Changsha City No.2 Detention Centre to try to arrange a meeting with the human rights lawyer Xie Yang.

According to reports it was not until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 that Mr. Tianyong's family were notified that he was being held under "residential surveillance at a designated location" on suspicion of "fraudulent use of identification, illegal possession of state secrets, and illegally providing state secrets".

I understand that his family only discovered that he had eventually been formally charged with "subverting state power" on June 5<sup>th</sup>. If convicted, I understand he could face life imprisonment.

It is reported that Mr. Tianyong has not been allowed to see his family, nor has he had access to legal representation.

As a signatory to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN International human rights instruments relating to prisoners and lawyers, I respectfully urge you to call upon the relevant authorities to:

Ensure, until his release, that Mr. Jiang Tianyong is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that he is allowed access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and adequate medical care.

Cause that a thorough investigation to be made into the continuing pattern of harassment of lawyers and human rights defenders, with reports of them being held in custody, detained without charge, and exposed to ill-treatment and coercion into self-incrimination.

I should be grateful for any help you can provide in these matters.

Yours sincerely,