

Director Pan Jiqiang
Sanhe Public Security Bureau in Langfang City
Hebei Province, No.3, Dingsheng West Street
Sanhe City, Langfang, Hebei Province, 065200
VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA

Berlin,

Gao Zhen (高甄)

Dear Director Pan,

I am writing to express my grave concern for artist **Gao Zhen (高甄)**, who is currently detained at Sanhe City Detention Center on charges of 'slandering China's heroes and martyrs' (侵害英雄烈士名譽榮譽罪) — a crime punishable by up to three years in prison. His formal arrest has been approved, but these charges are baseless; he has merely exercised his right to freedom of expression, especially artistic expression and creation.

My distress is heightened by concerns that Gao's wife and their 6-year-old son, a United States citizen, were also barred from leaving China when they attempted to return to New York from Beijing. Gao Zhen's wife was also warned by police not to speak to the media about her husband's detention.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Gao Zhen. Pending his release, ensure that Gao Zhen has regular, unrestricted access to his family and lawyers, and is not subject to torture or other ill-treatment. Please stop harassing and threatening his family and ensure that they can enter and leave China freely. Please also ensure that Chinese artists can express their views without fear of persecution or arbitrary detention.

Yours sincerely,