

Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Zhongnanhai, Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
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Zhang Zhan

Dear Mr President,

I am much concerned about the Chinese human rights activist, journalist and former lawyer Zhang Zhan, who had reported on the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic in Wuhan in February 2020 on online platforms, focussing on the harassment of affected individuals.

On 14th May 2020, Zhang Zhan went missing and was later reported to have been detained by police in Shanghai. Although Zhang Zhan claimed she had not committed any crime, she received a four-year prison sentence by the Pudong New District People's Court for allegedly "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" on 28th December 2020.

Presently, Zhang Zhan is in a critical health situation, because prison conditions and a partial hunger strike have resulted in considerable weight loss. In July 2023, she weighed just 37 kilograms.

As Zhang Zhan is imprisoned solely for exercising her human right to freedom of expression and because of her weak physical state, I ask you to grant her immediate and unconditional release. Please ensure that Zhang Zhan is not in any way maltreated, is allowed to contact her family and lawyer, and is given adequate medical care.

Yours sincerely,