

June 2024

Chief Prosecutor
Li Jun
Suzhou City People's Procuratorate
No.388 Jiefang East Road
Gusu District, Suzhou City
Jiangsu Province, 215000
CHINA

Yu Wensheng, Xu Yan

Dear Chief Prosecutor,

Human rights lawyer Yu Wensheng and his wife, activist Xu Yan were taken into police custody while en route to a meeting with the delegation of the European Union to China in Beijing in April 2023. Since her detention, Xu Yan has reportedly lost 14 kg, and the conditions of her detention in Beijing may constitute torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

In January 2024, the couple were transferred from a detention centre in Beijing to one in Jiangsu Province, with the charge of "picking quarrels" and an additional charge of "inciting subversion of state power." Their son, who turned 18 just before their detention, has experienced a significant decline in his mental health over the past year, resulting in depression.

I therefore call on you to:

Release both of them immediately and unconditionally, as they are being detained solely for peacefully exercising their human right to freedom of expression;

Pending their release, ensure they are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while in detention;

Ensure their son and other members of their family are not subjected to harassment and threats.

Yours sincerely,