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

Gao Zhen // 高䶮

Dear Director Pan,

I am much worried about artist Gao Zhen (高䶮), who was arrested two years ago, with about 30 police officers confiscating several works of art, and sealing his studio.

On 25th August 2026, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment on vague charges of 'slandering China's heroes and martyrs' and is currently detained at Sanhe City Detention Center. Although it seems that the time he has already served in prison will be taken into account, he should not have been sentenced anyway, as all Chinese artists should be granted to express their views peacefully.

Therefore, 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 any maltreatment.

I would also like to appeal to you on behalf Gao's wife and their 6-year-old son, a United States citizen. Both were barred from leaving China when trying to return to New York from Beijing. Gao Zhen's wife was also intimidated by police officers and admonished not to speak to the media about her husband's detention. Both should, of course, be allowed to travel and speak freely.

Yours sincerely,