

Chief Prosecutor

April 2026

Li Jun

Suzhou City People's Procuratorate

No. 388 Jiefang East Road

Gusu District, Suzhou City

Jiangsu Province, 215000

CHINA

Human rights lawyer **Yu Wensheng** and his wife, activist **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. They were charged of "picking quarrels" and "inciting subversion of state power."

On 29 October 2024, in Suzhou, they were found guilty of "inciting subversion of state power". Yu Wensheng was sentenced to three years in prison and Xu Yan to one year and nine months. Xu Yan was released on 13 January 2025 after serving her sentence.

I therefore call on you to release Yu Wensheng immediately - or on 13 April at the latest - and unconditionally, as he was being detained solely for peacefully exercising his human right to freedom of expression. Pending his release, ensure he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while in detention. Please also ensure that he receives adequate medical care and is allowed to receive visits from family members. Furthermore, it must be ensured that all human rights defenders in China are protected and can interact with diplomats and UN human rights mechanisms without fear of reprisals.

Yours sincerely,