



Evan Gershkovich  
C/- Wall Street Journal Moscow Bureau

22 March 2024

Dear Evan,

We have been shocked and appalled by your arrest a year ago and the espionage allegations that have been made against you.

Unfortunately, your treatment is symptomatic of a new wave of attacks on press freedom by authoritarian governments not only in Russia but around the world. Often, false charges of espionage are laid to prevent truthful and accurate reporting of regimes that are seeking to avoid scrutiny.

Also too often, journalists are being used as pawns in diplomatic games between nation states.

Journalism is not a crime.

In this era of rising authoritarianism, the role of independent journalism in preserving the structures of democracy has never been more important.

Evan, we urge you to stay strong and positive during your detention in Russia, knowing that you have the solidarity and support of the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance and the journalists of Australia.

We hope that you will draw consolation from the experience of Australian television journalist Cheng Lei, who had a similar ordeal to yourself when she was arrested and detained for more than three years in China on charges of espionage.

She is now free and living and working back in Australia.

Be assured that you are foremost in our thoughts and all efforts are being made to secure your release.

Yours sincerely,

**Erin Madeley**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance**