



His Excellency Mr Cheng Jingye  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
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[chinaemb\\_au@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:chinaemb_au@mfa.gov.cn)

cc. Senator the Hon Marise Payne  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
[foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au](mailto:foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au)

19 July 2019

Your Excellency,

**Re: Mr Yang Hengjun**

The Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance is the trade union and professional association for Australia's journalists. You will recall we wrote to you on April 9 2019 to express our concern for Mr Yang Hengjun – a MEAA journalist member in good standing. He is an Australian citizen and is a respected author and online journalist and blogger.

MEAA is greatly concerned at the latest reports that Mr Yang has been moved into "criminal detention" in Beijing with the expectation that he will shortly be formally charged with endangering state security.

Mr Yang was initially detained by Chinese authorities as he attempted to board a flight from Guanzhou to Shanghai on Saturday January 19 2019. He was reportedly interrogated for 12 hours before disappearing into state detention at "residential" location in Beijing.

As of today, Mr Yang has been detained for six months, denied access to his family, held without trial, subjected to secret questioning without access to legal counsel and only able to meet with Australian consular officials once a month. There has been no explanation provided to either his family or Australian officials about why he is being detained or of the allegations that have been made against him.

His wife, Australian resident Yuan Xiaoliang, was also briefly held then released. But reports last week said she was detained once again by a group of Chinese Ministry of State Security officers on the morning of July 7. She had been preparing to speak to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation when she was taken. She was questioned for two hours before being released.

MEAA's journalist members are greatly concerned for the welfare of our colleague Mr Yang and for his wife Ms Yuan. We believe this assault by Chinese authorities on an Australian citizen's human rights, his interrogation and secret detention, and now the prospect of laying very serious charges casts a long shadow over the working relationship of Australian journalists in China and calls into question their being able to perform their journalistic duties in safety and without harassment or intimidation from Chinese authorities.

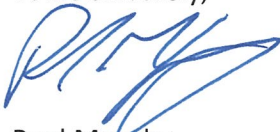
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MEAA again protests the continued detention of our journalist colleague and we respectfully urge you to release Mr Yang so that he and his wife may return to Australia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PM', is written over the typed name 'Paul Murphy'.

Paul Murphy  
Chief executive