



His Excellency Mr Cheng Jingye
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
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cc. Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au

9 April 2019

Your Excellency,

Re: Mr Yang Hengjun

The Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance is the trade union and professional association for Australia's journalists. Mr Yang Hengjun is a MEAA journalist member in good standing. He is an Australian citizen and is a respected author and online journalist and blogger.

MEAA understands that, during a visit to China, Yang was detained 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 custody at an, as yet, undisclosed "residential" location. His wife was also detained – she has since been released but is unable to return home to Australia.

MEAA's journalist members are greatly concerned for the welfare of our colleague, Mr Yang.

We are concerned that he is being deprived of his human rights. For almost three months now, he has been denied access to his family. He is being detained without trial or access to legal counsel and is being denied access to Australian consular officials.

We believe this assault on an Australian citizen's human rights, his interrogation and secret detention, casts a 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 authorities.

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

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Strom
Media President

Paul Murphy
Chief Executive

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