

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2015

His Excellency Cui Tiankai  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China

Dear Ambassador Cui:

We write to express our deep concern regarding the ongoing detention of five women's rights activists who were peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association. We request that the Chinese government act in a manner consistent with its own legal obligations and international law, and immediately and unconditionally release these individuals.

According to available news reports, Wei Tingting, Li Tingting, Wang Man, Zheng Churan, and Wu Rongrong were detained on March 6 and 7 on charges of creating a disturbance by planning to raise public awareness about sexual harassment in conjunction with International Women's Day on March 8.

Based on information from international human rights organizations and statements from the detained women's lawyers, the women have been held under harsh conditions, subjected to lengthy interrogations, and denied consistent access to legal representation. In addition, we understand that Wu Rongrong and Wang Man both suffer from medical conditions and have not received adequate medical care.

According to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, citizens "enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration" and the state "respects and preserves human rights." The ongoing detention of these female activists who have championed gender equality and women's rights calls into question China's commitment to these principles.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Chinese government immediately and unconditionally release these five female activists and that while in detention, authorities take all measures to guarantee their welfare and security, including access to adequate medical treatment and regular and unrestricted access to their lawyers, family, and friends. We also request that your government release all political prisoners detained for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental rights, including 2010 Noble Peace Prize recipient Liu Xiaobo and human rights attorneys Pu Zhiqiang and Xu Zhiyong.

As China prepares to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in September, the Chinese government must clearly demonstrate its commitment to respect the universal human rights of all people including freedom of expression and association.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marco Rubio', with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marco Rubio  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Boxer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelly A. Ayotte', with a cursive script.

Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeanne Shaheen', with a cursive script.

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator