

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2014

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our profound concern regarding the health and welfare of Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng and to ask that you use all available diplomatic means to urge the Chinese government to immediately allow him to relocate to the United States on humanitarian grounds due to his critical medical condition.

A self-taught advocate and legal rights defender, Mr. Gao is known for representing China's most vulnerable citizens—including religious minorities, factory workers, coal miners, and victims of land seizures.

Since his arrest and trial in 2006, Mr. Gao has been forcibly disappeared by Chinese authorities at least six times. In 2010, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined Mr. Gao's secret detention was arbitrary and in violation of international law.

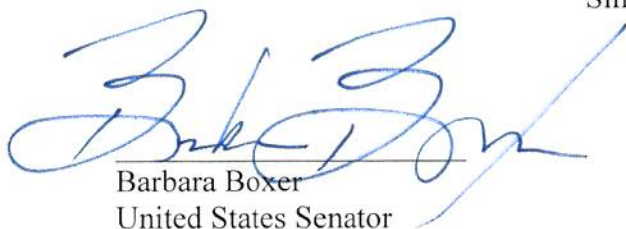
Since Mr. Gao was released from prison last month, he has reported having been subjected to inhumane detention conditions, including torture, malnutrition and solitary confinement. As a result, Mr. Gao's family reports he is suffering from serious physical and psychological issues. However, he is now being held under house arrest and denied access to critical medical care.

We are deeply concerned that Mr. Gao's health will continue to deteriorate without immediate access to quality medical attention. His wife and two children have been granted political asylum in the United States and have appealed for U.S. assistance in securing Mr. Gao's relocation to California for treatment.


As such, we ask that you engage the Chinese government at the highest levels regarding the urgent need to relocate Mr. Gao to the United States for immediate medical attention. In addition, we urge you to make this issue a priority as you prepare to meet Chinese President Xi at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in November.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,




Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



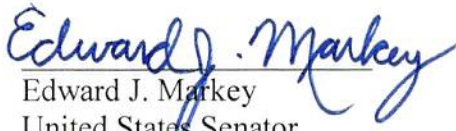
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