

Mr. Xi Jinping
President
People's Republic of China
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017

Paris, August 2nd, 2019

Mr. President,

Reporters Without Borders (RSF), an international organization defending freedom of information with observatory member status within the United Nations, urges you to pardon journalist **Huang Qi**, two-time RSF Press Freedom Prize laureate, who is suffering from a critical health condition and may die soon if maintained in detention.

Huang Qi is a seasoned journalist who has done remarkable work in informing the public about corruption cases and human rights violations, in accordance to the principle of press freedom enshrined in Article 35 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

On July 29th, 2019, Huang Qi was sentenced by the Mianyang Intermediate People's Court in Sichuan Province to 12 years in prison for "leaking state secrets" and "providing state secrets abroad" following a closed trial that fails to demonstrate his culpability.

This harsh and unfair punishment equals to a death sentence, considering that Huang Qi suffers from critical liver and kidney diseases. Last December, in a statement published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, four experts insisted that his condition would "continue to deteriorate to a fatal point" if not released.

These UN experts also pointed out that Huang Qi had been the victim of ill treatment during the two years of his pre-trial detention, which clearly goes against the United Nations Convention against torture that China ratified in 1988.

I urge you, Mr. President, to show mercy by exercising the power to pardon granted to you by Article 80 of the Chinese Constitution and ensure Huang Qi is released before it is too late.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

Christophe Deloire
Secrétaire Général



Copie:

Michelle Bachelet

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

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