

## Summary of Petition on behalf of Ding Jiayi:

### *Background*

- Ding Jiayi, a non-violent human rights activist in China, was taken into custody on December 26, 2019 by the Chinese police while attending a peaceful legal dinner party. They did not have an arrest warrant.
- Jiayi is being held in an undisclosed location without access to legal representation.
- His family has not been given any information about his whereabouts or his condition, nor have they been allowed to communicate with him.
- China is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Ding Jiayi's arrest violates the rights afforded to citizens in that document.
- His wife, Sophie Luo, and two daughters live in the US, and his younger daughter, age 19, is a US citizen. (They agreed as a family that he would remain in China to continue his work in human rights.) Sophie is a member of the Union University Church in Alfred, NY which is sponsoring this petition.

### *What the petition requests:*

- The immediate disclosure of the whereabouts of Ding Jiayi.
- Assurance that Jiayi is free from any form of torture or ill-treatment
- An impartial investigation into the detention of Jiayi with the results made public
- His unconditional release in conditions that guarantee his safety

### *Please send or email all completed petitions to:*

Reverend Laurie DeMott  
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Alfred, NY 14802

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To:

Minister Zhao Kezhi  
Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China  
14 East Chang An Street, Dong Cheng District  
Beijing 100741, China

CC:

Mr. Lui Xinyu  
National Protection Branch, Yantai Municipal Public Security Bureau  
7 Chang An Road, Laishan District  
Yantai 264003, Shandong Province, China

Ambassador Cui Tiankai  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America  
3505 International Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008 U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Zhao Kezhi:

**Re: Immediately Release Arbitrarily Detained and Disappeared Lawyer Ding Jiayi**

I am adding my voice to those around the world who are shocked and outraged by the present set of arrests and disappearances that commenced on December 26, 2019, and continued into early January 2020. Chinese police detained and questioned over a dozen activists and lawyers who had attended a small, private gathering in Xiamen on December 7-8.

I am urging you to immediately release Ding Jiayi who was detained on December 26th by National Protection Branch, Yantai Municipal Public Security Bureau without any arrest warrant.

The detention of Ding Jiayi is arbitrary and in violation of China's international law obligations. It violates numerous international rights recognized and guaranteed by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other instruments including rights to: the presumption of innocence; pre-trial release; determination of charges, rights and the legality of detention and treatment by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal; timely, confidential access to lawyer of choice; freedom from ex post facto laws and from charges that violate the international principles of legality; trial within a reasonable time; freedom from incommunicado detention and other forms of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment.

This list of rights and obligations is not exhaustive.

As a member of the United Nations and a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), China is obligated to ensure the enjoyment by all of

the rights and freedoms recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and guaranteed by the ICCPR, including rights to: equality, liberty, expression, association, presumption of innocence, determination of rights by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, legal representation, freedom from arbitrary detention and remedies for violations of protected rights. The detention of Ding Jiayi violates rights protected by the UDHR and ICCPR and constitutes a violation by China of its international human rights obligations.

The fact that Ding Jiayi is being held without facing charges, without communication to the outside world, and without access to legal counsel of choice raises concerns of other serious maltreatment occurring, including potential torture. Yantai Municipal Public Security Bureau's actions are clearly in breach of international law and must be remedied.

Ding Jiayi has been denied his right to appear before a fair and independent tribunal to determine the validity of the charges against him and his detention. In cases where the individual's location is unknown, these individuals risk further violation, including serious derogations of human rights to life. Each individual's right to be free from arbitrary arrest and detention is violated and China must immediately act to rectify the situation by freeing the individuals.

His case is now being pressed by Amnesty International as an Urgent Action. The eyes of the world are on China.

I urge you to facilitate the immediate disclosure of the whereabouts of Mr. Ding. Further, I urge you to request Yantai Municipal Public Security Bureau to unconditionally release Mr. Ding in conditions that guarantee his safety; to commence a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the secret detention of Mr. Ding; to make investigation results public; and ensure that Mr. Ding is free from any form of torture or ill-treatment. I, and many advocates for the rights of Mr. Ding, will be communicating our outrage to our representatives in the American government.

I, and many other advocates for the rights of Mr. Ding, await your response. Thank you for your attention to our concerns and look forward to your support!

Sincerely,

