



September 23, 2015

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China
Li Keqiang, Premier of the People's Republic of China

CC:

Wang Anshun, Mayor of Beijing
Wang Xiaohong, Beijing Police Chief

RE: Gao Yu – health concerns

Your Excellency,

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) is writing regarding the deteriorating health and access to medical treatment of veteran journalist Gao Yu. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) represents more than 600,000 journalists in 134 countries.

Gao Yu has been incarcerated for over 18 months, despite strong international condemnation from the IFJ, IFEX and other information press freedom and international human rights organisations. Gao Yu remains incarcerated in Beijing's first detention centre in Chaoyang district, Beijing as her health deteriorates and she has limited access to medical treatment.

The IFJ writes to your Excellency, as we have learnt that Gao, who has a long history of heart disease, high blood pressure and Meniere's disease, continues to have health issues. More recently, an abnormality to her lymph node has been discovered under her neck, she has been diagnosed with dermatosis as well as suffering from head and tooth aches. Gao's family have made repeated requests for medical treatment and consultations in hospitals, yet the police continue to refuse these requests. In addition to her deteriorating health, according to Gao's family, police have given her pills which were not prescribed and her food and clothing are inadequate. On two separate occasions, Gao's legal team have applied for medical parole, however this has been rejected on both attempts.

In addition to Gao Yu's deteriorating health and inadequate medical treatment, her basic rights are being denied in detention. Many family members have had to wait over a year to visit Gao in detention, while her legal team have had an extended wait between applying for visits and those being granted. According to Gao's family, police have also attempted to coerce them to persuade Gao to confess and press her to change her legal team. With all respect, the above malpractice clearly violates the current Criminal Procedure Law of People's Republic of China and violates the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which China is one of the signatory countries.



China is the second largest economy in the world, and as such Gao Yu's case raises serious questions about China's judicial system, and has tarnished the reputation of the People's Procuratorate and the People's Court of China in the eyes of the global community.

As the President of the People's Republic of China, we respectfully request that you use your Presidential influence to order to immediate release of Gao Yu to medical parole so that she can receive the necessary and adequate medical treatment she requires.

We call on you to take immediate action prior to co-hosting the '2015 Global Women's Summit' with UNWomen and debut of speech at United Nations General Assembly in order to show your good intention to the global community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth Costa', is located below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Beth Costa
General Secretary
International Federation of Journalists