

November 25, 2021

His Excellency Peiwu Cong, Ambassador
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
515 St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5H3
Email: chineseembassy.ca@gmail.com

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express grave concern for the life of citizen journalist **Zhang Zhan (张展)**.

Amnesty international Canada has been following Zhang Zhan's case closely since her arrest in May 2020 following her reporting on the Covid-19 pandemic. We believe she is a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression. Thousands of our supporters have called for her immediate and unconditional release.

Zhang Zhan has been on partial hunger strike to protest her incarceration. It is extremely alarming to learn that, due to her dire health condition, Zhang Zhan's family do not expect her to live through the winter and have been calling the authorities to release her on medical grounds. Recently it is reported that she is feeling incredibly weak, has no energy to walk nor raise her head and, with yellowed skin, looks to be suffering from a life-threatening condition.

Her family submitted a medical bail application on November 15, 2021 to Shanghai's Women's Prison and have not received a response yet. The application was submitted pursuant to the criteria listed in the "*Notice of the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Public Security, and Other Ministries on Issuing the Provisions on Temporary Service of Sentences Outside Prisons*"

(最高人民法院、最高人民检察院、公安部等关于印发《暂予监外执行规定》的通知) where a prisoner can apply for medical bail when he/she is facing critical health condition.

It is further worrying that Zhang Zhan still does not have regular access to her family members and lawyers, and there is no way to for them to further verify her health and wellbeing.

There is an alarming pattern of deaths of imprisoned Chinese activists, either in detention or after being belatedly released on medical parole. To ensure that no one else dies while in China's detention facilities, I urge you to convey our urgent concerns to Zhang Bencai, Chief Procurator of Shanghai People's Procuratorate.

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Pending the release of Zhang Zhan, we are calling on Chief Procurator Zhang to:

- Accept the medical bail application for Zhang Zhan.
- Ensure that Shanghai Women's Prison immediately accepts and processes the medical bail application for Zhang Zhan and she receives urgent, regular, and adequate medical care, including a full body / medical check-up.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ketty Nivyabandi', written in a cursive style.

Ketty Nivyabandi
Secretary General
Amnesty International Canada
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