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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

August 26, 2022

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China
Zhongnanhai,
No. 174 Xi Chang'an Jie,
Beijing 100017, China

Dear President Xi,

I write to express my continued concern about the wellbeing of a detained Falun Gong practitioner, Deyong Zhou (周德勇). Deyong Zhou stood trial on August 25th, 2022, at the Dongying People's Court in the Shandong Province. As the judge's verdict is being deliberated, please be aware my acute interest in his trial and the fair and just resolution to his improper arrest and detainment. Mr. Zhou has already endured numerous civil rights violations during his detainment as detailed in the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China, and any verdict seeking extra punishment would be most unjust.

Deyong Zhou was detained on the morning of April 23rd, 2021, in Dongying, Shandong Province by the local police of the Binhai Police Bureau. The local police refused to disclose the Mr. Zhou's detention for two weeks, which violates the Chinese Criminal Procedure Law, and prevented contact with his lawyer until May 26th. Mr. Zhou was formally arrested on May 31st. The delay between his detainment and formal arrest lasted over a month and did not result in any notice or warrant to Mr. Zhou's relatives, again in violation of the Chinese Criminal Procedure Law.

Mr. Zhou's rights under Chinese law were violated by the Binhai Police Bureau and I ask that those violations be noted as the judge determines his verdict. On the same day as Mr. Zhou's arrest, more than 10 other Falun Gong practitioners were also arrested, including Yu Meng (孟昱), Fanyun Meng (孟繁芸), Hongyan Guo (郭红炎), Boqing He (贺柏青), Xiaohong Chen (陈晓红), Shoutian Geng (耿守田), Yanmei Liu (刘燕美), Guohua Chen (陈国华), and Xuerong Li (李学荣). I also respectfully ask that you kindly stop the persecution of all Falun Gong practitioners as well as all prisoners of conscience. I ask you to respect their human rights of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion and allow Mr. Zhou to reunite with his family and friends as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns with Mr. Zhou's detainment, arrest, and trial so far and please know that I will continue to monitor this situation.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress