

Xiao Chen
70A Hawksview Street
Guildford NSW 2161
familyrescueteam@outlook.com

13 September 2024

The Hon Senator Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Wong,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the plight of my mother, Zezhen Tan, a 76-year-old resident of Beihai City, Guangxi Province, China.

Since my mother began practicing Falun Gong in 1996, her health has greatly improved. However, in 1999, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) initiated a campaign to eliminate Falun Gong practitioners, which has led to relentless persecution. My mother has been illegally detained five times, our home has been raided more than 20 times, and she has been sentenced twice to forced labour for a total of three years and nine months. She has also endured severe torture and abuse in brainwashing centres.

On December 19, 2020, my mother was once again forcibly abducted by local authorities, alongside her close friend and fellow practitioner, Shanping Xu. She is reportedly being held at the First Detention Centre in Beihai City for sharing information about Falun Gong. On the day of her abduction, our home was raided, and many of our belongings were confiscated by the "610 Office" without legal documentation. We have received no official court verdict or information regarding her detention, and my mother has been denied communication and visitation rights. We are gravely concerned for her safety, as we have no way of confirming her current condition or even if she is still alive.

My father, now 80 years old, is left without care and overwhelmed with worry. The uncertainty surrounding my mother's fate weighs heavily on our entire family.

During previous detentions in forced labour camps, my mother was subjected to full-body medical exams and blood tests twice. Although doctors claimed her organs were healthy, I fear these tests were conducted for potential organ harvesting. This terrifying possibility haunts me daily.

Adding to my distress, I recently learned that my mother's friend, Shanping Xu, tragically passed away just two days after being released from Guangxi Nanning Women's Prison in July 2024. She had been imprisoned with my mother in 2020, and upon her release, was severely emaciated

due to the torture she endured. Her death has only heightened my fears for my mother, who remains in detention under similarly brutal conditions.

As the Mid-Autumn Festival approaches, my only hope is for my mother's safe return home. However, without urgent intervention, I fear she may not survive her current ordeal.

Minister, I respectfully appeal to you and the Australian Government to intervene in this grave matter. Any diplomatic support you could provide in addressing my mother's unlawful detention would be invaluable. I believe that international attention and support could play a crucial role in securing her release, along with other Falun Gong practitioners facing similar persecution.

Your attention to this matter could make a profound difference in reuniting my mother with our family. I am deeply grateful for your compassion and consideration of this urgent appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Xiao Chen