

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to express our grave concern for the safety and well-being of Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng and his family. America has always stood firmly on the side of human rights. We urge you to do the right thing and ensure that the Chinese government follows through expeditiously with its promise to allow Mr. Chen and his family to come safely to the United States and study.

As you know, Mr. Chen, a self-trained legal advocate, is well known for the attention he has drawn to abuses in China's family-planning policy, particularly forced abortions, sterilizations and violence. In 2006, Chinese authorities sentenced him to more than four years in prison after a profoundly unjust trial. Following his release from prison in 2010, Mr. Chen, his wife and their six-year-old daughter were subjected to beatings, home confinement and constant surveillance. Throughout Mr. Chen's so-called "soft" detention, Chinese authorities undertook forceful measures to harass journalists and supporters who attempted to visit the family.

On April 22, Mr. Chen escaped from his home in Shandong province, where he and his family had been detained without being charged for nearly two years. As the world now knows, after escaping from home confinement, Mr. Chen fled to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. U.S. and Chinese officials were reported as having successfully negotiated an agreement that would permit Chen and his family to remain in China with assurances from the Chinese government that they would be able to live a normal life. However, just hours after Mr. Chen left our embassy, he discovered that his wife had been abused by Chinese authorities during the six days that he spent in U.S. protection and that police had also moved into his village home. It is clear the Chinese government has reneged on its promises to protect him. Simply put, Chen and his family are now in danger.

It should have been clear to all concerned that ensuring that those promises were kept would become virtually impossible once Mr. Chen exited the Embassy gates and was handed over to the Chinese authorities. At best, it was naïve to have expected the Chinese regime, given its atrocious record on human rights and its hunting down of dissidents, to ever have fulfilled such commitments. Your presence in Beijing, however, places upon you a special moral responsibility to assist Mr. Chen by all means possible.

As you said in Beijing this month, "a China that protects the rights of all its citizens will be a stronger and more prosperous nation, and of course, a stronger partner on behalf of our common

guarantee Mr. Chen and his family's protection, which is why it is so important that the United States act swiftly to ensure his safety.

This was the case when President Dwight Eisenhower provided Cardinal Mindszenty with safe haven in the U.S. Embassy as Soviet tanks rolled into Budapest in 1956, and when President George H.W. Bush did the same for Fang Lizhi and his wife in 1989 when they sought refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Mr. Fang became, in the words of our late Ambassador James Lilley, "a living symbol of our conflict with China over human rights." And, Madam Secretary, so now has Chen Guangcheng become that living symbol for the people of China, America and the rest of the world.

We urge you to do all that you can to support Mr. Chen's right to live in safety. Failure to protect Mr. Chen and his family would undermine America's image as the global leader in ensuring the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all peoples.

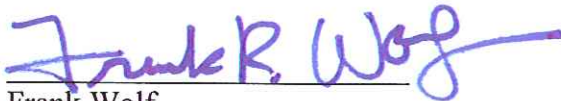
Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Frank Wolf
Member of Congress



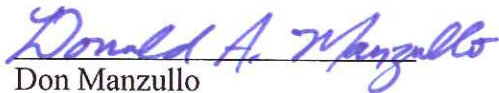
Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Randy Forbes
Member of Congress



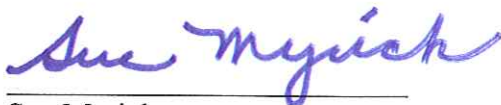
Leonard Lance
Member of Congress



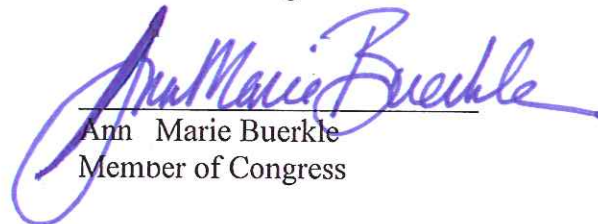
Don Manzullo
Member of Congress



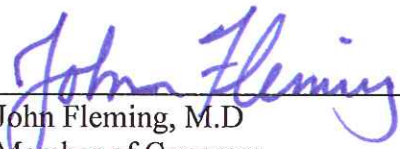
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



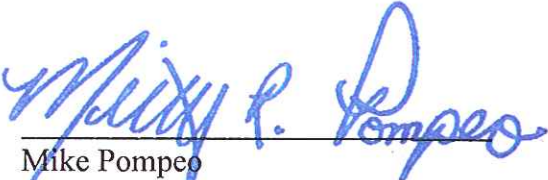
Sue Myrick
Member of Congress



Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress




John Fleming, M.D
Member of Congress



Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress