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One Hundred and Eleventh Congress  
**Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission**

July 24, 2009

His Excellency Zhou Wenzhong  
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China  
2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

**BY MAIL AND FAX:**

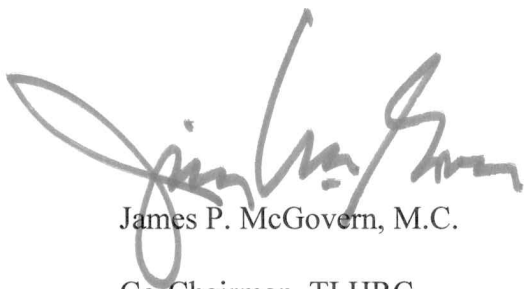
Dear Ambassador Zhou:

We are writing to express our deep concern over the disappearance of prominent lawyer and human rights advocate, Gao Zhisheng. Mr. Gao has not been seen or heard from for over 150 days and we fear that his life may be in grave danger, given his past treatment at the hands of public security officers.

Mr. Gao, voted "one of China's top ten lawyers" in 2001 by a Chinese Ministry of Justice publication, has represented numerous civil society figures, religious leaders and writers. In September 2007, Mr. Gao sent an open letter to the U.S. Congress alleging widespread human rights abuses in China. Afterwards, public security officers abducted him and held him for over 50 days, during which time he was repeatedly tortured. He was told that he would be killed if he told anyone about what happened. Mr. Gao was last seen on February 4, 2009, at a relative's home in Shaaxi province, where more than 10 public security officers and others forcibly removed him from bed at midnight, and whisked him away to an unknown location. Mr. Gao's whereabouts remain unknown.

We look forward to your response in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern, M.C.  
Co-Chairman, TLHRC



Frank R. Wolf, M.C.  
Co-Chairman, TLHRC

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