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THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Kungl. Vetenskapsakademien har till uppgift att främja vetenskaperna och stärka deras inflytande i samhället.
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has as its aim to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society.

Stockholm 25 June 2020

Elisabeth Rachlew /ch

His Excellency Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

Your Excellency,

We, the joint Human Rights Committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, the Swedish Academy and the Young Academy of Sweden, write respectfully to express our great concern regarding the health and well-being of two Chinese professional colleagues imprisoned for their peaceful exercise of rights protected by international law. They are computer engineer Huang Qi and medical doctor Wang Bingzhang.

Given that these individuals have been held for many years in detention facilities under difficult conditions and are in poor health, they are particularly vulnerable to serious consequences in case of a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection. It is our understanding that, while many countries have released prisoners in recent weeks, Mr. Huang remains held in Sichuan Bazhong Prison (Sichuan province), and Dr. Wang continues to be held in Shaoguan City municipal prison (Guangdong province).

The World Health Organization and United Nations human rights experts have called on governments to take immediate steps to address prison overcrowding, including the priority release of prisoners who have been detained for offenses not recognized under international law. In view of this urgent situation, we respectfully request your help in ensuring Mr. Huang's and Dr. Wang's release from prison on humanitarian grounds without delay. Such assistance would be widely welcomed throughout the international scientific community.

We thank you, Your Excellency, for your attention to this important matter. These are dire and challenging times and we send our best wishes to you, Your Excellency, and the people of China.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Rachlew

Professor, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee

Copy:

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sweden
Embassy of Sweden Beijing



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Stockholm 25 June 2020

Elisabeth Rachlew /ch

His Excellency Tang Yijun
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
6, Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyang Qu, Beijing Shi 100051
People's Republic of China

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