



Hon. Judy A. Sgro,
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Thursday, December 9th, 2021

Hon. Melanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Via e-mail

Minister,

It has recently been brought to my attention that the parents of two students attending post-secondary here in Canada, Lucy Liu at Sheridan College, and Jack Liu at Carleton University, have been arrested and detained by the Chinese police. Lucy's mother, Ms. Liu Yan, has illegally detained at Kunming detention centre in Yunnan province since September 30th, 2021, while Jack's parents have been illegally detained since November 20, 2021 in Hebei province.

Besides having children attending school here in Canada, both sets of parents have two things in common: they practice Falun Gong and they have been arrested and illegally detained before. As you, and many others around the world, are aware the Chinese government have for decades been harassing, detaining, torturing, and killing practitioners of this peaceful belief.

Ms. Liu Yan has contributed greatly to education in her country, writing one a highly utilized text book titled "Fluent Spoken English" and was dean of a foreign language school run jointly with Memorial University in Newfoundland and Labrador. This is the second time she was arrested, having been sentenced to three years in 2015 because of her spiritual belief in Falun Gong.

I ask for your immediate condemnation of these illegal detentions and that you call for release of not only Ms. Liu Yan, and Jack's parents, but of all those who are being held purely because they practice Falun Gong. It is important that we not only continue to stand up to China on their human rights abuses but to push back. These types of atrocities cannot continue.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing your response on this matter.

Sincerely,

Hon. Judy A. Sgro, P.C., M.P.
Humber River-Black Creek