

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

This letter is written on behalf of Lucy (Mingyuan) Liu with the support of the student leaders from Sheridan Student Union, a student led organization representing over 22,000 students at Sheridan College across Oakville, Brampton, and Mississauga, Ontario.

Lucy Liu is an international student attending Sheridan College, and it has come to our attention that Yan Liu, Lucy's mother, was arrested in China for her spiritual belief as a Falun Gong practitioner in September, 2021. Ms. Yan Liu has greatly contributed to education in China, writing a book titled "Fluent Spoken English" and was Dean of a foreign language school run jointly with Memorial University of Newfoundland and Lambton College. This is the second time she has been arrested, having been previously sentenced in 2015 to three years in jail because of her spiritual belief in Falun Gong / Falun Dafa. Ms. Yan Liu is currently being detained and is being denied contact with her family or a lawyer.

Lucy is an exceptional student who brings a high degree of artistic skills to her studies. She won the Tibor Madjar award for best computer animation in 2021 and as a result, received a scholarship to continue her studies. She has been working tirelessly for months to have her mother released from the detention centre in China. She has put together petitions, websites, and has appeared in media interviews to advocate on behalf of her mother. All this while attending classes, continuing her studies, and being thousands of kilometers away from her home and family. This has, naturally, created unnecessary stress and hardship for Lucy.

We, the Sheridan Student Union, have been supporting, advocating for, and providing the necessary resources to help Lucy through this difficult situation. We advocate on behalf of all our students, and we aspire for the fair and just treatment of all these students and their families. We understand this is a complex, international issue, but as representatives of our complex and international student body, it would be negligent of us to not push for the release of Lucy's mother and provide Lucy with the support she needs.

Through our advocacy, we have learned that other students in Canada and across the world are facing similar situations to Lucy. This persecution of Falun Gong practitioners is something affecting many, and we hope that bringing this to the government's attention, and this ask for action, will bring awareness to these injustices and the release of all those being detained.

In consideration of Ms. Yan Liu, her daughter Lucy, and all those with a parent being detained for their beliefs, we ask for your immediate condemnation of these illegal detentions and call for the release of Ms. Yan Liu.

Sincerely,

Kyle Budge
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