Absender

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Zhao Kezhi

Minister of Public Security

14 Dongchanganjie, Dongchengqu

Beijing Shi 100741

VOLKSREPUBLIK CHINA

Datum

**Gao Zhisheng**

Dear Minister,

Human rights advocate *Gao Zhisheng* has represented human rights defenders in court and taken on politically sensitive cases. His commitment to human rights has made him well-known in China. Immediately after several open letters in which *Gao Zhisheng* made critical remarks about the government were issued, the Beijing judicial authority revoked his license to practice law back in late 2005. More than ten years later, *Gao Zhisheng* was reported missing by his family on August 13, 2017. As the authorities refuse to disclose his whereabouts, he has since been considered a victim of enforced disappearance at risk of torture or ill-treatment. His family still knows nothing about his health or the reasons for his detention. *Gao Zhisheng* has been a victim of enforced disappearance and was detained as a nonviolent political prisoner before. Back then, he was repeatedly tortured, according to his own statements. Despite all of this, *Gao Zhisheng* continued to advocate for human rights publicly up until the time of his re-disappearance.

Please disclose the whereabouts of *Gao Zhisheng* and ensure that he is released immediately and unconditionally. Ensure that the human rights defender is not tortured or ill-treated in detention. He must also be granted regular unrestricted contact with his family, legal counsel of his choice, and appropriate medical care until his release.

Yours sincerely,