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Datum

**Yu Wensheng and Xu Yan**

Dear Chief Prosecutor,

Human rights lawyer *Yu Wensheng* and his wife, activist *Xu Yan* were taken into police custody while en route to a meeting with the delegation of the European Union to China in Beijing in April 2023. Since her detention, *Xu Yan* has reportedly lost 14 kg, and the conditions of her detention in Beijing may constitute torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

In January 2024, the couple were transferred from a detention centre in Beijing to one in Jiangsu Province, with the charge of “picking quarrels” and an additional charge of “inciting subversion of state power.” Their son, who turned 18 just before their detention, has experienced a significant decline in his mental health over the past year, resulting in depression.

I therefore call on you to: 

* Release both of them immediately and unconditionally, as they are being detained solely for peacefully exercising their human right to freedom of expression;
* Pending their release, ensure they are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while in detention;
* Ensure their son and other members of their family are not subjected to harassment and threats.

Yours sincerely,