

His Excellency
Mr. Xi Jinping
President of the People's Republic of China
Via Botschaft der VR China
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of writing to you on behalf of the imprisoned Catholic priest, the Rev. Fei Jisheng. On October 18th of last year, the Reverend Fei was arrested in the city of Fushun, where he was visiting a community of Catholic sisters. Officially, the authorities announced to the public that he had embezzled funds from a home for senior citizens. For this reason, he has already been sentenced to eighteen months in prison. However, there are legitimate doubts whether the alleged embezzlement of funds was the true reason for Rev. Fei's prison sentence. The court case was not conducted publicly, and all information regarding this case was treated as a state secret.

In November of 2015, security forces had already taken the Rev. Fei away for a short period of time, and in June of 2016, he was along with four other Christians taken for one month into custody because of missionary activities. This is the reason for ascribing the Rev. Fei's new arrest to the teaching of the "Faith Enrichment" courses he had been offering.

The Constitution of the "People's Republic of China" of the year 1982 guarantees freedom of faith and prohibits all manner of coercion. Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to advocate the immediate release of the Rev. Fei Jisheng as well as to have the background of the case against him investigated.

Respectfully,