

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

At the end of last year, the Chinese Catholic priest Lu Danhua vanished without a trace. Local authorities offer conflicting explanations for this disturbing circumstance. However, observers assume that he is being detained because of his church ministry. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, he was taken away from the residential home in the city of Lishui, where he lived, by officials of the local office of the “State Administration for Religious Affairs” (SARA) for a “brief talk,” as was originally explained. He never returned from this “brief talk.”

I humbly beseech you, dear Mr. President, to please do everything in your power to advocate the release of the Rev. Lu Danhua and to have the background of his detention investigated.

Please permit me to also remind you, dear Sir, that Article 36 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China can be interpreted as an article guaranteeing religious freedom according to international standards. Unfortunately, an increasing number of recent reports suggests that the praxis of restricting religious freedom in China is currently on the rise.

Most respectfully,