



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

July 17, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: detention and asylum case of Wu Shaoping

Dear Secretaries Mullin and Rubio:

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the detention of a Wu Shaoping, held in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody at the Moshannon Valley Processing Center in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. I respectfully urge his prompt release from detention, the fair and timely consideration of his application for asylum or other protection, and that, under no circumstances, he be deported to the People's Republic of China or to a third country from which he may ultimately be returned to China.

Mr. Wu came to the United States in 2020 and applied for asylum. He was forced to flee China after attending a gathering of lawyers and rights defense activists in 2019 that the Chinese government targeted for persecution. Those sentenced in the crackdown include prominent human rights lawyers Xu Zhiyong¹ and Ding Jiayi,² who have been subject to Congressional advocacy, including a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.³ According to Wu's wife, he had been subject to questioning and harassment by China's security apparatus over the years.⁴

Wu was legally admitted to the United States with his wife and daughter on B-2 visitor visas. He applied for asylum and received an Employment Authorization Document. Wu filed mandamus at the asylum office in Newark, New Jersey, to expedite asylum interview. An asylum interview has not been scheduled.

In my capacity as Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and former Chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC), I have long monitored human rights conditions in China, including ongoing repression of civil society actors and persecution of lawyers who defend clients that are critical of the government. These conditions have long been documented in the annual reports of the CECC and in the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices by the State Department.

¹ <https://humanrightscommission.house.gov/DFP/Countries/China/Xu-Zhiyong>

² <https://humanrightscommission.house.gov/DFP/Countries/China/Ding-Jiayi>

³ <https://www.cecc.gov/media-center/press-releases/chairs-nominate-four-champions-of-peace-and-freedom-for-nobel-peace>

⁴ https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/16/us/chinese-lawyer-wu-shaoping-ice-detention.html?eafs_enabled=false

I have zero doubt that, given the nature and visibility of Mr. Wu's actions in defending those subject to persecution in China, he would face a severe risk of persecution—including detention and harsh punishment—if returned to China. He should be released from ICE detention and freed of the possibility of being sent back to China. In addition, in making a decision on Mr. Wu's asylum application, I urge the government to take into account all important and relevant factors in a fair and serious manner, including China's record on human rights and the grave risks Mr. Wu would face upon return.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. McGovern". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress