

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Director Chen Jianhua

Director of Shanghai Women's Prison
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Copenhagen, October 2021

Dear Director Chen,

On behalf of **38.621 signatures from Amnesty Denmark & Faroe Islands**, I am writing to express grave concern for the life of citizen journalist Zhang Zhan (张展), whose health has deteriorated so dramatically over the last months that she has recently required hospitalization. A prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression, Zhang Zhan should not have spent a single day in prison.

While I was relieved to hear that Zhang Zhan was able to speak to her mother on 2 August, the first time since early February 2021, it was extremely upsetting to learn about her dire physical condition. According to the authorities, Zhang was admitted to hospital on 31 July due to severe malnutrition. With Zhang Zhan weighing less than 40 kg and suffering from swollen legs and feet, I am deeply concerned that she may die while in your care.

While Zhang is determined to continue her partial hunger strike to assert her innocence and protest her sentencing, it is important that she does not face any further incidents of torture and other ill-treatment as she experienced in Pudong New District Detention Centre. To that end, it is imperative that Zhang has regular access to her family and lawyers of her choice.

I therefore urge you to:

- Respect Zhang Zhan's right to health, autonomy and expression, and ensure that she has prompt and regular access to medical attention,
- Pending her release, ensure that Zhang Zhan has regular, unrestricted access to her family and lawyers of her choice and is not subjected further to torture or other ill-treatment; and

- Call for the release of Zhang Zhan immediately and unconditionally, as she has been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising her human right to freedom of expression.

Please do consider these calls and take note of the words in the letter.

Upon request, further proof of the 38.621 signatures can be provided.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Hindsgaul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "D".

Dan Hindsgaul, Secretary General

Amnesty International, Denmark