

SHERROD BROWN  
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 7, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to seek the release of human rights activist Peng Ming during your meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Mr. Peng's case is a travesty of justice. He is currently serving a life sentence in Xianning Prison, Xian'an District, Xianning City, Hubei Province. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has declared Mr. Peng's imprisonment in violation of his internationally-recognized rights to freedom of expression and association. Chinese authorities reportedly have not treated Mr. Peng's serious heart condition and chronic kidney stones.

Mr. Peng is a peaceful advocate for the environment, human rights, and democracy. For his efforts to form an environmental group and promote free debate, Chinese authorities shut down the group and ordered Mr. Peng to serve 18 months of reeducation through labor in 1998. After his release in 2000, he fled with his family to Thailand. In 2001, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees granted them refugee status, and they settled in the United States. In 2004, Mr. Peng was traveling in Myanmar to set up a safe haven for other Chinese refugees when he was apprehended, taken to China, and sentenced to life in prison on trumped-up charges.

The personal toll on Mr. Peng's family has been devastating. For more than nine years, Mr. Peng has been separated from his daughter, Lisa, who is a standout high school student in Shaker Heights, Ohio. I share the fervent wishes of Lisa and her family that the Chinese government immediately release Mr. Peng so they can be reunited in the United States and he can receive the urgent medical care that he needs.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator