

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS
Green Party
for the South East of England

Mr. H. E. Song Zhe
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Head of the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Communities
Boulevard de la Woluwé 100
1200 Bruxelles

20th July 2009

Dear Mr. Song Zhe,

The release of Mr. Liu Xiaobo

I am writing to protest about the recent formal arrest of the prominent Chinese scholar and activist Liu Xiaobo by the Chinese State authorities on suspicion of "inciting subversion of state power" and of "spreading of rumours and defaming of the government, aimed at subversion of the state and overthrowing the socialism system in recent years".

I am alarmed to hear such news as I understand that these charges against Mr. Xiaobo are connected to his support of Charter 08: the blueprint for democratic legal and political reform in China which was signed by approximately 300 Chinese scholars, lawyers and officials in December of last year. I am deeply concerned that what appears to be peaceful activism and democratic political expression is being so openly suppressed, and that the Chinese authorities are complicit in punishing those concerned with human rights, democracy and progressive political reform in China.

I therefore ask that any charges against Mr Xiaobo related to Charter 08 be immediately dropped and that he be released unconditionally.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Lucas MEP

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