

April 8, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the petition to stop incarcerating Mr. Hang Jiang who was arrested and detained in Batavia State jail.

I am an associate professor in the Department of Childhood and Early Childhood Education at SUNY at Cortland. I have known Mr. Hang Jiang ever since they moved to the apartment complex we lived in. Every Tuesday afternoon, while I waited for my daughter in Cortland Free Library with my son when she was at her piano lessons, I always saw Mr. Hang Jiang taking his children to the same library and borrow a huge pile of books for their weekly reading.

Two days ago, I was very alarmed to hear that Mr. Hang Jiang was arrested and detained in prison to be deported back to China. I could not believe what I heard and went to his home about the truth. Now I plead together with other people who signed on the petition to release Mr. Jiang that you seriously consider to return Mr. Jiang to his family in Cortland, New York.

I am from China and have been in the United States since 2000. I came as a doctoral student, but I was very aware that not many Chinese people could be as privileged as I was. Many of them had as their daily struggle to defy the unfair and repressive policy enforcement in local areas around China. Mr. Jiang came from Fujian, where people have been for a long time suffering from the shortage of land and a huge population over the years. I could perfectly understand, but could not imagine how Mr. Jiang escaped the grip of inhuman governmental policies to make sure that each family only has one child to ease the tension between population increase and resource depletion. As immigration officers, I believe you have heard of many similar cases and would agree with me that people in China as well as those in other parts of the world look up to the United States as a land of freedom, equal opportunities, a place where they could pursue their happiness.

Mr. Jiang's family needs him. Mr. Jiang's children need their father. I understand that they came to this country without proper documentations. All these years, they have been law-abiding people, paying taxes just as every other American citizen. All these years, they worked hard and never once were on the nation's list of people who needed unemployment assistance. All these years, their children were born and grew up as U.S. citizens. What kind of lesson do you think they would learn from their father's deportation? What kind of immigrant policy would split a family and return the father to his homeland, where he could not practice his civil rights?

I sincerely ask you to consider my request to release Mr. Jiang and return him to his family and children, who could not live without him. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Lin Lin

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