

Date _____

Ambassador Xie Feng
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place NW
Washington DC 20008



Dear Ambassador Xie Feng,

In 2022-2023, Chen Pinlin (陈品霖), also known as Plato, created and released the documentary called 'Urumqi Middle Road' (乌鲁木齐中路). This documentary records a series of peaceful protests against three years of rolling lockdowns under China's zero-COVID policy and the harsh environment of censorship and surveillance in China.

I am writing to express my grave concern for Chen's well-being. On 5 January 2024, police in Shanghai arrested him for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble"; on 18 February, his case was transferred to the prosecutor's office for prosecution. Chen is currently being held in pre-trial detention at the Baoshan Detention Center in Shanghai. While in custody, Chen is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment, as well as violations of his due process rights. In the last decade, Amnesty International has documented a number of cases in China in which individuals held on these charges, often for their work to uphold freedom of expression and defend other human rights, have experienced torture and other ill-treatment and been unable to access effective remedy for those violations.

Chen's family has reportedly been harassed and intimidated by the police, which is also a common trend with cases of detained defenders in China. Since the White Paper Movement, several other participants or their families have been harassed and questioned by Chinese authorities. It is difficult to know exactly how many individuals have been silenced, arrested or even disappeared in efforts by authorities to control information about the protests and further limit fundamental freedoms.

Chen Pinlin is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression, a right guaranteed under international human rights law. Therefore, I urge you to:

- Release Chen Pinlin immediately and unconditionally;
- Pending his release, ensure he is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Stop threatening, harassing, and arresting Chen's family, other individuals associated with the White Paper Movement, and anyone who peacefully exercises their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Yours sincerely,

