

October 21, 2004

The Honorable Colin Powell, Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you prepare for your important mission to China, I wanted to make you aware of my interest in the case of Jude Shao, an American citizen who has been unjustly imprisoned in China for more than six years and whose health is deteriorating. It is my sincere hope that you will be able to raise Mr. Shao's case with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxin during your October visit and urge the Chinese to release Mr. Shao. I have written about Mr. Shao's case to The Honorable Xiao Yang, Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court of The People's Republic of China, on three occasions but have received no response.

In 1993, Mr. Shao established China Business Ventures (CBV) in Shanghai, a medical equipment vending company. Four years into conducting business in Shanghai, local tax auditors seized Mr. Shao's accounting records, and refused to return these records unless a "tax audit bond" was paid. When he refused to pay, police arrested Mr. Shao, and in May 2000 Mr. Shao was convicted of tax fraud for failure to pay import taxes.

Since his conviction, Mr. Shao has filed six appeals without response from the Supreme People's Court. His latest four appeals have included reports in which legal experts conclude that the evidence against Mr. Shao was insufficient and he deserves a retrial. Mr. Shao has served more than six years of his sentence, and ten years remain. Mr. Shao's health continues to deteriorate, and his family has filed for a medical parole but has yet to hear a response.

Mr. Shao's case must be fully and fairly investigated in light of the questionable evidence and he must be afforded the protection of due process applied to American citizens participating in Chinese commerce. Again, I respectfully request that you raise Mr. Shao's case with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxin during your October visit and urge the Chinese to release Mr. Shao.

Thank you for your service to our country, and your consideration of my concerns on this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
Democratic Leader