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May 8, 2009

Honorable Hillary R. Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I am writing on behalf of a young woman, Ms. Jin Pang, who is currently a graduate student at Missouri State University in Springfield. Ms. Pang's mother, Cao Junping, lives in Weifang City, Shandong Province, China. One week before the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Ms. Cao Junping was arrested for no reported reason, other than that she is a Falun Gong adherent. According to her daughter, their family home was ransacked and many valuable possessions were confiscated by the Chinese police. Since that day, Ms. Junping has been held in a detention center in Weifang City. She has not been charged or tried for a crime and no family visits have been allowed. Ms. Pang's aunt, Cao Junfeng, also a Falun Gong practitioner, was arrested at the same time as her mother, and continues to be detained.

My constituents have expressed concern that Chinese officials may be escalating the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners since the recent Olympics. The Falun Gong Information Center has charged that the government of China arrested more than 8,000 citizens and executed more than 100 last year. The Falun Gong Information Center also maintains that the city of Weifang is an extremely dangerous place for Falun Gong practitioners, as torture is routinely used there and many detainees have been tortured to death.

I share Ms Pang's concern for the safety of her family members. I believe that the cases of Ms. Junping and Ms. Junfeng warrant the attention of your office and I respectfully request that you take every appropriate action to protect the basic human rights of Falon Gong practitioners in China.

Sincerely,



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress