



**JOAN CROCKATT, MP** CALGARY CENTRE

---

# News Release

---

*April 17, 2014  
For Immediate Release*

## **Release hunger striker immediately: MPs Joan Crockatt and James Lunney urge China**

**Calgary, AB** – Joan Crockatt, MP for Calgary Centre and James Lunney, MP for Nanaimo Alberni, today called upon the Chinese government to immediately release a Falun Gong practitioner who is on Day 31 of a hunger strike.

“Yinghua Chen’s life is in imminent danger,” MP Crockatt said Thursday. “Chen’s father, a Calgarian and a Canadian citizen, was turned away from seeing her yesterday at the No. 2 Shijiazhuang Detention Centre and he is desperately concerned over her safety, as am I,” Crockatt added.

“We want to see immediate action in this case,” MP Lunney said. He represents Ms. Chen’s Canadian brother Yingyi Chen.

Mr. Chen told MP Lunney his sister has been jailed 300 km from Beijing, and said his sister was supporting a friend who was doing nothing more than holding a banner outside the prison saying she wanted to visit her father inside. Both were arrested and incarcerated on March 12, without charges being laid. Ms. Chen is a Falun Gong practitioner and poses no threat to the Chinese government.

Canadian Foreign Affairs is seeking information on Ms. Chen and whether her father Zhiming Chen will be permitted to see her.

Chen’s mother Jinling Huang, a former engineer who was herself imprisoned and tortured in China for practicing Falun Gong, was “rescued” by Canada in 2007 and also lives in Calgary.

“I am deeply worried. Yinghua’s life is in danger every single second,” Ms. Huang said. For the past two days Huang has been on a sit-in in front of the Chinese Consulate in Calgary, but she said the consulate refused to accept her letter advocating for her daughter’s release.

The Conservative MPs joined together in light of the dire situation to call on the Government of China to allow Mr. Chen to see his daughter and to immediately release her so her medical needs may be attended to.

Canada continues to express grave concerns about human rights abuses in China, including the imprisonment of political prisoners such as Falun Gong practitioners.

For media inquiries please contact:

**Mike Blanchard**

Manager - Constituency Operations  
Office of Joan Crockatt, MP Calgary Centre  
Tel.: 403-244-1880  
[Joan.Crockatt.C1A@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Joan.Crockatt.C1A@parl.gc.ca)

**Toby Gorman**

Executive Assistant  
James Lunney, MP Nanaimo-Alberni  
Tel.: 250-390-7550  
[assistant2@jameslunneymp.ca](mailto:assistant2@jameslunneymp.ca)