

Minister of Justice

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April 2008

Dear Minister,

I am appalled to hear that human rights defender Hu Jia has been sentenced to three years and six months' imprisonment for "inciting subversion of state power". Amnesty International considers Hu Jia to be a prisoner of conscience.

In line with official commitments that human rights would improve in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics and with a view to promoting a positive human rights legacy for the Games, I urge you to secure Hu Jia's unconditional release immediately.

I urge you to guarantee that Hu Jia is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while he remains in prison.

I also urge you also ensure that Hu Jia is granted regular visits by his family and has access to lawyers and any necessary medical treatment. I also urge you to do everything within your power to ensure human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate work free from fear of harassment, ill-treatment and arbitrary detention.

Regards,