

Dear Congressional Executive Commission on China,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your work on political prisoners in China and, in particular, [your advocacy](#) for my brother Gao Zhen.

As you know, my brother, Gao Zhen, is currently detained in China. Together, we are the “Gao Brothers,” an internationally acclaimed Chinese artist duo. Our best-known works confront the authoritarian legacy and violence of the Chinese Communist Party.

Now, Gao is behind bars. He was arrested on August 26, 2024, and charged with “slandering heroes and martyrs” for three sculptures we created from 2006 to 2009, even though the law did not take effect until 2018, a decade later. His trial did not take place until March 30, 2026, and he was sentenced last month on August 25, 2026, to three years in prison. He turned 70 this May, and his health is deteriorating.

In August, Gao was sentenced to 3 years in prison, the maximum penalty. He has already served 2 years in detention, including a stint in solitary confinement. We hope he will be released in August 2027, but we are concerned that his health conditions are so severe that he may not make it. Last month, he repeatedly fainted, including episodes associated with extreme heat and possible cerebrovascular problems. He is also suffering from inadequate nutrition and insufficient access to medical care at the Sanhe City Detention Center.

His family and friends are deeply concerned that his health may be reaching a dangerous point. Time is becoming increasingly critical for him.

At the same time, Gao Zhen’s young son, who is a U.S. citizen, has been unable to return to the United States for two years. He has been barred from returning home to New York. He deeply longs to return to his home, his school, and a normal childhood in America.

I hope your office will continue to prioritize the release of Gao Zhen. Given his rapidly deteriorating health, that opportunity is particularly urgent. I sincerely hope that, under your leadership, Gao Zhen can be released and reunited with his wife and son, and they can all finally return home to New York and to his school.

Thank you again for standing up for Gao Zhen and for other families facing arbitrary detention and exit bans in China. For Gao Zhen and our family, knowing that his case has not been forgotten by you or by the United States has meant a great deal. Our family will always remember your support during one of the most difficult periods of our lives.

With deepest gratitude,

Gao Qiang