

**David Rowley**  
**5310 S. University Avenue**  
**Chicago, IL 60615**

December 22, 2011

Dear President Obama,

In the past ten days I, or my family, have received 3 letters of considerable meaning to us. One was a holiday card from you and your family, addressed to my parents, wishing them and their family a wonderful holiday season with a very nice picture of you and your family. This brought back wonderful memories of my family's visit to the White House in 2009 to attend the ceremony associated with the awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to my mother, Janet Rowley, and other recipients of this most prestigious honor. Most particularly I remember the warmth and graciousness that both you and Michele showed toward my nephew Ian, who repeatedly hugged both of you during our brief meeting in the Blue Room.

The two other letters are from my former student Dr. Xue Feng, from his prison cell in Beijing where he has been detained and now imprisoned for the past more than four years for "spying" for a foreign interest. I attach those letters with this one, although I hope that you will have received the one written directly to you already. Feng's letter to you is most disheartening as he clearly recognizes just how devastating incarceration has been not only for himself, but equally, and perhaps more pointedly, for his family.

I have written you previously about his case, and I know from ongoing discussions with staff at American Citizen's Services in the Beijing Embassy and press reports that your administration is well aware of Feng's case and the injustice represented by his incarceration. What is made perfectly clear by Feng's letters is the personal toll that he and his family are paying for doing his job for the US Company IHS. Former Ambassador John Huntsman and now Ambassador Locke have been quite public in their dealings with their Chinese counterparts and I have been told and read in press accounts that you too have conveyed to your Chinese counterparts the U.S. government position that Dr. Xue should be released from prison. Again, as Feng's letter points out he will have served half his sentence in February 2012 and is then eligible for parole, even under Chinese law.

I therefore want to add my voice, miniscule as it might be, to the loud cry of Feng's voice for your intervention with your Chinese counterparts to affect his immediate release from prison and his return to the U.S. to his family as soon as possible. I am quite sure neither of us can imagine the pain and suffering of he and his family, made all the more difficult during this holiday season. Please, for Feng's sake and that of his family, do whatever is in your power to do to affect his release.

Once again, thanks for your and your administration's efforts in the past on Feng's behalf. Your persistence and perseverance are in many ways his and their only hope.

With warmest wishes to you and your family during this holiday season,  
Yours Sincerely,  
signed