

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2000		16	China	Song Yongyi, American librarian
	2000			<i>follow-up 1</i>

*Announcement:*

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Washington, reports that our colleague, Chinese librarian and historian Yongyi Song, has been released [on 29 January 2000]. See the AAUP Press Release below. Thanks to all of you who have sent appeals or signed the on-line petition.

**AAUP Applauds Release of Dickinson Scholar by China (1 February 2000)**

Washington, DC-The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) applauds the Chinese government's release of Yongyi Song, a research librarian at Dickinson College. The AAUP, working with Professor Song's colleagues, had written to the Chinese government protesting Song's arrest and detention.

Beginning in September, the AAUP worked to gain his release, writing and calling both U.S. and Chinese officials, members of Congress and representatives of various international organizations. AAUP also urged its 45,000 members, scattered on campuses across the country, to sign petitions and to write letters calling for Song's release.

"We are delighted that Mr. Song has been released, and we celebrate his safe return to his family and his colleagues in Pennsylvania," said Mary Burgan, AAUP General Secretary. "We want to believe that, by releasing Mr. Song, the Chinese government has taken a step forward into community with the rest of the world, where we all know that studying one another's history is not a hostile action. We all have much to learn from one another," Burgan commented.

A nationally known scholar of contemporary Chinese history, Song was arrested in August in Beijing where he had been traveling with his wife, visiting relatives and collecting published documents relating to the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Helen Yao, Mr. Song's wife, was released in November, but Song was formally charged with "the purchase and illegal provision of intelligence to foreign people." On Friday, the Chinese government issued a statement claiming that they were treating Mr. Song with leniency because he confessed to spying. Mr. Song denies making such a confession.

Scholars responded from all over the country, as well as from organizations based in other countries, writing to the Chinese government and to its ambassadors in this country and in Canada, and calling on U.S. government officials to intervene in the case.

The American Association of University Professors is a nonprofit charitable and educational organization that supports and defends the principles of academic freedom and tenure and promotes policies that ensure academic due process. The AAUP has more than 45,000 members at colleges and universities throughout the country.

More information about the Song case can be found. An earlier press release is available. Contact Iris Molotsky, 202-737-5900, Ext. 3011.