

Chief Procurator of Shanghai People's Procuratorate Zhang Bencai
No 648, Jianguo West Road,
Xuhui Qu,
Shanghai City, 200030,
People's Republic of China

Dear Chief Procurator Zhang,

I appeal to you to protect the life of Zhang Zhan (张展), who was sentenced to four years in prison for reporting on the Covid-19 outbreak. Such citizen journalism is important in recognizing emergencies and responding to them appropriately. It should be encouraged, not penalized.

Zhang Zhan is a prisoner of conscience, held for no reason other than peaceful expression. Her health in prison is poor and her family fears that she is near death.

On 15 November, Zhang Zhan's family submitted a medical bail application to Shanghai's Women's Prison. They have received no response. The world has noticed an alarming pattern of medical parole being delayed until Chinese activists are deathly ill. Please do not allow this to happen to people for whom you have responsibility.

Zhang Zhan (张展) should be released immediately and unconditionally. Until that can occur, I urge you to accept the medical bail application. As long as Zhang Zhan remains in custody, she must receive critical medical care and access to her family members and lawyers.

Sincerely,