

November 11, 2025

Sent via email

Your Excellency Wang Yi,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's
Republic of China
No. 2, Chaoyangmen Nandajie,
Chaoyang District, Beijing 100701,
China

Dear Minister Wang,

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, nonprofit press freedom organization, writes to respectfully draw your attention to the legal case against Chinese journalist Dong Yuyu, who is serving a seven-year prison sentence on espionage charges, ahead of a November 13 court ruling on his appeal.

Dong, whom CPJ will honor with a 2025 International Press Freedom Award, has been widely recognized for his reporting and commitment to enhancing international understanding of China. He was arrested on February 21, 2022, while having lunch with a Japanese diplomat in Beijing.

As foreign minister, you play a key role in advancing people-to-people diplomacy and engaging with a wide range of international stakeholders, including diplomats, scholars, and journalists. Routine exchanges between diplomats and journalists are essential to fostering understanding and transparency between nations. Such practices contribute to a clearer appreciation of China — something that aligns with President Xi Jinping's call for journalists to “tell China's stories well.”

In November 2024, a Beijing court convicted Dong of espionage and sentenced him to seven years in prison, without family or media present. He filed an appeal one month later. The extended delays in his appeal process have distressed his family, who have not been allowed to visit him since February 2022, and prompted calls from concerned voices in China and the international community for reassurance about judicial fairness. China is the world's leading jailer of journalists, with at least 49 in prison, according to CPJ's research.

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Committee to Protect Journalists

As the court prepares to rule on his appeal, we respectfully ask that you support a review of his case and consider steps that would allow him to return to his family. We also hope that you can encourage a solution that would reflect China's global leadership and reaffirm its commitment to people-to-people diplomacy.

We look forward to your response and welcome dialogue on this topic with the relevant offices at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Committee to Protect Journalists