Embassy of the People's Republic of China

H.E. Mr Ambassador Jian Tan

Willem Lodewijklaan 10

2517 JT Den Haag

Oldenzaal, August 2025

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern for the conviction and continued detention of Xu Zhiyong (许志永) and Ding Jiaxi (丁家喜), two prominent members of the New Citizens’ Movement. They were among dozens of lawyers and activists targeted after attending an informal gathering held in Xiamen in December 2019, in which they discussed the civil society situation and current affairs in China. In June 2023, a court in Shandong province sentenced Xu Zhiyong and Ding Jiaxi to 14 and 12 years in prison respectively for ‘inciting subversion of state power’ in a closed-door trial.

I respectfully urge your government to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Xu Zhiyong and Ding Jiaxi, and meanwhile to grant them regular, unrestricted access to their loved ones and their lawyers. Please also ensure that they are not subject to torture or other ill-treatment.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,