Director Pan Jiqiang Sanhe Public Security Bureau in Langfang City, Hebei Province No.3, Dingsheng West Street, Sanhe City, Langfang, Hebei Province 065200, People’s Republic of China

Oldenzaal, February 2025

Dear Director Pan,

I am writing to express my grave concern for artist Gao Zhen (高兟), who is currently detained at Sanhe City Detention Center on charges of ‘slandering China’s heroes and martyrs’ (侵害英雄烈士名譽榮譽罪) — a crime punishable by up to three years in prison. He has merely exercised his right to freedom of expression, especially artistic expression and creation.

My distress is heightened by concerns that Gao’s wife and their 6-year-old son, a United States citizen, were barred from leaving China when they attempted to return to New York following Gao’s detention in August 2024. Gao’s wife was subsequently warned by police not to speak to the media about her husband’s detention.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Gao Zhen. Pending his release, please ensure that Zhen has regular, unrestricted access to his family and lawyers, and is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,