



**JOINT STATEMENT ON CHINA'S UNLAWFUL DETENTION OF LI MING-CHE
TORONTO, APRIL 19, 2017**

On March 19, 2017 Mr. Li Ming-che (李明哲), a Taiwanese human rights worker, disappeared after entering China from Macau. Only 11 days later did China announce that he had been detained and was being investigated for “activities harmful to national security”. To date China has not given Taiwan official notification of any charges against Mr. Li or his place of detention, and on March 29 even refused his wife Li Ching-yu (李淨瑜) entry to China. This not only shows China’s disregard for human rights, but is also a violation of the China -Taiwan agreement on procedures to follow when citizens of the other side are arrested.

To date more than 136 Taiwanese and international organizations have spoken out on this case, including Freedom House, Human Rights Watch and the International Federation for Human Rights. Today we, representatives of community and human rights organizations of Canadians from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, join our voices to express our protest and anger at these actions of China. ***We call on China to release Li Ming-che now, and urge the Chinese government to respect the personal safety and human rights of Taiwanese visiting China.***

China uses many tactics to bridle the freedom of speech and personal freedom of Chinese people and even foreigners. The case of Li Ming-che is only the latest in a pattern of similar acts violating of international human rights by the China - kidnapping democracy activists from Hong Kong; illegal refoulement of Chinese asylum seekers from Thailand and Cambodia; and questionable extraditions to China of Taiwanese citizens from Kenya, Malaysia and Spain.

We call on the Government of Canada to express its concern about this case to the Chinese authorities. This is consistent with Canada’s long standing stated interest in peaceful relations between Taiwan and China, and avoidance of acts that upset stability and create tensions between them. Canadians have already been victims in some of the above cases, so it is proper that Canada make its concern for the safety of Li Ming-che known, to reassure Canadians from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China that Canada cares about their safety and consular rights.

加拿大台灣同鄉會 Taiwanese Canadian Association
港加聯 Canada-Hong Kong Link

民主中國陣線 Federation for a Democratic China, Canada
加拿大台灣人權協會 Taiwanese Human Rights Association of Canada