

To whom it may concern,

We, the undersigned, are writing to voice our support for Ms Cheng Lei. We have known her variously as a friend, colleague, mentor, journalist or fellow Australian. For those of us who know her personally, in every sense know her to be a caring, professional, competent, and respected journalist.

We are writing to voice our concern at her arrest for “suspicion of illegally supplying state secrets overseas”, and her ongoing detention which began August 13 2020. We are confident she has done nothing wrong and hold grave concerns for her health, safety and care during her ongoing detention.

We are concerned about the chilling effect her arrest has on the practice of journalism, which has never been more critical.

Cheng Lei has, in her career, has earned the respect of her colleagues for her straightforward business reporting. This was informed by her Bachelor of Commerce, received at the University of Queensland and then her admission as a Certified Practising Accountant certified by CPA Australia. Her work in the field of business journalism lead to her being appointed a Global Alumni Ambassador for Australia by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We are concerned about the wellbeing of her beloved children, aged 10 and 12. They have been separated from her for well over a year now and she’s had no contact with them since her arrest.

We stand with Cheng Lei as a journalist and Australian citizen.

We are seeking compassion and reason from the Chinese Government in dealing with her case.

We are calling for her immediate release and her return home to Australia to be reunited with her children.

Sincerely,

<b>Jane Worthington</b> Director IFJ Asia-Pacific	<b>Peter Greste</b> UNESCO Chair in Journalism & Communication with UQ, author, journalist	<b>Marcus Strom</b> Federal President (Media) Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance	<b>David Crowe</b> SMH Political Editor and Press Gallery President	<b>Annelise Nielsen</b> Washington Correspondent Sky News Australia and former colleague
<b>Lucy Hornby</b> Former China Correspondent and friend	<b>Jack Barton</b> Former Colleague and friend	<b>Tadek Markowski</b> Friend and former CGTN colleague	<b>Joey Catanzaro</b> Crime Reporter 7News, former colleague, friend	<b>Rachel Rubel</b> News Presenter, friend and former colleague
<b>Jeff Moody</b> International News Anchor, Former CGTN Anchor, colleague, and friend	<b>Clint Deloatch</b> News Anchor and former colleague	<b>Erica Pitzzi</b> Former CGTN Journalist, friend and colleague	<b>John Reid</b> Cameraman and former colleague	<b>Lisa Oake</b> Former CNBC Journalist
<b>Maud Watine</b> Camera operator and former colleague	<b>Shweta Bajaj</b> Former Colleague, journalist & Documentary Filmmaker	<b>Nick Coyle</b> Deputy Chairman CAP Resources Company LTD	<b>Richard Bestic</b> Former UK Correspondent CGTN, former colleague	<b>Christine Schiffner</b> Freelance Journalist, Former CGTN Director of Newsgathering
<b>Emily Angwin</b> News Anchor Al Jazeera, friend and former colleague	<b>John Jirik</b> Former Colleague CCTV, CGTN	<b>Moira Coops</b> Makeup Artist	<b>Stephanie Freid</b> Freelance Journalist and former colleague	<b>Roya Shadravan</b> CGTN International Desk Editor, former colleagues
<b>Lourda Sexton</b> Former Colleague	<b>Andy Duffy</b> Former Colleague	<b>Karen Middleton</b> Chief Political Correspondent, The Saturday Paper	<b>Laura Tingle</b> ABC Chief Political Correspondent	<b>Kate McClymont</b> Investigative Journalist SMH, Sydney Morning Herald
<b>Rowan Callick</b> Former China Correspondent and Industry Fellow	<b>Amy Remeikis</b> The Guardian Political Reporter	<b>David Speers</b> ABC	<b>Michelle Grattan</b> Journalist	<b>Richard McGregor</b> Senior Fellow Lowy Institute
<b>Phil Coorey</b> Australian Financial Review	<b>Katharine Murphy</b> Political Editor The Guardian	<b>Andrew Bolt</b> The Bolt Report, Sky News Australia	<b>Michael Rowland</b> Presenter, ABC News Breakfast	<b>Mark Kenny</b> Host, Democracy Sausage. Columnist. Professor.
<b>Niki Savva</b> Columnist The Age and SMH	<b>Malcolm Farr</b> Freelance Political Reporter, fellow journalist	<b>Chris Uhlmann</b> Political Editor Nine News	<b>Peter Stefanovic</b> Host First Edition Sky News Australia	<b>Adam Creighton</b> Washington Correspondent, The Australian
<b>Annika Smethurst</b> State Political Editor - The Age	<b>Miranda Devine</b> Journalist NY Post and Daily Telegraph	<b>James Morrow</b> Daily Telegraph Federal Political Editor	<b>Tim Lester</b> US Correspondent Seven Network	<b>Marisa Wikramanayake</b> Victorian President MEAA Media Section and freelance journalist
<b>Peter Ryan</b> ABC Business	<b>Michael Janda</b> ABC Business Reporter	<b>Mike Amor</b> Seven Network Melbourne	<b>Kylie Purcell</b> Investments Editor Finder, Former Colleague	<b>Joe Kelly</b> The Australian
<b>Shauna Black</b> Black Stump Media	<b>Fran Molloy</b> Journalist, MEAA	<b>Meghan Horihan</b> Producer	<b>Jane Canaway</b> Journalist	



