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Your Excellency,

Artist and poet **Liu Xia** has been under illegal "house arrest" since her late husband, Liu Xiaobo, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. Following the announcement on 8 October 2010, she has been restricted from communicating with her family and friends. That evening police took her to Liaoning province to keep her away from the media and to meet with Liu Xiaobo in prison. Liu Xia was returned to Beijing the same day and since then has been kept as a prisoner in their home with round the clock surveillance. Over the seven years Liu Xia only had limited visits to Liu Xiaobo.

Liu Xia had a heart attack in January 2014 and was diagnosed with a heart condition, however was prevented from receiving the treatment she needed. Liu Xia also suffers from severe depression and in addition to her ongoing imprisonment, with the death of her father in September 2016, her mother in April 2017 and now her husband, there are fears that it has worsened.

I would therefore like to ask you to end the illegal house arrest and surveillance of Liu Xia, stop her harassment and allow her to travel freely

Please take effective measures to ensure that all human rights defenders, including Liu Xia, can carry out their peaceful activities without fear of harassment, intimidation, arbitrary detention or imprisonment, in line with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Yours sincerely,

Cc:

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