



February 21, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to urge your assistance in alleviating the plight of political dissidents who have expressed their views over the Internet in China, and in addressing the related challenges confronting U.S. companies like Yahoo! that invest in global markets. Given that many of the problems facing American companies in restrictive markets often require diplomatic solutions, I hope you will continue to work with us to overcome these challenges. For China and its dissidents in particular, time is of the essence.

Since the U.S. government normalized trade relations with China nearly a decade ago, Democratic and Republican administrations alike have encouraged American businesses – especially technology companies – to engage in this growing and modernizing economy. As a result, Yahoo! made the choice, like many other companies in a variety of industries, to establish local operations and offer online communications and information services to Chinese citizens.

In addition to the clear business opportunities China and other emerging markets present for American firms like Yahoo!, technology companies can have a transformative effect on people's lives and on local and national economies – providing access to information that changes what people know about the world around them. For a company founded on the principle of increased access to information, these markets hold enormous promise.

At the same time, pioneering companies like Yahoo! also confronted new challenges in the areas of free expression and individual privacy. As members of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China noted in a recent letter to President Hu Jintao, the Chinese government's demands for personal information about Internet users "place foreign Internet firms – who play a key role in helping China develop its rapidly-growing Internet services – in a very difficult position." Yahoo! knows from firsthand experience the difficulties the Commission cites, since the company we operated in China until 2005 was compelled under penalty of Chinese law to comply with such demands.

Yahoo! deeply regrets the circumstances that led to the imprisonment of individuals in China – including Mr. Shi Tao and Mr. Wang Xiaoning – simply due to the exercise of their right to free expression. Yahoo! was founded with the purpose of promoting access to information and free expression, and the fact that individuals are in prison because they expressed their ideas online runs counter to Yahoo!'s core values.

Yahoo! is determined to do all we can as a corporation to address human rights challenges. We recently established the Yahoo! Human Rights Fund to provide humanitarian and legal support



to political dissidents who have been imprisoned for expressing their views online, as well as support for their families. This fund is being administered by noted dissident and human rights activist Harry Wu, through his Laogai Research Foundation, with the express purpose of assisting with the legal and humanitarian needs of dissidents. The fund will also support the Foundation's overall educational work to advance human rights.

In addition, we settled a lawsuit brought by the families of the imprisoned Chinese dissidents, giving them additional resources to fight for their relatives' release. Also, senior Yahoo! executives have been and will continue working to secure the release of political dissidents. In addition to personal meetings I have had on this important matter, a group of policy and legal executives at Yahoo! have engaged with high-ranking Chinese and U.S. officials as well as human rights groups to discuss strategies and advocate for the release of these dissidents. This is an effort we will continue to pursue vigorously.

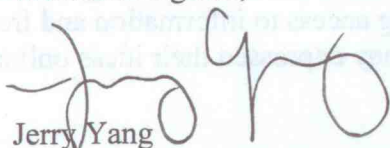
We know we have an important role to play in advocating for the release of these political dissidents; we are also aware of the limits of private American companies engaging in foreign policy. I believe it is essential for our government – led by the State Department – to actively pursue the release of Shi Tao, Wang Xiaoning and other Chinese dissidents who have been imprisoned for exercising internationally recognized rights of expression.

To this end, I hope you will agree that as the world looks ahead to the Olympic Games in Beijing, we have a window of opportunity to advance the cause of freedom. I can think of no more important area for such progress than in securing the release of Shi Tao, Wang Xiaoning and other political dissidents. Your role as America's leading diplomat, and the State Department's deep knowledge of engaging with China on these issues, is critical in this regard.

Beyond the specific case of China, I also want to share with you that we have worked closely with members of the initiative you announced in February 2006, the Global Internet Freedom Taskforce. Yahoo! has also been working for over a year and a half with industry partners, academics, human rights organizations, and socially responsible investors on a global code of conduct to guide technology companies operating in challenging markets. Having dedicated considerable collective resources to this effort, we are hopeful the group will announce new industry standards in the near future.

I look forward to working with you to advance the cause of human rights globally, and to seizing the opportunity presented by the Olympics to redouble our efforts in securing the release of political dissidents. Thank you for your personal leadership on this issue and for the State Department's collaboration on our overall human rights efforts.

Warmest Regards,



Jerry Yang

Chief Executive Officer and Chief Yahoo!

Yahoo! Inc.

cc: Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary, Political Affairs
Ambassador David Gross, U.S. Coordinator for International Communications
and Information Policy
Jeffrey Krilla, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights
and Labor