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Testimony of Li Ching-Yu, delivered in English by Jasmine Chia Shih

Subcommittee Chairman Smith, members of the committee,

Good afternoon,

I am Li Ching-Yu, wife of Li Ming-Che. I would like to thank each of you for upholding and defending the values of freedom and democracy, values that human rights activists, including my husband, have dedicated their entire lives and energies to. I would also like to express my gratitude towards all the congressmen, especially Chairman Royce and Subcommittee Chairman Smith, who strived to maintain and further secure the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act.

I am deeply honored to be here today, alongside these three respectable women, who have gone through such perilous situations for the cause of democracy and human rights. Your stories are truly inspiring. It is after hearing about their journeys that I realized how fortunate I am, as a Taiwanese. I further understood the blessings of our democracy, which exists today thanks to the support of the U.S. government, and all the 20th Century Taiwanese human rights activists, as mentioned by Chairman Royce in the March 14, 2014 hearing on the TRA.

(The rest of my testimony will be read directly by Ms. Jasmine Chia Shih)

My husband, Li Ming-Che, is from a Chinese refugee family that immigrated to Taiwan following the nationalist government in 1949. His background and emotional connection to China have contributed to his support of Chinese human rights efforts. From

2012 until his disappearance, he gave online lectures through WeChat on the democratization of Taiwan and the history of the White Terror period. He also managed and contributed to a social justice fund for the purpose of financially supporting Chinese political prisoners and their families experiencing economic hardship that stemmed from their support of the values of freedom, justice, and democracy.

On March 19, 2017, while on an annual visit to China to meet with people he worked on the fund with, my husband was subjugated to enforced incommunicado detention. It has been 61 days since I last saw him.

I am concerned. I am concerned about his health for he suffers from high blood pressure. I am concerned for his safety.

I do not know where he is for the Guangdong government has refused to disclose the location of his detention.

The deprivation of my husband's liberty by the local Guangdong government is arbitrary and transgresses the articles 9, 19, and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Cross-Strait Joint Crime-Fighting and Judicial Mutual Assistance Agreement, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

It was not long after my husband's enforced disappearance that I learned about his detainment, from a middle man. Since current cross-strait relations are highly abnormal, many such cases that involve Taiwanese people being detained or arrested in China are settled through brokers. These brokers, for the most part, represent the interests of the PRC.

I was shown a copy of a letter that was written under involuntary circumstances by my husband. This letter was in the hands of Lee Jun-min, a representative of the PRC Taiwan Affairs Office. He threatened me, insisting that I cancel my trip to Beijing and also

silence myself. Lee expressed clearly that the detention originated as a result of the provincial government of Guangdong's desire to show its strict enforcement of the newly passed Foreign NGO management law. He threatened that if I were to go to Beijing, the local Guangdong government would release a video of my husband admitting to having committed criminal actions.

The U.S. has long insisted that its policy of no negotiation with terrorists is to be firmly followed. I also believe in that policy. I refused to negotiate with the broker on such unequal grounds. If I did, it would be harmful and shameful to my family, my country, and my fellow human rights activists. Additionally, to my great disappointment, the Chinese government has unreasonably revoked my travel visa, even though I have clearly and calmly explained that I only wanted to travel to better understand the situation.

China's position towards human rights and the rule of law is drastically different from that of Taiwan and other civilized democratic countries. China should not assume that their military and economic growth could force Taiwan to be annexed by it. If China maintains that my husband's actions of spreading the values of democracy and aiding the family members of political prisoners compose a threat to its national security, I believe the people of Taiwan will become not only more certain of their unwillingness to be annexed but also hesitant to preserve a close relationship with China.

It has only been around 20 years since Taiwan successfully overthrew the White Terror's one-party dictatorship. So it is highly unlikely that we will be willing to accept another despotic government.

I have no other choice but to come and stand before you, to ask for help from you. The United States of America is the leading democracy in the free world. It was built upon the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The U.S. has long been the protector of justice, freedom, and democracy everywhere. It has accepted the moral obligation to aid people deprived of their

natural rights. The American Congress's unwavering dedication towards these values has influenced many countries, including my home country Taiwan, to embrace the spirit of human rights and democracy. The U.S. Congress has also voluntarily taken the responsibility, as specified in section 2, clause 3 of the Taiwan Relations Act, to preserve and enhance the human rights of the people of Taiwan.

Therefore, I stand alone before you today to plea for your help for my husband. I am pleading the United States to continue to act as according to the TRA. I am pleading the United States to continue to support the value of which it has always unbendingly defended. I am pleading the United States to continue to uphold the values of which it was formed upon. I am pleading the U.S. government to pressure China to recognize the provincial government of Guangdong's illegitimate detention of my husband, Li Ming-Che, and free him.

Thank you.