



39 West 32nd Street, Suite 1602
New York, New York 10001

March 15, 2012

Dr. Chen Zhu
Minister
Ministry of Health Peoples Republic of China
No. 1 Xizhimen South Road
Xicheng District, Beijing, 100044
People's Republic of China

Dear Dr. Chen Zhu:

On Wednesday, February 8, 2012 the Chinese Ministry of Health announced that it intends to introduce so-called “real-name” HIV testing. The measure aims to help health officials to follow up with those who test positive. Instead, the new policy would discourage many people from getting tested at all.

International human rights standards, including the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights state that information about an individual's HIV status must be protected from disclosure in healthcare and other settings. The World Health Organization requires that HIV testing include (1) informed consent; (2) pre- and post-test counseling; and (3) confidentiality of test results.

However, health care facilities have done poorly at protecting patient confidentiality in China, and many people who test positive for HIV go underground in order to escape discrimination against themselves and their families by employers, landlords, schools, and even hospitals. The legal system has failed to deliver justice for the few courageous people who have dared to sue over their HIV-related discrimination.

We, the undersigned, support the China Gay Health Forum, China Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CAP+) and many Chinese AIDS activists in calling on the Ministry of Health to reject real-name testing and strengthen privacy protections at hospitals and testing sites. China's leaders should pass—and enforce—stronger laws to ban discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,

AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa – Windhoek, Namibia

Concerned Citizen – New York City, NY
Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (FEIM) – Buenos Aires, Argentina
International AIDS Women’s Caucus (IAWC) – Buenos Aires, Argentina
Stop AIDS in Liberia – Monrovia, Liberia
Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association – Taipei, Taiwan

Fatima Abuddullah – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Meghan Adamson-Jackes – Philadelphia, PA
Stefanie Art – Munich, Germany
Nick Bartlett – San Francisco, CA
Edwin Bernard – Brighton, United Kingdom
Philip Berryman – Philadelphia, PA
Lizzy Berryman, Asia Catalyst – Philadelphia, PA
Christine Bomar – Woodbridge, Virginia
Derek Boom – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Brian Bonci, Asia Catalyst – New York, NY
Costas Boussios – Cambridge, Massachusetts
Joseph Bugo – Jackson Heights, NY
Wang Yuen Chan – Hong Kong, China
Amy Chan – Hong Kong, China
Chester Chang – Taipei, Taiwan
Mikaela Chase – Washington, D.C.
Marco Chau – Hong Kong, China
Denise Cheung – Hong Kong, China
Panda Cheung – Hong Kong, China
Mandy Cheung – Hong Kong, China
Rebecca Cheung – South Bend, Indiana
Eric Chu – Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, China
Cherry Chui – Hong Kong, China
Shiu Ka Chun – Hong Kong, China
JiYoung Chung – Bundang, Republic of Korea
Nicola Chung – Hong Kong, China
Rukia Cornelius – Cape Town, South Africa
Sara Davis, Asia Catalyst – New York, NY
Chan Chung Dick – Hong Kong, China
Daphne Ding – Singapore
Fang Doris – Taipei, Taiwan
Oscar Dupont – Melbourne, Australia
Richard Elliot, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network – Toronto, Canada
Chan Fei – Hong Kong, China, AIDS Concern
Richard Fields – New York, NY
Mike Frick, Asia Catalyst – New York, NY
Richard Garella, Loudmouth Films – Philadelphia, PA

Adam Garner – Amsterdam, Netherlands
Lindsey Gauzza – Brooklyn, NY
Teresa Girolamo, University of Washington – Brooklyn, NY
Dan Hajdo – Columbia, Maryland
Jennifer Harrison – Riverside, RI
Gisa Hartmann, Asia Catalyst – Bomlitz, Germany
Chun Wai Ho – Hong Kong, China
Jim Hoe – Hong Kong, China
Paul Hsu – Taipei, Taiwan
Andrew Hunter, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers – Samsen Nai, Payatai, Thailand
Joyce Hunter – Sunnyside, NY
Shih-Shiuan Wilson Kao – Taipei
Karyn Kaplan, Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group – Bangkok, Thailand
Clare Keating – Brooklyn, NY
Franz-Josef Kemnade – Cologne, Germany
Nang Mo Kham – Yangon, Burma
Caren Kraupner – Cologne, Germany
Kate Krauss – Philadelphia, PA
Heide Marie Kremer – Miami, FL
Shalena Broadnax Krumm, Asia Catalyst – Brooklyn, NY
Hui Lai Kwan – Woosung Street, Jordan
Kay Kwok – Hong Kong, China
Daera Lahui – Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
Anna Lau – Los Angeles, CA
Edward Laurson – Denver, Colorado
Joanne Lawson – London, United Kingdom
Flora Lee – Hong Kong, China
Vera Lehmann – Berlin, Germany
Margaret Lewis, Seton Hall University Law School – New York, NY
Kevin Li – Hong Kong, China
Tingyu Li – Norway
Ivory Yi-Hui Lin – Taipei, Taiwan
Lee Yung Lin – Hong Kong, China
Jedidah Lucas – Nairobi, Kenya
Kristina Lühr – Hamburg, Germany
Raha M – Tehran, Iran
Winnie Mak – Hong Kong, China
Christoforos Mallouris – Amsterdam, Netherlands
Judy Manton – Tenafly, NJ
Maria McMahan – Coogee, Australia
Donna Mock – Medford, Oregon
Michael Morrill – Augusta, Maine
Rayila Muhammad – York, United Kingdom

David Munar – Chicago, IL
Dinah Musindarwezo – Nairobi, Kenya
Judy Mwaura – Nairobi, Kenya
Lo Nam – Hong Kong, China
Jaevion Nelson – Kingston, Jamaica
Fabiano Nero – Bangkok, Thailand
Neda Ng – Hong Kong, China
Isabel Nunes – Lisboa, Portugal
Laydia Olusa – Columbia, Maryland
Ingrid Pang – Hong Kong, China
Shiba Phurailatpam, APN+ – Bangkok, Thailand
Linda Plenert – Winnipeg, Canada
Matthew Ponsford – Halifax, Canada
Jojo Poon – Hong Kong, China
Juanita Ramirez – Monrovia, Liberia
Juergen Reckfort – Muenster, DE
Corinna Reiff – Berlin, Germany
Jana Riesenbeck – Leverkusen, Germany
Nicolas Ritter – Curepipe
Christian Rumu – Bujumbura, Rwanda
Roxanne Saucier – Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Claudia Schaar – Koeln, Germany
Meena Seshu – Sangli, India
Anuja Shah – New York, NY
Hanna Shevchenko – Kyiv, Ukraine
Hari Singh – Delhi, India
Steph Smith – Liverpool, United Kingdom
Ramon Soto – Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Dietlind Sprickmann – Cologne, Germany
Annika Stennert – Adelaide, Australia
Jamie Todd-Gher – San Francisco, California
Jamie Uhrig – New York, NY
Wim Vandavelde – Lisbon, Portugal
Bettina von Reden – Cologne, Germany, Aids-Waisenhilfe Koeln e.V.
Lin Chi Wa – Hong Kong, China
Jane Walker – Brewster, MA
CK Wang, Asia Catalyst – Brooklyn, NY
Deborah Watson, University of Oklahoma – Oklahoma City, OK
Matthias Wienold – Berlin, Germany
Benny Wong – Hong Kong, China
Nicole Wong – Singapore
Kurt Wong – Hong Kong, China
Loretta Wong, AIDS Concern – Chai Wan, Hong Kong, China

Vicky Wu – Taitei, Taiwan
Aman Yee – Hong Kong, China
Billy Yip – Hong Kong China
Helen Yip – Hong Kong, China
Kathy Yip – Hong Kong, China
Rex Yiu – Hong Kong, China
G Yu – Hong Kong, China
Mike Zabek, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI
Anna Zakowicz – Glostrup, Denmark