



25 July 2022

Senator Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

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Subject: Arrest of activist Drew Pavlou in London

CC'ied: Department of Foreign Affairs, High Commission of Australia - London

Dear Minister Wong

I am writing regarding the arrest of Australian human rights activist Drew Pavlou by the Metropolitan Police in London last Thursday. He had staged a protest at the Chinese embassy when the Metropolitan Police arrested him over an alleged bomb threat sent to the embassy from an email under his name¹.

Mr Pavlou is currently on bail. There are no formal charges against him, but he remains under investigation. He cannot leave the UK as he has been told to attend a police station on 14 August.

Amnesty International is concerned about the well-being of the 23-year-old activist who has received many threatening messages since the news broke about the false bomb threat.

We understand that the Australian High Commission is in contact with the British authorities. We urge you to help resolve the matter and enable Mr Pavlou to return home to his family in Brisbane as quickly as possible.

Framing peaceful protests as threats to national security and sending fake emails are common tactics used by the Chinese government against Uyghurs, Tibetans and Hong Kongers. Mr Pavlou believes the fake email address was designed to frame him for his activism. According to his lawyer, circumstantial evidence suggests his client is a victim of a set-up by the Chinese state².

¹ Australian activist Drew Pavlou arrested in London but denies sending Chinese embassy bomb threat

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jul/23/australian-activist-drew-pavlou-arrested-in-london-but-denies-sending-chinese-embassy-bomb-threat>

² China accused of setting up activist arrest

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/am/china-accused-of-setting-up-activist-arrest/13987282>

Amnesty International urges the Australian government to offer Mr Pavlou every assistance for his safe return to Australia, including attending any court hearings, and ensure his fundamental rights are protected throughout the process, particularly given the claims made about how he was treated during the arrest and detention.

We also ask for a thorough investigation into the matter. Activists pay a heavy price for speaking up against the Chinese government's human rights abuses. Amnesty International has documented the various types of harassment faced by Uyghurs living overseas as part of the Chinese government's effort to silence dissent³.

For further information, please contact Kyzom Dhongdue at kyinzom.dhongdue@amnesty.org.au or 04166 95 590.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim O'Connor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tim O'Connor
Impact Director
Amnesty International Australia

³ Amnesty report: Nowhere Feels Safe
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2020/02/china-uyghurs-abroad-living-in-fear/>