

Dear (name of AI Taiwan staff),

I hope this letter finds you well. May Jesus be with you and may grace follow you!

Today is another Sunday where friends and family may come to visit. During the early hours of the morning, the weather outside my cell window is still cold. It is quiet and still in the dorms. My fellow roommate blows his trumpet like he is still indulging in a beautiful dream. It is great to be young! As usual, I get out of bed around 5am, clasping my hands together towards the emptiness outside my cell window and wish my friends a good morning. Then, as per usual, I take my freezing cold shower. My Goodness! It's so cold! Everyday I go about my life in the same consistent way.

On the afternoon of January 23rd, I received your letters wishing me well. I was so happy to receive them! Thank you so much for your concern. I have also recently received letters and cards of support from friends around the world. I am very touched! Unfortunately because I can only understand Chinese, I was unable to read the letters written in English. I therefore asked some volunteer friends from the Judicial Reform Foundation to help me organize all the letters.

The starlight and moon in the sky, shines cold brilliance on everything between heaven and earth. No matter how beautiful or bitter it may be, the moon always reminds me of home. Another new year has come. Lunar New Year is just around the corner! Every time the holidays come around, I feel even more homesick for my families. From the time I was falsely accused till today, 25 New Years have passed. These have truly been some horrible and unforgiving years. Life is full of joy and sadness, and everyday is laden with hope and confidence no matter how big the setback is! I always remember to have confidence and hope, which is a wonderful thing. I am just a boorish man born in a farming village in Zhunan county with a tenacious and unyielding sense of determination. During these past 25 years, I have been beaten black and blue again and again by the Judicial system. In order to uphold the fairness and justice of the judicial system, I have always enjoyed the challenges in adversity it brings because if there were it not for this type of toughness, I would not have been able to survive these past many years. Even though giving your all will not always lead to success, as long as you never give up, you will never lose. So I will fight till the end.

Recently over the past three years, so many friends have shown their concern for me. Even though so many people have already become part of my life, so quickly they also leave. Some of these friends however have become very close to me, others have only stopped by for a short period, but they all have left a mark on my heart forever. The sincere love that every friend has given to me gives me a bit of strength, making my heart feel warm. This life of mine has never experience this before, so I truly treasure this blessing. I hope more friends are able to preserve the fairness and justice of the judicial system. Together we will make history towards a common cause, thank you everyone!

During this winter period, please take good care of your health! Also, please say Happy New Year for me to the Chair. He is my hero! I especially would like you to help me tell all the AI members I wish them a Happy New Year, and thank them so much for their support and concern. Thank you for the hard work!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and may all your wishing come true.

PS : Dear (volunteers who help translation),

I just received the 93 letters you sent me from my friends in Thailand. I have already asked a volunteer to help me write back to them saying thank you. Thank you again for all the hard work.

January 23rd, 2013
Chiou Ho-shun