

**香港職工會聯盟****HONG KONG CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS**九龍彌敦道 557-559 號永旺行 19 字樓
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GESO
425 College St
New Haven, CT 06511

9 April 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We write to express our support for the courageous members of GESO and GSEU, the graduate teachers unions at Yale University and Columbia University, during their current strike to gain union recognition. Your fight is an historic one that benefits not only yourselves, but the over 40,000 graduate teachers at private universities in the United States who look to you for inspiration.

Unfortunately, under US President George W. Bush, the National Labor Relations Board stripped graduate teachers of the right to organize collectively by denying them the protection of US labor law. We condemn this clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which declares that the right to form a union is a basic human right.

Our current experience in the Hong Kong Special Autonomous Region – as well as past experience during the colonial era – has demonstrated that academic unions are extremely important, helping to create and protect good jobs, and defending academic freedom.

US Labor Law may not extend to graduate teachers, but the world expects institutions like Yale and Columbia to conform to a higher standard. We, therefore, call on Yale's President, Richard Levin, and Columbia's President, Lee Bollinger, to voluntarily recognize GESO and GSEU, respectively, and to immediately commence contract negotiations.

Once again, we commend your bravery in taking this extraordinary action, and we stand with you in your struggle.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '鄭清發' (Cheng Ching Fat).
Cheng Ching Fat
Chairperson