



Centre for stories
100 Aberdeen St,
Northbridge WA 6003
Australia

20 December 2025

Dear Jimmy Lai,

On behalf of the members of PEN Perth in Western Australia, and as Chair of our Centre, I am writing to extend to you our heartfelt solidarity, admiration and support.

We have followed your case closely through PEN International. In particular your presence has been felt here in Perth at our Day of the Imprisoned Writer event, where your name and example resonated powerfully throughout the evening. Australian journalist Peter Greste, spoke eloquently of your moral courage and your steadfast commitment to the principles of a free press, while Professor Emeritus Tim Wright, a distinguished historian of China, situated your stand within the longer history of dissent and independent thought in the region. Together, they conveyed to our audience not only the gravity of your situation, but also the deep respect and admiration you command among writers, journalists and scholars around the world.

We are deeply concerned by your incarceration, in particular the 15 December 'guilty' verdict by the Hongkong court and by the broader implications of your prosecution for freedom of expression and the rule of law. Your case has become emblematic of the pressures faced by writers and publishers who refuse to surrender their independence, and it underscores the urgent importance of international solidarity.

PEN Perth stands with PEN International and with the global PEN community in continuing to raise awareness of your case. We will continue to share your story, and to affirm the values for which you have shown such extraordinary courage.

We send you our warmest wishes for strength, good health and peace of mind. May you feel, even in difficult circumstances, the respect and support of friends and colleagues across the world who honour your commitment to freedom of expression.

With respect and solidarity,

Krishna Sen

Chair, PEN Perth