Petition to stop Yahoo! from repressing fundamental freedoms in China

TO: The Co-founders of Yahoo!

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, are extremely concerned that Yahoo provided account-holder information to Chinese authorities in events which led to the imprisonment of Shi Tao, a Chinese journalist. On April 27, 2005, Shi Tao received a ten-year prison term for sending information about a Communist Party decision through his Yahoo email account to a website based in the United States. Amnesty International considers him a Prisoner of Conscience, as he was imprisoned for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and opinion. We are alarmed that in the pursuit of new and lucrative markets, your company is contributing to human rights violations. Yahoo! effectively agreed to implement China's draconian system of censorship and control by signing *China's Public Pledge on Self-Discipline for the Internet Industry*. Yahoo! therefore should urgently give consideration to the human rights implications of its business operations. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls upon every organ of society, which includes companies, to respect human rights.

Yahoo!'s conduct in Shi Tao's case has exposed your company to the risk of being complicit in human rights violations. We therefore urge you to ensure that Yahoo!:

- Uses its influence to secure Shi Tao's release
- Exhaust all judicial remedies and appeals in China and internationally before complying with States directives where these have human rights implications
- Develop an explicit human rights policy, that states the company support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and complies with the principles articulated in the UN Norms for Business and ensure that all parent companies, subsidiaries and partners do the same. In this light, make clear to the Chinese authorities as well as to the global community that Yahoo is not willing to assist Governments in implementing their systems of internet censorship, or to provide information directed at restricting freedom of expression.

Name ***Address***

Send C/O Amnesty International, SHARE POWER, 5 Penn Plaza, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001 Attn: Amy O'Meara Fax: 212-627-1451