

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to share our story with you today. In the past 15 months, my husband Anming Hu, my three children, and I along with our family, friends, and community have been living a nightmare.

Let me start our story from the day that I will never forget. It happened on a late afternoon on February 27, 2020. I was about to leave for home from my office in Canada, I got a call from my eldest son David who was a student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) at that time, the same university where his father worked as a tenured professor. He told me that my husband was arrested. My mind went blank as I read the breaking news headlines about my husband's arrest. The only pressing question in my head was what had happened to Anming? Obtaining 2 PhDs in Physics, he followed his dream to the United States. He devoted his life to scientific research. What kind of law that he could break and make him arrested? Why would he do it to ruin his life, career and his beloved family?

Anming's arrest and indictment have immediately left our family in shambles. After witnessing what had happened to his father, David feared that he can no longer pursue his dream to study computer science in the U.S. I was very concerned of his mental health. He also lost his status as result of his father's indictment. So David was forced to abandon his studies at the UTK and return to Canada.

My younger son Daniel, who was still in high school, was constantly haunted by nightmares. He wasn't able to concentrate in school. He ended up dropping a few classes during his final year. Over a year has passed and he is still not fully himself. As for my five-year old daughter Grace she would often ask me when we would be able to go see dad. She misses her father everyday.

My heart breaks for my children and the long-term harms this will have on them. How can I explain this to them? How can they process and understand the injustice that their father is facing? How can I address the trauma they are experiencing? What can I do to face something that is so much larger than me?

I am doing everything I can to keep my family afloat emotionally, mentally, and financially. We have used our savings, borrowed money from family and friends and used gofundme to raise donation so we can pay for the legal fees. My limited income in Canada barely covers the living expenses of my family. Fortunately, thanks to the grace of God and the community at the Knoxville Chinese Christian Church, they provided support to my husband, he was able to meet his daily needs.

As a university professor, not only was Anming passionate about advancing science, he also cared deeply about his students. Even during the moment when he was arrested, he told the law enforcement officer that they must inform the university immediately because he had a hundred students waiting for him to give an exam that day. He is willing to do his best to help his students and support their success. He is one of the professors who have the highest number of published work in the department. But what he got in return after years of diligent work for UTK? UTK abandoned Anming. UTK suspended his position and payment immediately and

later terminate his tenured position while Anming was still fighting for his innocence. One of the darkest days in his life was not the day he was put in the prison but the day UTK terminated his tenured position. That day I was extremely concerned for his life.

Fully devoted himself to his work, Anming often overlooked his health. This case has had a tremendous impact on his wellbeing. He has been put under house arrest. House arrest means he couldn't go anywhere even to the garage. Despite suffering from type 2 diabetes and needing regular medical care, Anming was not allowed to see a doctor and or even get some fresh air at the deck of his home for almost a year. Only till February 2021, with the help of our attorney and my request for his basic human rights that he was permitted to go to the deck. For more than a year he has no income and no freedom to take any necessary activities for living. I don't understand why he is treated like a criminal that in fact he is not proven to be a criminal yet. The prosecution and being separated from his family have also taken a serious toll on Anming's mental health, he has become extremely depressed and has trouble sleeping and eating. He often questioned himself on his decision to move from Canada to the U.S. to pursue his dream of becoming an educator and devoting his life to scientific research. Despite of what has happened to him, Anming still used the time detained at home to write and edit a book on laser manufacturing. The book was published in 2020. This is really who Anming is. The detainment has not stopped his selfless contribution to science.

My husband is not a spy. He has been doing the scientific research work as a scientist is supposed to do. He was celebrated by his department for his international collaboration. Then one month later he was arrested because of the international collaboration. I really couldn't understand why.

As the first case to go to trial under the "China Initiative," we are here today to demand a fair trial for Anming and to call for an end to the racial profiling of scientists, who have made significant scientific contributions to this country.

I know many are too scared to speak up, but my family will no longer be silent. We chose not to be silent is because we still hold strong belief and hope.

When I was an university student in China, I used to go to the rooftop of a building to catch a radio signal and tune in to the Voice of America. In my eyes, the U.S. is a nation of democracy, freedom and justice. I believe that justice will prevail to live up to the democratic ideals of this great nation and recreate an inclusive, welcoming environment that embraces diversity.

Last but not least, I want to express my deepest gratitude for all the support we have received from the community during this incredibly difficult time. Thank you so much for showing your support for my husband Anming today in demanding justice.