



## **HRIC Board Chair Announces New Executive Director**

**January 26, 2023**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of HRIC, it is my great pleasure to announce the appointment of **Zhou Fengsuo (周锋锁)**, veteran human rights and democracy activist, as the next Executive Director of Human Rights in China. Zhou will take the helm in early March 2023, after Sharon Hom steps down at the end of February.

Zhou is widely recognized and respected in activist communities for his grounded leadership, humanitarian work, and inclusive vision for social change. During the 1989 Democracy Movement, Zhou, a student of physics at the elite Tsinghua University, emerged as a leader of the Beijing Students' Autonomous Federation. Following the June Fourth military crackdown, Zhou was listed as No. 5 on the Chinese government's "Most-Wanted" list. After his arrest, he was imprisoned in 1989-1990 and then exiled to Hebei Province for "reeducation" in 1990-1991. After arriving in the United States in the mid-1990s, Zhou earned an MBA degree from the University of Chicago and worked in the financial industry, while remaining active in the overseas Chinese democracy movement. In 2007, he co-founded Humanitarian China, an NGO dedicated to helping Chinese political prisoners and their families with financial assistance, and became its president in 2017.

With his impressive record of democracy and human rights activism, Zhou will build upon HRIC's 1989 roots and carry on our decades-long commitment to supporting Chinese rights defenders pressing for official accountability. In one of the darkest times in China, he will lead HRIC forward in exciting and creative ways to mobilize grassroots activism, energize Chinese diaspora communities, and expand HRIC's domestic networks and international solidarity.

The HRIC board warmly welcomes Zhou Fengsuo and we look forward to working with him to take on the new and ongoing challenges and opportunities ahead.

The board also expresses its deep appreciation to Sharon for her leadership and service over the past 21 years, a period in which she, with her unparalleled energy, brought rigor and vitality to the organization's work, and built a record of impactful international rights advocacy. We are also grateful that she will remain as a director of HRIC's board.

William Bernstein

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Bernstein", written in a cursive style.

Chair

HRIC Board of Directors