



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

March 23, 2012

MG James L. Huggins, Jr.  
Commanding General  
HQ, Regional Command-South  
Combined Joint Task Force- 82  
Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan  
APO AE 09355

To Major General James Huggins,

We are writing to express our strong support for convening the courts-martial for eight soldiers charged in connection with the death of Private Danny Chen in the United States.

Private Danny Chen, an infantryman assigned to C Co., 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Combat Outpost Palace, was found dead in Afghanistan on October 3, 2011 of an “apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound,” according to Army investigators. Prior to his death, Private Chen was subjected to racial slurs, physical hazing, and excessive exercises that quickly crossed over into abuse.

The Chinese-American community and supporters across our nation have demanded justice in this case. We are encouraged that the Article 32 hearings have concluded, but dismayed that several serious charges, including involuntary manslaughter, have been dropped without public explanation or oversight. As this process moves forward, the only way to ensure the trials are transparent and credible is to hold them in the United States.

It is the stated wish of the Chen family to attend the trials and face the individuals responsible for the death of their only son. It is not feasible, nor advisable, for the Chen family to travel to Afghanistan. As such, we urge you to respect the Chen family’s request to attend these trials by holding them in the United States.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Magee, Director of Communications, at (212) 788-7259 or [kmagee@council.nyc.gov](mailto:kmagee@council.nyc.gov).

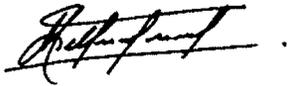
Sincerely,



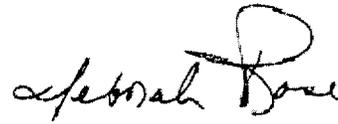
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District-1, Manhattan



Dr. Mathieu Eugene  
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New York City Council



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