

# Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**

January 2, 2015

## Ford Calls for Investigation of the Imprisonment of U.S. Citizen in China

**CHICAGO-** Rep. La Shawn K Ford, D-Chicago, is calling for the investigation of the imprisonment of a U.S. citizen from Chicago being held in a Chinese prison. According to his family, Ajamu Johnson was sentenced to one year imprisonment for his involvement in an altercation. Rep. Ford is calling for an investigation of the sentence giving by the Chinese government.

“We will continue to work with the U.S. Embassy in China and the Consulate in Shanghai to find out more about Mr. Johnson’s current situation,” said Ford. “The family of Mr. Johnson believes the sentence was unjust and unfair for a U.S. citizen defending himself from an assailant. The United States and China continue to have a good diplomatic relationship. This situation merits a full review to help bring justice for this American citizen, and bring him closer to his family.”

Ajamu Johnson is the son of former CTA employee and Chicago business owner Edward Johnson, now deceased, and Dalila Johnson, who is a retired Chicago Public Schools teacher and a community volunteer. Ajamu Johnson has worked at the Chicago Board of Trade, the Mercantile Exchange, and at the Chicago Public Schools. Johnson graduated from Morehouse College with honors, where he majored in finance and international business. He has taught and lived in Thailand, Dominican Republic, Namibia and Japan.

“Ajamu is not a pugnacious young man, and he shouldn’t be incarcerated,” said his mother. “He was only responding by defending himself from a verbally hostile and physically abusive individual. Ajamu has worked and lived in Shanghai for several years and has never been in any trouble.”

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962).

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