

# Australian detained on way to Nobel award

Shanghai

*December 8, 2010*

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/world/australian-detained-on-way-to-nobel-award-20101207-18oj7.html#ixzz1boSf9lxF>

AN AUSTRALIAN-BASED Chinese dissident claims police detained him at Shanghai's airport for 24 hours and forced him to return home in an attempt to stop him attending Friday's Nobel peace prize ceremony.

Zhang Heci, an Australian citizen, was headed to Norway via China to attend an award ceremony in Oslo in honour of jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, this year's Nobel peace laureate.

Mr Zhang said police boarded his flight after it landed at Pudong Airport and brought him to a holding area where he was searched and interrogated. He was not allowed to call his wife or the Australian consulate.

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"They have no right to cut off my journey to Oslo to attend Liu Xiaobo's ceremony," Mr Zhang wrote in a open letter to Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd.

The Chinese consulate in Melbourne granted Mr Zhang a visa on December 1 to visit friends and family in China on his way to Oslo.

Mr Liu, who is serving 11 years for subversion after co-authoring a petition calling for democratic reform, and his relatives are not expected to be able to attend the ceremony. His wife, Liu Xia, is under house arrest.

**AFP**

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