

URGENT ACTION

FEARS FOR FAMILY OF DEAD ACTIVIST

The son and mother of a Shanghai petitioner, Shen Yong, are under tight surveillance after Shen Yong was allegedly beaten to death by police in China. They are both at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

Neighbours told **Shen Yaming, Shen Yong's** son, that the police took his father away from his temporary home in Shanghai at around 7am on 24 October. He was in handcuffs and the police were beating him. Shen Yong's mother **Shen Abao** was taken away by the police at the same time. Shen Yong was taken to Liuli police station. Two hours later, the police brought Shen Yong back home. Although previously healthy, he was now in a critical condition. His family immediately called for emergency help but Shen Yong died before the ambulance arrived.

Shen Yaming tried to prevent the police from taking away Shen Yong's body but the police detained him. He was later released but remains under tight surveillance. No one has been able to see him since 25 October. Shen Abao was later released but was sent to a different house in the Pudong New Area and remains under tight police surveillance. It is unknown if she is able to communicate with or see Shen Yaming.

On 24 October, Kong Lingzhen, a fellow petitioner and friend of Shen Yong went to the Renji Hospital where the police took his body and took photographs. According to Kong Lingzhen, there were bruises around Shen Yong's neck that suggested to her that Shen Yong might have been strangled, and multiple other injuries over his body.

On 28 October, some 600 petitioners and activists gathered outside the Pudong Public Security Bureau to demand an explanation for Shen Yong's death. Approximately 100 of them were briefly detained. Kong Lingzhen tried to report the bruising she had seen on Shen Yong's body to the local Communist Party office, but was knocked to the ground and taken to a police station. She was later released.

Please write immediately in English, Chinese or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to lift all restrictions on Shen Abao's and Shen Yaming's freedom of movement and expression;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Shen Abao and Shen Yaming are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure Shen Abao has access to her family and any medical attention she may require;
- Urging the authorities to order an independent and impartial investigation into the death of Shen Yong.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 DECEMBER 2013 TO:

Director of the Public Security Bureau of
Pudong Sub-branch

Lu Min Juzhang
655 Dingxianglu, Shanghai 200135
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 21 5061 4567 (Chinese only)
Salutation: Dear Director

Mayor of the Shanghai Municipal
People's Government

Yang Xiong Shizhang
200 Renmin Dadao, Hupuqu
Shanghai 200003
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 21 63216537
Email: shxwb3807@126.com or
webmaster@shanghai.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Mayor

And copies to:

Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal
Party Committee

Han Zheng Shuji
Zhonggong Shanghai Shi Weiyuanhui
30 Fuzhoulu, Huangpuqu
Shanghai 200002
People's Republic of China

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The house legally owned by Shen Yong and his mother Shen Abao, that was located in Beicai Town in the Pudong New Area, was demolished by the Shanghai Municipal Pudong New Area People's Government in December 2008 to make way for a new development. Following the demolition of their home, Shen Yong and his family were homeless. Shen Yong has been petitioning the authorities for compensation since 2008. In May this year, Shen Yong and his mother started squatting in the new house built by the government and private developer on the site of their demolished home in the Pudong New Area. The house has since been vandalized by people allegedly sent by the Beicai Town local government to pressure them to leave.

The forced eviction of people from their homes and farmland without appropriate legal protection and safeguards has become a routine occurrence in China, and represents a gross violation of human rights. In many cases, evictions are sudden and violent, sometimes resulting in death. They are frequently preceded by a sustained campaign of threats and harassment that can include beatings, kidnapping and in at least one case, being buried alive. Evictees are often offered little or no compensation and/or inadequate alternative housing. A petitioner is someone who is seeking redress for perceived injustices from the government.

In some cases, residents are the victims of secret land deals between local authorities and private developers, are turned out of their homes, and are expected to pay for whatever alternative housing is on offer.

There are no reliable estimates of the number of people who have been forced from their homes or farms nationwide since the Beijing Olympics, but there is little doubt the figure is on the rise. A 2011 study by the Landesa Rural Development Institute found that land had been expropriated from 43.1 per cent of all rural villages since the late 1990s, and that the number of cases each year has been rising steadily since 2007.

Name: Shen Yaming (m), Shen Abao (f), Shen Yong (m), Kong Lingzhen (f)

Gender m/f: Both

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