

URGENT ACTION

AI WEIWEI AND HIS COLLEAGUES RELEASED

Ai Weiwei, an internationally well-known Chinese artist; Wen Tao, his friend and assistant; Zhang Jingsong, his cousin and driver; Hu Mingfen, his accountant, have all been released. The current status of Liu Zhenggang, a designer, is unconfirmed.

Ai Weiwei was released on 22 June on “*qubao houshen*” (‘obtain a guarantor while pending trial’), a type of bail under which an individual is not allowed to leave their city or country of residence without permission – in Ai Weiwei’s case, Beijing. According to Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, he was released “because of his good attitude in confessing his crimes as well as a chronic disease he suffers from” and because he agreed to pay taxes he owes. However, Ai Weiwei was never formally charged with any crime and was not given any legal documents for his detention or release.

During the time Ai Weiwei was in custody, he was held at an unknown location. His wife was allowed to meet with him once for 15 minutes only and under supervision. Upon his release, Ai Weiwei was warned not to talk to the media or others about his treatment in detention. He remains under tight police surveillance. According to Hong Kong based media, his wife has demanded that the court case on tax evasion charges brought against his firm be conducted in public and that the confiscated business contracts, account books, and company stamps be returned.

Zhang Jingsong was released on 23 June. **Wen Tao** and **Hu Mingfen** were also released late on 23 June or early 24 June and have returned home. Since being detained in early April their families were never informed of their whereabouts or legal status and they were never charged.

The current legal status and whereabouts of **Liu Zhenggang** is unconfirmed. Friends have not been able to contact him or his family.

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

- Urge the authorities to immediately clarify the current whereabouts and legal status of Liu Zhenggang;
- Urge the authorities to ensure that Liu Zhenggang is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated and that he has immediate access to his family, legal representation of his choice, and any medical care he may require;
- Urge the authorities to take effective measures to guarantee freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in line with China’s Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which China has signed and declared an intention to ratify.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO:

Minister of Public Security

MENG Jianzhu Buzhang
Gong’anbu, 14 Dongchang’anjie
Dongchengqu, Beijingshi 100741
People’s Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

WU Aiyong Buzhang
Sifabu, 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu, Beijingshi 100020
People’s Republic of China

Fax: +86 10 65292345

Email: pfmaster@legalinfo.gov.cn

Salutation: Your Excellency

Premier

WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu,
Beijingshi 100017,
People’s Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65961109 (c/o Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA: 114/11 Index: ASA 17/019/2011
China Date: 14 April 2011. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/019/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ai Weiwei was stopped by police at an airport in Beijing on his way to Hong Kong on 3 April. Wen Tao, Ai Weiwei's friend and assistant, was detained separately in Beijing on 3 April. Wen Tao is a former journalist who was forced to resign from his job after he wrote an article about a protest against the demolition of the artists' colony in Beijing in 2010. Ai Weiwei's accountant, Hu Mingfen, was taken away by police on 8 April. On 9 April, Liu Zhenggang, a designer working at Ai Weiwei's design firm was taken away by plain-clothed police. His wife reported him missing. The police detained Ai Weiwei's cousin and driver Zhang Jingsong (aka Xiao Pang) on 10 April.

Name: Ai Weiwei, Wen Tao, Hu Mingfen, Liu Zhenggang, Zhang Jingsong

Gender m/f: Ai Weiwei m; Wen Tao m; Hu Mingfen f; Liu Zhenggang m; Zhang Jingsong m

Further information on UA: 114/11 Index: ASA 17/037/2011 Issue Date: 26 July 2011

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