

URGENT ACTION

POLICE CRACKDOWN ON ACTIVISTS IN CHINA

In an apparent attempt to prevent “Jasmine Revolution” inspired demonstrations, over 100 activists in China have been detained or placed under surveillance by the police since 19 February. Five activists in criminal detention are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

On 19 February, the police in Mianyang city, Sichuan province, detained activist **Ding Mao** on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power”. At midnight on 19 February, **Ran Yunfei**, an activist, writer and blogger, was detained in Chengdu, the provincial capital. The next evening, the police escorted him home, searched his house, confiscated his computer and returned him to the police station. On 24 February, the police issued Ran Yunfei's family with a written notice, dated 21 February, stating that Ran Yunfei is held on suspicion of “subversion of state power”.

On the morning of 20 February, the police also searched the home of another Sichuan activist, **Chen Wei**, in Suining city. They confiscated his computer, external hard drive and mobile phone, and took him away to “have a cup of tea” with them. On 22 February, the police gave his wife a written notice, dated 21 February stating that Chen Wei is held on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power.”

On 19 February, police in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang province, detained **Liang Haiyi** (whose nickname is Miaoxiao) and took her to the provincial No. 2 detention centre. On 21 February her lawyer received a notice stating that she is held on suspicion of “subversion of state power”. The police accuse her of relaying information regarding the “Jasmine Revolution” from foreign websites to websites such as QQ (a popular Chinese social networking site).

On 21 February, **Hua Chunhui** was detained in Wuxi city, Jiangsu province, on suspicion of “endangering state security”. According to the police, he had tweeted messages about the “Jasmine Revolution” using the account @wxhch64. He is believed to be held at Tanduqiao police station in Nanchang district of Wuxi city.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Chinese, English or your own language:

- calling on authorities to release Ding Mao, Ran Yunfei, Chen Wei, Liang Haiyi and Hua Chunhui immediately and unconditionally unless the authorities can show reasonable grounds for suspecting them of having committed an internationally-recognizable criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure they have access to family, legal representation of their choice, and any medical care they may require;
- guarantee that Ding Mao, Ran Yunfei, Chen Wei, Liang Haiyi and Hua Chunhui will not be tortured or ill-treated while they remain in custody;
- urging the authorities to take effective measures to guarantee freedom of expression, association and 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 12 APRIL 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 Aiyang 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

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country. Check if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 17 February, US-based Chinese news site Boxun reported an anonymous appeal for Chinese to stage protests across the country on 20 February. News of the appeal spread quickly via social media QQ, Twitter and blogs, urging protesters to proclaim: "We want food, we want work, we want housing, we want fairness." The anonymous call was inspired by protests across the Middle East and the "Jasmine Revolution" in Tunisia.

In response, Chinese authorities closed down websites and blogs reporting or posting information about Middle East protest, and blocked use of search terms such as "Egypt".

Since 19 February, the police have detained or placed under various forms of house arrest or surveillance more than 100 activists across China, among those a dozen prominent human rights lawyers. In most cases, Amnesty International is not aware of any formal notice, procedure, access to family or lawyers or notification of the exact whereabouts of those held.

Ding Mao took part in the 1989 pro-democracy movement. He was detained in 1989 and in 1992 and has served in total 10 years in prison.

Ran Yunfei is a prolific writer and social commentator whose blog is available at <http://www.bullogger.com/blogs/ranyunfei>. He has more than 44,000 followers on twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/ranyunfei>).

Chen Wei also took part in the 1989 pro-democracy movement. He was detained in 1989 and released in January 1991. In 1992, he was imprisoned for five years for having commemorated the victims of the crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

Liang Haiyi has been an active blogger on issues of freedom and human rights since 2010.]

Hua Chunhui's wife, Cheng Jianping, was sent to one year in Re-education Through Labour for having re-tweeted his satirical suggestion on October 17 that the Japanese Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo be attacked. For more information see here <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/chinese-woman-sentenced-year-labour-camp-over-tweet-2010-11-17>

"Drinking tea" has become shorthand for harassment of activists in China. Authorities invite them to "have a cup of tea" during which they are interrogated about their activities and warned against further involvement.

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