

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST UNDER HOUSE ARREST

Human rights activist Chen Guangcheng and his family are currently under house arrest imposed by village leaders in Dongshigu village, Shandong province, China. Chen Guangcheng is in urgent need of medical attention. He and his family are running out of food but the authorities have refused to let them leave their home.

Chen Guangcheng was released from prison on 9 September after completing a four year three month prison sentence. Upon release, the police escorted him to his home in Donshigu village. He and his family have been under heavy surveillance since.

Prior to his release, Chen Guangcheng developed a persistent heavy cough which prevents him from sleeping. He has also had diarrhoea for the past two years. He continues to suffer from chest pains which first developed in 2007 after he was severely beaten in prison. At that time he told his wife that he thought he might have a broken rib. He is in need of urgent medical attention.

Chen Guangcheng lives with his wife Yuan Weijing, their five-year-old daughter and his 76-year old mother. No one, including his brothers, has been allowed to visit them since his release. Chen Guangcheng's son is staying with Yuan Weijing's sister in Yinan county, Shandong province so that he can go to school. They too have been harassed and are under heavy surveillance.

In the morning of 13 September, his wife Yuan Weijing tried to go to a nearby market to buy food but the people standing guard outside their home prevented her leaving the house. The family now relies on dwindling supplies of vegetables they have grown in their garden.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Chinese or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to provide Chen Guangcheng immediate access to medical attention he requires;
- calling on the authorities to immediately lift all restrictions on Chen Guangcheng and his family's freedom of movement;
- urging the authorities to stop harassment of Chen Guangcheng and his family;
- urging the authorities to take effective measures to ensure that all human rights defenders including Chen Guangcheng can carry out their peaceful activities without fear of hindrance, intimidation, arbitrary detention or imprisonment, in line with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 OCTOBER 2010 TO:

Director of the Shandong Provincial

Department of Public Security

WU Pengfei Tingzhang

Shandongsheng Gong'anting

185 Jing'erlu

Jinanshi 250001

Shandong Sheng

People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 531 8690 2739

Salutation: Dear Director

WANG Changsheng Xianzhang

42 Renmin Lu

Yinan Xian 276300

Shandong Sheng

People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 539 3221 232

Email: ynmaster@126.com

Salutation: Dear Head of Yinan County Government

And copies to:

Premier

WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli

The State Council General Office

2 Fuvoujje Xichenqu

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

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The authorities installed surveillance cameras around Chen Guangcheng's house and village prior to his release from prison. Plain-clothed police and government officials surround his house and their home phone lines are cut.

Chen Guangcheng is one of China's "barefoot lawyers" who study some law independently and, although they never obtain a law degree or a licence to practice law, they help rural villages especially to protect their rights or seek redress through the courts.

Chen Guangcheng helped villagers take legal action against the Linyi city authorities, who had allegedly forced thousands of women to have abortions to meet birth quotas set by government.

He was placed under house arrest in September 2005. In August 2006, after a grossly unfair trial, he was sentenced to four years and three months in prison for "damaging public property and gathering people to block traffic".

Chen Guangcheng appealed against his sentence later that year, was re-tried and appealed again but on 12 January 2007 the Linyi Intermediate People's Court upheld the original verdict.

Chen Guangcheng was severely kicked and beaten by fellow inmates on the orders of prison guards on 16 June 2007 after he refused to have his head shaved.

Amnesty International campaigned for his release and named him as a prisoner of conscience, jailed solely for his peaceful activities in defence of human rights.

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