

URGENT ACTION

CHINESE ARTIST BEATEN BY POLICE

The trial of Chinese artist Wu Yuren, who was beaten by police officers while in detention, is expected to take place in late October. He has been held since 31 May, and the authorities have refused him medical attention. His family and lawyer were told he is facing charges of “obstructing public service”.

On 31 May, **Wu Yuren** accompanied his friend Yang Licai to the Jiuxianqiao police station, Chaoyang District, Beijing, to assist him in filing a complaint against his landlord. The two men were put into detention in the police station. Wu Yuren told his lawyer that the police were verbally abusive towards them, particularly Wu Yuren, for example saying, “you think you are such a big shot”. Later that evening four to five police officers dragged Wu Yuren out of the room where he and Yang Licai were being held and beat him. Yang Licai reported having heard Wu Yuren’s cries, and the next morning noticed that one of Wu Yuren’s arms was completely limp. During his meetings with Wu Yuren, his lawyer observed injuries to his arm, shoulder, forehead and skull resulting from the beating he sustained. The authorities have refused to investigate the allegations of beatings and ill-treatment and have denied that he needs to be seen by a doctor. Yang Licai was released after 10 days.

On 1 June, Wu and Yang were transferred to the Chaoyang District Detention Centre. Neither Wu Yuren’s lawyer or his family received official notice of his detention or formal arrest. They have been informally told that Wu Yuren is being charged with “obstructing public services” and that the case is now with the procuratorate and under investigation. Specifically, he is accused of verbally threatening and beating a police officer, and taking the video camera from another police officer who was filming the incident.

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

- Calling on the authorities to immediately initiate an investigation into allegations that Wu Yuren was beaten in detention.
- Calling on the authorities to ensure Wu Yuren is not subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment whilst in detention.
- Calling on the authorities to ensure Wu Yuren has access to his family, lawyer, and any medical attention he requires;
- Calling for an independent court to seriously consider Wu Yuren’s request for bail,

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 NOVEMBER 2010 TO:

Head, Beijing Chaoyang District
People’s Court

Beijingshi Chaoyangqu Fayuan
2, Chaoyang Gongyuan Nanlu
Chaoyangqu
Beijingshi 100026
People’s Republic of China
Email: bjcyqfy_mygt@chinacourt.org

Salutation: Dear Head

Prime Minister of the People’s Republic
of China

WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017
People’s Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6596-1109 (c/o Ministry
of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Procurator-General of the Supreme
People’s Procuratorate of the
People’s Republic of China
CAO Jianming Jianchazhang
Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan
147 Beiheyandajie
Beijingshi 100726
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Procurator-General

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Wu Yuren is a prominent artist who recently had his first solo art exhibition at the Tang Ren Contemporary in Hong Kong. He was one of the leaders of a February protest against the forced demolition of the O08 Art District in Beijing and was also a signatory of Charter '08, a petition calling for democratic and legal reforms in China..

Charter 08, initially signed by approximately 300 Chinese scholars, lawyers and officials, is a proposal for legal and political reform in China to establish a democratic system that respects human rights. Charter 08 was launched on 9 December 2008. Numerous signatories of the charter have been questioned and harassed by Chinese authorities since its launch, and one of the leading figures of the Petition, Liu Xiaobo, was sentenced in December 2009 to 11 years' imprisonment. Human rights activists in China who attempt to report on human rights violations, challenge policies that the authorities find politically sensitive, or try to rally others to their cause, face serious risk of abuse. Authorities use broad and vaguely defined charges of "stealing, possessing and leaking state secrets", "subversion", and other politically-motivated charges to arbitrarily detain and prosecute activists, journalists and internet users.

According to Article 18 of China's Criminal Procedure Law, the People's Procuratorate is responsible for monitoring places of detention and investigating and prosecuting crimes committed by state functionaries. In 2006 the Supreme People's Procuratorate announced the nationwide implementation of video-taping of all interrogations of criminal suspects by the end of 2007.

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