

URGENT ACTION

SUPPORTERS OF HONG KONG PROTESTS 'TORTURED'

At least 27 people remain behind bars in China after showing support for the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. Nine people have not been given access to their lawyers, the whereabouts of four are unknown, and at least two have reported being tortured in detention. All of them continue to be at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Poet **Wang Zang** was detained in October 2014 after he posted a photograph online of himself holding an umbrella, which had become the symbol of the Hong Kong protests. He has been formally arrested on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", which can lead to up to five years in prison. He was not allowed to see his lawyer until 25 December, when he told him that he had been interrogated non-stop for five days, during which he was kicked, beaten, prevented from sleeping, and forced to stand most of the time. Wang Zang said that he believed he suffered a heart attack during one of the interrogations, and was not given any medical treatment.

Women's rights activist **Li Yufeng** was formally arrested on 6 November for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" after she posted messages online for supporting the protests. On 4 February she told her lawyer that she had been interrogated during the night on more than 40 occasions and that she was beaten by the authorities. According to her lawyer, during two sessions she was forced to remove all her clothes except for her underwear in a cold room. She has been on sporadic hunger strikes and has been force-fed liquid food at least twice.

Well-known activist Song Ze was also detained in October after he posted photographs online of himself holding a placard in support of the Hong Kong protests. He was formally arrested, also for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", on 20 November. He told his lawyer on 9 January 2015 that he had been interrogated for periods of more than 10 hours at a time. He was not allowed to wear his glasses, and had his feet cuffed together after he allegedly got involved in a fight with another detainee.

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

- Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all those detained solely for peacefully showing support for the protests in Hong Kong (please include the names of those detained which can be found overleaf);
- Calling on the authorities to ensure all those detained have regular and unrestricted access to their lawyers, family, and any medical treatment they require;
- Urging them to ensure all of those detained are protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 MARCH 2015 TO:

Director of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau

Fu Zhenghua

Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau

9 Dongdajie, Qianmen,

Dongchengqu

Beijing, 100740

People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 10 65242927

Salutation: Dear Director

Director of Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department

Li Chunsheng

Guangdong Provincial Public Security

Department,

No. 97 Huanghualu, Guangzhou City,

Guangdong Province

People's Republic of China

Email: xf@gdga.gov.cn,

info@gdga.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun

Ministry of Public Security

14 Dongchang'anjie Dongchengqu

Beijing 100741

People's Republic of China

Telephone: +86 10 66262114

Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn

Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 255/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/053/2014/en>

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

From 26 September until mid-December 2014, thousands of people occupied parts of downtown Hong Kong to demand electoral reform. The protests grew in size after the unlawful use of tear gas and pepper spray by the police against peaceful protestors on the first night of the demonstrations. The protests ended in December after a court injunction ordered the removal of the protestors.

Approximately 100 people were detained in mainland China after the pro-democracy protests began, for activities such as expressing their support on social media, shaving their heads in solidarity with the demonstrators, or planning to travel to Hong Kong to join the protests. Among others, several poets and artists from Songzhuang, an artist community in Beijing, were detained for showing their support for the protests. This was part of a wider attempt by the Chinese authorities to silence any discussion or displays of support for the events in Hong Kong. The popular photo-sharing platform Instagram was blocked, government censors attempted to remove all positive mentions of the pro-democracy protests online, while forcing newspapers and TV stations to only use the state-sponsored narrative of the protests..

The vague and highly subjective charge of "picking quarrels and provoking troubles" is often used in China to suppress human rights defenders and critics of the government.

Torture and other ill-treatment remain endemic in all places of detention in China, and this risk is even greater for those who are not allowed access to their family or lawyer.

Names:

Among the 27 activists still detained, 20 have been criminally detained on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble": Li Yufeng (李玉凤) (f), Song Ze (宋泽) (f), Han Ying (韩颖) (f), Liu Huizhen (刘惠珍) (f), Li Dongmei (李冬梅) (f), Jiang Liuyong (姜流勇)(m), Zhang Miao(张淼) (f), Xu Congyang (徐崇阳) (m), Wang Zhang (王藏) (m), Zhu Yangguang (朱雁光)(m), Zui Hun (追魂) (m), Wang Long 汪龙 (m), Tian Li (aka chen Qitang) (天理, 又名陈启棠) (m), Wang Yonghong (王永红) (m), Guo Yushan (郭玉闪)(m), He Zhengjun (何正军) (m), Ye Xiaozheng (叶晓铮)(m), Zhang Ying (aka Zhang Weishan) (张瑛, 又名张玮珊) (m), Ran Chongbi (冉崇碧) (f), Jiang Jiawen (姜家文) (m)

Three activists have been criminally detained on suspicion of "inciting subversion of state power": Wang Mo (王默) (m) , Xie Wenfei (谢文飞) (m), Su Changlan (苏昌兰) (f)

Four people have been detained for over 37 days, but their whereabouts are still unknown: Sun Feng (孙峰)(m), Ji Sizun (纪斯尊) (m), Zhang Shengyu (张圣雨) (m), Kou Yanding (寇延丁)(f).

Of the 27 people detained, nine have not been given access to lawyers: Jiang Jiawen (姜家文) (m), Zhu Yangguang (朱雁光)(m), Tian Li (aka chen Qitang) (天理, 又名陈启棠) (m), Ran Chongbi (冉崇碧) (f), Su Changlan (苏昌兰) (f), Sun Feng (孙峰)(m), Ji Sizun (纪斯尊) (m), Zhang Shengyu (张圣雨) (m), Kou Yanding (寇延丁)(f).

Gender: Both

Further information on UA: 255/14 Index: ASA 17/006/2015 Issue Date: 12 February 2015