

URGENT ACTION

CHINESE ACTIVIST DETAINED FOLLOWING PROTEST

Prominent activist Wu Gan (also known as ‘Butcher’) has been criminally detained in China on suspicion of ‘picking quarrels and provoking troubles’ and defamation. This follows his demonstration outside a courthouse in support of a group of lawyers’ demand to examine court documents from an alleged case of miscarriage of justice.

Well-known activist **Wu Gan**, 42, was taken into custody on 20 May after protesting and holding banners outside the Jiangxi Provincial Higher People’s Court. He was supporting a group of lawyers’ demand to access court documents regarding an alleged case of miscarriage of justice from 2000, which the lawyers are seeking to re-open. Wu Gan displayed two banners which mocked a local judge’s handling of the case, in addition to chanting criticisms of the judge.

Wu Gan was criminally detained on 28 May on suspicion of ‘picking quarrels and provoking troubles’, which is often used to suppress human rights defenders and activists and which can lead to a sentence of up to five years in prison. He is also facing the charge of defamation for his criticism of the local judge, which carries a maximum sentence of up to three years. The authorities can hold him for up to 37 days before deciding whether to formally arrest him.

Following his detention, Wu Gan was denounced in the state media for matters relating to his personal life and previous activism. His case has received considerable attention in China, and is illustrative of the continued intolerance being displayed by the authorities to any form of dissent.

Wu Gan was transferred to another detention centre in Fujian province on 28 May. His lawyers were repeatedly denied access to him until they were eventually granted a visit on 4 June.

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

- Calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Wu Gan;
- Calling on them to ensure that pending his release, he has regular, unrestricted access to his lawyers and family, to any medical treatment he may require, and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 JULY 2015 TO:

Head of Yongtai County Detention
Centre

42 Xianfu Road
Zhangchengzhen
Yongtaixian,
Fuzhoushi 350000
Fujiansheng
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Head of Xiamen Municipal Public
Security Bureau

Lin Rui Tingzhang
43 Xinhualu
Xiamenshi 361003
Fujiansheng
People’s Republic of China
Fax: +86 592 211 0122
Email: xm110@xm.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security
Guo Shengkun Buzhang
Gong’anbu
14 Dongchang’anjie
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100741
People’s Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6626 2550
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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Between 18 and 20 May, Wu Gan participated in a demonstration outside the Jiangxi Provincial Higher People's Court in Nanchang. He was supporting a group of lawyers' demand to access court documents regarding an alleged case of miscarriage of justice from 2000, when four men were convicted and imprisoned for robbery, rape and murder. Their lawyers have claimed their confessions were obtained through torture and are seeking to re-open the case, but they have so far been refused permission to review the court files.

On 20 May, Wu Gan was taken away by police and put into administrative detention for 'disturbing order in work place' and 'insulting people' on 20 May. Public security changed the charges on 28 May and criminally detained him.

Since 2009, Wu Gan has been a high-profile activist in China and is recognized for his innovative tactics of connecting online and offline actions, by raising awareness and funds online to support his activities. Recently, Wu Gan offered a financial reward for the surveillance video of the fatal shooting of a man by two police officers in Heilongjiang province, in an attempt to collect evidence for the case.

Name: Wu Gan (吴淦)

Gender m/f: Male

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