

# URGENT ACTION

## TWO ACTIVISTS RELEASED IN CHINA

**Two activists associated with a prominent anti-discrimination NGO in China were released on 11 July. They had been detained since 12 June on suspicion of ‘illegal business operations’, but it is believed this is solely due to their connection with the organization Yirenping, as part of a wider crackdown on civil society groups in China.**

**Guo Bin**, director of Zhongyixing (also named ACTogether), an advocacy NGO promoting the human rights of disadvantaged groups, and **Yang Zhangqing**, who has worked on Hepatitis B carriers’ rights and is involved in activism on consumer rights, were taken away by police in Guangdong province on 12 June. Their families and lawyers were unable to find out their exact whereabouts until 19 June, when their lawyer was able to visit them at the Zhengzhou #3 Detention centre.

Both activists have previously worked for Yirenping, one of China most famous NGOs, which fights against the discrimination of women, disabled people, LGBTI people and those with pre-existing health conditions. Yirenping’s office was raided by police in March, and many former employees and volunteers have reported being harassed or intimidated by the authorities in recent months. After five female activists also associated with Yirenping were released on bail in April following a month in detention, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that Yirenping would be “punished”.

NGOs across China – in different provinces and working in different fields – have come under intense scrutiny in recent years by state security, who often question them repeatedly about any links to foreign funding. Some NGOs have simply been shut down. In May, the authorities released for consultation the draft Foreign NGO Management Law, which if adopted in its current form, would jeopardize the activities or existence of numerous organizations and have a chilling effect on Chinese civil society. It would also give police new unchecked powers over foreign NGOs, with the very real risk that the law could be misused to intimidate and prosecute human rights defenders and NGO workers for their legitimate work.

**Many thanks to all those that took action. No further action is required from the UA network.**

This is the second update of UA 137/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/2005/2015/en/>

Name: Guo Bin and Yang Zhangqing

Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 137/15 Index: ASA 17/2097/2015 Issue Date: 15 July 2015

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