

URGENT ACTION

FOUR HELD FOR SUPPORTING DETAINED LAWYER

Four activists have been criminally detained after gathering outside a court in Beijing during the trial of prominent human rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang. It is not known what charges they are being held under, and they have not had access to their lawyers or families. Several other activists who were taken away have not been heard from since, and it is feared they may also be in detention.

On 14 December, several hundred supporters of Pu Zhiqiang gathered outside the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court in Beijing, including many whose cases he had represented. Pu Zhiqiang was standing trial for "inciting ethnic hatred" and "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", primarily on the basis of seven social media posts in which he criticized the government. Approximately 20 people were taken away by plain-clothes police officers, some of whom were later released, but activists **Zhang Zhan, Wang Su'e, Qu Hongxia and Ran Chongbi** remain in criminal detention in Fengtai Detention Centre in Beijing. More than 12 people who were also taken away have not been heard from since, and it is feared they may also be detained.

According to eyewitnesses, people started being taken away by police even though the crowd was peaceful. Foreign diplomats and journalists were also involved in scuffles with police outside the trial, and were prevented from entering the court building.

The four detainees have not had access to lawyers, and when other activists tried to bring them money and clothes, police at the detention centre refused to allow them in.

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

- Demanding that the authorities immediately and unconditionally release Zhang Zhan, Wang Su'e, Qu Hongxia and Ran Chongbi and anyone else detained for peacefully expressing their right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Calling on them to ensure that pending their release, they have regular access to their lawyers, family and any medical treatment they require, and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 JANUARY 2016 TO:

Director

Fengtai District Detention Centre
No. 6 Shagang Village
Yuanpingcheng Dongnanbu
Fengtai District
Beijing, People's Republic of China
100071
Telephone: +86 10 83680063 (Chinese only)

Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun
14 Dongchanganjie
Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

President

Xin Jinping Guojia Zhuxi
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu, Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6238 1025

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

Prominent human rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang was originally detained by police on 6 May 2014, after he attended a seminar in Beijing that called for an investigation into the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown. His prosecution has been marred by repeated procedural irregularities including prolonged pre-trial detention, the denial of adequate medical care and prosecutors refusing to disclose evidence against him to his defence lawyers.

Pu Zhiqiang has represented individuals in many 'sensitive' human rights cases, including those linked with the 'New Citizens' Movement', a loose network of activists who aim to promote government transparency and expose corruption.

Name: Zhang Zhan (m), Wang Su'e (f), Qu Hongxia (f), Ran Chongbi (f), Pu Zhiqiang (m)

Gender m/f: Both

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