

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST ON HUNGER STRIKE AT GRAVE RISK

Jailed Chinese Human Rights Defender Yang Maodong (better known by his pen name Guo Feixiong) has been on hunger strike since 9 May in protest of his ill-treatment by the authorities.



Yang Maoping, Guo Feixiong's sister, visited him at Yangchun Prison on 21 July. She was told that he has been forcibly fed twice or administered intravenous fluids on alternate days as he continues his hunger strike. He looked frail and could barely walk. His weight dropped from 75 kg to 51 kg. Guo Feixiong told his sister that he might consider stopping the hunger strike if the authorities move him to another prison. Guo Feixiong complained to his sister how the prison officials continue to mistreat him. They ordered him to kneel down whenever he saw them. If he did not follow their instructions, they forced him down to his knees. They confiscated all his books. Some inmates, who Guo Feixiong believed had received orders from the prison officials, frequently humiliated and shouted at him, and disturbed his sleep during the night. A supervising official cut the phone line that Guo Feixiong and his sister were using to talk during the visit when he started to describe his treatment in prison.

On 28 July, Guo Feixiong's lawyers, **Zhang Lei** and **Li Jinxing** met with Guo Feixiong for 40 minutes. After the visit, the lawyers said they hoped that a "satisfactory settlement" could be reached with the authorities so that Guo Feixiong would call off the hunger strike voluntarily.

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

- Calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Guo Feixiong, who is a prisoner of conscience;
- Ensure that as long as Guo Feixiong remains in detention he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and his treatment is in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);
- Ensure that he has access to a qualified health professional who can provide health care in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy and informed consent.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 September 2016 TO:

Director,
Yangchun Prison,
Songbei Township,
Yangchunshi,
Guangdongsheng 529615,
China.
Phone: +86 662 780 6008 (Chinese only)
Email: ycjbgs@126.com
Salutation: Dear Director

Director,
Li Jingyan,
Guangdong Prison Administrative Bureau,
298 Guangyuanzhonglu,
Baiyun District,
Guangzhoushi,
Guangdongsheng 510405,
China.
Email: jyj_bgs@gd.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:
Premier,
Li Keqiang Guojia Zongli,
The State Council General Office,
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu,
Beijingshi 100017,
People's Republic of China.
Fax: +86 10 65961109 (c/o Ministry of
Foreign Affairs)

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 second update of UA 99/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/3924/2016/en/>; <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/4072/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Guo Feixiong, the better-known pen-name of writer and human rights advocate Yang Maodong, has been detained since 8 August 2013. He took part in a protest against media censorship in January 2013, after Communist Party officials had sparked outrage by changing a front page editorial of the "Southern Weekly" newspaper that had called for greater civil and political rights as well as adherence to China's Constitution. On 27 November 2015 he was convicted of "gathering a crowd to disrupt order in a public place" and "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" and given a six-year prison sentence.

Guo Feixiong is a writer, rights advocate and was once a legal adviser with the Beijing-based Shengzhi Law Office. He has supported various human rights causes in the past decade. In 2005 he participated in a hunger strike in response to a call by prominent human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng for a "hunger strike group" to protest the government's crackdown on human rights activists. The hunger strike was also a protest against his previous detention and beatings following his legal support of Taishi villagers who were calling for the ouster of a village official they had been accused of corruption in 2005.

Guo Feixiong had been previously detained in February 2006 and sentenced to five years in prison in November 2007 after being convicted of the crime of "illegal business activity", after he published a book entitled Shenyang Political Earthquake. Guo was subjected to several forms of torture while in detention, including being hung from the ceiling by his arms and legs while he was beaten, and being shocked with an electric baton to the face and genitals. Guo Feixiong states that he was tortured into confessing this crime, leading him to attempt suicide. Guo was released from prison in September 2011.

In September of 2015, Guo won the prestigious Frontline Defenders Award for his human rights activism.

Starting from 4 May, more than 1000 activists in China and overseas have signed a pledge to join a 24-hour hunger strike relay to support Guo Feixiong and demand his release. So far, over 200 have participated in the hunger strike.

Name: Yang Maodong (a.k.a Guo Feixiong) (M), Yang Maoping (F), Zhang Lei (M) and Li Jinxing (M)

Further information on UA 99/16: Index: ASA 17/4597/2016 Issue Date: 2 August 2016