

URGENT ACTION

PROMINENT BLOGGER CLAIMS ABUSE IN DETENTION

Lu Yuyu told his lawyer that he had been beaten by police officers and is suffering from sleep deprivation. Lu and his girlfriend Li Tingyu, two bloggers who had compiled and released data on protests in China, have been criminally detained since 15 June 2016.

Detained blogger **Lu Yuyu** met his lawyer on 31 August, at the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture Detention Centre, and told him that he had been beaten by officers and was suffering from sleep deprivation after having been exposed to strong light at night. His lawyer says he has lost weight since the last Urgent Action was issued in July 2016.

Lu Yuyu told his lawyer that on 29 August, patrolling police officers discovered that he had covered his eyes to help him sleep and that he had resisted when they stopped him from continuing to do so. The following day two police officers, after they said he did not stand up properly when asked, grabbed Lu's arms and neck making it difficult for him to breathe. Lu's head was hit against the wall during the scuffle, causing swelling and a blood stain. His requests to see a doctor and lawyer were denied. He then staged a hunger strike until he was allowed to meet his lawyer on 31 August.

When **Li Tingyu's** lawyer visited her in the same detention centre on 31 August, Li said that the police officers seized her English diary and warned her not to write anything in that language. The officers informed her that they had sent the diary to the public security bureau for Chinese translation and verification of its content.

Please write immediately in Chinese, English or your own language, urging the authorities to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Lu Yuyu and Li Tingyu unless they are promptly charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence and tried in line with international fair trial standards.
- Ensure that while in detention Lu Yuyu and Li Tingyu have regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of their choice, medical care on request or as necessary, and are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment including any harassment or intimidation.
- Investigate all allegations of Lu Yuyu's abuse by detention officials and hold accountable those responsible for any human rights violations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 OCTOBER 2016 TO:

Director
 Bao Ronggui
 Dali City Public Security Bureau
 66 Cangshanlu
 Dali Shi, Yunnan province 671000
 People's Republic of China
 Tel: +86 872 212 4460 (Chinese only)
Salutation: Dear Director

Director
 Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture
 Detention Centre
 Xiaguan Zhen, Wenxian Cun
 Dali Shi, Yunnan Sheng
 People's Republic of China
 Tel: +86 872 231 2985 (Chinese only)
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:
Minister of Public Security
 Guo Shengkun
 14 Dong Chang'an Jie
 Dongcheng Qu, Beijing Shi 100741
 People's Republic of China
 Tel: +86 10 66262114 (in Chinese only)
 Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 147/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/4313/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend Li Tingyu, who live in Dali, Yunnan province, managed a blog (wickedonna.blogspot.com) and a Twitter account (@wickedonnaa) whose name was *feixinwen* (“Not News”) that compiled and release data on strikes, protests and rural unrest in China. They were both criminally detained on 15 June 2016 on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”.

Since 2013, Lu Yuyu and Li Tingyu have been compiling and releasing data about protests in China and published them daily on different social media channels including blogger.com, Google Drive, Twitter and Weibo. They documented nearly 30,000 “mass incidents” in 2015 alone. Mass incidents include collective actions ranging from villagers’ protests against land grabs, to workers’ strikes and protests, to demonstrations of homeowners claiming they have been cheated by developers.

China maintains one of the most extensive censorship apparatuses in the world, and publishing unauthorized letters or opinions criticizing leaders or government policy can have enormous professional and criminal ramifications for editors.

The authorities continue to use vaguely-worded laws to arbitrarily target individuals for solely exercising their right to freedom of expression. Since President Xi Jinping came to power in November 2012, hundreds of people have been detained solely for expressing their views online.

President Xi Jinping has repeatedly reiterated the need to uphold the “Marxist view of journalism”, which sees all state media outlets as defenders of Communist Party interests. At the same time, leaked ideological memo “Document Number 9” warned about the “false trend” of promoting “freedom of the press” and the “free flow of information on the internet”.

Name: Lu Yuyu (m) Li Tingyu (f)

Gender: both

Further information on UA: 147/16 Index: ASA 17/4778/2016 Issue Date: 7 September 2016