

URGENT ACTION

LAWYER REFUSED ACCESS TO DETAINED ACTIVIST

Liu Feiyue, the founder and director of Hubei-based website “Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch” (www.msguancha.com) who is facing charges of “inciting subversion of state power”, has been again unable to meet his lawyer. With no trial date yet confirmed, and no access to a lawyer, there are fears that he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Liu Feiyue’s lawyer, Wen Donghai, went to the Suizhou City Detention Centre on 3 January to visit Liu Feiyue, however the officers in charge of his case refused his request. Without providing a reason for the refusal, the officers said that they would contact the lawyer when they think it is fine for him to meet Liu Feiyue. After being told the head of the detention centre was unavailable to raise a complaint with, Wen Donghai contacted the procuratorate, who said that this is a special case and they cannot intervene.

Earlier the same day, Wen Donghai’s request for a copy of the indictment against Liu Feiyue was refused by the Suizhou City Intermediate People’s Court. Two judges who met him claimed that they were reading the legal bundles and they would give him the indictment together with other legal documents once they have set the trial date. Wen Donghai, along with several other human rights lawyers in China, said that they have never before heard of such arrangements.

Although the Suizhou City Public Security Bureau claimed that they had enough evidence to add the charge of “providing state secrets to a foreign entity” against Liu Feiyue in August 2017, the local procuratorate decided to withdraw this charge against him in early December 2017. According to Liu Feiyue’s lawyer, most of the case materials against Liu Feiyue are related to him exercising his right to freedom of expression through personal opinions he had made public and posted on the website “Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch”.

With no trial date yet confirmed, and without access to a lawyer, there are fears that Liu Feiyue is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

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

- Release Liu Feiyue unconditionally and immediately unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Ensure that Liu Feiyue is protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention, and he has regular, unrestricted access to his family, and lawyers of his choice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 FEBRUARY 2018 TO:

Director
Xiong Lingxian
Suizhou City People’s Procuratorate
No. 38 Mingzhu Lu Sui Xian
Suizhou Shi
Hubei Sheng 441300
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Director
Tang Wenjiang
Suizhou City Public Security Bureau
No. 666 Jiaotong Dadao
Suizhou Shi,
Hubei Sheng 441300
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:
Minister of Public Security Bureau
Zhao Kezhi
14 Dong Chang’anjie
Dongchengqu,
Beijing Shi 100741
People’s Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn

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 third update of UA 274/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/6980/2017/en/>

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The website “Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch” reports on human rights violations suffered by members of grassroots communities in China, particularly those who have lost their homes due to forced land evictions and have petitioned the government to seek redress. The website also posts and reposts other activists’ statements on the detentions of human rights defenders and calls for their release.

State security officers have previously placed Liu Feiyue under house arrest as well as taken him for “forced travels” during politically sensitive periods, including the annual National People’s Congress’ session in March and prior to the Tiananmen crackdown anniversaries on 4 June.

On 17 November 2016 Liu Feiyue sent a text message to his colleagues saying that state security officers had taken him to an unspecified village. His home was raided the next day by public security officers who confiscated his computers, some printed materials and other personal items. There was no news of him until 10 January 2017, when human rights organization Chinese Human Rights Defenders posted on its website a written notice, stating Liu Feiyue’s location and arrest details.

According to official documents, he was criminally detained on 18 November 2016 and formally arrested for “inciting subversion of state power” on 23 December 2016. Following the notification of his formal arrest, Liu Feiyue’s lawyer made several attempts to visit him however, without providing any reason, the officers on duty prevented him from doing so. It was not until 25 May 2017 that Liu Feiyue’s lawyer was finally allowed to visit with him in the detention centre.

Liu Feiyue’s family cannot be reached and, according to his lawyer, they have been warned by police not to disclose any information about Liu Feiyue’s situation. Liu Feiyue’s previous lawyer had also been pressured by authorities and was forced to end his involvement in the case.

Liu Feiyue’s arrest is the latest incident in the most recent crackdown on human rights defenders and those affiliated with websites reporting on the plight of grassroots activists in China.

Name: Liu Feiyue

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 274/16 Index: ASA 17/7676/2018 Issue Date: 5 January 2018