

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVIST DU BIN RELEASED ON BAIL

**Chinese photographer and human rights activist Du Bin has been released on bail. He has confirmed that in detention he was questioned about his film on Re-education Through Labour and his book about the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.**

**Du Bin** was released on bail on 8 July. He is not allowed to leave Beijing without permission for one year, as he must be available for further questioning as the authorities continue to investigate him for “picking quarrels and making trouble” (Article 293 of China’s Criminal Law). He can still be charged and brought to trial if the investigation so concludes. His lawyer has said that the authorities might be using the bail conditions to constrain Du Bin’s behaviour.

Du Bin has confirmed that he was detained on 1 June and that while held in Beijing’s Fengtai district police station he was not tortured or otherwise ill-treated. He has said that he was interrogated for several hours on his recent documentary film *Above the Ghosts’ Heads: The Women of Masanjia Labour Camp* that exposes torture and other ill-treatment at China’s Masanjia Women’s Re-education Through Labour Camp, and on his book about the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

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

- Calling on the authorities drop all criminal proceedings against Du Bin and lift all restrictions on him;
- Urging them to take effective measures to guarantee freedom of expression, association and assembly in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which China has signed and declared an intention to ratify.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 AUGUST 2013 TO:**

Director, Beijing Public Security

Bureau

Fu Zhenghua Juzhang

Beijingshi Gong’anju

9 Dongdajie, Qianmen

Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100740

People’s Republic of China

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**Salutation: Dear Director**

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun Buzhang

Gong’anbu

14 Dongchang’anjie

Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100741

People’s Republic of China

Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**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:**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 164/13. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/020/2013/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Du Bin is a journalist, photographer and documentary filmmaker. He has worked as a photographer for *Beijing Youth Daily* (*Beijing Qingnian Bao*), an investigative journalist for *Workers' Daily* (*Gongren Ribao*) and a freelance photographer for the *New York Times*. During his 15 years as a journalist, Du Bin remained active in human rights work, including interviewing the blind human rights activist Chen Guangcheng in 2002 and reporting on the Wukan protests in 2011.

In 2005, Du Bin wrote his first book, *The Petitioner: Living Fossil under Chinese Rule of Law*, which documents the stories of millions of people who travelled to Beijing every day in an attempt to seek redress for the injustices they faced in their home towns as well as the violence, unfair treatment, and even death they faced when trying to report local corruption. Since then, he has written several books covering a range of topics, including an investigation into violent forced evictions in Shanghai, the deaths of hundreds of thousands of peasants from starvation during Mao Zedong's rule, and a recently released book that details the violent crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in 1989. His books are all published overseas.

After following a petitioner, Liu Jie, in early 2006, Du Bin documented the abuses she suffered in a Re-education Through Labour camp in the north-eastern province of Heilongjiang and published a book in 2008. Before he was detained in 2013, Du Bin screened his documentary, *Above the Ghosts' Head: The Women of Masanjia Labour Camp*, in Hong Kong and posted the film which also examines the torture and ill-treatment at China's Re-education Through Labour camps, online.

Name: Du Bin

Gender: m

Further information on UA: 164/13 Index: ASA 17/024/2013 China Issue Date: 18 July 2013

