

URGENT ACTION

HOUSING RIGHTS ACTIVIST NI YULAN RELEASED

Housing rights activist Ni Yulan was released on 5 October after serving two years and six months in Tiantanghe Women's Prison in Beijing. She has been reunited with her family, including her husband Dong Jiqin, who was released from prison on 5 April.

The police beat **Ni Yulan** so badly in 2002 that they left her unable to walk unaided. Her health had been improving when she was detained in April 2011, as she had been receiving regular medical treatment and was able to walk with crutches. She received no medical attention in prison. She now needs to use a wheelchair and also suffers from respiratory, heart and digestive problems.

Ni Yulan says she plans to sue Beijing's Xicheng District Public Security Bureau for holding her and her husband in detention in a hotel and cutting off their water and electricity supplies between June 2010 and April 2011. They are also continuing to fight for compensation for their home and assets which were destroyed when their home was demolished just before the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Both Ni Yulan and **Dong Jiqin** were detained on 7 April 2011 on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble". They were formally arrested on the same charge on 17 May 2011. The charge of "fraud" was later added in the case of Ni Yulan. On 10 April 2011, Ni Yulan was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison for "picking quarrels and making trouble" and "fraud". Her husband, Dong Jiqin, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for "picking quarrels and making trouble". Their trial did not meet international fair trial standards.

They appealed and in July 2012, the Beijing Municipal No.1 Intermediate People's Court overturned Ni Yulan's sentence for "fraud". However, the court upheld her and her husband's sentences for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble".

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the third update of UA 117/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/011/2012/en>

Names: Ni Yulan (f), Dong Jiqin (m)

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