

URGENT ACTION

DEMAND RELEASE OF CHINESE ACTIVIST

Veteran activist Zhang Lin is at risk of being sentenced to five years in prison as a result of his peaceful activism defending his daughter's right to education. It is believed that he has been targeted due to his association with the "New Citizens' Movement". His trial will begin on 18 December. He has several health problems and may not be receiving the medical treatment he requires.

In February, police in Hefei, capital of the eastern Anhui province, removed **Zhang Lin's** 10-year-old daughter from school and detained her for several hours. The authorities continued to refuse to allow her to return to school, prompting over 30 activists to gather in Hefei in protest in April. Zhang Lin then took his daughter to their hometown of Bengbu, where they were held under house arrest and she continued to be denied permission to attend school.

Zhang Lin escaped house arrest in mid-June and went to Beijing to protest against his daughter's treatment. State security police took him back to Bengbu on 1 July and assured him that she would be allowed to return to school and no other action would be taken. However, he was then detained on 19 July and formally arrested on 22 August. He has been charged with "gathering a crowd to disrupt order in a public place" and will be tried at Bengbu City Bengshan District People's Court in Anhui.

The arrest and trial of Zhang Lin is believed to be part of a wider crackdown on those associated with the "New Citizens' Movement". In 2012, activist Xu Zhiyong published a piece, *China Needs a New Citizens' Movement*, in which he advocated for the rule of law, greater freedoms and democracy, and suggested activities for "new citizens". As of 12 December, more than 65 people who are allegedly connected with the "New Citizens' Movement" have been criminally detained or subjected to enforced disappearance. Thirty-seven have been formally arrested.

Zhang Lin has a number of health problems related to his neck and spine. This has worsened in detention and causes frequent and severe headaches. His lawyers' request for medical parole was turned down. He is currently detained in Bengbu City No.1 Detention Centre in Anhui province.

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

- Urging the Chinese authorities to release Zhang Lin immediately and unconditionally;
- Calling on the Chinese authorities to ensure that Zhang Lin is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, that he has regular access to his family and lawyers, and that he receives any medical attention he requires.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 JANUARY 2014 TO:

Anhui Provincial Department of Public Security Director
 XU Liqun Tingzhang
 Anhuisheng Gong'anting
 282 Anqinglu, Hefeishi 230061
 Anhuisheng, People's Republic of China
 Fax: +86 551 62823716
 Email: pajhw110@163.com
Salutation: Dear Director

Anhui Provincial Department of Justice Director
 WANG Cuifeng Tingzhang
 Anhuisheng Sifating
 335 Huaihelu, Hefeishi 230061
 Anhuisheng, People's Republic of China
 Fax: +86 551 62215000
 Email: yinbenming@126.com
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:
Premier of the People's Republic of China
 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)
 Email: kf@people.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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Zhang Lin, a 50-year-old veteran of the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Anhui, is an activist with the banned China Democracy Party. He has been imprisoned four times previously and has served over 13 years in prison and Re-education through Labour facilities since 1989 as a result of his political activities. Fellow activists helped his daughter to travel to the US in September where she is now able to attend school.

In May 2012 in an article entitled *China Needs a New Citizens' Movement*, activist Xu Zhiyong describes the "New Citizens' Movement" as a peaceful cultural, social and political campaign. The activities he suggests people take include disseminating the "New Citizen Spirit" online and in the streets; practicing "New Citizen Responsibility" by rejecting corruption and by doing good for society; using the "Citizen" sign or other identifying methods; participating in civic life by holding meetings to discuss the political situation; helping the weak; and uniting to share and coordinate work.

The article is available online at: <http://seeingredinchina.com/2012/07/11/china-needs-a-new-citizens-movement-xu-zhiyongs-%E8%AE%B8%E5%BF%97%E6%B0%B8-controversial-essay/>

The charge of "gathering a crowd to disrupt order in a public place" (Article 291 of China's Criminal Law) applies to people who gathered to disturb order at railway stations or bus terminals, wharves, civil airports, marketplaces, parks, theatres, cinemas, exhibition halls, sports grounds or other public places, or to block traffic or undermine traffic order, or resist or obstruct public security administrators of the State from carrying out their duties according to law. If the circumstances are serious, a ringleader can receive a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

Name: Zhang Lin
Gender m/f: m

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