

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 357/02 (ASA 17/061/2002, 11 December 2002) Fear for safety/Incommunicado detention

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Liu Di (f) aged 23 - student

After just over one year in detention, Liu Di was reportedly released on bail on 28 November. However, she apparently remains under investigation and could still face trial. According to media reports, she has been warned not to speak to foreign journalists and her bail conditions stipulate that she must not travel outside Beijing.

Before her release, Liu Di was being held at the Beijing Public Security Bureau detention centre, otherwise known as Qincheng Prison, on suspicion of "endangering public security" after she posted various items on the Internet under the pseudonym "Stainless Steel Mouse". Last month, Chinese prosecutors reportedly rejected the police case against Liu Di due to a lack of evidence.

While Amnesty International welcomes her release, the organization remains concerned that Liu Di remains under restrictions and that the case against her has not been dropped. Amnesty International continues to call for her to be released unconditionally.

Liu Di's case had received wide publicity and was the subject of campaigning by many international non-governmental organizations following her detention on 7 November 2002. In January and March 2003 two on-line petitions were produced in China calling for her release. They were signed by almost 3,000 Internet users, some of whom were later detained.

The number of those detained for peacefully expressing their views on the Internet continues to rise in China. Amnesty International currently has records of over 40 people detained for such offences. Those that have been imprisoned are serving prison sentences of between two and eleven years.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor Liu Di's case. If possible, please send a final round of appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese or your own language:

- welcoming the news that Liu Di has been released on bail, but expressing concern that she remains under restrictions which violate her fundamental human rights to freedom of expression, movement and association;
- calling on the authorities to drop the case against Liu Di and ensure that she is able to exercise her fundamental human rights without fear of detention or intimidation;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to ensure that everyone in China is able to use the Internet to receive and transmit their beliefs and opinions in line with their fundamental human rights to freedom of opinion and expression.

APPEALS TO:

Director of the Beijing Municipal Justice Bureau
Wu Yuhua Buzhang
Beijingshi Sifabu (Beijing Justice Bureau)
199 Haihutuncun
Yongdingmenwai
Beijingshi 100075

People's Republic of China
Telegram: Director, Municipal Justice Bureau, Beijing, China
Email: webmaster@bjjsf.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Director

Director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau
Ma Zhenchuan Juzhang
Beijingshi Gong'anju (Beijing Public Security Bureau)
19 Qianmen Dongdajie
Xuanwuqu
Beijingshi 100740
People's Republic of China
Telegram: Director. Beijing Public Security Bureau, Beijing, China
Fax: + 86 10 6524 1596
Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Justice
Zhang Fusen Buzhang
Sifabu (Ministry of Justice)
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu
Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China
Telegram: Justice Minister, Beijing, China
Fax: + 86 10 6529 2345
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Director of the Ministry of Information Industry
Wang Xudong Buzhang
Xinxi Chanye Bu (Ministry of Information Industry)
13 Xichang'anjie
Beijingshi 100804
People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.