

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST DIES AFTER DENIAL OF TREATMENT

Human rights activist Cao Shunli died from organ failure on 14 March after being denied medical treatment while in detention. Her family repeatedly called for her to receive the treatment she needed, but these requests were denied by the Chinese authorities. Cao Shunli was a prisoner of conscience, who had been detained for five months solely as a result of her peaceful activism.

Cao Shunli, 52, died from organ failure at the 309 Hospital in Beijing on 14 March. She was transferred there from Chaoyang District Detention Centre on 16 February, where she had been prevented from receiving the medical treatment she needed for a number of serious health problems, including tuberculosis in both her lungs and cirrhosis of the liver. The authorities also denied her family's repeated appeals for her to be released on medical parole, and this was only offered once Cao Shunli's condition had become critical.

Cao Shunli was one of the key advocates for enabling civil society to participate in the drafting of China's National Human Rights Action Plan and reports for the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR). She was detained in September 2013 at Beijing airport as she was on her way to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend a training programme on UN human rights' mechanisms. Her detention was believed to be as a result of her role in organizing a sit-in protest along with other activists in front of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In October, she was formally arrested for "picking quarrels and making trouble", a charge often used to suppress human rights defenders and critics of the government.

Cao Shunli was previously sent to Re-education Through Labour for one year in April 2010, and for one year and three months in April 2011 because of her peaceful activism and human rights work.

Many thanks to those who took action on her behalf. No more action is required from the UA network.

This is the third update of UA 282/13. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/008/2014/en>

Name: Cao Shunli
Gender m/f: Female

Further information on UA: 282/13 Index: ASA 17/013/2014 Issue Date: 18 March 2014

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