

URGENT ACTION

JASMINE REVOLUTION ACTIVISTS REMAIN DETAINED

Ding Mao, Ran Yunfei and Chen Wei were formally arrested between March 25 and March 28 on charges of “inciting of subversion of state power” and could face lengthy prison terms. Hua Chunhui has been sent to 18 months Re-education Through Labour. Li Haiyi remains held without charge. They are all at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

The families of **Ding Mao** and **Chen Wei** have received notifications of their formal arrest. According to the notifications, both dated 28 March, they are both charged with “inciting subversion of state power”.

Ran Yunfei’s formal arrest notice was dated 25 March. He too is charged with “inciting subversion of state power”. All three may face trial in the near future.

Hua Chunhui has been sentenced to 18 months Re-education Through Labour. Previously, he was held in police detention at Tanduqiao police station in Wuxi, Jiangsu province, on suspicion of “endangering state security”. His exact current situation and whereabouts are unknown.

Li Haiyi is still held at Harbin No. 2 Police Detention Centre. Her lawyer, Liang Xiaojun, has been warned not to take up cases defending those detained in connection with the “Jasmine Revolution”.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, Chinese or your own language:

- call on authorities to release Ding Mao, Ran Yunfei, Chen Wei, Liang Haiyi immediately and unconditionally unless the authorities can show reasonable grounds for suspecting them of having committed an internationally-recognizable criminal offence;
- call on them to release Hua Chunhui immediately and unconditionally;
- urge the authorities to ensure that the five have immediate and ongoing access to family, legal representation of their choice, and any medical care they may require; and guarantee that the five will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urge the authorities to take effective measures to guarantee freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in line with China’s Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which China has signed and declared an intention to ratify.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 MAY 2011 TO:

Minister of Public Security
MENG Jianzhu Buzhang
Gong’anbu, 14 Dongchang’anjie
Dongchengqu, Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice
WU Aiying Buzhang
Sifabu, 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu, Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65292345
Email: pfmaster@legalinfo.gov.cn
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Minister of Justice
WU Aiying Buzhang
Sifabu, 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu, Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65292345
Email: pfmaster@legalinfo.gov.cn
Salutation: Your Excellency

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA: 50/11 Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/010/2011/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since an anonymous online call on 17 February to stage a 'Jasmine Revolution' in China more than a hundred activists, many of them active on Twitter and blogs, have been detained, put under surveillance or illegal house arrest, or have simply gone missing. Moreover, at least a dozen lawyers say they have been briefly detained and pressured by the authorities not to take up cases defending those detained, and even told by police to stop tweeting about the detained people.

Ding Mao, Ran Yunfei, Chen Wei, Liang Haiyi and Hua Chunhui were detained separately between 19 and 21 February during the crackdown. The charge of 'inciting subversion' could see them facing up to five years' imprisonment, or longer if the court considers their crime to have been especially grave.

Re-education Through Labour (RTL) has been used since the mid-1950s in China as a form of punitive administrative detention, imposed without charge, trial or judicial review.

The decision whether to send a person to an RTL facility or to prosecute them through the courts is based on a subjective, unchecked assessment by police of whether an act amounts to "illegal behaviour" and is therefore liable to RTL, or a more serious "crime", liable to prosecution through the courts. RTL was once described in an official legal newspaper as punishment for actions which fall "somewhere between crime and error". The vague language used to define the types of behaviour liable to punishment by RTL allows police to arbitrarily detain those peacefully exercising their fundamental human rights.

Despite repeated calls from both inside and outside China for the system to be abolished, hundreds of thousands of people are believed to be held in China's RTL facilities. Under the current system, people can be detained in a RTL facility for up to three years, which can be extended by a further year when "necessary". Chinese legal reformists have pointed out that these periods are much higher than minimum penalties under the Criminal Law.

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