

URGENT ACTION

SEVEN DETAINED FOR SUPPORTING LAWYER

A total of seven activists are being criminally detained after gathering outside a court in Beijing during the trial of prominent human rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang. Three of those detained have not been given access to their lawyers.

Activists **Zhang Zhan, Wang Su'e, Qu Hongxia, Ran Chongbi, Li Meiqing, Wen Rengui** and **Sheng Lanfu** are currently detained in the Fengtai Detention Centre in Beijing on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", a charge often used by the authorities to suppress freedom of expression. Six of the activists were taken away by plain-clothes police officers on 14 December from outside Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court, where they had gathered with several hundred supporters of Pu Zhiqiang. Pu Zhiqiang was standing trial for "inciting ethnic hatred" and "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", primarily on the basis of seven social media posts in which he criticized the government. Li Meiqing was taken away from outside the court on 22 December, when Pu Zhiqiang received a three-year suspended sentence.

According to eyewitnesses, people started being taken away by police even though the crowd was peaceful. Foreign diplomats and journalists were also involved in scuffles with police outside the trial, and were prevented from entering the court building.

Qu Hongxia, Wang Su'e, Zhang Zhan and Li Meiqing have been able to meet with their lawyers, while the other three have not yet been allowed to do so.

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

- Demanding that the authorities immediately and unconditionally release Zhang Zhan, Wang Su'e, Qu Hongxia, Ran Chongbi, Li Meiqing, Wen Rengui and Sheng Lanfu;
- Calling on them to ensure that pending their release, they have regular access to their lawyers, family and any medical treatment they require, and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 FEBRUARY 2016 TO:

Director
Fengtai District Detention Centre
No. 6 Shagang Village
Yuanpingcheng Dongnanbu
Fengtai District
Beijing, People's Republic of China
100071
Telephone: +86 10 8368 0063 (Chinese only)

Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Public Security
Guo Shengkun
14 Dongchanganjie
Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:
President
Xin Jinping Guojia Zhuxi
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu, Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6238 1025

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. This is the first update of UA 293/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/3106/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Prominent human rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang was originally detained by police on 6 May 2014, after he attended a seminar in Beijing that called for an investigation into the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown. His prosecution was marred by repeated procedural irregularities including prolonged pre-trial detention, the denial of adequate medical care and prosecutors refusing to disclose evidence against him to his defence lawyers. On 22 December he was given a three year suspended prison sentence.

Pu Zhiqiang has represented individuals in many 'sensitive' human rights cases, including those linked with the 'New Citizens' Movement', a loose network of activists who aim to promote government transparency and expose corruption.

Name: Zhang Zhan (m), Wang Su'e (f), Qu Hongxia (f), Ran Chongbi (f), Li Meiqing (f), Wen Rengui (m), Sheng Lanfu (m) Pu Zhiqiang (m)
Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 293/15 Index: ASA 17/3135/2016 Issue Date: 4 January 2016