

# URGENT ACTION

## RIGHTS DEFENDER MAO HENGFENG DETAINED

**Mao Hengfeng, a housing rights and reproductive rights defender, was taken away by men in plain clothes believed to be Shanghai police officers in Beijing on 30 September. She was subsequently taken from Beijing to Shanghai, and is now detained in the Yangpu district police detention centre. She is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.**

According to legal documents shown to **Mao Hengfeng's** family, the decision by local authorities to detain her was made on 24 September and relates to her participation in a commemorative activity for deceased petitioner (someone who is seeking redress for perceived injustices from the Government) Teng Jingdi earlier this year. However, Amnesty International believes her detention is aimed at preventing her from carrying out campaigning work during the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party scheduled to convene on 8 November.

On 30 September, Mao and several other human rights activists met in Beijing to celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival. According to her family, as the group were waiting for a bus at Shiliqiao bus station in Beijing, they were targeted by two men in plain clothes who were believed to be Shanghai police officers. The group split up as the two men approached the activists. Mao got on to a bus but was tailed by a police car. Shortly after this she was apprehended and taken away. On 2 October at around 1am, Mao was taken from Beijing to Shanghai, her home city. Later that day, at 2pm, the Shanghai police notified Mao's family that Mao was detained in the Yangpu district police detention centre in Shanghai under suspicion of "gathering to disturb order at a public place" under article 291 of the Chinese Criminal Code.

Amnesty International considers Mao Hengfeng to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for her work as a human rights campaigner/ defender.

### Please write immediately in Chinese or your own language:

- Expressing concern that Mao Hengfeng is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for her human rights campaigning, and calling on the authorities to release her immediately and unconditionally.
- Calling on the authorities to ensure Mao Hengfeng is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Mao Hengfeng has access to the necessary medical assistance and treatment she may require.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 NOVEMBER 2012 TO:

Chief of the Public Security Bureau,  
Yangpu Branch, Shanghai Municipal,  
Cai Tian Juzhang  
No. 2049 Pingliang Road,  
Yangpuqu, Shanghai  
200090  
People's Republic of China  
Telephone: +86 21 65431000 (Chinese  
only)  
Fax: +86 22 170130  
Email: Shyp@shyp.gov.cn  
**Salutation: Dear Chief of Public  
Security Bureau**

Chief of the Public Security Bureau,  
Shanghai Municipal,  
Zhang Xuebing Juzhang  
No.128 Wuning South Road  
Jing'an, Shanghai  
200042  
People's Republic of China  
Telephone: +86 21 62310110 (Chinese  
only)  
Fax: +86 24 062676  
Email: gaj02@shanghai.gov.cn  
**Salutation: Dear Chief of Public  
Security Bureau**

### And copies to:

Secretary of Political and Legal  
Committee of Shanghai Municipal  
Ding Xuexiang Shuji  
No.200 Renmin Avenue  
Huangpuqu, Shanghai  
200003  
People's Republic of China  
Telephone: +86 23 111111 (Chinese  
only)

**Salutation: Dear Secretary**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mao Hengfeng has been repeatedly detained for her work defending women's reproductive rights and victims of forced evictions in China. In March 2010, Mao was assigned 18 months of "Re-education Through Labour" (RTL) for her activism. While in RTL, she was tortured. She was released on 22 February 2011 on medical parole due to her high blood pressure and serious injuries caused by the torture she suffered while in detention. According to her own account, she partially lost feeling on the left half of her body and could not move properly. Shortly before her release on 22 February, Mao Hengfeng had been sent to two different hospitals for medical checks. A doctor did a CT scan on her head and found signs of bleeding in her brain.

On 24 February 2011, two days after her release on medical parole, she was taken back into custody for having violated the terms of medical parole and was detained in the Shanghai Prison Hospital. On 27 July 2011, Mao Hengfeng fell ill again, kept slipping in and out of consciousness and was unable to eat or drink water. On 28 July, the prison hospital was worried about her health condition, so decided to end her RTL. Upon her release, she remained under police surveillance.

The commemorative activity that Mao Hengfeng was attending was for petitioner Teng Jingdi, a victim of forced evictions. In China a petitioner is used to describe someone who is seeking redress for perceived injustices from the Government.

Name: Mao Hengfeng, Teng Jingdi

Gender m/f: Mao Hengfeng (f), Teng Jingdi (f)

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