

# URGENT ACTION

## FEMALE RIGHTS ACTIVIST SENT TO LABOUR CAMP

**Mao Hengfeng, a relentless campaigner for reproductive rights and against forced evictions in China, was ordered to serve 18 months "Re-education Through Labour". She is a prisoner of conscience and is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.**

On 30 October **Mao Hengfeng** was ordered to serve 18 months "Re-education Through Labour" (RTL) for "disturbing public order". In the decision notice, Mao Hengfeng was charged with participating in commemorative activities for deceased individuals on two occasions in January and July 2012 which resulted in "disturbing public order". Her husband, Wu Xuewei, has been prevented from seeing his wife when visiting the Yangpu district police detention centre in Shanghai, where she was last known to be held. He has tried to send her clothes and money. Whether Mao Hengfeng has been transferred to the RTL facility remains unknown. This is the latest development after Mao Hengfeng was apprehended on 30 September. On 2 October her family received notification that she was held on suspicion of "gathering to disturb order at a public place".

Authorities also detained other activists including **Dong Guoqing**, **Shen Yongmei** and **Cui Guofang** who were ordered to serve one year of RTL for "disturbing public order"; **Wei Qin** who was reportedly arrested for an unknown reason; and **Wang Kouma** who was taken from his home in late September and whose family was informed in mid October that he was held "on suspicion of gathering a crowd to disturb public order".

Mao Hengfeng has up to 60 days to appeal the sentence to the Shanghai Municipality People's Government. Amnesty International considers Mao Hengfeng to be a prisoner of conscience, and believes that the punishment she received was to prevent her from continuing her campaigning work during the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party scheduled to convene on 8 November.

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

- Calling on the authorities to release Mao Hengfeng immediately and unconditionally;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure Mao Hengfeng and other activists are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure Mao Hengfeng and other activists have access to legal representatives of their own choosing, and access to the necessary medical assistance and treatment they require.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 DECEMBER 2012 TO:

Director of the Shanghai Municipal Re-education Through Labour Committee

WU Junying Zhuren  
Shanghaishi Laodong Jiaoyang Guanli  
Weiyuanhui  
185 Fuzhoulu, Shanghaishi 200030  
People's Republic of China  
Telephone: +86 21 62310110  
(Chinese only)

**Salutation: Dear Director**

Chief of the Shanghai Municipal Public Security Bureau

ZHANG Xuebing Juzhang  
Shanghaishi Gong'anju  
128 Wuningnanlu  
Qing'anqu  
Shanghaishi 200042  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 21 24062676  
Email: sfacc@online.sh.cn or  
gaj02@shanghai.gov.cn  
**Salutation: Dear Director**

**And copies to:**

Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress  
WU Bangguo Weiyuanzhang  
Quanguo Renda Changwu Weiyuanhui  
Bangongting  
23 Xijiaominxiang  
Xichengqu, Beijingshi 100805  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 10 63097934  
Email: icc@npc.gov.cn or  
tgxx@npc.gov.cn (attachments only)

**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 281/12. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/039/2012/en>

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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.

A news story about the sentencing of Mao Hengfeng is available here: <http://amnesty.org/en/news/china-women-s-rights-activist-sentenced-labour-camp-2012-11-06>

Name: Mao Hengfeng, Wu Xuwei, Dong Guoqing, Shen Yongmei, Cui Guofang, Wei Qin, Wang Kouma

Gender m/f: Mao Hengfeng (f), Wu Xuwei (m), Dong Guoqing (m), Shen Yongmei (f), Cui Guofang (f), Wei Qin (m) Wang Kouma (m)

Further information on UA: 281/12 Index: ASA 17/042/2012 Issue Date: 7 November 2012