

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED CHINESE ACTIVIST IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Chinese human rights activist Cao Shunli is in a critical condition in a Beijing hospital after being denied medical treatment while in detention. She is being heavily guarded by police, and while her brother was allowed to see her, her lawyer has been denied access.

Cao Shunli was transferred to the intensive care unit of Beijing's Qinghe Emergency Center from Chaoyang District Detention Centre on 16 February. She is suffering from a number of serious health problems, including tuberculosis and liver ascites, and has not been receiving the medical treatment she needs while in detention. The authorities have denied her family's repeated appeals for her to be released on medical parole, and have also turned down their requests for her to be transferred to a specialist hospital.

On 14 September Cao Shunli was taken away by police from Beijing Capital International Airport while on her way to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend a training programme on UN human rights' mechanisms. After that she was not seen or heard from for more than five weeks. Her family received an arrest notice dated 21 October for charges of "picking quarrels and making trouble". This is 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 on 18 June, to demand greater transparency and civil society participation in the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.

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.

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

- Demanding that the authorities ensure Cao Shunli immediately receives any medical treatment she requires;
- Calling on them to release Cao Shunli immediately and unconditionally as she has been detained solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to ensure Cao Shunli has regular access to her lawyer and family.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 APRIL 2014 TO:

Director of Chaoyang District Detention
Centre

Peng Wei
No. 1 Changying Xilijia,
Chaoyang Beilu ,
Chaoyangqu,
Beijingshi 100024,
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 6548 4804 (Chinese only)

Salutation: Dear Director

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs

Li Baodong
No. 2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100701,
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 6596 1114 (Chinese only)
Email: webmaster@mfa.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Vice Minister

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun
Gong'anbu
14 Dong Chang'anjie
Dongcheng District
Beijing 100741,
People's Republic of China
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn

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 second update of UA 282/13 Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/040/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Cao Shunli and a group of human rights defenders, victims of forced evictions, former Re-education Through Labour inmates and democracy activists wrote a letter to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in October 2012 to enquire about public participation in the drafting of the state report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and to request that the details of the process be made public. In November 2012, they received a response from the MFA stating that the work of compiling the state report had not started yet. There was no further response, and on 18 June 2013, they began their sit-in protest in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing. According to the protestors, the number of people who joined the sit-in reached approximately 400 at times, including 200 from Beijing and 200 from elsewhere in China. They were mostly women. At the end of June, the MFA sent representatives to negotiate with the protestors. Both sides agreed to select a group of representatives to attend a meeting but the meeting did not take place as no mutually agreeable venue was found. The group also filed an administrative lawsuit requesting the disclosure of information related to the preparation for the state report for the UPR. A Beijing court in August turned down the case on the grounds that the state report to the UPR is a diplomatic action.

On 1 July the authorities briefly detained and took the protestors who had come from outside Beijing back to their homes. Due to a continued campaign of intimidation, the number of Beijing-based protestors in front of the Ministry also gradually diminished.

The UPR is a mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council under which it reviews, on a regular basis, the fulfilment of the human rights obligations and commitments of all 193 UN Member States. The UPR is an inter-state review process aimed at the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground. While the UPR is a state-driven process, civil society plays an important role in the review. The Human Rights Council has recommended that States prepare their report for the review through a broad consultation process at the national level with all relevant stakeholders, and civil society can also play an important role in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations adopted during the UPR.

The review of China on 22 October was the second UPR review of China's human rights record.

Name: Cao Shunli
Gender m/f: F

Further information on UA: 282/13 Index: ASA 17/008/2014 Issue Date: 21 February 2014