

URGENT ACTION

CITIZEN JOURNALISTS RELEASED ON BAIL

Three citizen journalists were released on bail on 7 April, after they had been detained for publishing reports online about the activities of petitioners' at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China. The organization they work for has thanked Amnesty International for its action on their behalf, and the international attention on their case may have helped contribute to their release.

Wang Jing, Liu Xuehong, and Xing Jian are all citizen journalists with 64 Tianwang, a website which focuses on human rights issues in China and is run by around 1,000 volunteers. They were criminally detained in Beijing on 9 March after they reported on the website about the actions of petitioners at Tiananmen Square on 5 March during the annual session of the National People's Congress. They described and provided photos of a woman who tried to set herself on fire after distributing some flyers. According to their report, four men quickly extinguished the fire and took the woman away. They also wrote about several other incidents of petitioners being taken away.

Wang Jing is from Jilin City, Jilin province, and was held at Jilin City Detention Centre, while Liu Xuehong and Xing Jian, 17, were detained at Beijing City No. 1 Detention Centre. Their mobile phones and computers are still being kept by the authorities, in addition to five computers from 64 Tianwang's office that were confiscated by Beijing police.

Many thanks to all those who took action. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation, but no more action is required at this time.

This is the first update of UA 32/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/010/2014/en>

Name: Wang Jing, (f) Liu Xuehong, (f) and Xing Jian (m)
Gender m/f: Both

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