

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER RELEASED

Human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong has been released. The authorities have placed Tang Jitian under illegal house arrest and continue to hold Teng Biao in incommunicado detention at an unknown location.

Tang Jitian, Jiang Tianyong and Teng Biao met in a restaurant on 16 February to talk about the case of a prisoner of conscience who is under illegal house arrest. The police detained Tang Jitian the same day and the other two men on 19 February in Beijing.

On 5 April, police escorted Tang Jitian to his house in his hometown in Jilin province, where he remains under illegal house arrest. According to his friends and family, he is currently suffering from tuberculosis but is not receiving adequate medical treatment because he is held under illegal house arrest.

Jiang Tianyong was allowed to return to his Beijing home on 19 April. He had been held in incommunicado detention for two months. During that time the authorities did not give his family any information on his whereabouts or a notice of his detention or arrest.

Teng Biao continues to be held incommunicado at an unknown location. The police have not provided his family with any formal notice of detention.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, Chinese or your own language:

- Welcoming the release of Jiang Tianyong;
- Urging the authorities to release Tang Jitian immediately and unconditionally, unless he is to be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial in full conformity with international fair trial standards;
- Urging the authorities to guarantee Tang Jitian access to any medical care he may need;
- Urging the authorities to immediately clarify the current status and whereabouts of Teng Biao;
- Urging the authorities to release Teng Biao if he is not to be charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial in full conformity with international fair trial standards;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that as long as Teng Biao remains in detention, he has access to family, legal representation of his choice, and any medical care he may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 JUNE 2011 TO:

Director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau

Fu Zhenghua Juzhang
Beijingshi Gong'anju
9 Dongdajie, Qianmen
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100740
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65242927

Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

WU Aiyong Buzhang
Sifabu
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu
Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 10 65292345

Email: pfmaster@legalinfo.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China

MENG Jianzhu Buzhang
Gong'anbu
14 Dongchang'anjie
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

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: 47/11 Index: ASA 17/009/2011 Issue Date: 28 February 2011. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/009/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tang Jitian, Jiang Tianyong and Teng Biao met on 16 February to talk about the case of Chen Guangcheng, a self-taught legal advisor and prisoner of conscience who was released from prison in September 2010. Since then, he has been kept under illegal house arrest with his family, denied access to independent medical assessment and care despite serious medical concerns, and prevented from leaving their house to buy food. A home video showing how Chen Guangcheng, his wife and young daughter are kept under illegal house arrest was released on 10 February and witnesses in the village reported the couple was subsequently beaten after the video was released.

Among the more than 200,000 lawyers in China, only a small proportion is willing to take the risk of representing victims of human rights violations. These lawyers constitute an important part of the *weiquan* ('rights defense') movement, which uses Chinese law to protect the rights of individuals.

Like other human rights defenders in China, these individual *weiquan* lawyers have been harassed, assaulted, kept under surveillance and prosecuted for protecting the rights of others.

The Chinese authorities have also imposed arbitrary administrative sanctions such as fines on law firms that employ *weiquan* lawyers. Moreover, they put political pressure on such law firms through control of the professional licenses of the firm and or the individual lawyers.

Tang Jitian, Jiang Tianyong and Teng Biao have all lost their professional licences to practice law; Tang Jitian permanently in 2010, and Jiang Tianyong and Teng Biao temporarily in 2009 and 2008 respectively. However, they have all continued to provide legal aid to victims of alleged human rights violations.

Since an anonymous online call on 17 February to stage a 'Jasmine Revolution' in China, a group of high profile human rights lawyers have been detained, and at least a dozen more lawyers say they have been briefly detained, pressured by the authorities, and even told by police to stop tweeting about detained people.

Further information on UA: 047/11 AI Index: ASA 17/022/2011 Issue Date: 21 April 2011

