

URGENT ACTION

CHINESE WOMAN'S DEATH SENTENCE OVERTURNED

China's Supreme People's Court called for a retrial for a woman who was sentenced to death for killing her husband after suffering months of domestic abuse. This comes after intense pressure from within China and internationally on the authorities to commute her sentence.

On 23 June, **Li Yan's** brother learnt that the Supreme People's Court overturned her death sentence in May and sent the case back to the Sichuan Provincial High People's Court for a retrial. This represents a rare reversal of its decision to approve the sentence in 2013, and comes after huge international and domestic attention on her case. Women's rights advocates and lawyers in China, along with international NGOs, demanded that her sentence be commuted.

In late 2010, 43-year-old Li Yan beat her husband to death with a gun. He abused her emotionally and physically from the beginning of their marriage in early 2009. He frequently beat her, stubbed cigarettes out on her face and during the freezing Sichuan winters locked her outside on the balcony of their apartment for several hours with little clothing. On one occasion, he cut off one of her fingers. Li Yan required hospital treatment for her injuries after one attack, and contacted the authorities several times including the police. However, they did not follow-up her complaints, initiate investigations or offer her any protection.

Li Yan was sentenced to death on 24 August 2011 by the Ziyang City Intermediate People's Court for intentional homicide under Article 232 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China. She appealed against the death sentence but the Sichuan Provincial Higher People's Court upheld the verdict on 20 August 2012. Despite Li Yan's testimonies about the abuse she suffered and evidence provided by witnesses, the court upheld the death sentence. Her appeal to the Supreme People's Court in Beijing was dismissed in 2013.

Many thanks to all those that took action. No more action is required from the UA network at this time.

This is the first update of UA 13/13. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/007/2013/en>

Name: Li Yan

Gender m/f: Female

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