

URGENT ACTION

FEMALE ACTIVIST STILL HELD IN UNKNOWN LOCATION

Fears are growing for the welfare of Chinese women's rights activist **Su Changlan**, who has been detained in an unknown location without access to a lawyer since 27 October. One of her friends is also now being held after being detained on 25 November along with Su Changlan's husband. Su Changlan could be facing charges of "endangering national security".

Activist **Su Changlan** was taken away from her home by police in Nanhai, Foshan, central Guangdong province, on 27 October. She had previously made comments on social media in support of the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. The authorities have repeatedly refused to disclose her whereabouts or the exact charges against her. On 19 November, one of her lawyers received a police notice turning down his request to visit her, which stated that she is being held on suspicion of "endangering national security" and "terrorist activities", but the charges have not been confirmed.

On 25 November, police in Nanhai detained Su Changlan's husband, **Chen Dequan**, and a friend, **Chen Qitong** (also known as Tian Li), who has been providing legal assistance. Su Changlan's husband was held for 11 hours, during which he had his thighs tied to a restraint chair. He also had his bank cards, mobile phone and keys to his home confiscated. Chen Qitong continues to be detained in an unknown location.

Su Changlan is a well-known activist in southern China, who has been detained several times previously due to her peaceful activities defending women's rights, on issues including family planning and domestic violence.

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

- Demanding that the authorities immediately disclose the whereabouts and legal status of Su Changlan and Chen Qitong;
- Calling on them to ensure without delay that they both have regular, unrestricted access to their lawyers and family, and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment;
- Urge the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all those detained solely for peacefully showing support for the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 JANUARY 2015 TO:

Director

Jiang Kaixin
Foshan City Public Security Bureau
No. 8 Lingnan Dadaobei, Shanchengqu
Foshan City, Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Nanhai District Detention Centre
Shishan Zhaoda Management Zone
Foshan City
Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Li Chunsheng
Guangdong Provincial Public Security
Department
No. 97 Huanghualu
Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China
Email: xf@gdga.gov.cn,
info@gdga.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Director

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 first update of UA 275/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/054/2014/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Su Changlan was questioned by police in Foshan, central Guangdong province, on two occasions in September, after she had made comments on social media in support of the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. On 27 October she was taken from her home by police for questioning at the Guicheng police station in Nanhai, Foshan. Su Changlan's husband went to the local police station and Foshan Public Security Bureau office on 28 October to enquire about her situation but the authorities refused to disclose her whereabouts. Officials at the petition office at the Public Security Bureau said the family would get a response to their enquiry within 60 days. Su Changlan's family and lawyer were told by the police that she was held at the Nanhai District Detention Centre in Foshan, but when they went there on 31 October, officers said she was not being detained there.

Torture and other ill-treatment remain endemic in all places of detention in China, and this risk is even greater for those who are not allowed access to their family or lawyer.

At least 101 people have been detained in mainland China since pro-democracy protests began in Hong Kong on 26 September, for activities such as expressing their support on social media, shaving their heads in solidarity with the demonstrators, or planning to travel to Hong Kong to join the protests. Fifty remained in detention as of 23 November, and among them, 14 have been formally arrested. This is part of a wider attempt by the Chinese authorities to silence any discussion or displays of support for the events in Hong Kong. Government censors have attempted to remove all positive mentions of the pro-democracy protests online, while forcing newspapers and TV stations to only use the state-sponsored narrative of the protests. An updated list of names and details can be found here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/chinese-activists-detained-supporting-hong-kong-protests-2014-11-07>.

Name: Su Changlan (f), Chen Qitong (f), Chen Dequan (m)

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 275/14 Index: ASA 17/055/2014 Issue Date: 28 November 2014