

URGENT ACTION

DEMAND RELEASE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Five young women activists have been criminally detained in China on suspicion of 'picking quarrels and provoking troubles' after planning events calling for an end to sexual harassment to mark International Women's Day. They could face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Wei Tingting, Wang Man, Li Tingting (aka Li Maizi) and **Zheng Churan** (aka Da Tu) were detained by police on 6 March and **Wu Rongrong** the following day. On 12 March they were criminally detained on suspicion of 'picking quarrels and provoking troubles', a charge often used in China to suppress human rights defenders and activists and which can lead to a sentence of up to five years in prison. The authorities can now hold the women for up to 37 days before deciding whether to formally charge them. A lawyer was able to visit them for the first time on 12 March at Haidian Police Station in Beijing, after previously being told they were not being held there.

The authorities confiscated the women's computers, phones, and materials for events they were planning to mark International Women's Day. Police also raided Weizhiming Women Center office in Hangzhou, a women's rights NGO that Wu Rongrong founded and where Zheng Churan and Li Tingting are staff.

All of the women are members of Women's Rights Action Group which advocates women's rights and campaigns against gender discrimination. Some of them also work on LGBTI issues. They were planning to hold public events calling for an end to sexual harassment on public transportation in several cities in China on 7 March. They had made stickers printed with "Stop sexual harassment, let us stay safe" and "Go police go, arrest those who committed sexual harassment!" which they planned to distribute at the events.

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

- Demanding that the authorities immediately and unconditionally release Wu Rongrong, Zheng Churan, Li Tingting, Wei Tingting and Wang Man;
- Calling on them to ensure that pending their release, they all have regular, unrestricted access to their lawyers and family, to any medical treatment they may require, and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 APRIL 2015 TO:

Head of Haidian Detention Centre

Yin Yanjing

Head of Haidian District Public Security

Bureau Sub-branch

Haidian District Public Security Bureau

Sub-branch

15 Changchunlu, Haidian District

Beijing, 100089

People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun Buzhang

Gong'anbu

14 Dongchang'anjie

Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Tel: 011 86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)

Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Premier

Li Keqiang Guojia Zongli

The State Council General Office

2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu,

Beijingshi 100017,

People's Republic of China

Fax: 011 86 10 65961109 (c/o Ministry of

Foreign Affairs

Email: english@mail.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 first update of UA 54/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA17/1150/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 6 March at 4pm, Wei Tingting and Wang Man were taken to Haidian Police Station in Beijing. Around midnight the same day, Li Tingting (aka Li Maizi) and Zheng Churan (aka Da Tu) were taken away from their homes in Beijing and Guangzhou respectively. Wu Rongrong was detained upon her arrival at Hangzhou Airport on 7 March at 2pm. Later that day, a friend of Wu Rongrong received a call from her with cries of pain. The line was cut almost instantly and she could not be reached again.

Women's Rights Action Group has led several successful campaigns raising public awareness on gender equality issues. They staged "Occupy the Men's Toilets" to challenge the lack of public facilities for women, shaved their heads to protest higher college admission requirements for female applicants, and organized a street protest where demonstrators wore wedding dresses spattered with red ink to bring public attention to the issue of domestic violence.

Name: Wu Rongrong (武嵘嵘) (30) , Zheng Churan (郑楚然) (aka Da Tu) (大兔) (26) , Li Tingting (李婷婷) (aka Li Maizi) (李麦子) (26) , Wang Man (王曼) (32) , Wei Tingting (韦婷婷) (26)

Gender m/f: female

Further information on UA: 54/15 Index: ASA 17/1183/2015 Issue Date: 12 March 2015