

URGENT ACTION

FEMALE RIGHTS ACTIVIST ALLOWED HOME

Human rights defender and prisoner of conscience Mao Hengfeng was allowed to leave the police detention centre where she was being held on 8 February. The Chinese authorities issued a notice allowing her to serve the rest of her “Re-education Through Labour” (RTL) term at home. She has sent her thanks to everyone who campaigned on her behalf.

On 8 February, **Mao Hengfeng**'s family were able to bring her home from Yangpu police detention centre, Shanghai. Her husband Wu Xuwei believes this is due to the international and domestic calls for her release. Mao Hengfeng's lawyer had also requested for her to be released on medical parole several times over the last two months. The decision may also be partly because the authorities at the RTL facility refused to take in Mao Hengfeng due to her poor health.

Mao Hengfeng is currently resting at home, and expressed her thanks to Amnesty International for campaigning for her release. She recalled that on 30 September 2012, while in Beijing to celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival, she was followed by approximately 20 men in plain clothes. She tried to hide in a public toilet outside Beijing's Chaoyang park, but was dragged out by some of the men, who punched and kicked her and pushed her to the floor. She was forced into a van and taken to Yangpu police station in Shanghai for questioning.

On 30 October Mao Hengfeng was ordered to serve 18 months RTL for "disturbing public order" after participating in commemorative activities earlier in the year for deceased petitioner Teng Jingdi. She was held in solitary confinement at Yangpu district police detention centre in a dark cell without windows, and was not given access to clean hot water until her health worsened. Mao Hengfeng suffers from very high blood pressure and experienced severe headaches and diarrhoea during her detention.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA Network.

This is the second update of UA: 281/12. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/042/2012/en>

Name: Mao Hengfeng
Gender: Female

Further information on UA: 281/12 Index: ASA 17/002/2013 Issue Date: 15 February 2013

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