



PETITION

FAIR TRIALS FOR ALL! FREE BU DONGWEI

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China
WU Aiyang Buzhang
Sifabu
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu
Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China

Dear Minister,

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned for the safety of Bu Dongwei who was assigned to two-and-a-half years' Re-education Through Labour in June 2006 in connection with his activities as a member of the Falun Gong movement. Bu Dongwei was accused of "resisting the implementation of national laws" and "disturbing social order" based on evidence of a verbal confession he made to police and 80 copies of Falun Gong literature discovered in his home. His family has disputed the evidence against him, saying that the police discovered no more than eight Falun Gong books when they detained him. He had previously served a term of Re-education Through Labour from August 2000 to May 2001 during which he was reportedly subjected to torture and other ill-treatment aimed at forcing him to renounce his belief in Falun Gong. We consider Bu Dongwei to be a prisoner of conscience, detained in violation of his human rights to freedom of expression and religious belief, and urge you to secure his immediate and unconditional release. Pending his release, we urge you to ensure that Bu Dongwei is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while in custody.

The ongoing incarceration of Bu Dongwei and many others in Re-education Through Labour or others forms of punitive administrative detention imposed without charge, trial or judicial review, runs counter to commitments made by numerous Chinese officials that human rights would improve in the run-up to the Olympic Games in Beijing. Such abuses also contravene fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter relating to the preservation of human dignity and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles. We urge the authorities to address such abuses with a view to ensuring a positive human rights legacy for the Olympic Games in August 2008.

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