
Pour diffusion immédiate

LA CHINE DEVRAIT LIBÉRER LES MILITANTS POUR LES DROITS HUMAINS, AFFIRME LE RÉSEAU JURIDIQUE

TORONTO, 13 mars 2006 — Le Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida s'est joint au China AIDS Solidarity Network (CASN), une coalition internationale d'organismes de lutte contre le VIH/sida et pour les droits humains, d'experts en santé publique ainsi que d'universitaires, pour exhorter la Chine à libérer les militants pour les droits humains qu'elle a emprisonnés pour avoir pris part à une grève de la faim pacifique.

Les autorités chinoises détiennent depuis la mi-février plus de 12 militants qui ont pris part, tour à tour, à une grève de la faim pour protester contre l'emprisonnement arbitraire et la violence à l'égard d'autres activistes pour les droits humains, en Chine. Les participants, y compris l'activiste anti-sida Hu Jia, ont été emprisonnés ou ont tout simplement disparu après avoir annoncé leur intention de se joindre à la grève de la faim. Hu Jia est porté disparu depuis le 16 février. La police refuse de divulguer tout renseignement au sujet de sa détention, même à son épouse.

« Le harcèlement, la détention et la disparition d'activistes, en Chine, sont des violations claires et scandaleuses de droits humains internationaux. C'est pourquoi quelque 100 organismes de la société civile, éminents universitaires et experts du monde entier dénoncent ces actions injustifiées, a déclaré Joanne Csete, directrice générale du Réseau juridique. Ces militants sont réduits au silence au moment où l'on a le plus besoin d'eux pour lutter contre des injustices sociales, y compris celles liées au VIH/sida. Nous prenons leur défense et réclamons leur libération. »

Dans une lettre ouverte au président chinois Hu Jintao, le CASN (qui travaille en solidarité avec des activistes chinois pour la lutte au sida) demande des renseignements sur le lieu de détention des militants, une assurance de leur sécurité et de leur bien-être et, finalement, leur libération. Le texte complet de la lettre est accessible à www.aidslaw.ca.

Au sujet du Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida

Le Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida (www.aidslaw.ca) œuvre à la promotion des droits humains des personnes vivant avec le VIH/sida ou vulnérables au VIH, au Canada et dans le monde, par ses travaux de recherche, d'analyse juridique et des

politiques, d'éducation et de mobilisation communautaire. Le Réseau juridique est l'organisme chef de file au Canada sur les enjeux juridiques et de droits de la personne liés au VIH/sida.

– 30 –

Pour de plus amples renseignements :

Available in English

Leon Mar
Directeur des communications
Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida
Téléphone : +1 416 595-1666 (poste 228)
Courriel : lmr@aidslaw.ca
Site Internet : www.aidslaw.ca

Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China
c/o Zhou Wenzhong
Chinese Ambassador to the United States
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
2300 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington DC 20008

Dear President Hu:

As scholars, lawyers, and human rights advocates, we, the undersigned, write to express our grave concern about the reports of recent abductions and detentions of our colleagues—lawyers and rights defenders in China who are engaged in a peaceful hunger strike.

We understand that a number of Chinese human-rights defenders who supported or participated in a hunger strike that started February 4, 2006 are being arrested or have gone missing. We urge you to clarify their exact whereabouts, ensure their safety, and release them unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

It has been reported that Gao Zhisheng, a prominent defence lawyer, launched the hunger strike to protest recent beatings and detentions of human-rights activists and their defence lawyers. Showing their solidarity, dozens of supporters from various parts of China have quickly joined the relay hunger strike in turn. On March 4, police detained Gao Zhisheng in Beijing.

Multiple reports describe the detention and abduction of several of those who have participated in or supported the hunger strike. China does not permit independent human rights groups to work openly in the country, and the following list is based on available information:

HIV/AIDS activist Hu Jia was closely followed by police until he disappeared on February 16. Police have repeatedly refused to give his wife information about his detention.

Qi Zhiyong, a pro-democracy activist, went missing at around 11 p.m. on February 15. He reportedly sent a text message to friends at the time saying that he was being kidnapped.

Zhao Xin, Executive Director of the Empowerment and Rights Institute, a Chinese human-rights NGO, has been detained in Yunnan. His family was given no formal notice of his detention, but police warned his father not to tell anyone about his detention.

Yu Zhijian, a pro-democracy activist who was prominent in the 1989 demonstrations, joined the hunger strike; he has been charged with subversion.

Artist and activist Yan Zhengxue was taken away by police on February 12, after his meeting with Gao Zhisheng.

Mao Hengfeng, a Shanghai-based activist, was detained by police on February 13. The police reportedly refused to disclose to her husband where she was being detained.

Shanghai housing rights activist Chen Xiaoming was detained on February 15 or 16 by police, who cited his participation in the hunger strike.

Wen Haibo and Ma Wendu, assistants to Gao Zhisheng, were reportedly detained on February 16 and interrogated for 48 and 20 hours, respectively, before being placed under tight police surveillance in their homes.

Ouyang Xiaorong, a computer software programmer who also went to Beijing to assist Gao

Zhisheng with the hunger strike, was reportedly detained at the same time.

Shanghai police detained housing rights activist Ma Yalian on February 15.

Professor Wang Lizhuang, who has been active in protesting forced evictions in Shanghai, was detained by police on February 21.

In Guangxi, lawyer Yang Zhaixin has been placed under house arrest.

Anhui activist Hou Wenbao was detained on March 1, the same day he announced plans to join the hunger strike.

We are also concerned about reports from many regions of the country of the beatings, intimidation, and harassment of rights defenders and supporters of the protest.

The right to freedom of expression, including the freedom to peacefully protest, is a fundamental human right protected both by China's constitution and by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China has signed. A hunger strike is a peaceful form of protest. As scholars, lawyers, and human-rights advocates, we urge you to ensure that our colleagues in China are able to enjoy their right to freedom of expression.

We call on you to ensure that all human-rights defenders, including those named above and others supporting or participating in the hunger strike, are allowed to continue their peaceful activities without fear of arbitrary detention, harassment, or other human-rights violations.

Yours sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Policy Project, USA
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canada
Center for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, USA
China AIDS Solidarity Network, USA
China Labor Watch, USA
Committee for Human Rights of the American Anthropological Association, USA
Human Rights Watch
Independent Chinese PEN Center
Initiatives Femmes Enfants et Développement (IFED), Democratic Republic of Congo
International Advocates for Justice, USA
Liberty Now, Nigeria
Olympic Watch, Czech Republic
Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group, Thailand

ACADEMICS

Professor Geremie R. Barmé
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
The Australian National University, Australia

Professor Jagdish Bhagwati
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Professor Jerome Cohen
New York University School of Law
New York, NY, USA

Dr. Gloria Davies
Monash University

Professor Michael C. Davis
J. Landis Martin Visiting Professor of Law
Northwestern University Law School
Chicago, IL, USA

Professor Theodore De Bary
Columbia University
NY, NY, USA

Professor Anne Donchin
Emerita Professor of Philosophy
Indiana University
Indianapolis, IN, USA

Professor John Gershman
Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
New York, USA

Dr. Gerry Groot
Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies, CAS Post Graduate Coordinator
Centre for Asian Studies
The University of Adelaide
Adelaide, Australia

Professor Victoria Tin-bor Hui
Department of Political Science
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN, USA

Professor Sandra Hyde
McGill University
Montreal, Quebec Canada

Professor Perry Link
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ USA

Professor Samuel Martinez
Dept of Anthropology
University of Connecticut
Former Chair (2003-04) Committee for Human Rights of the American Anthropological Association
CT, USA

Professor Andrew J. Nathan
Department of Political Science [his dept was not included in the info I have]
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Cynthia R. Pearson, Ph.D.
University of Washington
Seattle, WA, USA

James D. Seymour, Ph.D.
Honorary Senior Research Fellow
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong

Patricia Siplon, Ph.D.
Political Science Department, Saint Michael's College
Colchester, VT, USA

Dorothy J. Solinger
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA, USA

Arlene Stein, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ, USA

Professor Carol Vance
Columbia University School of Social Work
New York, NY, USA

Professor Peter Van Ness
Contemporary China Centre, RSPAS
Australian National University
Australia

Professor Eileen Rose Walsh
Luce Assistant Professor of Asian Studies
Skidmore College, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work
Saratoga Springs, NY, USA

INDIVIDUALS WITH ORGS/TITLES

Marce Abare
Student Global AIDS Campaign

Innih Archibong
Executive Director, Liberty Now
Uyo, Nigeria

Abu A. Brima
Network Movement for Justice and Development
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Christine Clarke
China Labor Watch

Sara L. M. Davis, Ph. D.
Writer
New York, NY USA

Lidia Alpizar Duran
Program Manager
Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
Mexico City, Mexico

Carolyn Hsu
Human Rights in China
NY, NY, USA

Tshiswaka Masoka Hubert
Action Contre l'Impunité pour le Droits Humains, ACIDH
Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Chris Hufstader
Reporter/Writer/Editor
Salem, MA, USA

Jia Ping, Beijing China

Edouard Kabazimya
Initiatives Femmes Enfants et Developpement - IFED
Bukavu, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Tim Kingston
HIV/AIDS Journalist
Oakland, CA, USA

Kate Krauss
Somerville, MA USA

Dinah Lee Küng
La Ferme Sous-les-Roches
St-Cergue, Switzerland

Sharonann Lynch
Health GAP (Global Access Project)
New York, NY USA

Kevin Mccready
Translator

Edith Mirante
Author
Portland, OR, USA

Heddy Nam
Amnesty International USA
New York, NY, USA

Bess Rothenberg, Ph.D.
Center for the Study of Human Rights
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

K. Sukumaran
Advocate
Gudalur, Tamil Nadu, India

Chris Thurlow
Empowerment and Rights Institute
Beijing, China

Laurie Wen
ACT UP New York
New York, NY USA

RANDOM INDIVIDUALS

Jeton Ademaj
New York, NY, USA

Craig B. Brush
BA, Princeton University; MA and PhD, Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Erkanda Bujari, Ph.D. Candidate
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Lesley Carson
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Maggie Chan
Barnard College
New York, NY, USA

Samantha Chan
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Margaret Childers
New York, NY, USA

Aditi Chokshi
Student, Economics and Political Science, Human Rights
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Sarah K. Chynoweth, MA
New York, NY, USA

Kathleen Cioffi, Ph.D.
Claremont, CA, USA

Katrina J. Ciraldo
Miami Beach, FL, USA

Sean Colenso-Semple
New York, NY, USA

Adrian R. Coman
New York, NY, USA

Matthew Dunne
Columbia Law School, class of 2007
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Ana Echague
Madrid, Spain

Samantha Elghanayan
Columbia College
New York, NY, USA

Bede Eziefule, MA
Lagos, Nigeria

Amy Fettig, J.D.
Washington, DC, USA

Wendy Francois
Columbia College
Miami, FL, USA

Meghan Gallagher
Columbia University Law School

Ganriella Geanuleas
Columbia Law School
NY, NY, USA

Jenny Chao
Columbia Law School
New York, NY, USA

Angelica Chazaro
Columbia Law School
New York, NY, USA

Joy Chia
Columbia Law School
New York, NY, USA

Allen Durgin
CUNY Graduate Student
New York, NY, USA

Misty Duvall
Columbia Law School
New York, NY, USA

Grace Harbour
Amazing Grace

Susanna Heinz
New York, NY, USA

Matt Hoover
New York, NY, USA

Jane Huang
Graduate student

Alex Jung
St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Karyn Kaplan, Bangkok, Thailand

Thomas Kara
Norwood, Missouri, USA

Randy Klein
Jersey City, NJ, USA

Devon Knowles

Emily Kutolowski
New York, NY, USA

Stephanie Lazar
New York, NY, USA

Kimberly Lehmkuhl
Columbia University School of Law, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs
New York, NY, USA

Richard Madsen
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA, USA

Laura J. Marks
Forest Hills, NY, USA

Tanaz Moghadam
Columbia Law School
New York, NY, USA

Fatmira Myeteberi
New York, NY, USA

Abigail D. Ortega
Social Work Student
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Ashling Pearson
London, ENGLAND

Shiba Phurailatpam
Belgium

Eva Pils

New York, NY USA

Gene Richardson
Cornell Medical School
New York, NY, USA

Elise Serbaroli
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

Mary F. Sexton
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Judith Shampanier, Esq./JD
Pelham, NY, USA

Anuja Singh
Columbia College
Ocala, FL, USA

Onkar Singh
Master of International Affairs

Anne C. Stephens, MIA, SIPA
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

James Mead Stephenson
New York, NY, USA

Keith Supko
Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, 1992 graduate
Boston, MA, USA

Jennifer Tsai
New York, NY USA

Amy Weber
New York, NY, USA

Rob Wile
Columbia University
New York, NY, USA

William T. Wilson
Chicago, IL, USA

Diana Wong
New York, NY, USA

Asrat Tesfayesus
Columbia Law School
New York, NY, USA

Loretta Wong, Hong Kong

Andrea J. Worden
Washington, DC USA

Michele Wray Khateri, MIA
East Rutherford, NJ, USA

Julia Wright
Fordham Law student
New York, NY, USA