

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS INDICTED FOR COMMEMORATING TIANANMEN

Four activists have been indicted for “inciting subversion of state power” for producing and promoting their own *baijiu* (a popular Chinese liquor) that commemorated the 27th anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown. They are considered to be prisoners of conscience and should be immediately and unconditionally released.

Fu Hailu, Chen Bing, Zhang Jinyong and Luo Fuyu, were formally indicted for “inciting subversion of state power” on 24 March 2017 for discussing the production of a label for “*baijiu*” (a Chinese alcohol) commemorating 4 June 1989, the date of the Tiananmen Square crackdown. According to the indictment recently released by their lawyers, the activists used the labels and the “commemoration wine” (*jinian-jiu*) to “promote the June 4th incident on the internet”. All four activists are currently detained at Chengdu City Detention Centre in Sichuan province, southwest China.

The indictment further stated that Zhang Jinyong, Luo Fuyu and Chen Bing allegedly spent 9000 yuan (US\$ 1300) to buy the wine, bottles and bottle caps in a supermarket in Sichuan and used the labels which translate into “Remember, Eight Liquor June 4” (*mingji baijiu liusi*) echoing the date of 4 June 1989 and “27 year-old private reserve, not-for-sale”. Luo Fuyu has been accused of designing one of the labels while the other three activists agreed with the design.

On 26 May 2016, Fu Hailu and Zhang Jinyong posted the message about the “commemoration wine” on the internet and marked the price at 89.64 yuan, again echoing the date of 1989 crackdown, for two bottles. The message was reposted by many people and Fu Hailu sold dozens of bottles before his arrest. Between 28 May and 21 June 2016, public security officers detained the four activists and found a further 900 sets of empty bottles and bottle caps.

Prohibited to meet their lawyers during the initial stages of investigation, the four activists were allowed legal counsel for the first time in late September 2016, more than three months after they had been detained.

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

- Immediately and unconditionally release Fu Hailu, Chen Bing, Zhang Jinyong and Luo Fuyu as they have been detained solely for exercising the rights to freedom of expression;
- Ensure that while detained they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and have prompt access to their lawyers and family.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 JUNE 2017 TO:

Director
Chengdu City Detention Centre
Zhengyilu
Anqingzhen
Pi Xian, Chengdushi 611731
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Procurator-General
Lü Yao
Chengdu City People's Procuratorate
No. 216 Julelu
Wuhouqu, Chengdushi
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 28 8778 2696
Salutation: Dear Procurator-General

And copies to:
Premier
Li Keqiang Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyou jie, Xicheng Qu
Beijing Shi 10017
People Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6596 1109 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR LIU XIAOMING, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place W1B 1JL, 020 7299 4049, press_uk@mfa.gov.cn

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 138/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/4483/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In April 1989, protests led by some university students in Beijing who gathered initially to mourn senior Communist Party official Hu Yaobang quickly spread across the country. The students demanded an end to corruption by officials, and called for political and economic reforms. Their demands drew wide public support. Peaceful demonstrations took place in Beijing and throughout China. The authorities failed to persuade the demonstrators to return home. As tensions escalated in Beijing, martial law was declared on 20 May 1989.

On the night of 3 June 1989, heavily armed troops and hundreds of armoured vehicles moved into the city to 'clear' the pro-democracy demonstrators. Many individuals, including children and elderly people, were shot dead by troops. By 4 June 1989, the troops took full control of Beijing.

An official report issued by the Chinese authorities at the end of June 1989 claimed that "more than 3,000 civilians were wounded and over 200, including 36 college students, died during the riot". The report also stated that several dozen soldiers died. Yet the government has never accepted responsibility for the human rights violations during the military crackdown or held any perpetrator legally accountable. With each year that passes, justice becomes ever more elusive for family members of the hundreds if not thousands who were killed or injured in Beijing and across China.

Immediately after the military crackdown, the authorities began to hunt down those involved in the demonstrations. Many civilians were detained, tortured, or imprisoned after unfair trials. Many were charged with 'counter-revolutionary' crimes. 'Counter-revolutionary' offences were removed from the Criminal Law in 1997, yet the cases of those already jailed for these offences such as those involved in the 1989 pro-democracy protests were not reviewed.

The government's hardline stance towards reassessing the Tiananmen crackdown can be seen in how it treats the people who have bravely tried to commemorate the event such as the Tiananmen Mothers, an advocacy group composed mainly of parents whose children were killed in the 1989 military crackdown. These individuals face restrictions on their movement, harassment, and surveillance. Jiang Peikun, the husband of Ding Zilin and one of the founders of the Tiananmen Mothers, died in 2015 before he was able to see justice for his son Jiang Jieliang, who was shot through the heart on the night of 3 June 1989. The last known person in detention for activities directly related to the 1989 military crackdown, Miao Deshun, was released from prison in October last year.

Further information on UA: 138/16 Index: ASA 17/6262/2017 Issue Date: 17 May 2017