

URGENT ACTION

FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL EXECUTED

Zhao Liping was executed on 26 May 2017 following the approval by the Supreme People's Court of his death sentence with immediate execution. The decision was made despite serious concerns about whether he had received a fair trial and allegations that his "confession" was made after being subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.

Zhao Liping, a former Communist Party Secretary of the Public Security Department of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, was executed on 26 May 2017. His legal team had hoped that the Supreme People's Court would issue a re-trial following allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, the lack of legal representation during his first nine months of detention as well as conflicting witness testimonies. However, the death sentence was approved and on 26 May 2017 officials from the Shanxi Taiyuan Intermediate People's Court carried out the order from the Supreme People's Court and executed Zhao Liping. His family was able to visit him before the execution.

Although there is some indication that the number of executions has decreased since the Supreme People's Court began reviewing all death sentences in 2007, it remains impossible to independently verify these claims due to the lack of transparency.

Amnesty International continues to challenge the Chinese authorities to prove that they are achieving their goal of reducing the application of the death penalty by publishing annual figures to document the number of death sentences handed down and executions carried out.

No further action is required of the network. Thank you to all of those who sent appeals.

This is the first update for UA 115/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/6326/2017/en/>

