

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST DETAINED FOR COMMEMORATING JUNE 4

Activist Li Xiaoling was criminally detained on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” for commemorating the 28th anniversary of the Tiananmen Crackdown. She is suffering from glaucoma but has not been given proper treatment. Eight others were also detained for the same charge.

Guangdong activist **Li Xiaoling** was taken away by Beijing police after several photos were posted online showing her holding a placard with a slogan commemorating the Tiananmen crackdown and putting candles on the ground near the Beijing National Grand Theatre at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on the evening of 3 June. She was taken to the Xicheng Branch of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau in the early morning of 4 June and later criminally detained on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”

Li Xiaoling's lawyer Lin Qilei visited Li Xiaoling in Beijing Xicheng District Detention Centre on 7 June. Li Xiaoling told him that she went to Beijing on 2 June to petition against Zhuhai police. She was detained by Zhuhai police in Guangdong province for seven hours on 20 May, delaying her request to go to the hospital for acute glaucoma treatment. Lin Qilei said Li Xiaoling told him that during interrogation the police asked her questions about her actions, including the photo action she took at Tiananmen Square. The authorities have only allowed her to use eye drops three times per day although doctors advised her to use it every two hours. Her eyes are in a lot of pain.

Eight other activists – **Zhou Li, Li Xuehui, Quan Jianhu, Bu Yongzhu, Zhao Chunhong, Zhao Xin, Liang Yankui and Ding Yajun** – were also detained by the police officers from the Xicheng Branch of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau. They are friends of Li Xiaoling and merely accompanied her in Beijing but did not take part in the action. They were each criminally detained on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”. All of them, except Ding Yajun, have met with their lawyers.

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

- Immediately or unconditionally release Li Xiaoling, Zhou Li, Li Xuehui, Quan Jianhu, Bu Yongzhu, Zhao Chunhong, Zhao Xin, Liang Yankui and Ding Yajun unless there is credible evidence that they may have committed an internationally recognized offence and are granted a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that they are allowed access to their family, a lawyer of their choice and adequate medical care.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 AUGUST 2017 TO:

Director

Beijing Xicheng District Detention Centre
Dougezhuang Jiasanhao
Qiliquxiang
Changpingqu, Beijingshi 102206
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Wang Xiaohong
No. 9 Qianmen Dongdajie
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100740
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun
14 Dong Chang'anjie
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional activists were also detained for commemorating the 28th anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown this year. Ten activists in Zhuzhou, Hunan province, were briefly detained for between a few hours to 10 days. They used candles and their bodies to form the Chinese characters *liu si* – meaning “six, four” the date that is used in the Chinese language as a shorthand for the Tiananmen crackdown – and uploaded the photos online to commemorate the 28th anniversary of Tiananmen crackdown on 3 June. Nanjing activist Shi Tingfu was taken away by police from his home and criminally detained on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” on 5 June after he wore a shirt with the phrase of “Don’t Forget June 4” and made a speech in front of the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall on 4 June. He is currently detained at Yuhuatai District Detention Centre in Nanjing. Chongqing activists Pan Bin and Xue Renyi lost contact with their family and friends on 1 and 2 June respectively and there is no further information about their current situation.

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 3-4 June 1989, troops from the People’s Liberation Army entered Beijing to put an end to weeks of peaceful protests and occupation of Tiananmen Square by students to demand political reforms, killing hundreds, if not thousands, of unarmed protestors. 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 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.