

URGENT ACTION

TORTURE FEARS FOR DETAINED HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

Human rights defender Zhen Jianghua has been criminally detained since 2 September 2017 for “inciting subversion of state power”. Executive director of an online platform “Human Rights Campaign in China”, he is being detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression. All requests by his lawyers to meet with him have been rejected, increasing concerns that he is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Zhen Jianghua has been criminally detained on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” since 2 September 2017 and, according to a notification received by his family on 7 September, is being held at the Zhuhai City No.1 Detention Centre. To date, all requests from Zhen Jianghua’s lawyers to meet with him have been rejected. In addition, according to one of his lawyers, the national security officer-in-charge of Zhen Jianghua’s case warned them not to “release any information about his case on social media”.

Taken away from his home in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province on the night of 1 September 2017, Zhen Jianghua was brought back again a few hours later by dozens of police officers. His residence was then searched and his phones and laptops confiscated. While his girlfriend was also taken into custody at this time, and her phone and computer also seized, she was released from custody at 4 pm on 2 September 2017.

On 2 September 2017, police performed a second search of Zhen Jianghua’s home. They confiscated numerous documents relating to his website, “Human Rights Campaign in China” (www.hrcchina.org), which documents the human rights situation in China through reports by grassroots rights activists. Since Zhen Jianghua’s arrest, police have questioned his friends and family members, warning them not to disclose the details about his detention to the outside world.

Zhen Jianghua is a human rights defender with over 10 years’ experience working for marginalized communities in China and has been detained several times as a result of his human rights activism. Without access to a lawyer, there are concerns that Zhen Jianghua is at real risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

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

- Immediately and unconditionally release Zhen Jianghua as he has been detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Ensure that, pending his release, Zhen Jianghua is protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention, and that he is allowed, without delay, effective access to his family, and lawyer of his choice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 NOVEMBER 2017 TO:

Director
Zhuhai City No. 1 Detention Centre
Gongancheng A Qu
Jinghuilu
Xiangzhouqu
Zhuhai 519070
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Director
Li Chunsheng Tingzhang
Guangdong Provincial Department of Public Security
97 Huanghualu
Guangzhoushi
Guangdongsheng 510050
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:
Minister of Public Security
Guo Shengkun Buzhang
Ministry of Public Security
14 Dongchanganjie
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

Zhen Jianghua, also known by his online pen name “Guests Zhen”, serves as executive director for Human Rights Campaign in China, a virtual organization that campaigns for human rights defenders at risk and helps rights holders to document and publicize the human rights violations they experienced. Zhen Jianghua is also the executive editor and founder of ATGFW.ORG, a website which advocates against Internet censorship and teaches people how to access censored information by circumventing the Great Firewall of China. In addition, he has also led a HIV/AIDS prevention education project in Zhuhai, hosted by Hong Kong AIDS Foundation.

On 3 September 2016, Zhen Jianghua travelled to Wukan village, Guangdong province, in support of the protest against illegal land grabbing by the local government. As he was about to leave Wukan, he was detained and questioned by the police for over 24 hours on suspicion of inciting a protest in Wukan village. Upon his release, on 7 September, Zhen Jianghua published an online public statement about his detention and, that same night, was detained again until the following day for interrogation on suspicion of “inciting participation in illegal rallies, marches and demonstrations”.

Over the years, China has made further efforts to reinforce its already oppressive internet censorship architecture. Thousands of websites and social media services are forced to censor their content, while some platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are blocked. China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced in January 2017 that the government had launched a 14-month campaign to crack down on ‘unauthorized’ Internet platforms. The Government’s pre-approval is required for offering VPN services, a tool used to evade China’s internet censorship, and according to local media several people have been prosecuted this year for supplying and selling VPN products and services.

In addition, a number of citizen journalists and directors of local news outlets that publicise articles and information about human rights incidents in China have been detained and imprisoned. Six journalists from Sichuan-based website “64 Tianwang” (64tianwang.org) were detained for covering protests in relation to the G20 Summit in Hangzhou in September 2016 while its founder, Huang Qi, has been detained since November 2016, and formally arrested for “leaking state secrets” in December 2016. The founder and director of Hubei-based human rights website “Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch” (www.msguancha.com), Liu Feiyue, was formally arrested for “inciting subversion of state power” in December 2016 and is now facing an additional charge of “leaking state secrets”. Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend Li Tingyu, who managed a blog (wickedonna.blogspot.com) and a Twitter account (@wickedonnaa), that compiled and released data on strikes, protests and rural unrest in China, were both criminally detained on 15 June 2016 on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”. Li Tingyu was released on bail after a court trial on 10 April 2017 while Lu Yuyu was sentenced to four years imprisonment for “picking quarrels and provoking trouble.”

Activists and human rights defenders continued to be systematically subjected to monitoring, harassment, intimidation, arrest and detention. Police detained increasing numbers of human rights defenders outside of formal detention facilities, sometimes without access to a lawyer for long periods, exposing the detainees to the risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

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