

# URGENT ACTION

## SWEDISH DOCTOR DENIED ACCESS TO BOOKSELLER

**A Swedish doctor has been denied access to Gui Minhai according to a statement released by the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Hong Kong bookseller is urgently in need of medical care, and it remains unclear whether he has access to a lawyer of his choosing or if his family members have been able to visit him since he was again detained in January 2018.**

**Gui Minhai** was prevented from meeting with a Swedish doctor on 7 March 2018, according to a statement released by the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström the following day. She further went on to say that China's action was "unacceptable" and broke previous assurances that Gui Minhai would be given the opportunity to see a Swedish doctor.

In an almost unprecedented move, China's Ministry of Public Security arranged on 9 February for Gui Minhai to meet several journalists from mainland Chinese, Hong Kong and Taiwanese media outlets at Ningbo City Detention Centre in Zhejiang province, eastern China where Gui Minhai is currently being held.

On camera, with two Chinese police officers behind him, Gui Minhai stated that the Swedish diplomats had persuaded him to go to Beijing and further accused the Swedish government of using him as a "chess piece" to make trouble for Beijing. After the 20-minute interview was completed, the Ministry of Public Security issued a statement saying the authorities had imposed coercive measures on Gui Minhai as he was suspected of having leaked state secrets abroad.

Gui Minhai was on a train from Ningbo to Beijing on 20 January 2018, accompanied by two Swedish diplomats, when he was suddenly taken away by approximately ten plainclothes officers. Travelling to Beijing to seek official diagnosis for what is believed to be ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, Gui Minhai is in urgent need of medical care. According to his daughter, due to his neurological condition, Gui Minhai can no longer control his fingers on his left side, his right hand is experiencing problems, and he is now having difficulties walking.

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

- Release Gui Minhai and drop the charges against him unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Grant Gui Minhai prompt, regular and unrestricted access to medical care on request or as necessary;
- Ensure that Gui Minhai has unrestricted access to consular officials, a lawyer of his choice and his family.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 APRIL 2018 TO:**

#### Director of Ningbo City Detention Centre

Ren Jianwei  
Ningboshi Kanshousuo  
256 Qinyuanjie  
Haishuqu  
Ningbo Shi, Zhejiangsheng  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: +86 574 81982120 (Chinese only)  
Email: nbsgaj@ningbo.gov.cn  
**Salutation: Dear Director**

#### Minister of Public Security

Zhao Kezhi  
14 Dongchang'anjie  
Dongchengqu  
Beijing Shi 100741  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### **And copies to:**

President  
Xi Jinping  
Zhongnanhai  
Xichang'anjie  
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 10017  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 10 63070900

**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](mailto:press_uk@mfa.gov.cn)

**Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.** This is the first update of UA 21/18. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/7817/2018/en/>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gui Minhai, a Swedish national who had once run a large Chinese language publishing business in Hong Kong known for books exposing political scandals of Chinese leaders, has been denied access to lawyers and consular officials.

His case drew international attention after he first went missing in Thailand on 17 October 2015, about the same time that three of his company colleagues went missing. Another associate, Lee Bo, was taken away from Hong Kong on 30 December 2015. Gui Minhai later reappeared on Chinese state television in January 2016 to give a choreographed televised “confession” regarding an alleged traffic incident that took place in 2003. Many believe that the drunk driving charge was simply a pretence to detain Gui Minhai and shut down his publishing business.

In October 2017, Gui Minhai was “released” after he had, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, “completely served the sentence imposed for a traffic offence”, however his daughter has since raised concerns that Gui Minhai remained under state surveillance and monitoring after his supposed release.

The *Mighty Current Media* and the Causeway Bay Bookstore that Gui Minhai led were known for their books on Chinese leaders and political scandals, which are banned in mainland China but are popular with mainland Chinese tourists visiting Hong Kong. The detention and disappearances of Gui Minhai and the other booksellers had a chilling effect on the climate for freedom of expression and publishing in Hong Kong and the Chinese-speaking world.

The detention of Gui Minhai once again has raised serious concerns in the international community. The Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström issued a statement that called for the “immediate release of our fellow citizen, and that he be given the opportunity to meet Swedish diplomatic and medical staff”. The European Union’s External Action Service reiterated Sweden’s expectation that Gui Minhai be released and called on the Chinese authorities to “...reunite with his family and to receive consular and medical support in line with his rights”. The United States called on the Chinese authorities to “to explain the reasons and legal basis for Mr. Gui’s arrest and detention, disclose his whereabouts, and allow him freedom of movement and the freedom to leave China”.

Further information on UA: 21/18 Index: ASA 17/8057/2018 Issue Date: 14 March 2018