

URGENT ACTION

RIGHTS LAWYER'S HEALTH WORSENS IN JAIL

Jailed human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong's health has deteriorated severely. He continues to be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. The government-appointed defense lawyer and other authorities have refused to share the verdict with his family.

Jiang Tianyong's sister visited **Jiang Tianyong** on 25 February 2018 at the Changsha City No.1 Detention Centre. According to his sister, Jiang Tianyong said he suffered from severe memory loss and felt weak and bloated. His wife Jin Bianling said Jiang Tianyong's health has deteriorated considerably since he was taken away by the authorities in 2016, which leads the family to suspect that he may have been drugged. Following the testimonies of several other lawyers detained in the mass crackdown on lawyers and activists in July 2015 that they had been drugged or ill-treated while in detention, there is real concern that he is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

The government-appointed defense lawyer refused to give the verdict to Jiang Tianyong's family after he was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment on 21 November 2017. Jiang Tianyong's sister requested to photocopy his verdict when she visited the detention centre in February 2018 but authorities refused without giving any reason. Up until now, only Jiang Tianyong and the government-appointed lawyer have read the verdict. Jiang Tianyong's family and chosen lawyer have had no access to the verdict. Jiang Tianyong told his sister that his date of release, as indicated in the verdict, is supposed to be 31 August 2018 but he suspects that the authorities may not release him on the scheduled date. In his trial on 21 November 2017, he pleaded guilty and decided not to appeal based on authorities' promise that he would be released in August if he did so.

Jin Bianling called publicly for the authorities to conduct an appropriate medical check-up for Jiang Tianyong, guarantee his access to medical care, and ensure that no unnecessary medication was administered to him.

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

- Immediately and unconditionally release Jiang Tianyong as he has been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Ensure that Jiang Tianyong is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that he has regular, unrestricted access to medical care on request or as necessary.
- Ensure that the court acts in accordance with international standards and provides Jiang Tianyong's chosen lawyer with the verdict handed down on 21 November 2017.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 APRIL 2018 TO:

Director
Changsha City No.1 Detention Center
1736 Yuandaerlu
Quantang Zhen
Changsha Xian, 410131
Hunan Sheng,
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

President
Xi Jinping
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017,
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6238 1025
Email: english@mail.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear President

And copies to:
Minister of Public Security
Zhao Kezhi Buzhang
Gonganbu 14 Dongchanganjie
Dongchengqu, Beijing Shi 100741
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. 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 141/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/7481/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jiang Tianyong has been involved in several high-profile cases and has supported other human rights defenders, including human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who was imprisoned and consistently harassed due to his human rights work, and blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng, who exposed forced abortion practices on villagers by local officials in Dongshigu Village in Linyi, Shandong. Prior to his current imprisonment, Jiang Tianyong was most recently detained in March 2014, after he and three other lawyers went to investigate a "black jail", or unofficial detention facility, in Jiansanjiang, Heilongjiang which allegedly detained Falun Gong practitioners. He was beaten while detained and had eight ribs fractured as a result.

He was found guilty of "inciting subversion of state power" by the Changsha City Intermediate People's Court on 21 November 2017. He was sentenced to two years of imprisonment and deprivation of political rights for three years.

Jiang Tianyong was held incommunicado for over a year and neither his family nor the family-hired lawyers were notified about the August trial in advance, in violation of Chinese law. Instead they first read about it via a news report just before the trial. Jiang Tianyong was represented by two government appointed lawyers at the trial. According to Jin Bianling, Jiang Tianyong's father was taken away by national security officers and escorted to the August trial.

His first trial was held in the Changsha City Intermediate Court on 22 August 2017, in which he admitted to the charges of "inciting subversion of state power". At the trial, he also "apologized" for fabricating rumours of torture by Chinese police and for attending overseas workshop to discuss changing China's political system. According to Jiang Tianyong's wife Jin Bianling, an "unnamed individual within the Changsha system" said Jiang Tianyong had been tortured and that his whole leg was so swollen he was unable to stand. It is possible that his confession to the charges of "inciting subversion of state power" was a result of torture or other ill-treatment.

As part of a campaign to discredit the torture allegations, mainland Chinese media released a video-recorded interview of Jiang Tianyong in February. In the video Jiang Tianyong claimed to have fabricated Xie Yang's account of torture. However, as analysts noted, Jiang Tianyong was in incommunicado detention at the time the Xie Yang torture allegations first garnered international headlines, and "forced confessions" on state-run TV have become common in China in recent years.

In January 2017, human rights lawyer Xie Yang, who had been detained in the July 2015 lawyers crackdown, talked to his lawyer, who later provided a detailed account of how Xie Yang was tortured while in detention. The torture allegations were reported widely in the international media, and in February, prompted by the troubling allegations, eleven countries wrote a non-public letter to China expressing "growing concern over recent claims of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in cases concerning detained human rights lawyers and other human rights defenders" and called on China to end the use of "residential surveillance in a designated location", -- a form of secret incommunicado detention that allows the police to hold individuals for up to six months outside the formal detention system, without access to legal counsel of their choice, their families or anybody else from the outside world, and places suspects at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. The contents of this letter were later revealed by the international press. Chinese state media issued a flurry of reports to dismiss the torture allegations as "fake news".

Nearly 250 lawyers and activists have been targeted since the unprecedented crackdown against human rights activists in the country initiated in July 2015. Lawyer Wang Quanzhang has been held in incommunicado detention for more than two years and he is the last of those targeted that is still awaiting trial.

Further information on UA: 141/17 Index: ASA 17/8014/2018 Issue Date: 9 March 2018