

URGENT ACTION

CHINESE JOURNALIST RELEASED

Prominent journalist and columnist Jia Jia went missing on 15 March while he was due to board a flight to Hong Kong. His disappearance may be connected with an online letter critical of President Xi Jinping. He was released on 27 March.

Jia Jia, a prominent mainland columnist went missing while he was at the Beijing airport, about to board a flight to Hong Kong. He was released on 27 March. His lawyer confirmed that he had now returned home but did not provide further details. Friends believe that his disappearance may be related to an open letter published on a website calling for President Xi Jinping to resign.

On 4 March, the Chinese website *Wu Jie News* published an open letter which urged President Xi Jinping to retire. **Jia Jia** – a columnist and editor unaffiliated with the website – contacted the website’s director, **Ou Yang Hongliang**, his former colleague, about the letter. The BBC reported that he warned the editor against publishing the letter, which blamed President Xi for China’s “unprecedented problems”, and went on to criticize the leader’s handling of economic, political, and foreign policy. The letter was subsequently deleted from the website.

Although Jia Jia was released, the Chinese authorities continue to question individuals it believes are behind the publication of the letter. Police are believed to have detained at least 20 people as of 25 March. This includes 3 family members of **Wen Yunchao**, a Chinese blogger and government critic; and according to the BBC, 16 people who work for *Wu Jie News*, the website which published the letter.

Many thanks to all those that took action. No more action is required from the UA Network.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 62/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/3667/2016/en/>.

Name: Jia Jia, Ou Yang Hongliang, Wen Yunchao
Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 62/16 Index: ASA 17/3736/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016

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