

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST IN DIRE NEED OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE

Imprisoned Chinese human rights campaigner Yang Maodong (better known by pen-name Guo Feixiong) started a hunger strike on 9 May to protest his humiliating and threatening treatment by the authorities. He is in ill health and is desperate need of adequate medical care.



Zhang Qing, the wife of **Guo Feixiong**, revealed in an open letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang on 19 May that Guo Feixiong had started a hunger strike on 9 May in protest of the treatment he is receiving in detention. Authorities gave Guo Feixiong a medical examination on 9 May in which they gave him a colonoscopy against his will and threatened to put a video of the colonoscopy on the internet. They also forcibly shaved his head.

Yang Maoping, Guo Feixiong's sister, visited him after the hunger strike began and she, along with Zhang Qing are seriously concerned that the hunger strike will aggravate his on-going health problems and this, and possible force feeding he may be subjected to, are putting his life at grave risk. According to Zhang Qing's open letter on 19 May (<http://www.hrichina.org/en/press-work/case-update/guo-feixiong-day-11-hunger-strike-prison-wife-asks-president-xi-jinping>) she said she will start her own hunger strike to protest against the prison's treatment of her husband.

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

- Immediately and unconditionally release Guo Feixiong, who is a prisoner of conscience;
- Ensure that for as long as he remains in detention Guo Feixiong is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and that he urgently receives a proper, thorough, confidential and independent medical examination by qualified health-care professionals, and the appropriate treatment and health care that he requires; and if he is unable to receive this while in detention, he be transferred to a civil hospital;
- Ensure that the treatment of detainees, including Guo Feixiong, meets all standards provided for in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular with regard to the provision of adequate nutrition and health care.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 JULY 2016 TO:

Director

Yangchun Prison
Songbei Township
Yangchunshi
Guangdongsheng 529615
Phone: +86 662 780 6008 (Chinese only)
Email: ycjybg@126.com

Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Li Jingyan
Guangdong Prison Administrative Bureau
298 Guangyuanzhonglu
Baiyun District, Guangzhoushi
Guangdongsheng 510405
Email: jy_bgs@gd.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Premier

Li Keqiang Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu,
Beijingshi 100017,
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65961109 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

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. This is the first update of UA 99/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/3924/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Guo Feixiong, the better-known pen-name of writer and human rights advocate Yang Maodong, has been detained since 8 August 2013. He took part in a protest against media censorship in January 2013, after Communist Party officials had sparked outrage by changing a front page editorial of the "Southern Weekly" newspaper that had called for greater civil and political rights as well as adherence to China's Constitution. On 27 November 2015 he was convicted of "gathering a crowd to disrupt order in a public place" and "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" and given a six-year prison sentence.

Guo Feixiong is a writer, rights advocate and was once a legal adviser with the Beijing-based Shengzhi Law Office. He has supported various human rights causes in the past decade. In 2005 he participated in a hunger strike in response to a call by prominent human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng for a "hunger strike group" to protest the government's crackdown on human rights activists. The hunger strike was also a protest against his previous detention and beatings following his legal support of Taishi villagers who were calling for the ouster of a village official they had accused of corruption in 2005.

Guo Feixiong had been previously detained in February 2006 and sentenced to five years in prison in November 2007 after being convicted of the crime of "illegal business activity", after he published a book entitled Shenyang Political Earthquake. Guo was subjected to several forms of torture while in detention, including being hung from the ceiling by his arms and legs while he was beaten, and being shocked with an electric baton to the face and genitals. Guo Feixiong states that he was tortured into confessing this crime, leading him to attempt suicide. Guo was released from prison in September 2011.

In September of 2015, Guo won the prestigious Frontline Defenders Award for his human rights activism.

Starting from 4 May, more than 1000 activists in China and overseas have signed a pledge to join a 24-hour hunger strike relay to support Guo Feixiong and demand his release. So far, over 200 have participated in the hunger strike.

