

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS STILL AT RISK OF TORTURE IN DETENTION

The whereabouts of two missing activists, Tang Zhishun and Xing Qingxian, are finally known after their family members revealed arrest notices dated 4 May. The two went missing on 6 October 2015, after they were detained in Myanmar while helping the son of detained lawyers leave China. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

On 18 May, activist **Xing Qingxian**'s wife posted an arrest notice on Twitter, which said that Xing was arrested on the charge of "making arrangements for another person to illegally cross the national border". The arrest notice was dated 4 May. On 22 May, **Tang Zhishun**'s family also received an arrest notice dated 4 May with the same charges. They are both being held at the Tianjin Municipal No.2 Detention Centre.

Tang, Xing, and **Bao Zhuoxuan**, the son of prominent detained Chinese lawyer **Wang Yu**, were originally taken away from a guesthouse in Mong La, a town in Myanmar close to the Chinese border, by uniformed officials and plain-clothed individuals on 6 October 2015. **Bao Zhuoxuan** was later returned to his grandparents' home in Ulanhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, in northern China, where he is being held under close surveillance by the authorities. Although state media in China denounced the actions of the Tang and Xing, and they were presumed to be in state custody, their family members and lawyers were unable to find out any information regarding their whereabouts or the charges against them. The arrest notices are the first indication of their whereabouts since they first went missing.

Both Xing and Tang were held in conditions amounting to enforced disappearance. Tang's lawyer, Qin Chenshou, said on social media that the Tianjin Public Security Bureau has appointed another defence lawyer for Tang, even though Tang's family had already entrusted him.

Both men have long-term health conditions which require medications; Tang Zhishun has hyperthyroidism and Xing Qingxian suffers from asthma and respiratory diseases. Their families fear that they will not get the medical care they need.

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

■ Calling on the Chinese authorities to ensure that Tang Zhishun and Xing Qingxian are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and have prompt access to any medical treatment on request or as needed, and to their families and lawyers of their own choosing.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 July 2016 TO:

Director

Tianjin Municipal No.2 Detention Centre
Dabian Zhuang Cun
Xiqing Qu, Zhongbei Zhen
Tianjin Shi
People's Republic of China
Phone: 86 022 27535323
Salutation: Dear Director

Bureau Director

Zhao Fei
Tianjin Public Security Bureau
Tangshan Dao 26 Hao
Heping Qu, Tianjin Shi, 300040
People's Republic of China
Phone: 86 022 27319000
Email: gazfxgk@163.com
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun
No 14. Dong Chang'an Jie
Dongcheng Qu
Beijing 100741
People's Republic of China
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. This is the first update of UA 225/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/2654/2015/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Xing Qingxian, an activist from Chengdu, used to be a technician with China Railway before he lodged a labour dispute lawsuit against the company. He was imprisoned for two years after reporting on a protest outside Chengdu Intermediate People's Court in March 2009. After being released from prison in 2011, he has been helping petitioners to draft legal documents and providing assistance to other detained activists.

Tang Zhishun, a Beijing activist, used to work at a company in Beijing which produced biological products. His activism has included protesting against forced evictions and providing assistance to detained activists.

Nearly 250 human rights lawyers and activists have been detained, missing, or brought in for questioning as part of an unprecedented nationwide crackdown which began in July 2015. Eighteen people are still in detention, having been formally arrested. Fourteen people have been arrested on either "subversion of state power" or "inciting subversion of state power", which carries a prison sentence of up to 15 years. The crackdown was accompanied by a smear campaign in state media, with lawyers and activists accused of being part of a criminal operation to "undermine social stability". For the latest information on those targets, see: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/2015/08/china-list-of-lawyers-and-activists-targeted/>.

The Tianjin PSB has been the leading organizations in carrying out the crackdown on lawyers and activists.

Further information on UA: 225/15 Index: ASA 17/4090/2016 Issue Date: 24 May 2016