

URGENT ACTION

LAWYER HELD INCOMMUNICADO AT RISK OF TORTURE

Authorities confirm that Beijing human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong, last heard from on 21 November 2016, has been placed under “residential surveillance in a designated location” on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power”. His whereabouts remain unknown and, without access to a lawyer, is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Jiang Tianyong has been placed under “residential surveillance in a designated location” on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” according to a notification received by his father-in-law on 23 December 2016 from the Changsha City Public Security Bureau. On 29 December a visitation request, made by Jiang Tianyong’s lawyer on 27 December, was rejected by the Public Security Bureau because the case involved “endangering national security”. To date, no information about Jiang Tianyong’s whereabouts has been provided.

On 16 December, mainland Chinese media reported that Jiang Tianyong had been placed under police custody for allegedly having “illegally possessed multiple secret state documents, colluded with overseas institutions, organizations and individuals, and is suspected of illegally providing state secrets abroad”. The reports cited unspecified public security authorities.

Jiang Tianyong is a well-known human rights lawyer, whose activism resulted in him being disbarred in 2009. He has since continued his work as a human rights defender, despite suffering ongoing harassment, detention and physical beatings.

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

- Urging the Chinese authorities to immediately disclose Jiang Tianyong’s whereabouts;
- Calling on the authorities to immediately release Jiang Tianyong unless there is credible evidence that he may have committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international human rights standards;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that Jiang Tianyong is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that he is allowed access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and adequate medical care.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 FEBRUARY 2017 TO:

Director

Tang Xiangyang
Changsha City Public Security Bureau
No. 140 Jiefangxilu
Changsha Shi, Hunan Sheng,
People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun
14 Dong Chang’an Jie
Dongcheng Qu,
Beijingshi 100741
People’s Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

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)
Email: premier@mail.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 second update of UA 272/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5379/2016/en/>

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Xie Yang, the detained lawyer whose wife Jiang Tianyong was visiting when he initially disappeared, is one of ten lawyers and activists who remain in detention on subversion charges following an unprecedented mass crackdown that started on 9 July 2015. Amnesty International is aware of at least 248 lawyers and activists who have been questioned or detained by state security agents since the crackdown began.

Jiang Tianyong has been involved in some 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.

The most recent detention of Jiang Tiangyong was 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.

Previously, in May 2012, Jiang Tianyong was detained by public security officers while on his way to visit Chen Guangcheng in Chaoyang Hospital, Haidian District, Beijing. Detained for nine hours, Jiang Tianyong was beaten so badly that his left eardrum was perforated and the hearing in his right ear was temporarily impaired.

Further information on UA: 272/16 Index: ASA 17/5421/2017 Issue Date: 5 January 2017