

URGENT ACTION

WEBSITE FOUNDER ARRESTED FOR “INCITING SUBVERSION”
Liu Feiyue, founder and director of Hubei-based human rights website “Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch” (www.msguancha.com), has been formally arrested for “inciting subversion of state power”. Without access to a lawyer, he remains at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Liu Feiyue’s formal arrest, for “inciting subversion of state power”, was approved by the Suizhou City Procuratorate on 23 December 2016. The written notice, stating Liu Feiyue’s location and arrest details, were only made public on 10 January when human rights organization Chinese Human Rights Defenders posted it on its website. He is currently being detained at Suizhou City Detention Centre, Hubei province.

Following notification of his formal arrest, Liu Feiyue’s lawyer has made several attempts to visit him in the detention centre however, officers at the detention centre have rejected, without reasoning, every request to date. Liu Feiyue’s family cannot be reached and, according to his lawyer, they have been warned by police not to disclose any information about Liu Feiyue’s situation. Liu Feiyue’s previous lawyer had also been pressured by authorities and was forced to end his involvement in the case.

Liu Feiyue has not been heard from since sending a text message on 17 November, where he said that state security officers had taken him to an unspecified village. His home was raided the next day by public security officers who confiscated his computers, some printed materials and other personal items.

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

- Immediately and unconditionally release Liu Feiyue if he has detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Ensure that Liu Feiyue is protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention, and that he is allowed, without delay, effective access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and that he receives an effective opportunity to challenge his detention.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 FEBRUARY 2017 TO:

Director

Tang Wenjiang
 Suizhou City Public Security Bureau
 No. 666 Jiaotong Dadao
 Suizhou Shi, Hubei Sheng
 People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Zeng Xin
 Hubei Public Security Department
 No. 181 Xiongchu Dajie
 Hongshan Qu, Wuhan Shi, Hubei Sheng
 People’s Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security
 Guo Shengkun
 14 Dong Chang’an Jie
 Dongcheng Qu
 Beijing Shi 100741
 People’s Republic of China
 Tel: +86 10 662 62114 (Chinese only)

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 274/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5246/2016/en/>

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The website "Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch" reports on human rights violations suffered by members of grassroots communities in China, particularly those who have lost their homes due to forced land evictions and have petitioned the government to seek redress. The website also posts and reposts other activists' statements on the detentions of human rights defenders and calls for their release.

State security officers have previously placed Liu Feiyue under house arrest as well as taken him for "forced travels" during politically sensitive periods, including the annual National People's Congress' session in March and prior to the Tiananmen crackdown anniversaries on 4 June.

Liu Feiyue's detention is the latest incident in the most recent crackdown on human rights defenders and those affiliated to websites reporting on the plight of grassroots activists in China.

Human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong has not been heard from since 21 November when he was due to board a train back home to Beijing. He was on his way back from Changsha, Hunan province, after visiting the wife of detained human rights lawyer Xie Yang. According to a notification received by his father-in-law from the Changsha City Public Security Bureau on 23 December, Jiang Tianyong has been placed under "residential surveillance in a designated location" on suspicion of "inciting subversion of state power" (See Urgent Action ASA 17/5421/2017 at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5421/2017/en/> for more information.)

Huang Qi, the founder of Sichuan-based human rights website "64 Tianwang" was taken away by public security officers on the evening of 28 November. Huang Qi was formally arrested for "leaking state secrets" as his family received a written notification from the Mianyang City Public Security Bureau on 16 December after he went missing for two weeks. (See Urgent Action ASA 17/5410/2017 at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5410/2016/en/> for more information).

Further information on UA: 274/16 Index: ASA 17/5479/2017 Issue Date: 13 January 2017