

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS DETAINED FOR COMMEMORATING JUNE 4

Nine activists have been detained for commemorations of the 27th anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

A total of nine activists from Beijing, Sichuan and Chongqing have been detained after commemorating the 27th Anniversary of Tiananmen crackdown. Six activists - **Zhang Baocheng, Zhao Changqing, Xu Caihong, Ma Xinli, Liang Taiping** and **Li Wei** - were criminally detained on 31 May and 1 June on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” after they gathered at Zhao Changqing’s home in Beijing on 28 May to commemorate the 27th anniversary. They also took photos with a slogan to demand release of imprisoned Guangdong activist **Guo Feixiong** and detained Henan activist **Yu Shiwen**. They are currently detained at Fengtai District Detention Centre in Beijing. Another activist **Li Meiqing** was taken to the Qingta Police Station in Beijing on 2 June and was questioned but was later released and is currently under surveillance at home.

Two activists from Sichuan were also detained in relation to the commemorating activities. **Fu Hailu**, was criminally detained in late May on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” for selling *baijiu*, a popular alcoholic drink, with a label that read, “Remember, Eight Liquor Six Four” echoing the date of June 4, 1989 and with the picture of the iconic “tank man”. **Ma Qing**, a female poet, who had apparently promoted the alcohol on WeChat, a Chinese social media platform, was also criminally detained in late May. They are both currently detained at Chengdu City Detention Centre.

Another activist from Chongqing **Luo Yaling**, who is known locally for supporting other activists, was criminally detained in late May on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”. Her detention is possibly related to June 4 commemoration or support for other human rights activities. Chongqing police raided her home on 3 June and took away her mobile and tablet computer. She is currently detained at Chongqing Jiangbei District Detention Centre.

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

- Calling on the authorities immediately and unconditionally release Zhang Baocheng, Zhao Changqing, Xu Caihong, Ma Xinli, Liang Taiping, Li Wei, Fu Hailu, Ma Qing and Luo Yaling as they have been detained solely for exercising the rights to freedom of expression;
- Calling on the Chinese authorities to ensure that while detained they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and have prompt access to any medical treatment on request or as needed, and to their lawyers and family.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 JULY 2016 TO:

Director

Fengtai District Detention Centre
No. 6 Shagang Village
Yuanpingcheng Dongnanbu
Fengtaiqu, Beijing
People’s Republic of China 100071
Telephone: +86 10 83680063 (Chinese only)

Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Chengdu City Detention Centre
Zhengyilu
Anqing Town
Pi County, Chengdushi
People’s Republic of China 611731
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun
No 14. Dong Chang’an Jie
Dongchengqu
Beijing 100741
People’s Republic of China
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Minister

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In April 1989, protests led by some university students in Beijing who gathered initially to mourn senior Communist Party official Hu Yaobang quickly spread across the country. The students demanded an end to corruption by officials, and called for political and economic reforms. Their demands drew wide public support. Peaceful demonstrations took place in Beijing and throughout China. The authorities failed to persuade the demonstrators to return home. As tensions escalated in Beijing, martial law was declared on 20 May.

On the night of 3 June, heavily armed troops and hundreds of armoured vehicles moved into the city to 'clear' the pro-democracy demonstrators. Many individuals, including children and elderly people, were shot dead by troops. By 4 June, the troops took full control of Beijing.

An official report issued by the Chinese authorities at the end of June 1989 claimed that 'more than 3,000 civilians were wounded and over 200, including 36 college students, died during the riot'. The report also stated that several dozen soldiers died. While the exact figures remain unknown, it is likely the official figures are too low.

Immediately after the military crackdown, the authorities began to hunt down those involved in the demonstrations. Many civilians were detained, tortured, or imprisoned after unfair trials. Many were charged with 'counter-revolutionary' crimes. 'Counter-revolutionary' offences were removed from the Criminal Law in 1997, yet the cases of those already jailed for these offences such as those involved in the 1989 pro-democracy protests were not reviewed.

Among the detained activists in this year's crackdown on activists commemorating the 27th anniversary of the Tiananmen crackdown, Zhang Baocheng, Zhao Changqing, and Li Wei were part of the loose network of New Citizens' Movement led by legal scholar Xu Zhiyong which promoted suggested activities for "New Citizens" that included: practicing "New Citizen Responsibility" by rejecting corruption and by doing good for society; participating in civic life by holding meetings to discuss the political situation; helping the weak; and uniting to share and coordinate work. Li Wei and Zhang Baocheng were each sentenced to two years' imprisonment and Zhao Changqing to two and a half years in April 2014 for "gathering a crowd to disrupt order of a public place". Li Wei was released in April 2015, Zhang Baocheng in March 2015 and Zhao Changqing in October 2015 after finishing their jail terms.

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