

# URGENT ACTION

## TWO PROMINENT BLOGGERS ARE MISSING

**Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend, two bloggers who compiled and released data on protests in China, have been missing since 15 June 2016 and may be criminally detained. They are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.**

Lu Yuyu's family and friends have lost contact with Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend, who live in Dali, Yunnan province. They managed a blog ([wickedonna.blogspot.com](http://wickedonna.blogspot.com)) and a Twitter account (@wickedonna) account name "Not News". The last message posted was on 15 June.

Since 2013, the couple have been compiling and releasing data about protests in China and published them daily on different social media channels including [blogger.com](http://blogger.com), Google Drive, Twitter and Weibo. They documented nearly 30,000 "mass incidents" in 2015 alone. Mass incidents include collective actions ranging from villagers' protests against land grabs, to workers' strikes and protests, to demonstrations of homeowners cheated by developers.

The last time the Chinese government released an official figure was in 2007 when the year's figure was over 100,000 "mass incidents" but the government stopped releasing such official statistics. Estimates made by mainland academics on the number of "mass incidents" in recent years vary greatly and range from 30,000 to 180,000 per year.

According to sources, Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend had been forced to move homes in the past due to intimidation from the police due to their blogging project.

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

- Immediately and unconditionally release Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend if they have been detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression.
- Urging authorities to disclose the whereabouts of Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend;
- Urging authorities to ensure that if in detention Lu Yuyu and his girlfriend have regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of their choice, and are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 AUGUST 2016 TO:**

#### Director

Bao Ronggui  
Dali City Public Security Bureau  
66 Cangshanlu  
Dali Shi, Yunnan province 671000  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: +86 872 212 4460 (Chinese only)  
**Salutation: Dear Director**

#### Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun  
14 Dong Chang'an Jie  
Dongcheng Qu, Beijing Shi 100741  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: +86 10 66262114 (in Chinese only)  
Email: [gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn](mailto:gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn)  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### **And copies to:**

Premier  
Li Keqiang Guojia Zongli  
The State Council General Office  
2 Fuyou Jie  
Xicheng Qu, Beijing Shi 100017  
People's Republic of China  
Fax: +86 10 65961109

**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](mailto: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

China maintains one of the most extensive censorship apparatuses in the world, and publishing unauthorized letters or opinions criticizing leaders or government policy can have enormous professional and criminal ramifications for editors.

The authorities continue to use vaguely-worded laws to arbitrarily target individuals for solely exercising their right to freedom of expression. Since President Xi Jinping came to power in November 2012, hundreds of people have been detained solely for expressing their views online.

President Xi Jinping has repeatedly reiterated the need to uphold the “Marxist view of journalism”, which sees all state media outlets as defenders of Communist Party interests. At the same time, leaked ideological memo “Document Number 9” warned about the “false trend” of promoting “freedom of the press” and the “free flow of information on the internet”.

On 19 February, President Xi Jinping toured China Central Television (CCTV), the newspaper *People’s Daily*, and Xinhua News Agency to encourage the outlets to “safeguard the Party’s authority, and safeguard the Party’s unity”. He also told party media that they “must be surnamed Party”. Historically, discussions about the “surnames” of institutions or political structures are debates about the fundamental direction and ideology to be undertaken by that body.

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