

URGENT ACTION

WEBSITE FOUNDER DETAINED FOR 'SUBVERSION'

Liu Feiyue, founder and director of Hubei-based human rights website "Civil Rights and Livelihood Watch" (<http://www.msguancha.com>), has been detained for subversion and if convicted, could face life imprisonment. He has no access to a lawyer or family and is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

Liu Feiyue's family was told by an officer from Suizhou City Public Security Bureau in Hubei province on 18 November that Liu Feiyue had been criminally detained on suspicion of "subverting state power". The officer did not provide written notification of the circumstances leading to the detention, nor did he not disclose where Liu Feiyue is being detained.

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.

This is not the first time Liu Feiyue has been taken away for "forced travels", however in the past he was released within one or two weeks. When he failed to return after eight days, his colleagues and family decided to make his detention public on 25 November. Without access to a lawyer of his choice, or having his whereabouts known, Liu Feiyue is at high risk of torture or other ill-treatment. According to China's Criminal Procedure Law, the public security bureau has to decide within 37 days whether to formally arrest Liu Feiyue for a criminal offence, or release him without charge.

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

- Immediately disclose Liu Feiyue's whereabouts and his legal status;
- Immediately and unconditionally release Liu Feiyue if he has been detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Urging the authorities to 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 11 JANUARY 2017 TO:

Director

Tang Wenjiang
Suizhou City Public Security Bureau
Jiaotong Dadao K015
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 66262114 (Chinese only)
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.

**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 Square 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. (See Urgent Action ASA 17/5219/2016, at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5219/2016/en/> for more information)

Huang Qi, The founder of Sichuan-based human rights website “64 Tianwang”, was taken away by public security officers the evening of 28 November. Pu Fei, a website volunteer, has not been heard from since his tweet about Huang Qi was deleted. As of 30 November, the whereabouts of both Huang Qi and Pui Fei remain unknown. We have previously issued a UA on the detention of six other “64 Tianwang” citizen journalists during the G20 Summit (see ASA 17/5068/2016 at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5068/2016/en/> for more information)

UA: 274/16 Index: ASA 17/5246/2016 Issue Date: 30 November 2016