

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVIST IN DANGER AFTER “SUICIDE ATTEMPT”

**Detained activist Xing Wangli is in a critical condition with severe injuries to his head and lungs after what authorities claim was a failed suicide attempt. He has been in coma for nine days and, with their hospital access barred, his family and lawyer fear for his life.**



**Xing Wangli**, 45, was found badly injured on 27 August in Xi County Detention Centre, Central Chinese Province of Henan. According to a CT scan conducted by Xinyang Central Hospital, he has a fractured skull, brain tissue damage and internal bleeding of his head and lungs. He was in a coma when the family first saw him in hospital on the night of the 27 August and according to an update by his doctor on 5 September, remains unconscious.

Police told Xing Wangli's brother that he had attempted to hang himself by a noose, made from cardboard, from his cell's window frame and that the damage to his skull had been caused by another detainee who, while cutting him loose, accidentally hit Xing Wangli's head on the ground.

Xing Wangli's 20-year-old son, a human rights defender seeking asylum in Thailand, said that the family have been prevented from visiting Xing Wangli in hospital since 29 August. Police further warned the family that his treatment would be affected if they continued to talk to the media. The authorities have also barred access to Xing Wangli's lawyer who tried to visit him on 2 September.

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

- Urging authorities to ensure that Xing Wangli has access to medical care as necessary, is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and that his treatment is in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);
- Urging authorities to ensure that his family and lawyer has regular, unrestricted access to Xing Wangli and to ensure that his family is free from any harassment and intimidation from state authorities;
- Urging authorities to conduct a prompt, thorough and independent investigation into Xing Wangli's injuries, including securing all evidence concerning the incident and informing the family of its progress and outcome.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 OCTOBER 2016 TO:**

#### Director

Chen Hongjie  
Xinyang City Public Security Bureau  
3 Guangchang Lu  
Xinyang Shi 464399  
Henan Sheng  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: +86 376 622 1181 (Chinese only)  
**Salutation: Dear Director**

#### Director

Xu Ganlu  
Henan Provincial Public Security  
Department  
22 Jinshui Dong Lu  
Zhengzhou Shi 450018  
Henan Sheng  
People's Republic of China  
Tel: +86 371 6590 8241 (in Chinese only)  
**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 (in Chinese only)  
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](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

On 26 August 2016, Xing Wangli was sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment for “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” after he urinated in front of a courthouse sign during a protest in May 2015 against the imprisonment of his daughter, mother and mother-in-law, who had staged a protest in 2014. The family believes Xing Wangli's imprisonment is in fact due to his online campaign calling for an investigation into the suspicious death of another human rights defender.

Amnesty International has documented many cases of torture and other ill-treatment as well as suspicious deaths of detained human rights defenders, including:

- Li Wangyang, a prominent figure in the labour rights movement, was claimed by the Shaoyang city authorities to have committed suicide while in hospital under the authorities' supervision in June 2012. The family does not believe that Li Wangyang, an almost blind man and unable to walk without assistance, could have managed to hang himself.

After domestic and international outcry, the Hunan provincial police announced on 15 June 2012 that they had set up a task force to investigate Li Wangyang's death. Seven days later, it was reported that the autopsy report was completed, but the authorities refused to make its results available.

- Human rights activist Zhang Liumao, detained on 15 August 2015 on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” and “subverting state power” is believed, by his family, to have died on 4 November 2015 while in pre-trial detention at the Guangzhou No. 3 detention centre.

When the family and lawyer were allowed to view Zhang Liumao's body on 16 November, they reported seeing bruises and abrasions all over his body leading them to believe he had been beaten or tortured. Based on these observations, the lawyer asked the authorities to investigate the suspicious death and to bring those responsible for any human rights abuses to justice.

On 2 December 2015, the Chinese authorities conducted an autopsy of his remains, in spite of the family's objections and their written request to appoint an independent expert to conduct the procedure.