



Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) 维权网

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Promoting human rights and empowering grassroots activism in China

China Human Rights Briefing Weekly

January 25-February 1, 2011

Highlights

- **Chang Ping Removed from Southern Media Group:** Outspoken media figure Chang Ping has been asked to leave the Southern Media Group, CHRD learned this week. Chang, a columnist who frequently wrote about social problems, democracy, and civil society, had previously lost his position as deputy-editor-in-chief of *Southern Metropolis Weekly* and had his columns removed from *Southern Weekend* and *Southern Metropolis Daily* as a result of his work on “sensitive” issues.
- **Former Government Official Alleges Torture, Dies in Detention:** CHRD learned this week that the family of Cai Fuchen (蔡福臣) is seeking a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. Cai, a former tax bureau official, died in Jilin Province’s Gongzhuling Prison on September 15, 2010; in meetings with his family prior to his death, he repeatedly complained that he was being tortured. Prison officials have stated that Cai killed himself by jumping from a prison building.

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Freedom of Expression

Prominent Media Figure Chang Ping Asked to Leave Southern Media Group

On January 27, prominent columnist Chang Ping (长平) was asked to leave the Southern Media Group. In a statement posted to Twitter, Chang thanked his friends and said that he "despised and protested" the practice of prosecuting individuals for crimes as a result of their speech. Chang spent years writing about social problems and "sensitive" issues, and has faced professional consequences for his work in the past: in August 2010, Chang's columns, which ran in *Southern Weekend* and *Southern Metropolis Daily* newspapers, were removed by the Group, while two years earlier, in 2008, he was stripped of his position as deputy editor-in-chief of *Southern Metropolis Weekly* after writing an opinion piece on unrest in Tibet which was published on the *Financial Times*' Chinese website. (CHRD)ⁱ

Guangxi Man Sentenced to 1.5 Years in Prison for "Inciting Subversion"

According to a January 18 news report on Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region's Liuzhou City TV Station, Liuzhou City resident Zhou Suixiong (周岁雄) has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for "inciting subversion of state power." The report stated that Zhou "incited" subversion by distributing written materials containing his thoughts on the Chinese Communist Party and the socialist system. Local rights activists have so far been unable to locate Zhou's relatives for further information or comments on Zhou's detention. (CHRD)ⁱⁱ

Arbitrary Detention

Wuhan Democracy Activist Qin Yongmin Detained 10 Days on Eve of Spring Festival

On February 1, human rights and democracy activist Qin Yongmin (秦永敏) was given 10 days of administrative detention by police in Wuhan City, Hubei Province. According to police, Qin,

who is currently deprived of his political rights, was detained for “sending out statements.” Qin believes the detention was ordered to prevent his friends from visiting him during the New Year holiday. Arrested in the crackdown on the China Democracy Party in 1998, Qin was released from prison on November 29, 2010, after serving 12 years in prison for “subversion of state power.” (CHRD)ⁱⁱⁱ

Second Hearing Held in Case against Artist and Activist Wu Yuren, No Verdict Issued

On the morning of January 28, a second hearing in the case against artist and activist Wu Yuren (吴玉仁) was held in Beijing's Wenyuhe Courthouse. Wu has been charged with "attacking" police. The hearing, which lasted less than an hour, ended without a verdict being issued. During the hearing, police claimed that surveillance video of the "attack" was unavailable because equipment in the police station was being replaced at the time of the incident, and a video recording made by a police officer using a handheld camera had since been taped over. An earlier court hearing, on November 17, 2010, was adjourned after Wu's lawyer Li Fangping (李方平) requested that this video footage be shown at the trial. The charge against Wu dates from June 1, 2010, when he was detained after accompanying fellow artist Yang Licai (杨立才) to the police station to report the theft of a generator. Wu Yuren was one of the organizers of a bold February 2010 protest down Beijing's Chang'an Avenue to draw attention to the forced demolition of the 008 Arts District, and his arrest is believed to be in retaliation for his activism. (CHRD)^{iv}

Hearing Scheduled for February 28 in Case against Baihutou Village Leader Xu Kun and Others

CHRD learned on January 31 that the Yinhai District Court in Beihai City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, will hear the “operating an illegal business” case against Baihutou villagers Xu Kun (许坤), Gao Shifu (高世福), and Zhang Chunqiong (张春琼) on February 28. Xu, Gao, and Zhang have all been detained for standing up to local officials seeking to requisition land in Baihutou Village, Beihai City. Chongqing lawyer Zheng Jianwei (郑建伟) traveled to Beihai City Number Two Detention Center in January 31 to meet with Xu; he reports that Xu is no longer being subjected to long hours of hard labor, as he was during Zheng's last visit in December 2010, but that Xu is still not permitted to correspond with his family.

Xu, Gao, and Zhang have been detained since May 2010. Zhang was released on bail to await trial on October 12, but taken back into detention on November 12. Altogether, eight villagers have been detained for their opposition to the land grab in Baihutou, including three who have been sentenced to prison for “obstructing official business.” (CHRD)^v

Beijing Activist Li Jinping Remains Detained in Psychiatric Institution, Family Barred from Visiting

In December, CHRD reported on the case of Beijing dissident and activist Li Jinping (李金平), who was believed to have been detained in the Chaoyang District Mental Health Center on the

orders of the Chaoyang District National Security police in mid-October. On January 27, CHRD learned from Li's brother Li Jinlong (李金龙) that family members have still been unable to visit Li, more than three months since he was first detained. Li Jinping, a former police officer whose home was forcibly demolished in 2008, has been detained on numerous occasions over the years as a result of his advocacy on behalf of former CCP General Secretary Zhao Ziyang (赵紫阳) as well as petitioners. (CHRD)^{vi}

Forced Eviction and Demolition

Lawyer in Guangxi Land Rights Case Removed from Courtroom, Detained by Police

On the morning of January 28, Beijing lawyer Xie Yanyi (谢燕益) was forcibly removed from a courthouse in Beihai City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and taken into police custody. He was briefly detained before being released. Xie was representing Baihutou villager He Xianfu (何显福), who is on trial for "disrupting social order" (note that earlier reports on this story identified the charge as "obstructing official business") in Beihai's Yinhai District Court. The charge stems from He Xianfu's resistance to the forced expropriation of Baihutou village land by local officials. Reportedly, Xie attempted to argue in court that many aspects of the expropriation of village land were illegal. He was interrupted on numerous occasions by the presiding judge before being removed from the courthouse by police. In the days leading up to the trial, Xie was approached by individuals from Beihai City warning him to "be careful in Beihai." (CHRD)^{vii}

Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Former Jilin Tax Bureau Official Dies in Detention Following Allegations of Torture

On January 24, CHRD learned of the case of Cai Fuchen (蔡福臣), a former Longjing City, Jilin Province tax bureau official who died in Jilin's Gongzhuling Prison on September 15, 2010. Cai's younger sister reports that Cai, who was imprisoned for "using an evil cult to obstruct the implementation of the law," repeatedly complained of torture during previous family visits. Prison officials stated that Cai killed himself by jumping from a prison building. According to Cai's sister, Cai alleged that he was held in solitary confinement, struck with an electrified cattle prod, and subjected to electric shocks. In May 2008, because he filed a complaint regarding the torture, he was bound by prison guards and shocked with cattle prods; this torture lasted more than one month. In early December, Cai's sister submitted an application to the Longjing City procuratorate as well as to Gongzhuling Prison officials demanding a full investigation into her brother's death; however, 52 days later, she has yet to receive any response. Prison officials, who stated while notifying the family that Cai had failed to respond to their efforts to "transform" his thinking, have only contacted Cai's sister to demand that she sign a form authorizing the prison to cremate Cai's body. Cai Fuchen was arrested in 2004, and sentenced to 10 years in prison the following year; the charge of "using an evil cult" is often used to prosecute Falun Gong practitioners. (CHRD)^{viii}

Freedom of Assembly

Shanghai Police Break up Dinner Attended by Local Activists, Lawyer Teng Biao

On January 24, a group of Shanghai-based activists including Feng Zhenghu (冯正虎), Lu Yinuo (陆以诺), Shen Zhaohua (沈兆华), Li Honghua (李洪华), and Li Tiantian (李天天) gathered at a restaurant near the Shanghai train station for dinner with Beijing human rights lawyer Teng Biao (滕彪). The group had barely settled in, however, when National Security officers burst into the restaurant and took away Feng, Lu and Shen. Another officer later returned to harass Li Tiantian. In a post regarding the experience on Twitter, Teng called the Shanghai officers "some of the most impertinent and uncivilized" he had ever encountered. Lu Yinuo was forcibly returned to Zhangjiagang City, Jiangsu Province after being taken away from the dinner, and warned by police that they would take similar actions if he returned to Shanghai. (CHRD)^{ix}

Police in Guangxi Seize Relatives Demonstrating over Death in Traffic Accident with Police

On the morning of January 20, more than 10 relatives of Huang Jinxi (黄锦喜), who was killed in a traffic accident involving a local police chief, gathered outside of the meeting hall of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region People's Congress in Nanning City. The group unfurled a banner protesting what they believe to be local officials' mishandling of the case, and demanded justice for their deceased relative. They were seized by police, turned over to interceptors from Hezhou City and returned to their hometown of Zhaoping County. On September 7, 2010, Zhaoping County PSB vice-director Huang Chengliang (黄成亮) was driving a police vehicle when he crashed with a motorcycle driven by villager Huang Jinxi, who died in the accident. However, local officials ruled the accident to be Huang Jinxi's fault. On January 14, relatives of Huang Jinxi posted a message online questioning the decision by local officials and raising a number of concerns regarding the investigation of the accident. On January 21, a Hezhou City police spokesperson released a statement saying that the accident was investigated in accordance with the relevant regulations. (CHRD)^x

Law and Policy Watch

New Regulations Governing Evictions and Demolitions Promulgated

On January 21, the State Council promulgated the Regulations for Expropriation and Compensation of Housing on State-owned Land, which went into effect immediately. The regulations replace the Urban Housing Demolition and Relocation Management Regulations, which previously governed the expropriation of individuals' land and housing. Explicitly prohibited in the new regulations is the use of violence or coercion to force homeowners to leave their homes. (*Xinhua*)^{xi}

Of course, it remains to be seen how effective these new regulations will be in protecting citizens' housing rights and combating the pervasive practice of violent forced evictions. Of

particular concern are the homes of rural residents built on land collectively-owned land, which are not covered by the new regulations.

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Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) is a China-based, non-political, non-governmental network of grassroots and international activists promoting human rights and empowering grassroots activism in China. CHRD's objective is to support human rights activists in China, monitor human rights developments, and assist victims of human rights abuses. CHRD advocates approaches that are non-violent and based on rule of law. CHRD conducts research, provides information, organizes training, supports a program of small grants to human rights activists and researchers, and offers legal assistance.

Chinese Human Rights Briefing (CHRB) is a daily newsletter providing the latest information on China's human rights developments. Our information originates from Chinese human rights defenders and groups at the grassroots. CHRD is responsible for all information published in CHRB. A compilation of each week's CHRBs, updated daily, is available on our website.

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ⁱ "Famous Media Personality Chang Ping Asked to Completely Leave the Southern Media Group" (著名媒体人士长平被要求完全离开南方集团), January 27, 2011, <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/28/world/asia/28china.html>

ⁱⁱ "Zhou Suixiong, of Liuzhou, Sentenced for Inciting Subversion" (柳州周岁雄因煽动颠覆罪被判刑), January 27, 2011, <http://news.boxun.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101271417.shtml>

ⁱⁱⁱ "As Spring Festival Arrives, Prominent Democracy Activist Qin Yongmin Detained 10 Days" (春节即将到来, 著名民主人士秦永敏被拘留十天), February 1, 2011, <http://news.boxun.com/news/gb/china/2011/02/201102012048.shtml>

^{iv} "Wu Yuren: Life in China is Extremely Dangerous" (吴玉仁: 在中国生活是非常危险的), January 28, 2011, <http://www.peacehall.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101281700.shtml>

^v "Beihai 'Frame Xu Kun Case' Hearing to Be Held February 28" (北海 "许坤构陷案" 将于 2 月 28 日开庭), January 31, 2011, <http://news.boxun.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101312146.shtml>

^{vi} "Li Jinping Detained in Psychiatric Institution, Still Unable to Meet with Family" (李金平被关精神病院仍无法见到亲属), January 27, 2011, <http://news.boxun.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101271546.shtml>

^{vii} "News Flash: Lawyer Xie Yanyi Taken From Court, Out of Contact after Pointing out Illegality of Land Expropriation" (快讯: 谢燕益律师因指出征地违法被带出法庭失去联系), January 28, 2011, <http://news.boxun.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101281323.shtml>

^{viii} "State Tax Cadre 'Commits Suicide' in Prison; Prison Refuses to Accept Responsibility" (国税干部监狱中 "被自杀," 监狱拒不承担责任), January 25, 2011, <http://news.boxun.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101250026.shtml>

^{ix} "Shanghai Activist Lu YINUO Returned to Zhangjiagang for Eating with Teng Biao" (上海维权人士陆以诺因与滕彪饭醉被遣送回张家港), January 25, 2011, <http://news.boxun.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101251637.shtml>

^x "Police Chief Kills Person in Traffic Accident, Avoids Responsibility; Family Blocked from Petitioning" (公安局长撞死人免责 家属上访 被截), January 25, 2011,

<http://www.peacehall.com/news/gb/china/2011/01/201101252007.shtml>

"Authorized Announcement: Regulations for Expropriation and Compensation of Housing on State-owned Land" (授权发布:国有土地上房屋征收与补偿条例), January 21, 2011, http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2011-01/21/c_121010535.htm