



Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) 维权网

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Promoting human rights and empowering grassroots activism in China

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## China Human Rights Briefing

May 26-May 31, 2011

### *Highlights*

- **First Conviction of “Jasmine Revolution” Detainee:** After a quick hearing, Sichuan-based rights activist **Li Shuangde** (李双德) was sentenced on June 1 to four months in prison and fined 20,000 RMB for “credit card fraud” by the Jinjiang District Court in Chengdu City, Sichuan Province. The sentence for Li, a long-time legal advocate detained on March 24 as part of the “Jasmine Revolution” crackdown, includes time served and is set to expire on July 22.
- **Human Rights Lawyer Released After Extended Disappearance: Li Tiantian** (李天天), a Shanghai-based human rights lawyer who disappeared in February, was released from enforced disappearance on May 24 and flown to her hometown in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Li explained her lengthy public absence on a blog post the day after being released, and her blog was subsequently shut down.

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### Arbitrary Detention

## **Updates on Detentions and Disappearances Related to the “Jasmine Revolution” Crackdown**

On the morning of June 1, Sichuan-based rights activist **Li Shuangde** (李双德) was sentenced to four months in prison and fined 20,000 RMB for “credit card fraud” by the Jinjiang District Court in Chengdu City, Sichuan Province. Li is the first activist arrested during the “Jasmine Revolution” crackdown known to be convicted of a crime and sentenced to prison. The sentence came following a 20-minute court hearing; a hearing was originally scheduled for the previous day, but when Li’s supporters and relatives arrived at the courthouse, they were told that the trial had been “canceled” and that Li had pleaded guilty. Li’s lawyer argued that he was unaware of the guilty plea, and asked the court to produce his client to ascertain the claim, but the court refused this request. A well-known legal advocate who has worked for years to help vulnerable groups protect their rights, Li was also not allowed to meet with his lawyer prior to the hearing. Based on time served, Li, who was taken into custody on March 24, is scheduled to be imprisoned through July 22. (CHRD)<sup>i</sup>

In addition, on May 24, Shanghai-based human rights lawyer **Li Tiantian** (李天天) was released and flown to her hometown in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region after more than three months of enforced disappearance. CHRD learned that Li, who disappeared on February 19, had been placed under “residential surveillance” at a guesthouse in an unknown location during the three months she was missing. Li was held in a windowless room for the duration of these months, aside from being taken to a police station on several occasions to be interrogated about her reposting of messages related to the “Jasmine Revolution.” When Li said she has a right to hire a lawyer, the police told her that “the law is not a shield.” Police threatened her, saying that she would be beaten and also locked up in an “iron cage” if she failed to cooperate. Police in Shanghai demanded that Li immediately report to them upon returning to the city. (CHRD)<sup>ii</sup>

On May 25, a day after being released, Li explained her absence on her Sina blog in a post entitled, “May 24: I Was Discharged from the Hospital,” symbolically incorporating a fable about a hornet and a bird. Her blog was subsequently shut down and remains so at the time of writing, but her post from May 25 was saved and translated on Siweiluozi’s blog, at: <http://www.siweiluozi.net/2011/05/li-tiantian-fable-of-hornet-bird-and.html>.

For a list (updated May 26) of the 12 activists still missing, as well as information on others who have been detained or disappeared in recent months as part of the ongoing crackdown on civil society, please see our website: [http://chrnet.org/2011/04/15/jasmine\\_crackdown/](http://chrnet.org/2011/04/15/jasmine_crackdown/).

### **Hubei Petitioner Detained in Psychiatric Hospital**

On May 31, CHRD learned that Hubei Province-based petitioner **Zhao Kefeng** (赵克凤) is being detained in a psychiatric institution in Xiangfan City, Hubei. Zhao was seized in Beijing by officials from the Beijing Liaison Office of the Hubei Provincial government on May 19 and forcibly returned to Xiangfan, where she was then taken to the Zhangwan Hospital. Zhao has been petitioning since 2004 for redress of what she believes to be an unjust ruling in the criminal case involving her son’s death. (CHRD)<sup>iii</sup>

## **Harassment of Activists**

### **Police in Henan Seize Local AIDS Activist to Prevent Interview with Al Jazeera**

On May 25, a reporter from Al Jazeera TV arrived in Shuangmiao Village, seeking to interview 48 year-old **Zhu Longwei** (朱龙伟), a local HIV/AIDS activist and director of a local AIDS prevention group. Zhu was dragged from an Al Jazeera car by local officials and forced into a police vehicle; his current whereabouts are unknown. As of the time of writing, six individuals are stationed outside of his home, and family members cannot leave. Al Jazeera sought to speak with Zhu about the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's decision to halt funding to China after a dispute over the Chinese government's monitoring of grant money and its failure to adequately involve civil society groups in the fight against AIDS. Zhu recently wrote an article about corruption among officials responsible for handling Global Fund funding in China. (Aizhixing)

### **Beijing Police Round Up, Expel Hundreds of Shanghai Petitioners**

On the afternoon of May 27, more than 200 Shanghai-based petitioners who came to present grievances in Beijing were taken away to the city's outskirts. After leaving the State Bureau of Letters and Visits, the petitioners were walking opposite Taoranting Park after 5 p.m. when they were rounded up by several dozen Beijing police officers. The individuals were driven off in more than 10 vehicles and handed over to officials from the Beijing Liaison Office of the Shanghai government, who then bused the petitioners away from the capital. Shortly after 6 p.m., a Shanghai petitioner sent out a message about the situation and added that at least one member of the group, an elderly female petitioner, had been punched and kicked by officials. (CHRD)<sup>iv</sup>

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

### **Imprisoned Hunan Activist Xie Fulin Beaten by Drunk Prison Guard**

On the morning of May 31, Jin Yan (金焰), wife of imprisoned activist **Xie Fulin** (谢福林), visited her husband in Hunan Province's Changsha Prison. According to Jin, Xie reported he had been seriously beaten by a prison guard the previous day. Xie told his wife he was lying on his bed, having just taken his blood pressure medication, when a guard came to his cell for an inspection. Xie was feeling ill and unable to stand when the guard demanded he do so, and the guard, reeking of alcohol, proceeded to drag Xie down a flight of stairs, striking him along the way. Xie was taken to the prison infirmary, where he spent the night. Jin added that guards have also threatened to lock Xie in solitary confinement for a minimum of three months. (CHRD)<sup>v</sup>

### **Guizhou Woman Forced to Undergo Sterilization Procedure**

On May 27, **Luo Xueqin** (罗学琴), a mother of two from Huaxi District, Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, was forced to undergo tubal ligation by local family planning officials. According to

Luo, she was at home with her two children, an infant and a toddler, when more than 10 officials arrived at her door. They told her to send her elder child to the neighbor's and to come with them; Luo was not told where they were going or why. She was taken to a local hospital, where the officials forced her into an operating room and the procedure was performed. Prior to the surgery, Luo had received no advance warning or notification from family planning officials. (CHRD)<sup>vi</sup>

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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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<sup>i</sup> "Li Shuangde Sentenced to Four Months in Prison, Fined 20,000 RMB" (判处有期徒刑 4 个月罚款 2 万元), May 31, 2011, <http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/42.html>; "Xin Qingxian: a Record of Li Shuangde's Trial on May 31, 2011" (幸清贤: 李双德 2011 年 5 月 31 日开庭纪实), May 31, 2011, <http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/2011531.html> "Trial in Li Shuangde Case to Begin on May 31" (四川李双德案 5 月 31 日开庭), May 27, 2011, <http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/531.html>

<sup>ii</sup> "Human Rights Lawyer Li Tiantian Released After Three Months of Residential Surveillance" (维权律师李天天被监视居住 3 个多月后获自由), May 25, 2011, <http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/3.html>

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iii “Another Hubei Petitioner, Zhao Kefeng, Detained in Psychiatric Institution” (湖北又一访民赵克凤被关入精神病院), May 31, 2011, [http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post\\_6001.html](http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post_6001.html)

iv “More Than 200 Shanghai Petitioners Expelled to Beijing Outskirts” (200多名上海访民被扔到郊外), May 27, 2011, [http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/200\\_27.html](http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/200_27.html)

v “Drunk Prison Guards Beat Xie Fulin, Threaten to Shut Him in Solitary Confinement” (狱警酒后殴打谢福林, 威胁关其禁闭), May 31, 2011, [http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post\\_8025.html](http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post_8025.html)

vi “Another Violent Forced Birth Control Incident on the Outskirts of Guiyang City” (贵阳城郊再次发生暴力计划生育事件), May 30, 2011, [http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post\\_118.html](http://wqw2010.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post_118.html)