



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

August 3-9, 2011

### *Highlights*

- **Updates on Detentions and Disappearances Related to the “Jasmine Revolution” Crackdown:** The trial for Beijing rights activist **Wang Lihong** (王荔蕪), for “creating a disturbance,” will begin on August 12 at the Chaoyang People’s District Court. Her lawyer has encouraged the public and the media to try to attend the proceedings to help ensure a fair trial.
- **Yao Lifa Seized in Beijing, Whereabouts Unknown:** Hubei democracy activist **Yao Lifa** (姚立法), who had escaped in early July from incommunicado detention and fled to Beijing, was seized on August 6 in the capital by national security officers from his hometown. Though Yao was last seen in the custody of the police, authorities are refusing to disclose Yao’s whereabouts to his family and friends.

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#### **Arbitrary Detention**

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

#### **Rights Activist Wang Lihong’s Trial Set for August 12**

The public trial proceedings for Beijing activist **Wang Lihong** (王荔蕪), who has been indicted on suspicion of “creating a disturbance,” will begin at 9 a.m. on August 12, at the Chaoyang People’s District Court’s Wenyuhe Courthouse. Wang is represented by defense attorneys **Han Yicun** (韩一村) and **Liu Xiaoyuan** (刘晓原), whose lawyers’ license was finally renewed in late July after a substantial delay. Han has encouraged members of the public and the media to apply to attend the proceedings in an attempt to help ensure a fair trial. The case against Wang stems from her involvement in demonstrations outside the sentencing hearing for three netizens (the “Fujian Three”) in Fuzhou City, Fujian Province, in April 2010.

Since Wang’s case was transferred to the court, Han and Liu have met her once at the Chaoyang Detention Center, where she has been held since being detained in March. They indicated Wang is in good spirits and is confident that her actions do not constitute a crime, but that she is experiencing some health problems, including aches and weight loss. (CHRD)<sup>[i]</sup>

### **Harbin Netizen Still Detained After More Than Five Months**

CHRD has confirmed that the netizen **Liang Haiyi** (梁海怡, aka Miaoxiao [渺小]), of Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, remains criminally detained on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” (煽动颠覆国家政权罪), despite reports that she might have been released. Harbin activist **Wang Lihong** (王立红) has informed CHRD that, in early June, she and some friends were questioned by police after they had gone to the Harbin No. 2 Detention Center, where Liang has been held since February 19, and tried unsuccessfully to visit her. Little is known about Liang’s current situation, including her emotional state and physical health, and her family is not able to be contacted. According to several of Liang’s friends, Harbin police have stated that she has refused to admit to accusations against her, which involve “posting information from foreign websites regarding ‘Jasmine Revolution’ actions on domestic websites” like QQ, the popular Chinese social networking site. Beijing human rights lawyer **Liang Xiaojun** (梁小军) had tried to represent Liang, but her family did not give him authorization, so he was not allowed to get involved in the case. (CHRD)<sup>[ii]</sup>

### **Guangxi Court Upholds Village Chief’s Conviction**

On August 2, the Beihai City Intermediate People’s Court upheld the conviction of **Xu Kun** (许坤), the village chief of Baihutou, Beihai City, Guangxi Province, on the charge of “operating an illegal business.” The conviction relates to Xu’s efforts to lead fellow villagers in resisting land expropriation in Baihutou. Neither Xu’s wife nor his lawyer was present in court when the verdict was delivered because the court failed to give them adequate advance notice. After the court finished reading the decision, Xu and his co-defendants, **Gao Shifu** (高世福) and **Zhang Chunqiong** (张春琼), protested loudly and refused to sign the document.

On April 29 of this year, the Yin Hai District People’s Court sentenced Xu to four years in prison for “operating an illegal business” and also fined him 200,000 RMB. Gao and Zhang were each given two years’ imprisonment on the same charge and fined 150,000 apiece. After being elected village chief in August 2008, Xu began his advocacy against land expropriation, and subsequently was subjected to government pressure, expelled from the Communist Party, and

faced surveillance and monitoring. He was initially detained in May 2010. Altogether, eight villagers from Baihutou have been convicted and imprisoned in related cases since October of 2009, either for “operating an illegal business” or “obstructing official business.” (CHRD)<sup>[iii]</sup>

## **Enforced Disappearance**

### **Yao Lifa Seized in Beijing, Activist’s Whereabouts Remain Unknown**

On August 6, elections expert **Yao Lifa** (姚立法), from Qianjiang City, Hubei Province, was seized by seven or eight plainclothes officers in Beijing, according to his wife **Feng Ling** (冯玲), who learned the news from friends in Beijing. Their friends told her that Yao identified the officers as being from the national security unit of the Qianjiang Public Security Bureau (PSB), and that they had seized Yao under the pretext of Feng’s having filed a “missing person” report in July when Yao was disappeared. Despite having Yao in custody, Qianjiang authorities have refused to let Feng see him or tell her of his whereabouts. Their Beijing friends have also called the Qianjiang PSB national security unit to inquire about Yao, but officers responded that they don’t know where he is. Yao fled Qianjiang and went to Beijing on July 4 after escaping from incommunicado detention by jumping out of a building. Their friends also told Feng that Yao had severely hurt his lower back during this escape, and that his injury has gone untreated for over a month. They said Yao had spent most of his time in Beijing resting in bed. (CHRD)<sup>[iv]</sup>

## **Harassment of Activists**

### **Police Question Sichuan Activist Huang Qi About His Renewed Advocacy**

At noon on August 4, police took away **Huang Qi** (黄琦), activist and founder of Tianwang Human Rights Center, and questioned him for several hours at the Yunxi Police Station in Wenjiang District, Chengdu City. Police seized Huang from a teahouse when he was meeting **Lei Zaiyue** (雷再跃, aka Yutian [雨田]), an activist from Zhangjiajie in Hunan Province. Police let Huang go around 5:30 p.m. after asking about the resumption of his advocacy work since leaving prison, including why he was reporting on the rights of farmers whose land had been expropriated and whether he was trying to incite suppressed citizens to defend their rights, such as Wenchuan County residents affected by the earthquake in May 2008. Released from prison on June 10, Huang Qi had served a three-year sentence for “illegal possession of state secrets” (非法持有国家秘密罪) related to sharing information with foreign journalists about protests by families whose children had died in the 2008 earthquake. (Human Rights Campaign in China)<sup>[v]</sup>

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

### **Lawyer Tang Jingling Describes Torture During Recent Detention**

On August 6, CHRD spoke with Guangzhou-based human rights lawyer **Tang Jingling** (唐荆陵), who was released on August 2 after more than five months of illegal residential surveillance, and learned that although Tang’s overall health is now pretty good, he was subjected to severe sleep deprivation while detained in Guangzhou. Taken into custody on February 22 on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power,” Tang said that he was first

taken on a “trip” and then detained in the Dashi Training Center. Beginning on March 13, Tang was questioned for over a week around the clock by three rotating teams of interrogators, during which time he was not allowed to sleep or rest. After Tang began to suffer from trembling, numbness in his hands, and chest pains, police allowed Tang one to two hours of sleep per day. Beginning in April, police gradually permitted him to sleep for longer periods of time each night. At the time, Tang told his guards that such sleep deprivation violated provisions of a UN treaty that China had ratified (the Convention against Torture), and said he would bring a lawsuit against the perpetrators. Police responded that they were acting on “orders from above.” When Tang requested a lawyer, the police gave him the same response: orders from superiors prohibited Tang from hiring an attorney.

Police sent Tang back to his hometown, Yaojia Village in Hubei Province, after his release, having told him that he could not contact his friends or give media interviews. Before leaving Guangzhou, he was not permitted to see his wife, **Wang Yanfang** (汪艳芳), who was subjected to “soft detention” in their home while Tang was detained, and also deprived of contact with the outside world. Tang’s wife has gone to Yaojia to reunite with Tang. (CHRD)<sup>[vi]</sup>

### **Special Notice**

#### **CHRD Urges Accountability, Lifting of Press Restrictions After Wenzhou Train Crash**

CHRD issued a statement about the Chinese government response after the high-speed railway accident in Wenzhou City, Zhejiang Province, which occurred on July 23. CHRD pointed out the lack of respect for human life and other human rights abuses following the tragedy, and urged the government to take measures to better handle its aftermath and prevent similar rights violations in the future.

To read the statement in Chinese, click [here](#), and click [here](#) for the English version. (CHRD)<sup>[vii]</sup>

***Editors of this issue: Victor Clemens and Tanya Wang***

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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.

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