



Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD)

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Promoting human rights and empowering grassroots activism in China

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Arbitrary Detention

Shandong Police Interrogate Guards About Chen Guangcheng's Escape, Determine Activist Escaped on His Own

Soon after learning of Chen Guangcheng's (陈光诚) escape from house arrest in April, authorities in Shandong Province rounded up and questioned every guard who had monitored the activist, and have reportedly concluded that no guard helped Chen escape. The local public security bureau carried out the interrogation in Dongshigu Village, particularly focusing on so-called "sympathetic guards" who some believe aided Chen's flight to freedom. When the investigation began, villagers who had grown used to an oppressive security presence suspected the news of the activist's escape without any assistance was a rumor, and thought that Chen had actually been killed and the investigative activities were merely a cover-up.¹

Hunan Activist Zhu Chengzhi Still Detained Incommunicado

Zhu Chengzhi (朱承志), a Hunan activist given a 10-day detention in June after questioning the cause of death of 1989 labor activist Li Wangyang (李旺阳), remains in police custody and his whereabouts are unknown even though his punishment expired three weeks ago. On June 18, the day Zhu's detention had formally ended, national security officers told his wife that he would continue to be under surveillance and held for "investigation," and she has not been allowed to see him nor informed where he was held. Li Wangyang died in a Shaoyang hospital room in early June, and police claimed he had hanged himself. Zhu Chengzhi is the only individual known to have been formally punished among those who have been questioned, restricted to their homes, or gone out of contact after trying to learn how Li died (see below).ⁱⁱ

Beijing Authorities Detain Residents Over Demolition Protest in Tiananmen Square

About a dozen Beijing residents were recently given 5-day detentions after seeking justice over forced demolitions in front of Mao Zedong's portrait in Tiananmen Square, and authorities took revenge on one of their relatives who granted interviews about the situation to foreign media. On July 5, police seized the residents at the square only hours after their homes had been destroyed that morning without prior notice or legal procedures followed. Family members have not received notification of the detention, which reportedly began on July 9. Zhou Jie (周杰), a detainee's relative, gave interviews to foreign media about the demolition, prompting local officials to brand him a "traitor" and, as "punishment," completely topple the walls of his already destroyed home.ⁱⁱⁱ

"Jasmine Crackdown" Detainee Languishes in Labor Camp

Huang Chengcheng (黄成诚), a Chongqing resident given two years of Re-education through Labor (RTL) last year during the ["Jasmine Crackdown"](#) to preemptively suppress dissent in the wake of the Arab Spring, has had seven days added to his punishment on the grounds of alleged "poor performance" in forced labor. Huang, who has a worsening hand injury suffered during his RTL term, has reportedly been unable to complete mounting tasks after being assigned to a new work team at the Xishanping RTL. Authorities have refused Huang's family request to release him on medical parole. Huang was initially detained in March 2011 on a charge of "inciting subversion of state power" for allegedly sending out "Jasmine"-related messages online, including an invitation for others to meet him to "drink jasmine tea."^{iv}

Guangzhou Netizen Xu Lin Released Into Soft Detention After Secret Residential Surveillance

Following criminal detention and "residential surveillance" in a secret location, Guangzhou netizen Xu Lin (徐琳) has been sent home on July 5 and reportedly placed under surveillance. Authorities have not indicated an explicit reason for restricting his freedom or how long the period will last. Xu was apparently detained for composing the song "It's Time Now," whose lyrics are based on ["It's Time!"](#) a poem by Hangzhou dissident Zhu Yufu (朱虞夫) that was circulated during online calls for "Jasmine Rallies" in early 2011. Xu, seized on a charge of "inciting

subversion of state power” on April 4, 2012, was held incommunicado from May 4. Police blocked his lawyers and family from seeing him until July under the pretext that his case involves “state secrets.” Authorities have not followed proper procedures for detaining Xu or produced any formal documentation about his detention or residential surveillance.^v

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

Officials Declare Li Wangyang’s Death a “Suicide,” Keep Restricting Movement of Supporters, Family Members

Officials in Hunan Province have declared that 1989 labor leader Li Wangyang’s (李旺阳) death was due to suicide, expectedly backing up what authorities have claimed since Li was found dead in a hospital room in Shaoyang City on June 6. The conclusion was announced at a meeting of personnel from political-legal departments on July 12, though results of an autopsy on Li’s body came out on June 19. More than 20 officials were said to be involved in the autopsy, along with local university heads and experts. Meanwhile, about 20 of Li’s supporters and relatives still face restrictions on their movement for questioning the suspicious circumstances of his death (see above). Exacerbating the ongoing harassment are two fallacies being promoted by officials—that Li’s family consented to the cremation of his body, and that his relatives who have gone out of contact changed their cell phone numbers since they do not wish to speak to anyone.^{vi}

Labor Rights

Female Student Files Complaint, Lawsuit Over Alleged Sexual Discrimination

A female university student from Shanxi Province, claiming that she has faced gender discrimination from companies in their recruiting practices, is taking legal measures to seek justice, according to [Yirenping](#), an NGO dedicated to fighting discrimination. The woman has reportedly filed a complaint with the Beijing Human Resources and Social Security Bureau as well as a lawsuit alleging “violation of equal employment rights” at the Haidian District People’s Court in the capital. Legal experts believe that the woman’s lawsuit is perhaps the first one involving gender discrimination to be filed in a Chinese court since the country’s Employment Promotion Law took effect in 2008.^{vii}

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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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