

# CAO

# SHUNLI

cao Shunli was a vocal advocate for various human rights issues in China, including government transparency and accountability.



In 2013, Cao organized a series of peaceful protests outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing.



Every 4 years, China, like each UN Member State, undergoes a peer review of its human rights records.

This is called the Universal Periodic Review. The protesters wanted to be consulted and granted participation in this process by China.



Cao had submitted information to the UN on human rights violations like torture and arbitrary detentions and, that September, planned to fly to Geneva to attend human rights training and meetings with diplomats.

She never made her flight.



Cao was about to board a plane when Chinese authorities arrested her.



She was detained and wasn't  
heard from for five weeks.  
When she emerged, she had  
severe medical issues.



6 months later, Cao died of multiple organ failure.

To this day, no individual or organisation has been held to account for Cao's death despite repeated calls by UN experts for a full investigation into this 'deadly reprisal'.

Cao Shunli was one of the finalists of the prestigious Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders in 2014.

Hers remains one of the longest-standing unresolved cases of reprisals.

