

URGENT ACTION

HEALTH FEARS FOR IMPRISONED CHINESE ACTIVIST

Chinese activist and prisoner of conscience Chen Xi has been suffering from a number of serious health problems and has not received the treatment he needs in prison. His health has deteriorated severely and there are serious concerns for his well-being.

During a visit in January, **Chen Xi** (also known as Chen Youcai) told his wife Zhang Qunxuan that he was suffering from chronic diarrhea. He had been given medicine in prison, but his condition had not improved and he was not given any further medical care. In January, the local temperature fell to 3°C. There is no heating in Chen Xi's prison cell and he was not given sufficiently warm clothing. After visiting him in prison, Zhang Qunxuan said he had developed chilblains – painful blisters and itchy skin – on his hands, ears and stomach as a result and also looked extremely thin and weak. The authorities rejected her request to provide adequate heating in Chen Xi's cell.

Since his imprisonment in 2011, Chen Xi has not been allowed to send or receive letters from family and friends, and has also been prohibited from making a three-minute phone call to his family each month which is the usual allowance given to inmates of the prison. Chen Xi is currently allowed only a 20-minute visit from his family every month, for which they have to travel 400 km for. His wife and only daughter have also been under constant surveillance and their movements occasionally restricted.

Chen Xi's family has made several requests for his release on medical grounds, but Chinese authorities have refused all the requests. Zhang Qunxuan is planning to apply for medical parole for Chen Xi again, and has called on the international community to pressure the Chinese authorities to release him from prison.

Chen Xi was detained in November 2011 after he announced his intention to run for the Guiyang City People's Congress Election as an independent candidate. On 26 December 2011, the Guiyang Intermediate People's Court convicted him of "inciting subversion of state power" for posting articles on a foreign website. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Please write immediately in Chinese or your own language:

- Demanding that the authorities immediately and unconditionally release Chen Xi, as he has been imprisoned solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to ensure that Chen Xi is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, that he is immediately provided with any medical treatment he requires, and that the conditions of his detention adhere to international law and standards;
- Calling on them to ensure he has regular access to his family, and that they are not subjected to any form of restrictions or harassment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 MARCH 2015 TO:

Deputy Director

Liu Peng
Guizhou Xingyi Prison
No. 55 Jixiang Road, Xingyi City
Guizhou Province, 562400
People's Republic of China
Email: newsgzjy@sina.com
Salutation: Dear Deputy Director

Director

Wu Yue
Guizhou Provincial Department of Justice
No.130, Dusi Road, Guiyang City
Guizhou Province, 550003
People's Republic of China
Email: gzssftxxjsc@163.com
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister of Justice
Wu Aiyang
Ministry of Justice
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyangqu, Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65292345

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation
Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Chen Xi (aka Chen Youcai), 60, is a democracy campaigner and a former factory worker. He was a leading member of the Guizhou Hunan Rights Forum. Chen Xi was first jailed for three years in 1989 for supporting the student protests in Tiananmen Square, then served a second jail term from 1995 to 2006 for setting up a branch of China Democratic Party in Guizhou. He was a signatory of "Charter 08", which urges political reforms.

On 29 November 2011, Chen Xi was detained after he declared he was running for the Guiyang City People's Congress election as an independent candidate. On 26 December 2011, the Guiyang Intermediate People's Court tried him and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment and deprived him of political rights for three years on the charge of "inciting subversion of state power".

Before serving his current jail term, Chen Xi has developed and sought medical treatment for chronic gastrointestinal complications, which are thought to be a result of the inadequate diet and poor living conditions during his previous imprisonments.

Name: Chen Xi 陈曦, (aka Chen Youcai 陈有才) (m), Zhang Qunxuan 张群璇 (f)
Gender m/f: Both

UA: 26/15 Index: ASA 17/003/2015 Issue Date: 3 February 2015

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