

URGENT ACTION

MISSING LAWYER IS SAID TO BE IN POLICE CUSTODY

Beijing human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong, last heard from on 21 November, is said to be in held in police custody for allegedly “leaking state secrets”. His whereabouts remain unknown and, without access to a lawyer, he is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

According to mainland Chinese media reports, **Jiang Tianyong** was placed under police custody for allegedly having “illegally possessed multiple secret state documents, colluded with overseas institutions, organizations and individuals, and is suspected of illegally providing state secrets abroad”. The reports cited unspecified public security authorities and were issued around 9pm on Friday, 16 December. No mention was made of Jiang Tianyong’s whereabouts and it remains unclear which public security bureau is handling his case.

The reports state that prior to the charges of leaking state secrets, Jiang Tianyong was administratively detained for nine days for using another person’s identity card to buy a train ticket from Changsha, in Hunan province, to Beijing on 21 November. According to the same sources, the public security authorities informed Jiang Tianyong’s family on 1 December about his punishment in accordance with the laws. The family refute these claims, saying they have not received any official information about Jiang Tianyong since he went missing.

Prior to the publication of the mainland reports, Jiang Tianyong’s lawyer and father visited two public security bureaus; the first at Zhengzhou in Henan province, where Jiang Tianyong’s residential status (“hukou”) is registered, and the second at Changsha railway station, where he was last seen. On both occasions the public security authorities refused to provide any documentation or further information.

Jiang Tianyong’s wife, Jin Bianling, has said that state security police officers and public security officers broke into two of Jiang Tianyong’s temporary residences in Beijing on 4 December, raided the premises and confiscated some of his personal belongings.

Please write immediately in Chinese, English or your own language:

- Urging the Chinese authorities to immediately disclose Jiang Tianyong’s whereabouts;
- Insisting that, if Jiang Tianyong is in state custody, that he is immediately released, or, if credible evidence of an internationally recognized crime exists, is transferred to an official place of detention, charged promptly and remanded by an independent court, in line with international human rights standards;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that he is allowed access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and adequate medical care.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 FEBRUARY 2017 TO:

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun
14 Dong Chang’an Jie
Dongcheng Qu,
Beijingshi 100741
People’s Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 6626114 (Chinese only)
Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

Premier

Li Keqiang Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office,
2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu,
Beijingshi 100017,
People’s Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65961109 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Email: premier@mail.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Premier

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. This is the first update of UA 272/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5219/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jiang Tianyong is a well-known human rights lawyer, whose activism resulted in him being disbarred in 2009. He has since continued his work as a human rights defender, despite suffering ongoing harassment, detention and physical beatings.

Xie Yang, the detained lawyer whose wife Jiang Tianyong was visiting, is one of ten lawyers and activists who remain in detention on subversion charges following an unprecedented mass crackdown that started on 9 July 2015. Amnesty International is aware of at least 248 lawyers and activists who have been questioned or detained by state security agents since the crackdown began.

Jiang Tianyong has been involved in some high profile cases and has supported other human rights defenders, including human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who was imprisoned and consistently harassed due to his human rights work, and blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng, who exposed forced abortion practices on villagers by local officials in Dongshigu Village in Linyi, Shandong.

The most recent detention of Jiang Tianyong was in March 2014, after he and three other lawyers went to investigate a “black jail”, or unofficial detention facility, in Jiansanjiang, Heilongjiang which allegedly detained Falun Gong practitioners. He was beaten while detained and had eight ribs fractured as a result.

Previously, in May 2012, Jiang Tianyong was detained by public security officers while on his way to visit Chen Guangcheng in Chaoyang Hospital, Haidian District, Beijing. Detained for nine hours, Jiang Tianyong was beaten so badly that his left eardrum was perforated and the hearing in his right ear was temporarily impaired.

Name: Jiang Tianyong

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 272/16 Index: ASA 17/5379/2016 Issue Date: 21 December 2016