

URGENT ACTION

SWEDISH ACTIVIST 'CONFESSES' ON CHINESE TV

There are increasing concerns for a Swedish national who has been detained in Beijing since 3 January on suspicion of “endangering state security”. He is being held in secret detention without access to lawyers or his family, and his “confession” was broadcast on national television, in which he admitted to “violating Chinese law”. His girlfriend is missing and is also feared to be detained.

Peter Dahlin, a Swedish national, was detained in Beijing on 3 January while on his way to the airport. He is a co-founder of the Chinese Urgent Action Working Group, an NGO that has worked in China since 2009 to promote the rule of law through legal trainings and public interest litigation. He was initially denied consular visits by the Swedish embassy, but one visit has now taken place. On 19 January, Xinhua, the state-run news agency, broadcast Peter Dahlin making a “confession”, in which he stated that he had “violated Chinese law through my activities here, I've caused harm to the Chinese government, I've hurt the feelings of the Chinese people”. It is possible that this “confession” was made under duress.

The news report also said that Peter Dahlin is being detained under “residential surveillance at a designated location”, a type of detention in which people are held at locations outside of the formal detention system and are denied contact with family and lawyers. In the past, people placed in this form of secret detention have been subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment. In December 2015, the United Nations Committee against Torture expressed “grave concern” over the use of this form of detention in China, which may amount to “incommunicado detention” if the detained are denied access to lawyers.

Peter Dahlin's girlfriend, **Pan Jingling**, has been missing since 3 January. Activists and journalists have been unable to confirm her whereabouts, and there are concerns that she is also being held in secret detention.

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

- Urging the Chinese authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts and legal status of Peter Dahlin and Pan Jingling;
- Calling on them to ensure without delay that they have prompt, unrestricted access to their lawyers and family, and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that Peter Dahlin has access to adequate medical care and unrestricted access to consular officers.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 MARCH 2016 TO:

Director, Beijing Public Security Bureau

Fu Zhenghua Juzhang
Beijingshi Gong'anju
9 Dongdajie, Qianmen
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100740
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 65242927
Salutation: Director

Minister of Public Security

Guo Shengkun Buzhang
Gong'anbu
14 Dongchang'anjie
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

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)

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 8/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/3202/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During the past year, China has enacted or drafted a series of sweeping laws and regulations under the pretext of enhancing national security. The National Security Law, enacted on 1 July, includes a broad and vague definition of “national security” that comprises areas such as politics, culture, finance and the internet.

Of particular concern is the draft Foreign NGO Management Law, which if enacted in the form presented for public consultation in May, would give the authorities – especially the Ministry of Public Security and the police – wide discretion in overseeing and managing the work of NGOs, and raises the risk that the law could be misused to intimidate and prosecute human rights defenders and NGO workers. The draft law would severely restrict the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

While the law was ostensibly designed to regulate and even protect the rights of foreign NGOs, it would also jeopardize the activities or existence of numerous organizations that are advancing the realization of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of people in China. Amnesty International has urged the Chinese government to withdraw this draft, or introduce a new draft that is compatible with China’s human rights obligations.

Peter Dahlin has been diagnosed with Addison’s disease, which requires daily medication. If the disease is left untreated, the results can be fatal. The Chinese authorities have said that they are providing medication, but without consular visits and access to family and lawyers, there is no way to confirm this. According to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), as revised in 2015, places of detention must provide adequate medical care to prisoners without discrimination, or facilitate their transferred to specialized institutions or to civil hospitals if necessary.

The detention of Peter Dahlin takes place within the context of an unprecedented crackdown on human rights lawyers and their associates, over 250 targeted, and 23 currently in police custody, with nine being formally arrested.

Name: Peter Dahlin (m), Pan Jingling (f)

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 8/16 Index: ASA 17/3249/2016 Issue Date: 20 January 2016