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CECC – Congressional-Executive Commission on China

Five Years after 709 Crackdown, Lawyers Continue to Face Repression and Punishment

Beginning around July 9, 2015, Chinese authorities conducted a nationwide and coordinated crackdown (709 Crackdown) that affected over 300 human rights lawyers, legal professionals, and rights advocates.[ii] At least fifteen individuals detained in the crackdown have been convicted on criminal charges.[iii] In a recent interview, one of the detained lawyers Sui Muqing recalled that suppression of rights lawyers began to intensify around 2014, after a long period when "lawyers were the only group willing to speak out" and were asked by grassroots activists "to take the lead [in rights defense movements]."[iiii] Authorities consistently accused lawyers of committing crimes endangering state security, reflecting the view that lawyers presented a political threat to the state. The 709 Crackdown drew criticism from the international community,[iv] with a UN special rapporteur observing that "the crackdown on human rights lawyers . . . made it very difficult for lawyers to be other than governmental facilitators."[v]

Five years after the 709 Crackdown, lawyers continue to face repression, intimidation and punishment for attempting to protect human rights in China. Beside imprisonment, the Chinese government use other administrative means, including disbarment, to target lawyers who express critical views or who advocate for clients whom the Chinese government tried to suppress, including petitioners, Christians, Tibetans, Uyghurs, and democracy and labor advocates. As of July 2020, three individuals are still serving lengthy sentences for "subversion of state power," and many of those released are subject to surveillance, harassment, and economic restrictions. Lawyers who provided legal representation during the crackdown became targets of political persecution themselves. As rights lawyers continue to face criminal prosecution, authorities further institutionalize control over the legal profession by restricting speech and requiring loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party.

Recent Developments

During the 2020 reporting year, Chinese authorities continued to suppress human rights lawyers and advocates by arbitrarily detaining them or by undermining their ability to render legal help. These individuals include the following:

- Zhou Shifeng, Hu Shigen, and Wu Gan continued to serve their sentences ranging from seven to eight years on state security charges.[vi] Chinese authorities detained them as part of the 709 Crackdown for defending people facing politically motivated prosecution.[vii]
- As of January 2020, 71 year-old Li Yuhan remained in pretrial detention for over two years, as she continued to refuse to plead guilty. [viii] Prison officials tortured her by denying her medication and adequate food, and subjected her to degrading treatment through other inmates. [ix] Before her detention, Li represented Wang Yu, a lawyer detained in the 709 Crackdown and spoke to members of the UN Committee against Torture in November 2015 about the plight of human rights lawyers in China. [x]
- As of March 2020, Yu Wensheng continued to await sentencing after a court tried him for
 "inciting subversion" in a closed proceeding in May 2019.[xi] Authorities denied him family
 visits and access to counsel.[xii] Yu's detention may be connected to his legal representation of
 Falun Gong practitioners and to his filing of a complaint alleging illegality of the 709
 Crackdown.[xiii]
- After completing a sentence of 4 years and 6 months for "subversion," rights lawyer Wang
 Quanzhang returned home in April 2020; however, he continued to be subject to the
 supplemental punishment of deprivation of political rights for five years, including the rights of
 speech, publication, and gathering.[xiv] In May, authorities from Shandong province told him
 that he already had broken the law by giving media interviews and advised him not to attend a
 private gathering, the invitation of which had never been publicized.[xv]

* * *

Authorities likewise suppressed lawyers who were not directly connected to the 709 Crackdown:

- In December 2019, **Chen Jiahong** met with his lawyer for the first time in seven months since authorities took him into custody in April, reportedly for his speech calling for increased accountability of Party officials.[xvi] Chen's colleague **Qin Yongpei** advocated for his release, which possibly led to Qin's own detention in October 2019.[xviii] In February 2020, police interrogated Qin's two daughters about Qin's political speech.[xviii] Authorities held both Chen and Qin on state security grounds and deprived them of family and counsel visits.[xix] In October 2019, authorities suspended **Lu Siwei**'s law license for three months for representing Chen, citing a procedural irregularity.[xx]
- In July 2019, the Shandong Justice Department revoked Li Jinxing's law license based on five social media posts in which he talked about rule of law issues.[xxi] Li previously represented wrongfully convicted individuals and rights advocates in criminal proceedings.[xxii]
- In December 2019, police summoned **Lu Tingge** on suspicion of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," and the local lawyer association started an investigation on him for "inappropriate speech."[xxiii] Previously, Lu repeatedly demanded authorities to investigate a 2017 incident in which he was assaulted by court police when he was representing a criminal defendant in a religion-based prosecution; he also filed a complaint in 2019 alleging illegal conduct by the local justice bureau.[xxiv]

Abuse and Torture

Several individuals suffered torture at the hands of government actors, including when they were detained under "residential surveillance at a designated location" (RSDL) a form of coercive measure prescribed in the PRC Criminal Law that "may amount to incommunicado detention in secret places, putting detainees at a high risk of torture or ill-treatment," according to the UN Committee Against Torture.[xxv]

For example, the China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group reported in January 2017 that rights lawyers **Wang Quanzhang**[xxvii] and **Li Heping**[xxviii] had been tortured by electric shock to the point of fainting during the period they spent in RSDL.[xxviii] Li Heping's wife said that authorities had forcibly medicated Li for 22 months with a drug that caused "muscle pains, lethargy, and blurred vision" and shackled him for a month in such a way that he could not stand upright.[xxix]

Family members of rights lawyer **Li Chunfu**[xxx] reported that he returned home in January 2017 in a severely altered physical and mental state, exhibiting paranoia and schizophrenic behavior[xxxi] as well as having damage to his neck and spine.[xxxii] Li told his wife that authorities had drugged him daily for the first portion of his detention.[xxxiii] In June 2018, the wife of lawyer **Jiang Tianyong** likewise reported that authorities force-fed Jiang medication daily, and that his memory had deteriorated severely.[xxxiv]

Rights lawyer **Xie Yang** told his lawyers that during the portion of his detention spent under RSDL, [xxxv] authorities deprived him of sleep, interrogated him for periods of over 20 hours, forced him to sit on stacked stools, punched him, kicked him, and kneed him in his abdomen and lower extremities on multiple occasions.[xxxvii] Xie noted that officials carried out these actions directly under the camera in the room to avoid being recorded.[xxxviii] Xie also identified over 20 officials who participated in his abuse[xxxviiii] and revealed that officials repeatedly pressured him to confess and to keep quiet about his torture.[xxxixi] Xie said in a letter that he reported the torture to two procurators, but they did not make a record of it.[xii] Party- and state-run media claimed that another detained lawyer fabricated the accounts of Xie's torture,[xiii] but Xie's lawyer affirmed their veracity.[xliii[xliiii]

In addition, rights advocate **Wu Gan**[xliv] and lawyer **Wang Yu**[xlv] both reported that authorities tortured them with methods including sleep deprivation and shackling of their hands and feet.[xlvi]

Restrictions on Practice of Law

Beside criminal prosecution, authorities persecuted, harassed, and imposed restrictions on rights lawyers by means including revocation[x|viii] and suspension[x|viiii] of licenses, delay in the annual license renewal process,[x|ix] exclusion from courthouses,[ii] restriction of movement,[iii] restriction on speech,[iiii] and physical assault.[iiiii] By law, a person who has been convicted of a non-negligent crime is ineligible for a law license.[iiv] Legal scholar Teng Biao estimated that, since the 709 Crackdown, some 50 lawyers had their law licenses revoked or were unable to renew their licenses, putting them in financial difficulties.[iv] In September 2018, several rights lawyers who lost their law licenses after the 709 Crackdown formed a public interest group based in Nanning municipality, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, to provide legal aid and consultation services.[ivi] In January 2019, authorities in Nanning banned the group, alleging that it operated in violation of the Regulations on the Registration and Management of Social Organizations.[iviii]

Increasingly Restrictive Government Policies Require Political Loyalty

Amendments to two sets of regulations governing the licensing of lawyers and law firms took effect in 2016, [Iviii] highlighting the government and Party's policy to further control and restrict the legal profession in ways that may violate the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers. [Iix] The amendments to the Measures on Managing Lawyers' Practice of Law and Measures on Managing Law Firms added language mandating lawyers to support the Party's leadership and prohibiting them from taking certain actions such as denying the government's "cult" designations, provoking dissatisfaction with the Party or the government, signing joint petitions or issuing open letters to undermine the judicial system, and organizing sit-in protests and other forms of demonstration outside judicial or other government agencies. [Ix] The Measures on Managing Law Firms requires firms to establish internal Party groups that will participate in their policymaking and management. [Ixi] The amendments prompted opposition from some in the legal community, including a petition signed by 168 lawyers who claimed that the regulations violated China's Constitution, domestic laws, and international standards. [Ixii]

Selected Cases

Name

PPD Record No.

Case Information

Date of Detention: May 19, 2015

Place of Detention:Qingliu Prison,
Sanming municipality,
Fujian province

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 8 years; detained as of

SOURCE: July 2020

Summary: Mr. Wu, a well-known human rights advocate, was

rights advocate, was first detained in May 2015. He remains in prison since being sentenced to 8 years in April 2018. Currently held at Qingliu Prison in Fujian, Wu suffers from an untreated spinal cord injury sustained during pretrial torture that limits the use of his arms and torso. The chronic pain from the injury often prevents him from sleeping, causing severe mental distress.

ПМG

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/Wu%

20Gan.png]

Wu Gan 吳淦

Date of Detention: July 10, 2015

Place of Detention:
Tianjin Changtai
Prison, Tianjin
municipality

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 7 years and 6 months; detained as of July

detained as of Jul 2020

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Hu%20Shigen.png]

Hu Shigen 胡石根

2004-02053

Summary: Rights SOURCE: advocate and church leader Hu Shigen has been detained since July 10, 2015 and received a sentence of 7 years and 6 months for "subversion of state power" on August 3, 2016. Before being detained, Hu had been hospitalized twice for coronary heart disease; his physical wellbeing has significantly deteriorated in prison. Hu's family repeatedly demanded Tianjin Prison Changtai officials to stop denying him medical care and to release for medical him reasons.

Date of Detention: July 10, 2015

PlaceofDetention:TianjinMunicipalPrison,Tianjinmunicipality

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 7 years; detained as of July 2020

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% Shifeng th

20Zhou%20Shifeng.png]

Zhou Shifeng 周世锋

2015-00272

Shifeng, the director of Beijing Fengrui Law Firm, was one of the principal targets of the 709 Crackdown. Zhou's family and defense attorney have received scant access to him since his initial detention. In October 2017, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention called for his immediate release; government has neglected to respond to this demand.

Name

PPD Record No.

Case Information

Date of Detention: August 3, 2015

Place of Detention: Linyi Prison, Linyi municipality, Shandong province

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 4 years and 6 months; released

Summary:

Rights lawyer Wang SOURCE: Quanzhang and 6 months in prison for "subversion of state power" in January 2019 after almost 4 years of pretrial detention. Mistreatments suffered by Wang included consumption of drugs and denial of family visits. His wife reported that Wang appeared to be traumatized and his six-year-old son was forced out of school by authorities as punishment for

Wang's status.

[IMG https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% sentenced to 4 years

20Wang%20Quanzhang.png] Wang Quanzhang 王全璋

Date of Detention: July 28, 2015

PlaceofDetention:DayePSBDetentionCenter,Dayecity,Huangshimunicipality,Hubeiprovince

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 3 years and 6 months; released

Summary: Yin Xu'an, a petitioner and human rights advocate from Hubei, was detained in SOURCE: July 2015 the detention of Wu Gan. Sentenced in May 2017 to a prison sentence of 3 years and 6 months, Yin was released on December 27, 2018. While in detention, Yin received inadequate care for his hypertension and heart disease. In February 2019, local authorities extralegally Yin, detained preventing him from seeking medical treatment in Beijing. Authorities criminally detained Yin in May, after he posted online a video clip that made reference to the 1989 Tiananmen protests.

IMG |

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% gathering to protest 20Yin%20Xu%27an.png] the detention of Wu

Yin Xu'an 尹旭安

Place of Detention:Tianjin No. 2 PSB
Detention Center

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 3 years, suspended

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% held in pre-trial detention for over a

Zhai Yanmin 翟岩民

2016-00115

SOURCE: Summary: After being detention for over a year on the charge of "subversion of state power," Zhai Yanmin was convicted and later released on a suspended sentence in August 2016. The longtime prodemocracy and rights human advocate suffered a stroke in January 2018 that relatives blame on abuse while in detention, including forced consumption of medication.

Name

PPD Record No.

Case Information

Date **Detention:** July 10, 2015

Place of **Detention:** Tianjin No. 1 PSB Detention Center, Tianjin municipality

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 3 years, suspended; under house confinement

Summary:

SOURCE: Beijing-based $https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/resize/images/709\% \ \ human \qquad rights$

Gou Hongguo 勾洪国

20Gou%20Hongguo-150x171.png]

2015-00331

[IMG

advocate Gou Hongguo was apprehended in July 2015 and sentenced for "subversion of state power" on August 5, 2016. In detention, Gou faced long interrogations, solitary confinement, and forced consumption of medication. He received suspended sentence but remains house confinement in Hebei province, where he has been denied surgery remove biliary duct stones.

Date of **Detention:** July 10, 2015

Place of Detention:
Tianjin No. 1
PSB Detention
Center, Tianjin
municipality

Charge:Subversion of state power

Status:Sentenced to 3 years in prison, suspended

Summary: Heping, a Beijing defense lawyer, was detained in July SOURCE: 2015. After almost two years of pre-trial detention, Li returned home after receiving a suspended sentence. During detention, officials subjected Li to electric shocks, shackled him for prolonged period of time, and forced him to take

medication. In February 2019, authorities the passport application made by his son Li Zeyuan because of Li Heping's status as an ex-convict.

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/resize/images/709%

Li Heping 李和平

20Li%20Heping-150x170.png]

Date of Detention: July 28, 2015

Place of
Detention:
Wuhan No. 1
PSB Detention
Center, Wuhan
municipality,
Hubei province

Charge: Picking quarrels and provoking trouble

trouble

SOURCE: Sentenced to 3 years in prison; released

Summary:

Hubei rights advocate Wang Fang was detained in July 2015 and sentenced to 3 years in prison for picking quarrels and provoking trouble. While suffering from cervical cancer, Wang was forced to work in prison. Hubei authorities released her on June 11, 2018.

Name

Case Information

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709%

PPD Record No.

20Wang%20Fang.png]

Wang Fang 王芳

PlaceofDetention:WeifangPSBDetentionCenter,Weifangmunicipality,Shandong province

Charge: Picking quarrels and provoking trouble

Status: Sentenced to 2 years and 5 months; released

Summary: Li Yanjun, a rights advocate from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, SOURCE: was sentenced to 2 years 5 months in prison in September 2017 for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" after more than two years in pre-trial detention. Li completed sentence on October 6, 2017. Authorities detained Li again when Li yelled "Down with the Chinese Communist Party!" in public in Nanning municipality, Guangxi, in July 2019. Days later, authorities transferred Li to a hospital after he initiated a hunger strike to protest his apprehension.

[IMG |

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Li%20Yanjun.png]

Li Yanjun 李燕军

Place of Detention:Tai'an Prison, Tai'an municipality,
Shandong province

Charge: Picking quarrels and provoking trouble

Status: Sentenced to 2 years; released

Summary: Human rights advocate Liu SOURCE: Xing was detained on showing support for a criminal defendant. Authorities sentenced him to 2 years in prison for "picking quarrels provoking trouble" in December 2016, releasing him in May 2017. While in detention, Liu endured prolonged interrogations and was forced to consume unknown medication for three months, which Liu believed to have caused noticeable memory loss.

[IMG |

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% June 15, 2015, for 20Liu%20Xing.png] showing support for a

Liu Xing 刘星

PlaceofDetention:WeifangPSBDetentionCenter,Weifangmunicipality,Shandong province

Charge: Picking quarrels and provoking trouble

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Yao%20Jianqing.png]

SOURCE: Status: Sentenced to 2 years in prison; released

Yao Jianqing 姚建清

2016-00160

Summary: Convicted of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," rights advocate Yao Jianqing was detained for two years before being released on June 4, 2017. During detention, authorities subjected her to prolonged interrogations and denied medical care for her glaucoma.

Name

PPD Record No.

Case Information

Date of Detention: November 21, 2016

Place of Detention: Henan No. 2 Prison, Xinxiang municipality, Henan province

Charge: Inciting subversion of state power

Status: Sentenced to 2 years in prison; house confinement

Summary: Authorities took rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong into custody in November 2016 while he was boarding a Beijingbound train after meeting with a family member of a 709 detainee. He was indicted for "inciting SOURCE: subversion of state power" and sentenced to 2 years in prison. While in prison, Jiang was forced to consume medication daily, including for cardiovascular diseases he did not suffer from. Upon his release on February 28, 2019, state security officers detained Jiang, his father, and his without sister disclosing their whereabouts for several days. His family's home in province Henan remains under constant surveillance and his family members subjected to harassment. Jiang still suffers from a spinal cord injury sustained during detention, as well as memory loss and confusion.

[IMG |

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Jiang%20Tianyong.png]

Jiang Tianyong 江天勇

Place of Detention:Weifang PSB Detention
Center, Weifang
municipality,
Shandong province

Charge: Picking quarrels and provoking trouble

Status: Sentenced to 1 year and 8 months; released

Summary: Zhang SOURCE: Weihong, a human a prison sentence of 1 year 8 months for "picking quarrels and provoking troubles." After her release in January 2017, Zhang said she was diagnosed with emphysema during detention but did not receive any medical treatment. Zhang also was diagnosed with asthma and bronchial disease, but she experienced difficulties in applying for medical insurance

> because of unspecified "remarks on her identification card."

MG | SOURCE:

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% rights advocate, served 20Zhang%20Weihong.png] a prison sentence of 1

Zhang Weihong 张卫红

Date of Detention: July 11, 2015

Place of Detention: Changsha No. 2 PSB Detention Center

Charge: Inciting subversion of state power

Status: Convicted; 667 days of pre-trial detention; released

Summary: After his initial apprehension in July 2015, rights lawyer Xie Yang spent 6 SOURCE: months in RSDL before for "inciting subversion of state power." In meetings with lawyers, Xie revealed that he was deprived food and water, repeatedly beaten, tortured by guards and police officers. Xie was convicted for the crime charged but was exempted from punishment expressing regrets for his actions. Since his release, authorities prevented him from traveling to the United States to visit his wife and daughter, citing concerns for state

G |

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% being formally indicted 20Xie%20Yang.png] for "inciting subversion

Xie Yang 谢阳

2015-00295

Name

PPD Record No.

Case Information

security.

Date of Detention: July 12, 2015

PlaceofDetention:TianjinNo.2PSBDetentionCenter,Tianjin municipality

Charge: Inciting subversion of state power

Status: 543 days of pre-trial detention; released

Summary: Xie Yanyi, a Beijing human rights attorney, was held for 545 days on suspicion SOURCE: of "inciting subversion of state power." After being released on bail on January 5, 2017, he and his family endured constant surveillance by plainclothes police. In an interview in October 2017, Xie detailed the abuses he detained, including forced consumption of medication, interrogations, beatings, inhumane meals, and solitary confinement in a windowless cell. Since his release, Xie has been prevented from practicing law and his family members' travel has been restricted.

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709%

Xie Yanyi 谢燕益

20Xie%20Yanyi.png]

Date of Detention: August 1, 2015

Place of Detention: Tianjin No. 2 PSB Detention Center, Tianjin municipality

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: 530 days of pre-trial detention; released

[IMG https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% detained 20Li%20Chunfu.png]

2015-00311

SOURCE: Summary: Authorities Beijing lawyer Li Chunfu on August 1, 2015 on suspicion of "subversion of state power," holding him until January 12, 2017, including several months in RSDL. Upon release, Li was physically emaciated and emotionally distressed. He has shown symptoms of a mental disorder that may be the result of forced consumption of medication while in detention

Date of Detention: July 10, 2015

Place of Detention: Tianjin No. 2 PSB Detention Center, Tianjin municipality

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: ~480 days of detention; pre-trial released

Summary: On July 10, 2015, authorities detained Liu Sixin, a Beijing legal assistant on suspicion of "subversion of state power" and later held him under RSDL. Authorities released Liu on bail in November 2016.

Li Chunfu 李春富

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Liu%20Sixin.png]

Liu Sixin 刘四新

Name **Case Information** PPD Record No. Date of Detention: July 10, 2015 Place of Detention: Tianjin No. 1 PSB Detention Tianjin municipality Charge: Subversion of state power Status: ~390 days of pre-trial detention; released ${\sf SOURCE:} \ \, \textbf{Summary:}$ https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% human 20Liu%20Yongping.png]

Liu Yongping 刘永平

2015-00333

Beijing rights advocate Liu Yongping was taken into custody on July 10, 2015 on suspicion "subversion of state power." After more than a year in detention, including under RSDL, Liu was released on bail in August 2016, but he remained under police control. He and his family's freedom of movement continues to be restricted and their communications monitored.

Center,

Date of Detention: July 9, 2015

PlaceofDetention:TianjinNo.2PSBDetentionCenter,Tianjin municipality

Charge: Inciting subversion of state power

Status: ~380 days of pre-trial detention

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Bao%20Longjun.png]

Bao Longjun 包龙军

2015-00253

Summary: Lawyer SOURCE: Bao Longjun was detained on July 9, 2015 and held in RSDL. Authorities reportedly released him from police custody in August 2016. While Bao has performed some legal advocacy since his release, authorities have prevented him from practicing law without legal explanation. He and his wife Wang Yu have been unable to transfer funds to their son studying abroad in Australia.

Date of Detention: July 9, 2015

PlaceofDetention:TianjinNo.1PSBDetentionCenter,Tianjin municipality

Charge: Subversion of state power

Status: ~360 days of pre-trial detention; released

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Wang%20Yu.png]

Wang Yu 王字

2015-00252

Summary: Authorities SOURCE: detained human rights lawyer Wang Yu for over a year on suspicion of "subverting state power" and released her on bail in July 2016. A year after her release, Wang's bail conditions were dropped, although she and her family continued to be surveilled. Authorities tortured Wang while she was in RSDL custody, including deprivation of food and water and filmed strip-searches.

Name

PPD Record No.

Case Information

Date of **Detention:** July 10, 2015

Place of Detention:
Tianjin No. 1
PSB Detention
Center, Tianjin
municipality

Charge:Subversion of state power

Status: 363 days of pre-trial detention; released

Summary:Legal assistant
of Li Heping,
Zhao Wei was

arrested on suspicion of SOURCE: "subversion of

state

after being detained on July 10, 2015. After a year in custody, including in

RSDL, she was released on bail but remained under police

bail conditions were lifted in July 2017. In addition to her

control until her

personal items and online accounts being confiscated by

the authorities, Zhao said that she was sexually assaulted while

in detention. Her lawyer, Ren Quanniu, was

detained after reporting on her sexual assault.

[IMG |

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Zhao%20Wei.png]

Zhao Wei 赵威

Date of **Detention:** July 10, 2015

Place of Detention:
Tianjin No. 1
PSB Detention
Center, Tianjin

Charge:Subversion of

municipality

state power

Status: 273 days of pre-trial detention; released

Summary:

Trainee lawyer and Zhou Shifeng's legal assistant, Li Shuyun was taken into custody in July 2015 on

SOURCE: suspicion of

"subversion of state power."

Authorities released Li and eventually

dropped the case in April 2017. Li suffered

torture including physical abuse, forced consumption of

unknown medication, and ordered to assume stress

positions for prolonged periods of time. After Li speaking up about her experience, authorities confiscated her

confiscated her phone and closed her online accounts. Li reportedly became too afraid to

continue her legal training.

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/resize/images/709%

Li Shuyun 李姝云

20Li%20Shuyun-150x171.png]

Date of **Detention:** August 25, 2015

Place o Detention: Inner Mongolia

Charge:

Gathering a crowd to disrupt social order; stealing, spying, purchasing, and illegally providing state secrets and intelligence for overseas entities

Status: 211 days of pre-trial detention; released

Summary: In

SOURCE: August 2015, authorities took rights lawyer

Zhang Kai into custody and held him in

RSDL for about six months, releasing him on

bail to his parents' home in Inner

Mongolia in March 2016. In

August, Zhang gave a TV

interview in which he

criticized other lawyers

detained in the 709 Crackdown.

Zhang later retracted his

criticism, saying that authorities

had pressured him, after which

authorities extended his bail conditions

for another

year.

Name

[IMG

20Zhang%20Kai.png]

Zhang Kai 张凯

2015-00318

https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709%

Case Information

PPD Record No.

https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/2033173.html

24-08-2020

Date of Detention: July 10, 2015

Place of Detention:

Guangzhou municipality, Guangdong province

Charge: Inciting subversion of state power; picking quarrels and provoking trouble

Status: 180 days of pre-trial detention; released

Summary: After detaining lawyer Sui Muqing for "picking quarrels provoking trouble," authorities added the charge of "subversion of state power" and began to hold him at an unknown location under RSDL, releasing him on bail in January 2016. Sui previously worked on several politically sensitive cases, including those of lawyer Ding Jiaxi, and rights advocates Guo Feixiong and Ye Xiaozheng. In 2018, the Guangdong Justice Department revoked Sui's law license, alleging disruptive conduct at two hearings in which he defended rights advocates.

[IMG | SOURCE: https://www.cecc.gov/sites/chinacommission.house.gov/files/images/709% 20Sui%20Muqing.png]

Sui Muqing 隋牧青

2015-00281

[i] China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, "'709 Dazhuabu' jinzhan tongbao" ["709 Crackdown" status report], July 24, 2019.

[iii] China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, "'709 Dazhuabu' jinzhan tongbao" ["709 Crackdown" status report], July 24, 2019.

[iii] China Change, "Interviewing Sui Muqing: As a Human Rights Lawyer, I've Sacrifice a Lot, but Gained Even More," June 2, 2020.

[iv] See, e.g., Dominique Attias et al., "Letter From Legal Experts on Detained Chinese Lawyers," reprinted in Human Rights Watch, January 18, 2016; "China's Clampdown on Lawyers and Activists Draws Concern of UN Human Rights Chief," UN News Centre, February 16, 2016.

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