BOGNOR CHICHESTER AND DISTRICT AMNESTY GROUP

**Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing**



|  |
| --- |
| **This month’s action** |
| **China: website founder ill-treated in detention** |
| *Background to this action***Huang Qi, founder of “64 Tianwang” (64tianwang.org), who has been detained since November 2016, was ill-treated by police officers in the detention centre and it is unclear if he has received adequate medical treatment.** **Huang Qi**, 53, who is detained at Mianyang City Detention Centre and was only allowed to meet his lawyer for first time on 28 July 2017 since he was taken away on 28 November 2016. During the meeting he described to his lawyer Sui Muqing how he has been ill-treated during detention. Huang Qi told Sui Muqing that police officers in the detention centre ordered him to stand for six hours on one day and then four hours per day for over 20 days. He was repeatedly questioned by 36 police officers and often insulted by them. Sui Muqing said Huang Qi has lost 10 kg since he was detained. Huang Qi was given medicine for his illness although it’s unclear if he has received adequate medical treatment. He is suffering from kidney disease, hydrocephalus, and other heart and lung conditions. He was initially given the same meals as the detention centre staff, but this was later discontinued and he went back to a less nutritional diet after 5 July. Huang Qi’s 84-year-old mother Pu Wenqing is very worried about Huang Qi’s health condition after learning about Liu Xiaobo’s death in custody, according to the lawyer. Huang Qi’s family received notification on 16 December 2016 that he had been formally arrested for “leaking state secrets” but no further explanation about the allegations were provided.  | *What you can do***Please write immediately, urging the authorities to ensure that Huang Qi is:*** Protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention;
* Tried in line with international fair trial standards;
* Granted prompt, regular and unrestricted access to medical care on request or as necessary.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 SEPTEMBER 2017 TO** Director Qiao Yuejun Mianyang City Detention Centre Jianmenlu Peicheng Qu, Mianyang Shi 621000 People’s Republic of China **Salutation: Dear Director** And a copy to: HIS EXCELLENCY MR LIU XIAOMING, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place W1B 1JL, 020 7299 4049, press\_uk@mfa.gov.cn  |
| **Worrying crackdown on Kenyan defenders** |
| *Background to this action***Kenya’s NGO Coordination Board threatened to arrest George Kegoro, Executive Director of Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC), Gladwell Otieno, Executive Director of African Center for Open Governance (AfriCOG) and Maina Kiai, former UN Special Rapporteur and a member of AfriCOG’s Board of Directors on 16 August.** **George Kegoro**, Executive Director of KHRC, **Gladwell Otieno**, Executive Director of AfriCOG, and **Maina Kiai**, former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and a member of AfriCOG’s Board of Directors, came under attack from Kenya’s NGO Coordination Board on 14 - 16 August. The NGO Coordination Board is responsible for registering, facilitating and coordinating all national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Kenya. The NGO Coordination Board accused the two organizations, KHRC and AfriCOG on 14 and 15 August respectively of financial and regulatory impropriety and called upon the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to take actions against them, including freezing their accounts and arrest and prosecute AfriCOG’s directors and board members. On 16 August, KRA officers accompanied by police raided AfriCOG’s offices and showed warrants that were inconsistent with the accompanying affidavits. The officials stated they were seeking to conduct an operation pursuant to the NGO Coordination Board’s directive. The acting Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government called the raid off as it was being conducted. Amnesty International is concerned that the threats to shut down these leading human rights and governance organizations and the continued threats of arrest of human rights defenders is intended to intimidate and harass them in an attempt to silence them and prevent their legitimate human rights work.  | *What you can do***Please write immediately:** * Urging the Kenyan authorities to rein in the NGO Coordination Board to stop all forms of harassment, intimidation and attacks on civil society organizations and human rights defenders;
* Urging the Kenyan authorities to effectively implement the Public Benefits Organization Act of 2013 to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society to be able to work without fear of reprisals;
* Calling on them to refrain from bringing criminal charges or any other proceeding against human rights defenders that stem solely from the peaceful exercise of their rights.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 OCTOBER 2017 TO:** (Acting) Cabinet Secretary, Dr Fred Matiang’I, Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government, Harambee House, Harambee Avenue P.O Box 30510 – 00100, Nairobi, KenyaEmail: ps.interior@kenya.go.ke **Salutation: Dr Fred Matiang’i** And a copy to: HIS EXCELLENCY MR LAZARUS OMBAI AMAYO, Kenya High Commission, 45 Portland Place, London W1B 1AS. www.kenyahighcom.org.uk, info@kenyahighcom.org.uk |
| **See** [**www.amnesty.org.uk/bognor-chichesterand-district/about-0**](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/bognor-chichesterand-district/about-0) **for further information about the group** |