

URGENT ACTION

DETAINED RIGHTS LAWYER FURTHER ILL-TREATED

Sixty-year-old human rights lawyer Li Yuhan reported to her lawyer that she was left unconscious and unattended for hours after detention officers poured cold water on her during a bath in freezing weather. She is at risk of further torture and other ill-treatment.

Li Yuhan told her lawyer Lin Qilei when they met at the Shenyang City No. 1 Detention Centre for the second time on 30 November 2017 that her situation has deteriorated and that she cannot walk as well as she did before she was formally arrested on 15 November for “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”. Li Yuhan said to the lawyer: “I was afraid I would never see you again.” She had also complained to her lawyer about ill-treatment during their previous meeting on 10 November, their first meeting after she was detained on 9 October.

Li Yuhan also told the lawyer that on one evening after interrogation when she was having a bath, the bucket of hot water was suddenly taken away and thrown away by somebody. A female officer ordered someone then to pour cold water on her. Li Yuhan shivered in the cold weather until at around 3 or 4am when she pushed the button to call for a doctor’s help. She then lost consciousness. When she woke up, the other inmates told her that the doctor had not come. She said the female officer taunted her and said: “You didn’t die even though the doctor didn’t come” and screamed: “Beijing lawyer Li Yuhan yelled for help”. The female officer also threatened Li Yuhan that she would put handcuffs and leg irons on her.

Only a few days later, together with several others, Wang Yunfei, the police officer in charge of Li Yuhan’s case, took Li Yuhan to the hospital for a medical examination. Li Yuhan was only dressed in light clothes and was not provided with any water and food while she was waiting for the medical examination. When they returned Li Yuhan to the detention centre, Wang Yunfei violently pushed her back in the cell.

Please write immediately in English, Chinese or your own language urging the authorities to:

- Release Li Yuhan unconditionally and immediately unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that she has committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards;
- Ensure that Li Yuhan is protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention, and she has regular, unrestricted access to her family, lawyers of her choice, and medical care on request or as necessary;
- Conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the alleged physical abuse against Li Yuhan and bring those responsible to justice

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 JANUARY 2018 TO:

Director

Shenyang City No. 1 Detention Centre
Gaolicun, Zaohuazhen
Yuhongqu, Shenyang Shi
Liaoning Sheng
People’s Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Heping District Branch of Shenyang City
Public Security Bureau
109 Minzhulu
Shenyang Shi, Liaoning Sheng
110000

People’s Republic of China

Tel: +86 24 23863537 (Chinese only)

Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security

Zhao Kezhi Buzhang

Gonganbu

14 Dongchanganjie

Dongchengqu, Beijing Shi 100741

People’s Republic of China

Tel: +86 10 66262114 (Chinese only)

Email: gabzfwz@mps.gov.cn

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. 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

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 227/17. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/7472/2017/en

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Li Yuhan started practising law in 1991 and has worked on a number of human rights cases. She was one of two lawyers that represented Beijing human rights lawyer Wang Yu, who was the first of approximately 250 lawyers and activists detained or questioned during the mass crackdown beginning in July 2015.

During Wang Yu's detention, Li Yuhan made numerous trips to Tianjin, north-eastern China, to try to meet with her. However, the public security officials consistently refused, claiming that they could not allow Li Yuhan to meet her as Wang Yu was accused of "state security crimes". Detained for about a year, Wang Yu was released on bail in June 2016.

In late June 2017, a year after she was released, Li Yuhan and her co-lawyer visited Wang Yu in Inner Mongolia where she and her family have been placed under tight police surveillance. Many of Li Yuhan's friends and fellow human rights lawyers believe that her detention might be related to her being Wang Yu's lawyer and representing other human rights cases.

According to the NGO Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD), in May 2015 Li Yuhan was assaulted by Beijing police after she reported illegal behaviour by local officials, who she said had obstructed justice in a civil lawsuit. When detained by the police in Beijing at that time, an officer shoved her head against a toilet and she was unconscious for hours. After her release, Li Yuhan was diagnosed with a concussion and injuries to her back, head, limbs and abdomen. She continued to suffer from unremitting headaches, dizziness, nausea, blurred vision, and irregular heartbeat and as a result had to suspend her work for some time.

Activists and human rights defenders continue to be systematically subjected to monitoring, harassment, intimidation, arrest and detention. Police detained increasing numbers of human rights defenders outside of formal detention facilities, sometimes without access to a lawyer for long periods, exposing the detainees to the risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Further information on UA: 227/17 Index: ASA 17/7546/2017 Issue Date: 5 December 2017