

Amnesty International

IMPRISONED WRITERS



DAILY READINGS: TOP AUTHORS READ FROM WORK THAT HIGHLIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES & RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Thursday 23 August

Scripted and Staged: Forced Confessions in China

Today's readings:

Today's testimonies are taken from '*Scripted and Staged*' a report by Safeguard Defenders, an organisation that works directly with human rights defenders in Asia. Amnesty International is grateful to Safeguard Defenders for allowing us to share this content as published in '*Scripted and Staged*'. <http://rsdlmonitor.com/>

Peter Dahlin, from Sweden, is a long-time human rights activist and co-founder of the NGO, China Action, which worked to strengthen the capacity of lawyers and human rights defenders, and undertook public interest litigation in China. He was detained by Chinese State Security agents on 3 January 2016. and pressured into making a televised confession.

Peter Humphrey was a British corporate investigator based in Shanghai when he was detained in July 2013. Mr Humphrey's first televised confession came shortly after he was charged in August 2013. He was sentenced to 2.5 years in jail in August 2014, considered an unusually harsh penalty for this charge. He was released six months early in 2015 on medical grounds.

Wang Yu is one of China's most respected human rights lawyers. Originally a commercial lawyer, she dedicated herself to rights defence work in 2011 after her own experiences with police abuse and wrongful imprisonment. She and her husband were kept in Residential Surveillance at a Designated Location (RSDL) and detention for more than a year.

Li, a human rights defender, was detained and released around a year later, without charge. He was pressured repeatedly to confess on camera but resisted. His name and other identifying details have been concealed for his safety. Li still lives in China.

Today's readers:

Irish writer **Peadar Ó Guilín** grew up in Donegal and is the author of the young adult novel, *The Call*, inspired by the northwest of Ireland. *The Invasion*, a sequel to *The Call* and the end of the duology is a hard-hitting fantasy adventure about two teenagers fighting to survive.

Hayley Barker has taught secondary school English for eighteen years. Her most recent novel is *Show Stealer*, the second in the *Show Stopper* series.

Teresa Thornhill is a linguist, writer and child protection barrister with a special interest in the Middle East. Her books describe humanitarian crises from the first-person perspective, including most recently *Hara Hotel: A Tale of Syrian Refugees in Greece*.

Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*, which reworks Sophocles' tragedy Antigone to tell the story of a British Muslim family's connection to Islamic State, was this year's winner of the Women's prize for fiction.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION:

Help get Wang Quanzhang home to his family: Wang Quanzhang is a human rights lawyer from China who has spent years defending the rights of others - and risking his safety to do it. One day, almost three years ago, he was taken by the Chinese authorities and his family does not know for sure where he is or even if he is alive. You can send an email to the Chinese authorities asking that they release Wang Quanzhang here:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/free-chinese-lawyer-wang-quanzhang/>