

URGENT ACTION

BOOKSELLER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON

Bookseller, Gui Minhai, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and deprivation of political rights for five years on the charge of "illegally providing intelligence to foreign entities", on 24 February 2020. Without access to his family, a lawyer of his choice and consular officials, there are grave concerns that Gui Minhai is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. There are also concerns regarding his health.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 6238 1025
Email: english@mail.gov.cn

Dear President Xi,

I am writing to express my concern for **Gui Minhai**, who has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and deprivation of political rights for five years on the charge of "illegally providing intelligence to foreign entities", on 24 February 2020.

Gui Minhai appears to have been tried and convicted in secret, denying him any chance of a fair trial. Despite the claim that he handed over 'intelligence' while in their custody, it appears that his conviction is primarily based on his attempted trip with two Swedish diplomats to Beijing in 2018.

Without any further information provided, the court notice also stated that Gui Minhai had reapplied for Chinese citizenship in 2018. Which would mean he could not rely on his Swedish citizenship anymore. As Gui Minhai has been held in custody since 2015, the true intention of this decision cannot be verified.

It is also distressing to learn that Gui Minhai has not been able to see his family members, consular officials, or even been allowed access to a lawyer of his own choice, since 2018. Given his existing health condition, which requires regular and urgent medical care, Gui Minhai's family are particularly concerned for his wellbeing.

I therefore call on you to:

- **Release Gui Minhai and drop the charges against him, unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognised offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards;**
- **Grant Gui Minhai prompt, regular and unrestricted access to medical care on request or as necessary, lawyer of his choice and his family**
- **Clarify the circumstances of his change of citizenship and until then grant Gui Minhai consular access.**

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gui Minhai was one of the five Hong Kong-based publishers and booksellers who disappeared in 2015 after printing books critical of the Chinese government.

Mighty Current Media and the Causeway Bay Bookstore that Gui Minhai led were known for their books on Chinese leaders and political scandals, which are banned in mainland China, but are popular with mainland Chinese tourists visiting Hong Kong. The detention and disappearances of Gui Minhai and the other booksellers had a chilling effect on the climate for freedom of expression and publishing in Hong Kong and the Chinese-speaking world.

Gui Minhai's case drew international attention after he first went missing in Thailand on 17 October 2015, at about the same time that three of his company colleagues also went missing. Another associate, Lee Bo, was taken away from Hong Kong on 30 December 2015. Gui Minhai later reappeared on Chinese state television in January 2016 to give a choreographed "confession" on television, regarding an alleged traffic incident that took place in 2003. Many believe that the drunk driving charge was simply a pretence to detain Gui Minhai and shut down his publishing business.

In October 2017, Gui Minhai was "released" after he had, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, "completely served the sentence imposed for a traffic offence"; however, his daughter has since raised concerns that Gui Minhai remained under state surveillance and monitoring after his supposed release.

Nevertheless, on 20 January 2018, while on a train from Ningbo to Beijing, accompanied by two Swedish diplomats helping him get medical care, Gui Minhai was suddenly taken away by approximately 10 plainclothes officers. He has not been seen since.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Chinese or English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 14 April 2020

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Gui Minhai (he/him)

ADDITIONAL TARGETS: Ambassador Liu Xiaoming, Embassy of China, 49–51 Portland Place, London W1B 1JL

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/8057/2018/en/>