

# URGENT ACTION

## CHINESE ACTIVIST IMPRISONED

**Veteran activist Zhang Lin has been sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment as a result of his peaceful activism defending his daughter's right to education.**

On 5 September, **Zhang Lin** was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment by Bengshan District People's Court in eastern Anhui province for "gathering a crowd to disrupt order in a public place". His trial took place on 18 December 2013, but his sentencing was postponed three times. According to his lawyer, who last met with him in July, Zhang Lin has some health problems as a result of his long detention, but that these are not serious and he has received medical treatment.

In February 2013, police in Hefei, Anhui, removed Zhang Lin's 10-year-old daughter from school and detained her for several hours. The authorities continued to refuse to allow her to return to school, prompting over 30 activists to gather in Hefei in protest in April. Zhang Lin then took his daughter to their hometown of Bengbu, where they were held under house arrest and she continued to be denied permission to attend school.

Zhang Lin escaped house arrest in mid-June 2013 and went to Beijing to protest against his daughter's treatment. State security police took him back to Bengbu on 1 July and assured him that she would be allowed to return to school and no other action would be taken. However, he was then detained on 19 July and formally arrested on 22 August.

Zhang Lin, a 50-year-old veteran of the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Anhui, is an activist with the banned China Democracy Party. He has been imprisoned four times previously and has served over 13 years in prison and Re-education through Labour facilities since 1989 as a result of his political activities. Fellow activists helped his daughter to travel to the US in September 2013 where she is now able to attend school. His imprisonment is believed to be part of a wider crackdown on those associated with the New Citizens' Movement, a loose network of activists which aims to promote government transparency and expose corruption.

**Many thanks to those who took action on his behalf. We will monitor the situation and may continue taking action through other means, but no more action is required from the UA Network at this time.**

This is the first update of UA 336/13. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/038/2013/en>

Name: Zhang Lin

Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 336/13 Index: ASA 17/046/2014 Issue Date: 5 September 2014

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