

URGENT ACTION

FEMALE ACTIVIST COULD FACE LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Detained Chinese women's rights activist Su Changlan has been formally arrested and charged with 'inciting subversion' which could lead to life imprisonment. It is now known where she is being held, but she still has no access to her lawyer or family. Her friend Chen Qitong continues to be detained without charge in an unknown location.

The charges against **Su Changlan** are believed to be as a result of posts she made online in support of the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. She was questioned by police in Nanhai, Foshan, central Guangdong province, on two occasions in September, and according to friends the police warned her not to continue posting material about the protests. However, after making further comments about the protests on social media, she was taken away from her home by police on 27 October. It was not confirmed where she was being held until her family received a notice of the charges against her on 3 December, which stated that she is detained at Nanhai District Detention Centre.

On 25 November, police in Nanhai detained Su Changlan's friend **Chen Qitong** (also known as Tian Li), who had been providing legal assistance. She continues to be held in an unknown location, and the authorities have provided no information about any charges against her. Su Changlan's husband, Chen Dequan, was also detained at the same time, but was later released.

Please write immediately in Chinese, English or your own language:

- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Su Changlan, as she has been imprisoned solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression;
- Demanding that the authorities immediately disclose the whereabouts and legal status of Chen Qitong;
- Calling on them to ensure without delay that they both have regular, unrestricted access to their lawyers and family, and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 JANUARY 2015 TO:

Director

Jiang Kaixin
Foshan City Public Security Bureau
No. 8 Lingnan Dadaobei, Shanchengqu
Foshan City, Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Nanhai District Detention Centre
Shishan Zhaoda Management Zone
Foshan City
Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Director

Director

Li Chunsheng
Guangdong Provincial Public Security
Department
No. 97 Huanghualu
Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province
People's Republic of China

Email: xf@gdga.gov.cn,
info@gdga.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Director

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 275/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/055/2014/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

FEMALE ACTIVIST COULD FACE LIFE IMPRISONMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Su Changlan is a well-known activist in southern China, who has been detained several times previously due to her peaceful activities defending women's rights, on issues including family planning and domestic violence. After she was taken from her home by police on 27 October, her husband went to the local police station and Foshan Public Security Bureau office the next day to enquire about her situation but the authorities refused to disclose her whereabouts. Officials at the petition office at the Public Security Bureau said the family would get a response to their enquiry within 60 days. Su Changlan's family and lawyer were told by the police that she was held at the Nanhai District Detention Centre in Foshan, but when they went there on 31 October, officers said she was not being detained there. The authorities repeatedly refused to disclose her whereabouts or the exact charges against her.

After being detained by police in Nanhai on 25 November, Su Changlan's husband Chen Dequan was held for 11 hours, during which he had his thighs tied to a restraint chair. He also had his bank cards, mobile phone and keys to his home confiscated.

Torture and other ill-treatment remain endemic in all places of detention in China, and this risk is even greater for those who are not allowed access to their family or lawyer.

Approximately 100 people have been detained in mainland China since pro-democracy protests began in Hong Kong on 26 September, for activities such as expressing their support on social media, shaving their heads in solidarity with the demonstrators, or planning to travel to Hong Kong to join the protests. Thirty-eight remained in detention as of 18 December, and among them, 14 have been formally arrested. This is part of a wider attempt by the Chinese authorities to silence any discussion or displays of support for the events in Hong Kong. Government censors have attempted to remove all positive mentions of the pro-democracy protests online, while forcing newspapers and TV stations to only use the state-sponsored narrative of the protests. An updated list of names and details can be found here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/chinese-activists-detained-supporting-hong-kong-protests-2014-11-07>.

Name: Su Changlan (f), Chen Dequan (m), Chen Qitong (f)

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 275/14 Index: ASA 17/056/2014 Issue Date: 18 December 2014