

# IN CUSTODY:

## People imprisoned in connection with Journalism or the Internet

The effective development of civil society depends on the free exchange of ideas through publication and the Internet allowing civic groups to make their views known to the rest of society, and to become aware of information that can help further their cause. A reflection of the importance of the Internet and media is the number of journalists arrested by Chinese authorities. In its 2003 annual report on China, the Committee to Protect Journalist observes that at the end of 2002 China had 39 journalists in prison, making it the world

leader in media suppression for the fourth consecutive year.

The list below employs a broad definition of journalism to encompass a variety of activities related to free expression and access to information. Apart from professional journalists, some of the listed prisoners are members of groups who published their own journals or expressed their views in articles for the Internet or publications overseas. Others are individuals who established their own Web sites, or who gave interviews to overseas media. As with previ-

ous lists, this one cannot claim to be comprehensive. There is no doubt but that many more people than those named here are currently languishing in prison for no crime greater than the peaceful expression of their views.

**Abbreviations:** CDP - China Democracy Party; CDF - Chinese Democratic Federation; WAF - Workers Autonomous Federation; FLUC - Free Labor Union of China; CFDP - China Freedom and Democracy Party; RTL - Reeducation Through Labor; PSB - Public Security Bureau

NAME	PROVINCE	DETENTION/ARREST DATE	BACKGROUND	SENTENCE	OFFENSE	PRISON
Chen Renjie	Fujian	Jul-83	In September 1982 Chen, Lin Youping and Chen Biling published a pamphlet entitled Freedom Report and distributed around 300 copies in Fuzhou. Authorities accused them of making contact with Taiwanese spy organizations. Chen Biling was sentenced to death and executed.	Aug-83, life	propaganda and incitement to encourage the overthrow of the people's democratic dictatorship	
Lin Youping	Fujian	Jul-83	See Chen Renjie above	1983, death with reprieve	propaganda and incitement	
Yu Dongye	Hunan	23-May-89	An art critic with Liuyang News.	20 years		Hunan Province #1 Prison
Liang Qiang	Beijing	1989	Cadre at Beijing Light Vehicle Company and member of Beijing WAF. Arrested for writing "reactionary" articles for Beijing WAF and Beijing Students Autonomous Federation during the 1989 protests.	Jan-90, 15 years	counter-revolutionary crimes	Beijing Yanqing Prison

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Hu Liping	Beijing	7-Apr-90	A reporter with Beijing Daily.	10 years	counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement, trafficking in state secrets	Beijing #2 Prison. CPJ unable to confirm release
Chen Yanbin	Beijing	13-Sep-90	b. 1964. Chen, a former university student, was arrested with Zhang Yafei while operating Tielu, an underground publication about the 1989 crackdown at Tiananmen Square. Chen was also accused of organizing and leading the Chinese Revolutionary Democratic Front. Zhang has completed his prison term and been released.	5-Mar-91, 15 years	organizing a counter-revolutionary group	Beijing #2 Prison
Kang Yuchun	Beijing	Disappeared 6-May-92, formally arrested 27-May-92	b. 1964. A former psychiatrist at a Beijing psychiatric hospital, Kang launched <i>Freedom Forum</i> , the magazine of the Chinese Progressive Alliance. His sentence has been reduced by a total of three years and eight months for good behavior.	16-Dec-94, 17 years	counterrevolutionary propaganda, organizing and leading a counterrevolutionary group	Beijing #2 Prison
Liu Jingsheng	Beijing	28-May-92, formally arrested 27-Sep-92	b. 1950. Former writer and co-editor of the pro-democracy journal <i>Tansuo</i> . In 1991 with Hu Shigen, Huang Guoqi and others established the CFDP and FLUC. See Kang Yuchun.	4-Jul-94, 15 years	organizing a counter-revolutionary group	Beijing #2 Prison
Wu Shisen (Wu Shishen)	Beijing	26-Oct-92	b. 1960. An editor at the Xinhua News Agency and a graduate of Fudan University's journalism department, Wu was charged with leaking an advance copy of Party leader Jiang Zemin's speech to the 14th Party Congress to a Hong Kong reporter.	April-93, life	leaking state secrets overseas	Beijing #2 Prison
Chen Meng	Guangdong	14-Mar-95, formally arrested 25-May-95	b. 1961. A musician and participant in the 1989 democracy movement. Chen came across an official document detailing "reactionaries" black-listed from entry to China and sent it to overseas media, where it was published in January 1995.	15-Apr-97, 12 years	revealing state secrets	Dongguan Prison
Fan Yingshang	Hebei	?	In 1994 Fan and Yang Jianguo printed more than 60,000 copies of the magazine <i>Remen Huati</i> (Popular Topics). Authorities accused them of purchasing fake printing authorizations. Yang avoided arrest.	7-Feb-96, 15 years	engaging in speculation and profiteering	

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Hua Di	Beijing	Jan-98	b. 1937. A missile expert, Hua obtained political asylum in the U.S. after the 1989 crackdown and became affiliated with Stanford University. While overseas he wrote articles about China's missile defense system. He was arrested when he returned to China in January 1998 for a family funeral. Originally sentenced to 15 years in November 1999, Hua received a lower sentence after retrial.	23-Nov-00, 10 years	leaking state secrets	Beijing PSB Detention Center.
Zhang Shanguang	Hunan	21-Jul-98	b. 1954. Originally a teacher. After completing 7-year sentence for counter-revolutionary crimes in 1996, Zhang worked in a factory, but was soon laid off. He organized hundreds of laid-off workers and established the Association to Protect Workers' Rights. Arrested after being interviewed by Radio Free Asia interview regarding worker protests.	27-Dec-98, 10 years	supplying intelligence to organizations outside China	Hunan #1 Prison
Gao Qinrong	Shanxi	Detained 4-Dec-98, formally arrested 26-Dec-98	b. 1955. A reporter with the official Xinhua News Agency, Gao was arrested after reporting on a corrupt irrigation scheme in Shanxi Province. Although Xinhua never published Gao's article, it was published on May 27, 1998 in an internal reference edition of <i>People's Daily</i> and raised widespread interest.	4-May-99, 12 years	bribery, embezzlement, pimping	Jinzhong Prison, Qi County, Shanxi
Yue Tianxiang	Gansu	Jan-99	A former employee of the Tianshu City Transport Agency, and a member of the CDP, Yue published <i>Zhongguo Gongren Guancha</i> (China Worker's Monitor), a journal supporting workers' rights. Yue was arrested with colleagues Wang Fengshan and Guo Xinmin, who received lesser sentences and have been released.	5-Jul-99, 10 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Wu Yilong	Zhejiang	26-Apr-99	See Zhu Yufu	9-Nov-99, 8 years	incitement to subvert state power	Zhejiang #1 Prison
Zhu Yufu	Zhejiang	May-99, formally arrested 21-Jun-99	Previously detained for 2 months for participating in 1989 democracy movement. Member of Jiangsu branch of CDP, Zhu established the magazine <i>Zaiye Dang</i> (Opposition Party) with Mao Qingxiang, Xu Guang and Wu Yilong and circulated pro-democracy writings online.	9-Nov-99, 7 years	incitement to subvert state power	Zhejiang #1 Prison
Jiang Qisheng	Beijing	detained 18-May-99, formal arrest 26-Jun-99	b. 1948. Jiang wrote several articles for New York-based <i>Beijing zhi Chun</i> (Beijing Spring), as well as a series of essays and open letters regarding the 10th anniversary of the violent crackdown in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.	27-Dec-00, 4 years	incitement to subvert state power	Beijing #2 Prison

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Mao Qingxiang	Zhejiang	19-Jun-99	b. 1949. See Zhu Yufu	9-Nov-99, 12 years	incitement to subvert state power	Zhejiang #1 Prison
Xu Guang	Zhejiang	25-Jun-99	See Zhu Yufu	9-Nov-99, 5 years	incitement to subvert state power	Zhejiang #1 Prison
An Jun	Henan	16-Jul-99, formally arrested 17-Aug-99	b. 1955. Founder of the China Corruption Monitor group, An Jun wrote essays and articles on corruption.	19-Apr-00, 4 years	incitement to subvert state power	Henan #1 Prison, Kaifeng
Qi Yanchen	Hebei	2-Sep-99	b. 1963. A bank executive, Qi established the China Legal Alliance with Peng Ming and others in early 1998. He published a magazine, <i>Observer</i> , and wrote many articles promoting economic and political reform. Arrested after chapters from his book, <i>The Fall of China</i> , were published on the Internet and in Hong Kong's <i>Kaifang</i> magazine.	19-Sep-00, 4 years	incitement to subvert state power	Hebei Province #4 Prison
Zhang Ji	Heilongjiang	Oct-99	b. 1979. A student at Qiqihar University, Zhang was accused of distributing news and information regarding the Falungong, and was arrested as part of a government crackdown on the Falungong.	8-Nov-99	disseminating reactionary documents via the Internet	
Gu Linna	Guangdong	25-Nov-99	b. 1961. A radio journalist and writer, Gu lost her job after she became a member of Falungong, and was arrested in Guangzhou after participating in a press conference on the group's behalf in Beijing on Oct. 28, 1999.	14-Jun-00, 4 years	undermining implementation of the law using an evil cult	
Feng Daxun	Sichuan	16-Dec-99	b. 1941. A former journalist and a CDP member, Feng was arrested after interviewing protesting machine tool workers in Neijiang in December 1999.	3-Nov-01, 3 years	incitement to subvert state power	Transferred from Neijiang Dongxing Detention Center to Gong County Coal Mine.
Guo Qinghai	Hebei	9-May-00, formally arrested 15-Sep-00	b. 1965. A bank employee, Guo was a friend of dissident Qi Yanchen and a freelance writer. Published essays on the Internet under the pen name Qing Song regarding Qi's case and other topics, and also published articles in Taiwanese newspapers and in Hong Kong-based <i>Kaifang</i> magazine.	26-Apr-01, 4 years	incitement to subvert state power	

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Xu Zerong	Shenzhen	24-Jun-00	An associate research professor at Guangzhou's Zhongshan University and resident of Hong Kong, Xu wrote several freelance articles for Hong Kong publications and co-founded a Hong Kong-based journal, <i>China Social Sciences Quarterly</i> . Xu was arrested after using historical materials for his academic research.	2-Jan-02, 13 years	revealing state secrets, economic crimes	
Huang Qi	Sichuan	12-Jul-00	b. 1964. Huang established the 6-4tianwang.com Web site, which posted information on persons missing after the June 4 crackdown. Huang's trial went into recess on Feb 13, 2001, when he fainted in court. Trial resumed Aug 14, 2001, but sentencing was not announced until May 2003	09-May-03, 5 years	incitement to subvert state power	Chengdu PSB #2 Detention Center
Zhang Haitao	Jilin	29-Jul-00, formally arrested 11-Oct-00	b. 1972. Creator of only China-based Web site on the Falungong.	?	incitement to subvert state power	
Liu Weifang	Xinjiang	4-Sep-00	b. 1961. A shopkeeper, Liu posted a number of essays on the Internet under the name "lgwf" criticizing China's leaders, political system and social issues.	13-Jun-01, 3 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Jiang Weiping	Liaoning	4-Dec-00, formally arrested 3-Jan-01	b. 1955. Dalian journalist who reported in Hong Kong publications in 1998 about a corruption case involving the mayor of Dalian. Sentence subsequently reduced to 6 years.	5-Sep-01, 8 years	revealing state secrets, incitement to subvert state power	Dalian Detention Center
Dong Yanhong	Beijing	Jan-01	b. 1972. An award-winning calligraphy artist and staff member at Tsinghua University, Dong was arrested along with Liu Wenyu, Yao Yue, Wang Xin, Meng Jun and Wang Xuefei after downloading and disseminating information through the Internet about the Falungong.	13-Dec-01, 5 years	using an illegal cult to undermine the law	
Liu Wenyu	Beijing	Jan-01	b. 1973. A professor of electric power at Tsinghua University. See Dong Yanhong.	13-Dec-01, 3 years	using an illegal cult to undermine the law	
Yao Yue	Beijing	Jan-01	b. 1973. A microelectronics researcher at Tsinghua University, and wife of Liu Wenyu. See Dong Yanhong.	13-Dec-01, 12 years	using an illegal cult to undermine the law	
Meng Jun	Beijing	Jan-01	b. 1973. An electronics professor at Tsinghua University. See Dong Yanhong.	13-Dec-01, 10 years	using an illegal cult to undermine the law	

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Wang Xin	Beijing	Jan-01	An academic at Tsinghua University. See Dong Yanhong.	13-Dec-01, 9 years	using an illegal cult to undermine the law	
Wang Xuefei	Shanghai	Jan-01	A graduate student at a Shanghai City University. See Dong Yanhong.	13-Dec-01, 11 years	using an illegal cult to undermine the law	
Liu Haofeng	Shanghai	Mar-01	b. 1975. A former editor and reporter for various publications, Liu became a free-lance journalist and researcher for the CDP, and published several essays regarding China's peasants on the CDP Web site. Also accused of attempting to form the CDP Joint Headquarters, Second Front.	16-May-01, 3 years RTL	endangering state security	RTL
Lü Xinhua	Hubei	detained 10-Mar-01, formal arrest 20-Apr-01,	b. 1972. Born into a poor family in the countryside, Lü wrote articles about rural unrest and official corruption on various overseas Internet Web sites.	30-Dec-01, 4 years	incitement to subvert state power	Wuhan # 2 Detention Center
Yang Zili	Beijing	13-Mar-01	b. 1973. Yang, along with Zhang Honghai, Xu Wei and Jin Haike, formed the Xin Qingnian Xuehui (New Youth Study Group) and operated a Web site, Yang's Garden of Thought ( <i>Yangzi de Sixiang Jiayuan</i> ), featuring essays, poems and reports on political and social issues. The four men were tried on September 28, 2001, but the verdict wasn't announced until 18 months later.	28-May-03, 8 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Zhang Honghai	Beijing	13-Mar-01	See Yang Zili.	28-May-03, 8 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Xu Wei	Beijing	13-Mar-01	b. 1974. A reporter with Xiaofei Ribao (Consumer Daily). See Yang Zili.	28-May-03, 10 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Jin Haike	Beijing	13-Mar-01	See Yang Zili.	28-May-03, 10 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Chi Shouzhu	Jilin	18-Apr-01	b. 1956. A worker in Changchun, Chi was arrested while in possession of political articles downloaded from overseas Web sites. He had only recently been released from 10 years' imprisonment for his participation in the 1989 democracy protests.	?		Lingyuan Prison, Liaoning Province

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Wang Sen	Sichuan	30-Apr-01	A CDP member, Wang posted allegations on the Internet that a medical center in the southwestern city of Dachuan was selling tuberculosis medicine, which had been donated by the International Red Cross, at inflated prices. Wang and others had also helped steel workers stage protests to demand unpaid wages in December 2000.	30-May-02, 10 years	incitement to subvert state power	Dazhou Municipal PSB Detention Center
Zhu Ruixiang	Hunan	7-May-01	b. 1951. A lawyer and former editor with Shaoyang Radio Station, Zhu was arrested after forwarding to twelve of his friends some articles from the pro-democracy Web site VIP Reference ( <a href="http://www.bignews.org">www.bignews.org</a> ) criticizing the government. He was originally sentenced to only 9 months, but the sentence was increased on request from the authorities.	14-Sep-01, 3 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Wang Jinbo	Shandong	9-May-01	b. 1972. A CDP member, Wang had posted essays on a number of Internet sites. He was arrested after e-mailing essays to overseas organizations calling for a reassessment of June 4.	13-Dec-01, 4 years	incitement to subvert state power	Shandong #1 Prison
Wang Zhenyong	Shenzhen	2-Jun-01	b. 1971. A former assistant professor of psychology at Southwestern Normal University in Chongqing, Wang was a Falungong practitioner, and was arrested for downloading and distributing information about the Falungong through the Internet.	?		
Li Hongmin	Guangdong	13-Jun-01	A businessman from Hunan province, Li was detained after e-mailing an electronic copy of the Chinese version of <i>The Tiananmen Papers</i> to friends. He was sent back to his native city, Shaoyang, for formal charges.	awaiting trial	incitement to subvert state power	
Mu Chuanheng	Qingdao	14-Aug-01	b. 1955. In 1979 Mu established the Friends of Democracy Study Group and published two political magazines, <i>Loyal Friendship Forum</i> and <i>Theoretical Flag</i> . After serving one year in prison for counterrevolutionary crimes in 1981, Mu studied law and began writing books on negotiation strategies. In 1997 Mu began to post articles on the Internet on political topics. He was arrested after appealing for the release of his friend Yan Peng, a democracy activist arrested in July 2001.	10-Sep-02, 3 years	incitement to subvert state power	Qingdao Dashan #1 Detention Center
Quan Huicheng	Hainan	Oct-01	A follower of the Falungong, Quan was arrested for downloading, photocopying and distributing documents from overseas Falungong Web sites.	Dec-01, 3 years		

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Lu Wenbin	Jiangsu	22-Dec-01	b. 1982. An electrician at the Xinfeng Gin Cotton Factory, and special correspondent for the <i>Textile Daily</i> newspaper, Lu was arrested after investigating massive worker protests at the privatized Huainan Textile Factory in Dafeng city.	?		current whereabouts unknown
Li Dawei	Gansu	14-Apr-02, formally arrested 22-Apr-02	b. 1962. A former policeman in Tianshui, Li became a political dissident and was arrested after downloading June 4 materials from Web sites onto his computer.	24-Jul-02, 11 years	incitement to subvert state power	
Tao Haidong	Xinjiang	9-Jul-02	b. 1957. Previously served 3 years RTL for political activities. Editor of a book, <i>Imaginings of a New Human Race</i> , and participant in Internet discussion groups. Accused of slandering Party officials.	Feb-03, 7 years	incitement to subvert state power	Urumqi Dadaowan Detention Center
Zhang Wei	Chongqing	19-Jul-02	Zhang was arrested after publishing and selling two underground newspapers, <i>Shishi Zixun</i> (Current Events) and <i>Redian Jiyao</i> (Hot Topics), which included materials downloaded from the Internet.	25-Dec-02, 6 years	illegal publishing	
Zuo Shangwen	Chongqing	19-Jul-02	Business associate of Zhang Wei (above).	25-Dec-02, 5 years	illegal publishing	
Ou Yan	Chongqing	19-Jul-02	Business associate of Zhang Wei (above).	25-Dec-02, 2 years	illegal publishing	
Chen Shaowen	Hunan	6-Aug-02, formally arrested in September	b. 1962. Originally employed at a hardware company, Chen was a free-lance writer who posted many essays and articles regarding China's social problems on overseas Web sites such as Huang Hua Gang and Minzhu Luntan.	awaiting trial	using the Internet to subvert state power	
Li Yibin	Beijing	Nov-02	b. 1974. A computer engineer, Li published the online journal <i>Democracy &amp; Freedom</i> , and posted articles under the pseudonyms Yangchun or Yangchun Baixue.	awaiting trial	incitement to subvert state power	Beijing Detention Center
Jiang Lijun	Liaoning	6-Nov-02, formally arrested December 14, 2002	Believed to be a close confederate of Internet activists Liu Di, Li Yibin and Ouyang Yi. Signatory of open letter to 16th Party Congress.	awaiting trial	incitement to subvert state power	Beijing Qincheng Prison

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Liu Di	Beijing	7-Nov-02, formally arrested 15- Dec-02	b. 1980. University student. Posted opinions on the Internet under the pen name "Stainless Steel Mouse."	awaiting trial	endangering state security	Beijing PSB Detention Center
Li Lan	Hunan	?	A rice farmer, Li was arrested and prosecuted after speaking with the <i>New York Times</i> regarding rural crime.	Dec-02, 1 year		
Ouyang Yi	Sichuan	4-Dec-02, formally arrested 7- Jan-02	b. 1968. Secondary school teacher. Participant in 1989 democracy movement, incarcerated 3 months in 1991. Close friend of Liu Xianbin, and frequently arrested for political activities in Chengdu. Ouyang posted many articles on the Internet and signed the open letter to the 16th Party Congress.	awaiting trial	incitement to subvert state power	Chengdu Detention Center
Jae Hyun Seok	Shandong	17-Jan-03	A South Korean free-lance journalist who frequently worked for the <i>New York Times</i> , Seok was arrested in Yantai, Shandong while photographing North Korean refugees attempting to board fishing boats for South Korea and Japan.	22-May-03, 2 years	human trafficking	
Luo Changfu	Chongqing	13-Mar-03	b. 1963. Luo was arrested after posting articles on the Boxun.com Web site calling for the release of Liu Di.	?	incitement to subvert state power	
Zheng ?	Henan	27-Mar-03	A 17-year old girl identified only by her last name was reported by the official China News Service to have been arrested after posting "socially harmful messages" on the Internet under the pen name Sini.	?		
Luo Yongzhong	Jilin	13-Jun-03	b. 1967. Handicapped by a lame leg, and supporting himself by working at a shop selling beer and cigarettes in Changchun, Luo spent a great deal of time on the Internet, posting more than 150 articles, some criticizing official policies, on various Web sites.	awaiting trial	endangering state security	Changchun No. 3 PSB Detention Center
Kim Seung Jin	Shanghai	7-Aug-03	Police arrested Korean journalists Kim Seung Jin and Geum Myeong Seok as they were filming attempts by North Korean refugees to gain asylum by entering a school run by the Japanese government.	released and expelled from China on 28-Aug	organizing illegal border crossing and attempting to forcefully enter a foreign school	
Geum Myeong Seok	Shanghai	7-Aug-03	See Kim Seung Jin	released and expelled from China on 28-Aug		

**Sources:** HRIC, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, English PEN, Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Tibet Information Network, Digital Freedom Network, Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Democratic Movements of China Committee to Protect Journalists