

# ACTION PAGE

COMPILED BY ADINA MATISOFF

In the wake of corruption scandals related to Shanghai's urban redevelopment and SARS, the PRC government claimed to be making positive strides towards transparency in government and an independent press. However, recent arbitrary arrests and detentions of individuals working to further these goals suggest reform efforts remain superficial.

**APPEAL FOR IMPRISONED ACTIVISTS**  
Shanghai lawyer **Zheng Enchong**, 53, was detained on June 6 after assisting displaced families in more than 500 cases related to Shanghai's urban redevelopment projects. Although his law license was revoked in 2001, Zheng continued to give legal advice to displaced Shanghai residents, including his most recent assistance to six families suing a company controlled by Hong Kong property developer Zhou Zhengyi. Zheng told his lawyer, Guo Guoting, that he was arrested because he offended powerful local interests through his involvement in the lawsuit that alleged official collusion with Zhou. In August Zheng was charged with "illegally providing state secrets to entities outside of China." His trial, closed to the public, commenced on August 28 at the Shanghai Second Intermediate People's Court. Guo Guoting is representing Zheng along with Zhang Sizhi, who has represented many political dissidents in court. In the meantime Zheng is being held at the Shanghai Municipal Public Security Detention Center.

Four Chinese Internet activists, **Xu Wei**, **Yang Zili**, **Jin Haiké** and **Zhang Honghai**, all around 30 years old, were sentenced to lengthy prison terms after posting articles on matters of public concern. Sources close to the activists told HRIC that the Beijing Intermediate Court on the morning of May 28 sentenced Jin Haiké and Xu Wei to 10 years in prison, while Yang Zili and Zhang Honghai each received sentences of 8 years in prison, all on charges of inciting subversion of state power. Yang Zili, a computer engineer, Xu Wei, a reporter and editor for Beijing's *Consumer Daily* newspaper, Jin

Haike, a geological engineer, and Zhang Honghai, a freelance writer, all posted a number of articles on the Internet expressing concern over current events and social conditions. They also established an organization called the New Youth Society, dedicated to exploring ways toward social reform. All four were arrested in March 2001 after a government agent infiltrated their group, and they were tried on charges of subversion on September 28 of that same year, but without a verdict being delivered. Over the past two years their lawyers have been protesting their prolonged detention while the trial was in recess. During the trial Xu Wei complained to the judge about abusive treatment in prison, including brutal beatings and torture with electric shock to his genitals, causing long-term numbness in his lower body. However, the claims were not investigated and a decision was rendered against all four a few minutes after Xu's statement.

**Yang Jianli**, 40, also featured in this issue's prisoner profile, was tried in the Beijing No.2 Intermediate Court on August 4 after 17 months in the Beijing Public Security Detention Center. Yang is a Chinese-born permanent resident of the U.S. who formed his own human rights organization, the Foundation for China in the 21st Century. Yang was charged with illegal entry and espionage after he used a friend's passport to enter China to investigate labor protests across the country in April 2002. The Bush administration has repeatedly raised Yang's case with Chinese officials, and both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate unanimously passed resolutions urging his release. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention also called for Yang's release after determining Yang's detention a violation of international human rights standards. Yang's wife Christina Fu, an American citizen, was denied a Chinese visa to attend the trial, and the foreign press was barred from covering it as well. According to Yang's lawyer, Mo Shaoping, the trial lasted three hours. Yang remains in detention at the Beijing Public Security Detention Center awaiting a verdict from the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court.

**Please join the international community in calling for the immediate and uncondition-**

**al release of these and other human rights defenders and Internet activists.** Please send letters to the designated addresses below, emphasizing the need for free flow of information and the right to exercise freedom of expression, and the right to assembly. Where appropriate, express concern for medical conditions and demand immediate and appropriate treatment.

**Zheng Enchong:** held at the Shanghai Public Security Bureau Detention Center  
**Mayor**, Han Zheng  
Shanghai Municipal People's Government  
Shanghaishi Renmin Zhengfu 30  
Fuzhoulu Shanghaishi 200002, PRC

**Xu Wei, Yang Zili, Jin Haiké and Zhang Honghai:** held at the Beijing Public Security Bureau Detention Center  
**Mayor**, Wang Qishan  
Beijing Municipal People's Government  
Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu 2 Zhengyilu  
Dongchengqu, Beijingshi 100744, PRC

**Yang Jianli:** held at the Beijing Public Security Bureau Detention Center  
**Governor**, Wang Qishan  
Beijing Municipal People's Government  
Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu 2 Zhengyilu  
Dongchengqu, Beijingshi 100744, PRC

**In addition, send copies of letters expressing medical concern to:**  
Chinese Medical Association, 42 Dongsi Xidajie, Beijing 100710, PRC  
Fax: 86-10-6512-3754; e-mail: cmafrd@public3.bta.net.cn

**Send copies of above appeals to:**

**President Hu Jintao**, Chinese Communist Party, Yongdingmen Street, Beijing 100032, PRC

**Prime Minister Wen Jiabao**, Guowuyuan, 9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie, Beijing 100032, PRC

**National People's Congress**, Quanguo Renmin Dahuitang, 19 Xijiaominxiang, Xichengqu, Beijing 100805, PRC