

# Action Page

COMPILED BY ADINA MATISOFF

The Chinese government has made it clear that individual activism and participation in social reforms remain unwelcome. While activists from previous decades waste away in prison, those currently defending and advocating for human rights are detained to join them.

## APPEAL FOR IMPRISONED ACTIVISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

**Hu Shigen**, b. 1954, a lecturer at the Beijing Languages Institute, is one of the "Beijing Fifteen," the largest group of activists to be tried since 1989. Hu helped to found the Beijing chapter of the China Freedom and Democracy Party (CFDP) and the Preparatory Committee of the China Free Trade Union in 1991. He was detained on May 27, 1992 while planning June 4th memorial activities, and was formally arrested on September 27 that year. On December 16, 1994, the Beijing Intermediate People's Court convicted Hu of "leading a counterrevolutionary organization" and "counterrevolutionary propaganda," and sentenced him to 20 years in prison and 5 years' subsequent deprivation of political rights, the most severe custodial sentence short of life imprisonment. Hu suffers from chronic migraines, intestinal illness, severe back pain and malnutrition. Requests for medical parole and treatment for his ailments have been repeatedly denied.

**Zhao Yan**, a Chinese journalist employed as a research assistant for *The New York Times*, and formerly a reporter for *China Reform* magazine, was detained in Shanghai on September 16 and formally arrested on October 20 on "suspicion of illegally providing state secrets to foreigners." The *Times* believed Zhou's detention was connected with a September 7 story anticipating Jiang Zemin's resignation as head of the Central Military Commission, while emphasizing that Zhao had nothing to do with the story. Zhao was also involved in activism on behalf of rural peasants. As a journalist for *China Reform*, he frequently wrote stories exposing corruption and bureaucratic abuses. Zhao had been subjected to interrogation and intimidation by authorities in Fujian and Hebei Provinces on at least two occasions because of the articles he wrote. Zhao is being held at the Beijing State Security Bureau Detention Center and at latest report had not yet been allowed to see his lawyer, Mo Shaoping.

**Zheng Enchong**, 54, is a former lawyer at the Shanghai Min Jian law firm who was sentenced to three years in prison on October 28, 2003 on charges of revealing state secrets. At the time of his arrest in June 2003, Zheng had been assisting families displaced in an urban redevelopment project carried out by a company controlled by a wealthy and well-connected businessman, Zhou Zhengyi. Since his imprisonment, Zheng has not been allowed to meet with his lawyer, as a result of which he has not been able to file an appeal against his sentence. In addition, Zheng told visitors that in spite of his age and relatively light sentence, he is confined to the prison's high security section, and is forced to engage in hard labor on a daily basis. Zheng's repeated requests to telephone his family have also been denied. Prison guards dragged Zheng from a family visit on November 10 when he discussed the redevelopment project lawsuit.

**Please join the international community in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of these and other activists and human rights defenders.** Please send letters to the designated addresses below, emphasizing the need for the rule of law, free flow of information and the right to exercise freedom of association and expression. Where necessary, express concern for medical conditions and demand immediate and appropriate treatment.

**Hu Shigen:** held at Beijing No.2 Prison  
**Mayor** Wang Qishan  
Beijing Municipal People's Government  
Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu  
2 Zhengyilu, Dongchengqu  
Beijingshi 100744, PRC

**Zheng Enchong:** held at Tilanqiao Prison  
**Mayor** Han Zheng  
Shanghai Municipal People's Government  
Shanghaishi Renmin Zhengfu  
30 Fuzhoulu  
Shanghaishi 200002, PRC

**Zhao Yan:** held at the Beijing State Security Bureau Detention Center  
**Mayor** Wang Qishan  
Beijing Municipal People's Government  
Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu  
2 Zhengyilu, Dongchengqu  
Beijingshi 100744, PRC

**In addition, send copies of letters expressing medical concerns to:**

Chinese Medical Association, 42 Dongsi Xidajie, Beijing 100710, PRC  
Fax: 86-10-6512-3754; email: cmafrd@public3.bta.net.cn

**Send copies of above appeals to:**

**President Hu Jintao**  
Chinese Communist Party  
Yongdingmenjie  
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