

Rights defenders and civil society under attack [Compiled by HRIC]

Select cases, September 1 - 29, 2009

Sentencing

- On September 1, democracy activist **Xie Changfa** (谢长发) was sentenced to 13 years in prison for planning the first national congress of the China Democratic Party.¹
- On September 29, **Hu Jianhong** (胡建红) was informed that the Reeducation-Through-Labor (RTL) Decision Committee of Gansu Province rejected the appeal by her husband, environmental activist **Sun Xiaodi** (孙小弟), and their daughter, **Sun Dunbai** (孙敦白), and upheld its original decision to sentence them to two years, and one-and-a-half year, respectively.²

Arrest and detention

- Beijing-based petitioners **Pei Baoyin** (裴宝印) and **Zhang Guohua** (张国华) were detained while distributing leaflets on Jinshui Bridge in front of Tiananmen Square on September 4.³
- **Liu Hai** (刘海) – father of two children who developed kidney stones after drinking milk made from melamine-tainted milk formula – was detained on September 9 by Kunshan, Jiangsu police while waiting for a train en route to Beijing to attend what officers told him was an “illegal meeting.”⁴
- **Liang Yongli** (梁永立) was detained outside the Ministry of Health in Beijing when he joined a protest with other parents of children sickened by vaccines. He

¹ Human Rights in China, “Xie Changfa Receives Severe Sentence of 13 Years’ Imprisonment for Organizing Political Party,” September 1, 2009, <http://www.hrichina.org/public/contents/171935>.

² Human Rights in China information

³ Qiao Long [乔龙], “Shi-yi qian bei ju fangmin Guo Qing hou cai fang, liang wei fangmin Tian’anmen sa chuandan bei gua” [十一前被拘访民国庆后才放 两位访民天安门撒传单被抓], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 4, 2009, <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/fang-09042009140446.html>.

⁴ “China Tainted Milk Parents Warned against Meeting,” Associated Press, September 10, 2009, <http://www.fresnobee.com/world/story/1632761.html>.

was returned to Jiangmen, Guangdong on September 11 and locked inside the Xinhua District Party School. He was released on September 14 under the condition that he would not return to Beijing before October 8.⁵

- **Wang Yihua (王义华)** was summoned by the local police in Xingzhou, Hubei, on September 15. His family was told that he was being detained for criticizing the local government on the Internet the next day.⁶
- As of September 16, Beijing based activist **Zhou Li (周莉)** had been detained for over a month; a formal arrest is expected soon.⁷
- Beijing house church activist **Hua Huiqi (华惠棋)** was detained by police officers on September 17; his current whereabouts are unknown. Hua had just returned to Beijing from a forced “vacation” in Shanxi after learning that the house church and occupational training class run by Hua’s ministry, the Tent-makers Christian Fellowship, had been raided by officials on September 13.⁸
- Zhuhai, Guangdong-based petitioner **Chen Fengqiang (陈风强)** was formally arrested on September 19 on charges of “provoking an incident and causing a serious disturbance.” Chen was taken by authorities on August 15; he later

⁵ Yan Xiu [严修], “Beijing yankong fangmin, bi Ao-yun geng shen” [北京严控访民 比奥运更甚], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 15, 2009, <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/fangmin-09152009133721.html>.

⁶ Feng Riyao [冯日遥], “Xingzhou weiquan renshi Wang Yihua wangshang piping zhengfu bei juliu” [荆州维权人士王义华网上批评政府被拘留], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 17, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/rights_internet-09172009120402.html.

⁷ Ji Lisi [姬励思], “Beijing duo ming yijian renshi bei ruanjin huo yaoqiu likai Beijing” [北京多名异见人士被软禁或要求离开北京], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 17, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/dissident_assault-09172009121939.html.

⁸ China Aid, “Beijing Public Security Officers Seize House Church Pastor Hua Huiqi,” September 17, 2009, <http://www.chinaaid.org/qry/page.taf?id=105>; China Aid, “Beijing Officials Raid House Church Vocational-Training School,” September 15, 2009, <http://www.chinaaid.org/qry/page.taf?id=105>; Xin Yu [心语], “Guo Qing qian jiating jiaohui zao daya, Hua Huiqi ji Wang Dao bei jingao” [国庆前家庭教会遭打压 华惠棋及王岛被警告], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 17, 2009, <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/religion-09172009091250.html>.

informed his family that he was being held in a detention center in Chongwen District, Beijing, for “obstructing official business.”⁹

Surveillance and house arrest

- **Wang Xue’e (汪雪娥)**, wife of imprisoned writer **Lü Gengsong (吕耿松)**, has been under 24-hour surveillance since September 11.¹⁰
- On September 15, Beijing-based rights defense lawyer **Jiang Tianyong (江天勇)** was placed under house arrest for half a day during the opening of the fourth plenary session of the 17th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.¹¹
- **Cha Jianguo (查建国)**, first Chairman of the China Democratic Party, was put under house arrest on September 15.¹²
- **Mao Qingxiang (毛庆祥)**, member of Independent Chinese PEN and former democracy activist, and his family came under 24-hour surveillance by police officers on September 15. Other Zhejiang based activists, including the entire family of petitioner **Zhu Yingdi (朱瑛娣)**, Democratic Party member **Zhu Yufu(朱虞夫)**, and **Zhu Zhengming (祝正明)** received the same treatment.¹³

⁹ “Guangdong weiquan fangmin Chen Fengqiang bei zhengshi daibu” [广东维权访民陈凤强被正式逮捕], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 24, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/rights_arrested-09242009120609.html.

¹⁰ Qiao Long [乔龙], “Zhejiang gongan li daya, duowei minzhu dang ren bei ruanjin” [浙江公安全力打压多位民主党人被软禁], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 16, 2009, <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/daya-09162009130352.html>.

¹¹ Hai Lan [海蓝], “Guoqing linjin Beijing weiquan lvshi shoudao yanmi jiankong” [国庆临近北京维权律师受到严密监控], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 22, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/rights_lawyer_beijing-09222009105317.html.

¹² Ji Lisi [姬励思], “Beijing duo ming yijian renshi bei ruanjin huo yaoqiu likai Beijing” [北京多名异见人士被软禁或要求离开北京], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 17, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/dissident_assault-09172009121939.html.

¹³ Qiao Long [乔龙], “Zhejiang gongan li daya, duowei minzhu dang ren bei ruanjin” [浙江公安全力打压多位民主党人被软禁], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 16, 2009, <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/daya-09162009130352.html>.

- **Xu Yonghai (徐永海)** – a Beijing based Christian activist – has been under close surveillance since September 15.¹⁴
- On September 15, retired professor **Sun Wenguang (孙文广)** was placed under house surveillance and his online communications were monitored.¹⁵
- According to Jiang Tianyong, Beijing-based rights defense lawyer **Li Xiongbing (黎雄兵)** was placed under house arrest in late September.¹⁶
- Beijing-based rights defense lawyer **Cheng Hai (程海)** informed Radio Free Asia on September 22 that he had not (yet) come under surveillance, but that he knew that rights defense lawyer **Li Fangping (李方平)** was under surveillance and that **Liu Xiaoyuan (刘晓原)**, **Tang Jitian (唐吉田)** **Liu Wei (刘巍)**, Jiang Tianyong, and **Teng Biao (腾彪)** had all left Beijing.¹⁷

Forced departure from home

- **Gao Hongming (高洪明)** – Beijing-based veteran of the 1979 Democracy Wall Movement – and rights defenders **Wang Ling (王玲)** and **Yang Jing (杨靖)** were

¹⁴ Ji Lisi [姬励思], “Beijing duo ming yijian renshi bei ruanjin huo yaoqiu likai Beijing” [北京多名异见人士被软禁或要求离开北京], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 17, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/dissident_assault-09172009121939.html.

¹⁵ Li Bao [黎堡], “Si Zhong-quan-hui he Guo Qing qijian yijian renshi zao jiankong” [四中全会和国庆期间异见人士遭监控], Voice of America [美国之音], September 16, 2009, <http://www.voanews.com/chinese/2009-09-16-voa28.cfm>.

¹⁶ Hai Lan [海蓝], “Guoqing linjin Beijing weiquan lvshi shoudao yanmi jiankong” [国庆临近北京维权律师受到严密监控], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 22, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/rights_lawyer_beijing-09222009105317.html.

¹⁷ Hai Lan [海蓝], “Guoqing linjin Beijing weiquan lvshi shoudao yanmi jiankong” [国庆临近北京维权律师受到严密监控], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 22, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/rights_lawyer_beijing-09222009105317.html.

forced to go on a “vacation” outside Beijing with police chaperones on September 15.¹⁸

- On September 16, **Qi Zhiyong (齐志勇)**, who was injured in the June Fourth crackdown, was forced to leave Beijing by state security officers.¹⁹
- On September 26, dissident and activist **Chen Tianshi (陈天石)** was forced to leave Beijing by authorities from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, where his hometown is located. Chen, who was active in the 1989 Democracy Movement and is now a house church leader, was told that he could return to Beijing on October 3.²⁰

Disappearance

- Beijing-based dissident **Li Hai (李海)** disappeared on September 17. According to a friend, **Liu Di (刘荻)**, Li had been informed by state security officers that he would not be permitted to remain in Beijing during National Day.²¹
- Shenzhen-based democracy activist **Guo Yongfeng (郭永丰)** disappeared on September 18. Guo had been informed on September 17 that his suit against the Shenzhen police for illegal detention would be heard in court on September 22.

¹⁸ Ji Lisi [姬励思], “Beijing duo ming yijian renshi bei ruanjin huo yaoqiu likai Beijing” [北京多名异见人士被软禁或要求离开北京], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 17, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/dissident_assault-09172009121939.html.

¹⁹ Ji Lisi [姬励思], “Beijing duo ming yijian renshi bei ruanjin huo yaoqiu likai Beijing” [北京多名异见人士被软禁或要求离开北京], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 17, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/dissident_assault-09172009121939.html.

²⁰ Qiao Long [乔龙], “Xueyun renshi Chen Tianshi bei po li Jing, Yao Lifa xialuo buming” [学运人士陈天石被迫离京 姚立法下落不明], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 28, 2009, <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/guoqing-09282009093134.html>.

²¹ Ji Lisi [姬励思], “Li Hai shiqu lianluo / Hua Huiqi qizi huyu guanzhu / Liu Feiyue qianze jingcha lan quan” [李海失去联络 / 华惠棋妻子呼吁关注 / 刘飞跃谴责警察滥权], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 21, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/dissident_assault-09212009114052.html.

Guo informed several people online about the case that night; the next day he went missing.²²

- Shenzhen consumer rights activist **Chen Shuwei** (陈书伟) has not been heard from since September 22. His phone has been turned off, and he cannot be contacted online. Additionally, he has made no new blog postings for more than three weeks.²³
- **Yao Lifa** (姚立法), a prominent proponent of direct elections, did not return home after being summoned to the police station on September 24. Earlier in September, Yao had been questioned three times by officers from the public security brigade.

²² Ji Lisi [姬励思], “Guo Yongfeng zai konggao gong'an feifa juliu an kaiting qian shizong” [郭永丰在控告公安非法居留案开庭前失踪], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 22, 2009, http://www.rfa.org/cantonese/news/dissident_detain-09222009103802.html.

²³ Fang Yuan [方媛], “Yijian renshi Zhang Lin bei saobao, Chen Shuwei shizong” [异见人士张林被骚扰陈书伟失踪], Radio Free Asia [自由亚洲电台], September 28, 2009, <http://www.rfa.org/mandarin/yataibaodao/zhanglin-09282009091725.html>.