# URGENT ACTION

## HANDS AND FEET OF LAWYER CUFFED TO IRON CHAIR

**Jailed human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong continues to endure deplorable prison conditions, resulting in a further deterioration of his physical and mental health. Denied access to the verdict against him, Jiang's family and lawyers cannot verify his release date. He remains imminent risk of torture and other ill-treatments.**

**Jiang Tianyong** is being forced to endure alarming prison conditions and, as a result, his health continues to deteriorate. According to Jiang's family, the prominent Chinese human rights lawyer's memory has drastically worsened. Jiang Tianyong has said he is force-fed unknown medication twice a day, and his father has seen his hands and feet cuffed to an iron chair.

Jiang Tianyong was found guilty of "inciting subversion of state power" by the Changsha City Intermediate People's Court on 21 November 2017. He was sentenced to two years of imprisonment and deprivation of political rights for three years.

Jiang Tianyong told his sister in May 2018 that, according to the initial sentencing, he should be released on 28 February 2019. However, his family and lawyer have no way to verify his release date because, despite repeatedly requesting a copy of the verdict from the court and Jiang's government-appointed defence lawyer, they have not been given access to the document. Jiang Tianyong's sister requested to photocopy his verdict when she visited the detention centre in February 2018, but authorities refused without giving any reason.

Based on the testimonies of several other lawyers detained in the mass crackdown on lawyers and activists in July 2015 that they had been drugged or ill-treated while in detention, there is real concern that Jiang Tianyong is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

### 1) TAKE ACTION

**Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:**

- Immediately and unconditionally release Jiang Tianyong, as he has been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Pending his release, ensure that Jiang Tianyong is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that he has regular, unrestricted access to medical care on request or as necessary.
- Ensure that the court acts in accordance with international standards and provides Jiang Tianyong's chosen lawyer with the verdict handed down on 21 November 2017

**Contact these two officials by 29 August, 2019:**

Director
Changsha City No.1 Detention Center
1736 Yuandaerlu Quantang Zhen
Changsha Xian,
410131 Hunan Sheng,
People's Republic of China
**Salutation: Dear Director**

Ambassador Cui Tiankai,
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place NW,
Washington DC 20008
Phone: 202 495 2266 | Fax: 202 495 2138
Email: chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn
(If you receive an error message, please try calling instead!)
**Salutation: Dear Ambassador**

### 2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

Click here to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 141.17*
Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Jiang Tianyong has been involved in several high-profile legal cases and has supported other human rights defenders, including human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who was imprisoned and consistently harassed due to his human rights work, and blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng, who exposed forced abortion practices on villagers by local officials in Dongshigu Village in Linyi, Shandong. Prior to his current imprisonment, Jiang Tianyong was most recently detained in March 2014, after he and three other lawyers went to investigate a “black jail”, or unofficial detention facility, in Jiansanjiang, Heilongjiang, where Falun Gong practitioners were allegedly detained. Jiang was beaten while detained and had eight ribs fractured as a result.

His first trial was held in the Changsha City Intermediate Court on 22 August 2017, during which he admitted to the charges of “inciting subversion of state power”. At the trial, he also “apologized” for fabricating rumours of torture by Chinese police and for attending overseas workshops to discuss changing China’s political system. According to Jiang Tianyong, he pleaded guilty in his trial on 21 November 2017 and decided not to appeal based on authorities’ promise that he would be released in August 2018 if he did so.

In January 2017, human rights lawyer Xie Yang, who had been detained in the July 2015 lawyers crackdown, talked to his lawyer, who later provided a detailed account of how Xie Yang was tortured while in detention. As part of a campaign to discredit the torture allegations, mainland Chinese media released a video-recorded interview of Jiang Tianyong in February 2017. In the video, Jiang Tianyong claimed to have fabricated Xie Yang’s account of torture. However, as analysts noted, Jiang Tianyong was in incommunicado detention at the time the Xie Yang torture allegations first garnered international headlines, and “forced confessions” on state-run TV have become common in China in recent years.

Jiang Tianyong was held incommunicado for over a year and neither his family nor the family-hired lawyers were notified about the August trial in advance, in violation of Chinese law. Instead, they first read about it via a news report just before the trial. Jiang Tianyong was represented by two government-appointed lawyers at the trial.

Nearly 250 lawyers and activists have been targeted since the unprecedented crackdown against human rights activists in the country initiated in July 2015. Lawyer Wang Quanzhang, the last of those targeted who is still awaiting trial, has been held in incommunicado detention for more than two years.

Name: Jiang Tianyong
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 141/17 Index: ASA 17/8818/2018 Issue Date: 20 July 2018