

In Custody: An Updated List of Imprisoned Labor Activists

Following is a list of people believed to be currently in custody for crimes related to labor activism. The list is drawn from information provided by the following organizations: HRIC, Human Rights Watch, China Labour Bulletin, China Labor Watch, Solidarity Center, Amnesty International, International Labour Organization, National Labor Committee, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, U.S. State Department.

Abbreviations: WAF—Workers Autonomous Federation; FLUC—Free Labor Union of China; CDP—China Democracy Party; CFDP—China Freedom and Democracy Party; RTL—reeducation through labor; CCP—Chinese Communist Party; ACFTU—All China Federation of Trade Unions

NAME	CITY	DETENTION DATE	BACKGROUND	TRIAL DATE	OFFENSE	CURRENT SITUATION
Shao Liangshen (Liangchen)	Shandong Province	1989	A member of the Jinan City WAF and the Workers Democratic Federation, Shao was arrested in the wake of the official crackdown on the 1989 Democracy Movement.	Sep-89, death commuted to prison. Due for release Nov-07	destroying transportation equipment	Shangdong Weihu Prison
Yao Guisheng	Hunan Province	Jun-89	A manual laborer, Yao joined the Changsha WAF during the 1989 protests. After a dispute with a taxi driver while helping WAF leaders escape from China after June 4th, Yao and others were charged with "robbery and assault." Yao's charge was subsequently changed to "looting."	Oct-89, 15 years	robbery and assault	Hunan Provincial No. 6 Prison, Longxi. Reported ill as mentally ill as a result of ill treatment.
Liu Jian	Hunan Province	Jun-89	A factory worker aged 33. See Chen Gang.	Aug-89, life	hooliganism	Hunan No. 6 Prison
Liu Zhihua	Hunan Province	Jun-89	A factory worker aged 25. See Chen Gang.	Jun-89, life, later reduced, to be released 2011	hooliganism	Hunan No. 6 Prison
Guo Yunqiao	Hunan Province	9-Jun-89	A manual laborer and leader of Yueyang City WAF, Guo was arrested with others while leading a protest by 10,000 workers after June 4th. Eight other defendants were sentenced to prison terms of 7 to 15 years.	1-Sep-91, 13 years (commuted from death)	hooliganism	Hunan Provincial No. 2 Prison, Hengyang
Zhu Fangming	Hunan Province	11-Jun-89	Zhu was a worker at the Hengyang City Flour Factory and vice-chairman of the Hengyang City Workers Autonomous Federation. He organized demonstrations and took part in a sit-in in front of the municipal government offices. After June 4, 1989, he allegedly led workers to the municipal Public Security Bureau to demand justice.	1-Dec-89, life	hooliganism	Hengyang Prison (Hunan Provincial No. 2 Prison)
Hu Shigen	Beijing	27-May-92	b. 1954. Former lecturer at Beijing Foreign Languages Institute and a leader of FLUC, Hu established the CFDP in 1991 with Wang Guoqi (also imprisoned, but recently released). He drafted papers calling for democratic reform and independent labor unionism and was arrested for June 4th memorial activities in 1992.	16-Dec-94, 20 years, to be released 2012	counter-revolutionary crimes	Beijing No. 2 Prison. Reported liver heart, and stomach ailments, sight and hearing problems.
Wang Miaogen	Shanghai	27-Apr-93	b. 1954. A manual laborer, Wang was sentenced to 2-1/2 years of RTL as president of the Shanghai	27-Apr-93, forcible forceable commitment to psychiatric		Shanghai An Kang PSB Hospital.

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Wang Miaogen. <i>cont.</i>			WAF in 1989. He continued to call for independent trade unions after his release in 1991, and was forcibly committed to psychiatric treatment in May 1993 on fears he would disrupt the Asian Games. He was released in 1997, but due to his involvement with the democracy movement, he was forcibly committed to a psychiatric hospital in May 1999.	hospital		Reported in filthy conditions with inadequate food and water.
Zhang Shanguang	Hunan Province	21-Jul-98	b. 1954. Originally a teacher, Zhang took a factory job after completing a 7-year sentence for counter-revolutionary crimes in 1996, but was soon laid off. He organized hundreds of laid-off workers and established the Association to Protect Workers' Rights, and was arrested after a Radio Free Asia interview on worker protests in Shupu County.	27-Dec-98, 10 years	supplying intelligence to orgs outside China	Hunan No. 1 Prison, Yuanjiang City. Suffers from tuberculosis, heart and intestinal illnesses, and ill-treated in prison.
He Chaohui (He Zhaohui)	Hunan Province	Detained Oct-98, formally arrested May-99	b. 1961. A WAF member employed at Chenzhou Railway Bureau, He organized worker protests and released information to overseas groups in 1997 and 1998. He also formed a group to support the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He was detained when found in possession of a \$300 check from an American university professor.	24-Aug-99, 10 years	illegally providing information to foreign organizations	Chenzhou Prison
Yue Tianxiang	Gansu Province	11-Jan-99	Yue was laid off from Tianshui City Transport Company in 1995 with pay in arrears. In Sept. 1998 he began participating in CDP's Gansu branch. He was arrested in January 1999 after establishing the journal Chinese Workers' Monitor with Guo Xinmin and Wang Fengshan, and petitioning Jiang Zemin. Guo and Wang were sentenced to 2 years in prison and have been released.	5-Jul-99, 10 years	incitement to subvert state power	Tianshui Prison (Gansu Provincial No. 2 Prison)
Liao Shihua	Hunan Province	10-Jun-99	b. 1949. A worker at Changsha Automotive Electronics Factory and member of CDP. Liao led mass worker protests in October 1998 and June 1999.	22-Dec-99, 7 years	incitement to subvert state power	Changsha No. 1 Detention Center
Gao Hongming	Beijing	29-Jun-99, formally arrested 1-Jul-99	b. 1950. A CDP member, Gao joined He Depu and Wang Zhixin in attempting to run for election as an NPC delegate in 1998. In April 1999, he established the China Free Workers Union with Xu Yonghai and Zha Jianguo. Gao was arrested while preparing a June 4th commemoration.	2-Aug-99, 8 years	incitement to subvert state power	Beijing No. 2 Prison
Zha Jianguo (Cha Jianguo)	Beijing	29-Jun-99	A Beijing CDP representative, Zha was arrested with Gao Hongming for involvement in the China Free Workers Union and June 4th commemoration activities.	2-Aug-99, 9 years	incitement to subvert state power	Beijing No. 2 Prison
Chen Zhonghe	Hubei Province	1-Sep-99	b. 1948. A worker in a Wuhan steel mill and core CDP member, Chen	7-Jul-00, 7 years	incitement to subvert state power	Hubei Wuhan Prison

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Chen Zhonghe, <i>cont.</i>			was arrested with Xiao Shichang and Zhang Hanjian for attempting to organize a human rights conference in Wuhan in March 1999.			
Xiao Shichang	Hubei Province	1-Sep-99	See Chen Zhonghe	7-Jul-00, 5.5 years	incitement to subvert state power	Hubei Wuhan Prison
Wang Changchun	Sichuan Province	Oct-99	A collier at the Damuhe coal mine in Damu County, Wang was arrested during violent confrontations with police after closure of the mine in 1999. Subsequent whereabouts of Wang and 6 others, Wang Fanghua, Wang Heping, Wang Ligu, Wang Qun, Zhang Jun and Zhu Wanghong, remain unknown.			unknown
Wang Fanghua	Sichuan Province	Oct-99	See Wang Changchun			
Wang Heping	Sichuan Province	Oct-99	See Wang Changchun			
Wang Ligu	Sichuan Province	Oct-99	See Wang Changchun			
Wan Qun	Sichuan Province	Oct-99	See Wang Changchun			
Zhang Jun	Sichuan Province	Oct-99	See Wang Changchun			
Zhu Wanghong	Sichuan Province	Oct-99	See Wang Changchun			
Feng Daxun	Sichuan Province	16-Dec-99	b. 1941. A former journalist and CDP member, Feng was arrested after speaking with protesting machine tool workers in Neijiang City in December 1999.	Nov-01, 3 years	incitement to subvert state power	After sentencing, transferred from Neijiang Dongxing Detention Center to Gong County Coal Mine.
Miao Jinhong	Zhejiang Province	1-Oct-00	Miao led a group of migrant workers in Zhejiang in blocking a railway and attacking a police station to protest unpaid wages.	8 years	charges unknown	
Ni Xiafei	Zhejiang Province	1-Oct-00	See Miao Jinhong	3-1/2 years	charges unknown	
Li Keyou	Zhejiang Province	1-Oct-00	See Miao Jinhong. Information indicates that Li should have been released by early 2004.			
Wang Sen	Sichuan Province	30-Apr-01	b. 1966. A CDP member based in Chengdu, Wang was arrested with Hu Mingjun and Zheng Yongliang after organizing protests by workers of the Dazhou Iron and Steel Factory in December 2000. Zheng has since been released.	30-May-02, 10 years	incitement to subvert state power	Dazhou Municipal Public Security Bureau Detention Center
Hu Mingjun	Sichuan Province	29-May-01	b. 1963. See Wang Sen, above.	30-May-02, 11 years	incitement to subvert state power	Not stated. Probably same as Wang Sen.
Li Wangyang	Hunan Province	6-May-01	b. 1950. Sentenced to 13 years in prison after organized protests and established Shaoyang WAF in 1989. Following early release in June 2000, Li was arrested again after his hunger strike demanding medical treatment for ailments caused by imprisonment.	20-Sep-01, 10 years	incitement to subvert state power	Shaoyang No. 2 Prison, Hunan Province. Suffers from lung and heart disease and unable to walk unaided.
Li Wangling	Hunan Province	7-Jun-01	Member of Shaoyang WAF. Sentenced to three years' RTL for helping her brother Li Wangyang publicize his demands while he was on hunger strike in prison (see Li Wangyang above).	3 years		Due for release.

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Cai Guangye	Jilin Province	21-Dec-01	A labor activist and doctor at the local military hospital, Cai was detained briefly after photographing protests by workers laid off from the Jilin Chemical Industrial Company in April 2001. He was arrested again following worker protests in November and December.	Jul-03, 3 years RTL		Labour education camp near Shenyang City, Liaoning
Lu Wenbin	Jiangsu Province	22-Dec-01	An electrician at the Xinfeng Gin Cotton Factory and special correspondent for the Textile Daily newspaper, Lu was arrested after investigating massive worker protests at the privatized Huainan Textile Factory in Dafeng City. There is no information on Lu's current status.			current whereabouts unknown
Yao Fuxin	Liaoning Province	17-Mar-02	b. 1950. Husband of a former employee of bankrupt Liaoyang Ferro-Alloy Factory, Yao led protests by thousands of workers in March 2002. Yao and another protest leader, Xiao Yunliang, were tried Jan. 15, 2003. He has been plagued by serious health problems throughout his imprisonment.	9-May-03, 7 years	subversion, organizing illegal demonstrations	Jinzhou Prison
Xiao Yunliang	Liaoning Province	20-Mar-02	See Yao Fuxin. Xiao has been plagued by serious health problems throughout his imprisonment.	9-May-03, 4 years	subversion, organizing illegal demonstrations	Kangjiashan Prison, Shenyang
Yang Jianli	Beijing	28-Apr-02	A political activist in 1989, Yang emigrated to the U.S., but re-entered China with friend's passport in April 2002 to investigate labor unrest situation in Shenyang City, Liaoyang City and Daqing City in NE China. He was officially arrested on April 28, 2002, and held in incommunicado detention for the next 15 months. On May 13, 2004, he was tried in a closed court hearing. Yang suffered a stroke in prison in July 2004.	13-May-04, 5 years	espionage, illegal entry	Beijing No. 2 Prison
Du Hongqi	Chongqing	24-Nov-03, formally arrested 8-Dec-03	Du Hongqi and his wife, Li Tingying, both workers at an artillery factory, were detained after founding an unofficial trade union in Sept. 2003 to fight for better working conditions.	18-Oct-04, 3 years	gathering a crowd to disturb social order	
Li Tingying	Chongqing	24-Nov-03	See Du Hongqi			current whereabouts unknown
Kong Youping	Liaoning Province	13-Dec-03	Kong Youping, a former trade union official, was reportedly involved in planning the establishment of an independent union. He posted articles on the Internet criticizing official corruption and calling for a reassessment of the June 4th Massacre. Kong and another labor activist, Ning Xianhua, had their court cases combined with those of two other men tried and sentenced for murder, even though there was no apparent connection between the cases.	16-Sep-04, 15 years	incitement to subvert state power	Detention center of Shenyang Police, Liaoning Province
Ning Xianhua	Liaoning Province	13-Dec-03	Accused of serving as the vice-chairman of the China Democracy	16-Sep-04, 12 years	incitement to subvert state power	

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Ning Xianhua, <i>cont.</i>			Party's (CDP) Lianoning branch, Ning was charged with participating in some of the same activities as Kong Youping, and of providing information to people outside of China from 2001 to 2003, as well as accepting financial support from abroad. See Kong Youping.			
Chen Kehai	Hubei Province	22-Apr-04	A worker from the Tieshu Textile Factory in Suizhou, Hubei Province, Chen was tried with other workers under summary proceedings and convicted for involvement with a labor protest at the factory.	Apr-04, 2-1/2 years	disturbing public order	
Zhao Yong	Hubei Province	22-Apr-04	See Chen Kehai	Apr-04	disturbing public order	
Zhu Guo	Hubei Province	22-Apr-04	See Chen Kehai	Apr-04, 1 year	assembling a crowd to disturb social order	Due for release.
Yang Yongcai	Hubei Province	22-Apr-04	See Chen Kehai	Apr-04, 2-1/2 years	disturbing public order	
Kong Jun	Shandong Province	Nov-04	Kong Jun and Li Xintao organized public protests against the bankruptcy of the Huamei Garment Company and made formal complaints to Shandong provincial officials. Li and Kong, both managers at the company, claimed that the company had failed to pay the workers' wages or social insurance benefits from March 2001 onwards. Both wished to appeal their sentences, but could not find lawyers to represent them.	11-May-05, 2 years	disrupting government institutions, disturbing social order	
Li Xintao	Shandong Province	Nov-04	See Kong Jun	11-May-05, 5 years	disrupting government institutions, disturbing social order	

A Meditation: (On September 11, 2001)

BY YANG JIANLI

(Translated by Dolores Ziankov from the original Chinese poem, composed in prison, September 11, 2003.)

Two huge new waves of glory crashed down,
Cast so cruelly into history, the towering twins.
Five-thousand ships, with sails full-blown,
Now scattered and thrown
To the Four Winds.

Civilization wept and groaned.
Greatness fell down on her knees to pray.
The red setting Sun, arrayed all in light,
On the back of a Swan,
Turns into Dark Night.

A crystal tear falls, seed upon a pillow.
The Moon grows, rising up from the sea,
Cradles her face within both her hands
Looking down at the world,
From her abode of peace.

An Old Man smiles, face riddled with ripples,
Undulating, propagating, ripples on ripples . . .
Another year's tears, dreams and emotions
Sink into the deep,
The deep, vast ocean.

Above the foam,
A white feather flies low,
Drifts to and fro,
Then floats . . .

A sail,
. . . without
. . . . a boat.