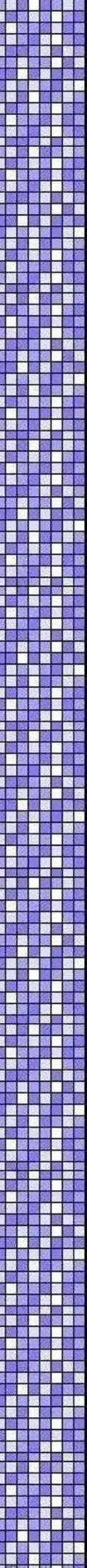


CHINESE URGENT ACTION WORKING GROUP

人权卫士紧急救援协会

BLACK JAILS IN CHINA:

SYSTEM, FACILITIES, VICTIMS



ABOUT THE CHINESE URGENT ACTION WORKING GROUP

The Chinese Urgent Action Working Group (人权卫士紧急救援协会) undertakes direct interventions on behalf of Human Rights defenders in distress through investigations, public advocacy, communication with international institutions and organizations, and through providing legal aid. The group is located inside mainland China, and was formed as a response to increased persecution of Human Rights defenders in the run up to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The organization also regularly releases reports and background briefs on issues concerning human rights defenders in China.

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人权卫士紧急救援会从事的是代表置身于危难中的人权卫士而进行的研究调查，公共宣传，与国际机构和组织交流，提供法律援助等的直接干预。该组织位于中国大陆，其成立的初衷是对2008年北京奥运会的举办而造成的对人权维护者更多迫害的一个回应。该组织还定期就中国人权维护者的问题发布报告和背景简要。

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BLACK JAILS IN CHINA:

SYSTEM, VICTIMS AND FACILITIES

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This briefing contains information about, and analysis on, the existence of a system of Black houses, or Black jails. This briefing uses part of existing information collected for a full report covering Black houses that is in production. This briefing was created as an information package on Black houses to the Beijing diplomatic corps in light of the upcoming United Nations Universal Periodic Review of China.

The full report when completed and released will be submitted to the United Nations Working group on Arbitrary Detention.

WHAT ARE BLACK JAILS?

Petitioners in China, which seeks to redress violations against their rights through the petitioning system (Xinfang) faces many threats and obstacles, such as forced repatriation, beatings and torture, threats and being sent to reeducation through labor camps. Besides these retaliatory measures, a system of repression against petitioners exist that has avoided attention, and which is rarely published, this is the nation-wide system of illegal, informal petitioner prisons, *Black houses*.

A widespread system for detention of petitioners, homeless people and sometime for human rights defenders became increasingly well known after the death of Sun Zhigang in one of these facilities. The media attention that followed likely sealed the fate of the “custody and repatriation system”, which was abolished in 2003.

During 2006 and onwards more and more information¹, although limited in scope, has come forth, showing the existence of an underground, illegal system of detention facilities that continue to operate all over the country, that seems to have taken over for the now abolished custody and repatriation system, and which according to existing information focus strongly on detaining petitioners in facilities, “Black houses” or sometimes called Black jails.

Petitioning in China at the very least dates back to the early Ming dynasty (1400's), allowing for people to petition select government offices about abuses, and thus allowing farmers and disadvantaged people a course of seeking redress beside the existing legal system. A study revealed that in 2005 petitioning in almost exclusivity related to an arm of the government violating, or is perceived as violating someone rights, with the following statistics; 40% about police, courts and prosecutors offices, 33% government, 13% corruption, 11% injustice and the reaming part varying from environmental concerns, forced evictions and workspace related issues².

Reasons behind petitioners according to a study by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences are very often related to misuse or corruption by local government bodies, which results in petitioners seeking to petition at a higher level, often in the capital. The consequence is that Beijing, capital of China, in 2005 saw around 10 million petitioners arrive, while TIME Magazine put the total numbers of petitioners in China in 2006 at 30 million, quoting the State Council³. The Letters and Visits office of the State council, the highest level in the government and its tributary offices, has according to Xinhua handled some 10 million petitions in the last five years⁴. Annual growth in petitions at the State Council between 2004 and 2005 is set at almost 100%⁵.

Petitioners rarely get the response they hope, nor even a response at all. As such, they will petition at several offices, and often coming back to Beijing for new rounds of petitioning. According to the study from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a petitioner in Beijing will on average visit six petition offices (*see footnote 5*). Some end of petitioning and nothing else. With the likelihood of a having a

1 See reports from Open Constitution Initiative (<http://www.gongmeng.cn/index.php>) and Chinese Human Rights Defenders (<http://crd-net.org>)

2 http://english.people.com.cn/200501/06/eng20050106_169769.html. 2008/10/02

3 http://time-blog.com/china_blog/2007/01/the_time_magazine_office_of_le_1.html 2009/01/15

4 http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/20/content_7636828.htm 2009/01/16

5 Increase in letters received at the State Council at 99.4% and visits increased by 94.9%. The growth between 2003 and 2004 for the same office was around 14%. Yu Jianrong, "Xinfang Zhidu Pipan (Critique of the Petition System)" December 5, 2004 [online], <http://www.yannan.cn/data/detail.php?id=4842> 2007/10/14

petition redressed is close to non-existent, petitioner congregate in the city for prolonged periods.

It is, due to the widespread existence of Black houses, almost certain that the government views this situation with some alarm, having large groups of people seeking redress, rarely with any success, in their city and sees it as a potential threat to stability.

THE OPERATION OF THE FACILITIES

Petition offices, or Letters and Visits offices, either full departments, bureaus or units, shall according to the 2005 Regulation of Letters and Visits, exist at all government levels down to village level, and most government departments will have petition offices at the central level. As such, there are a vast amount of petition offices in Beijing, hosted by among others; State council, Police, Municipal government, Ministry of Justice, Congress, Supreme court, People's Procuratorate etc.

These offices are operated, and payed for, by the central government department, regional and local police, protectorate or court's letters and visits offices. These offices are responsible for handling petitions, and informally, to ensure that the petitioners do not threaten social stability. Cities and provinces with large number of petitioners will often operate petition centers in Beijing and/or provincial capitals to, at least officially, assist petitioners in that location.

A Black house, that is to say an illegal detention facility, will often be located behind, under, or in an operating hotel, inn or hostel, and as part of a city's or province's petition office in Beijing. The Black house, managed by letters and visits officials working in Beijing, will then hire people to work as guards, and pay the hotel, hostel or inn a small price for the use of the specific part of the establishment.

A part of the location will consist of a prison area, using rooms as holding cells, often equipped with iron bars and doors, and will sometimes also have a fenced in outdoor area. A second part will hold offices for the guards and retrievers (see below), and sometimes an area where newly arrived inmates will be stripped of their ID cards, cellphones etc.

A Black house will in the vast majority of known cases handle petitioners from one specific locations, like a city or a province, and this is because Black houses are operated and payed for by letters and visits offices of that location. Hence, the petition offices in provincial capital X will, to ensure that petitioners to not “escape” from the chain of petitioning and head to Beijing, set up an “office” in Beijing. This office, a Black house, will then send 'retrievers' out to watch train stations, petition offices, shelters and other area known to be frequented by petitioners, and when a petitioner from their locality has been found, he or she will be apprehended and brought back to the Black houses for detention.

Length of detentions vary significantly, partly it seems, depending on whether this is the first time in a Black house. After release, a petitioner is either escorted back to their home town or set free. Most Black houses are small in size, holding from 15 to 100 petitioners. It should here be mentioned that no legal procedure, such as receiving a release certificate upon release, is ever provided.

“Retrievers” (Jiefang Renyuan) will sometimes pick up petitioners that do not belong in their facility, and in such cases the petitioner will be taken to a transfer station. It recently became known that a second transfer station recently opened, operating largely the same way, and being of the same size. Thus, Beijing now operates at least two transfer station able to hold up to 1000 detainees each. The opening of a second transfer station not only reinforcing how well planned and coordinated the system is, but the high growth of petitioners in Beijing.

When a petitioner is dropped off at one of the transfer stations, they are incarcerated for usually no more than 24 hours, and then picked up by a retriever from the petitioners hometown or provinces Black house. Known petitioners are tightly watched by at least some Black houses, and list that have been ascertain shown that Black houses keep information on petitioner to be watch, and share such information with other Black houses.

Beijing Police will often assist retrievers in their job, and sometimes pick up petitioners themselves, and then deliver them to a transfer station. Evidence exist that Police sometimes deliver petitioners directly to their relevant Black house. Furthermore, police emergency services have many times refused to respond to calls from Black houses made when petitioners have smuggled their phones in, and when a response is made, Police will arrive at the scene, talk to the guards or retrievers, and then leave. A foreign journalist investigating a Black house and being beat up by guards called the Police and Foreign

Ministry, and later filed a complaint to the Foreign Ministry. Not surprisingly, the Black house continues to operate. Several cases has also involved national units of the Public Security Bureau handing over petitioners, and sometimes apprehending them.

Petitioners will sometime be apprehended inside a petition office, and on a few occasion, even while they are having their petition processed and am talking to the clerk, and at least on one occasion, this has happened while in the petition office of the State council.

On a few occasions, Black houses will be used as a sanction against Human Rights defenders. There are even some cases where national units of the Public Security Bureau have abducted Human Rights defenders from their home and delivered them to a Black house.

The staff at, we can imagine most Black houses, but so far only proven in some cases, will have close contact with the Letters and Visits Bureau in their respective hometown, as well as the village or township party committee and other branches of the local government. Lists will kept with petitioners to watch for and prevent petitioning in the location of the Black houses, although who produces these list nothing is known yet, but presumably the hometown's Letters and Visits Bureau.

The case of Mr Zhang and Ms Gong below illustrates the situation many petitioners go through to get justice, and how local government, Beijing Police and Black houses works.

THE STORY OF MR ZHANG AND MS GONG

Mr Zhang and Ms Gong are from Xin Xiang, Henan province. After their son was murdered, Police refused to register the case. Several trips to the Procuratorate, charged with supervising the Police yielded no result. Not until six month after the death of the son did the Police register the case, but it did not, according to Mr Zhang, lead to any effort to investigate the murder.

In October 2006, they started coming to Beijing about once a month to petition the central government offices, among them the Supreme court and Supreme Procuratorate. They would live in the “Petitioner

village”, and during one of the night time raids, they were detained and brought to Ma Jia Lou transfer station where they were interned for 30 hours.

Zhang and Gong first experience with a Black house came when they were transferred to Jing Yuan Hostel for 25 days (see **locations** below), a facility for Nanyang city petitioners, Henan province. They never received any documentation of detention or release.

After being set free, they continued to petition. Mr Zhang soon lost his job, fired without reason, but he strongly suspect local police to have pressured his employer as retaliation for petitioning in Beijing. Mr Zhang was later picked up by a retriever while in Beijing again, and placed in detention for eight days at the same facility, while the wife managed to escape.

After having petitioned in Beijing a couple of time, they started being watched in their home by people from their local government. On June 3, 2007, while heading to the Xin Xiang train station, about to head to Beijing, several men, including the secretary of the local Commission of Political and legal affairs and the secretary of the Party Commission intervened and by force stopped from boarding the train.

Several days later they succeed to go to Beijing, but while walking to the post office on Mi Shi Street on June 13 two officials from the Nanyang petition office and some other men found them and attacked them, Mr Zhang was dragged into a car while Ms Gong escaped. Mr Zhang was then taken back to the Nanyang Black house where he'd been detained before, this time for eight days before being escorted back to Xin Xiang and placed in a detention facility for another eight days.

Mr Zhang would be detained again in Beijing on July 3, this time by the Police and taken to the Feng Quan Public Security Bureau. While there, Police shouted at him, saying among other things; “ what you wrote in your material is just nonsense”, “why do you think your son’s life is invaluable? How about your background? Are you rich or powerful? You want to petition?”. Afterwards, several Police officers beat him, and told him that if he continues to petition in Beijing he will be sent to re-education through labor camp.

On Aug 25, 2007, the Xin Xiang municipal public security bureau formed a special team to investigate the case about the death of their son. However, during the Party's 17th Congress, the local authority instead tried to control the petition behaviour of Mr Zhang and Ms Gong by again kidnapping and illegally detaining them, this time at a "Xin Xiang law education class" for eight days. After this, the special investigation dragged out in time, and when last heard, it has produced no result. It is believed that Mr Zhang and Ms Gong continues to petition in Beijing.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Petitioning is legal, protected in the Chinese Constitution⁶, and further in the Regulation of Letters and Visits offices, and no one may suppress a persons complaint or retaliate against a complaint⁷. Any retaliation shall be investigated for criminal or administrative punishment⁸, and a person receiving a complaint have no right to interfere with the process of such complaint, and the petitioners identity shall be kept anonymous to the accused⁹, and if the clerk is related to the complainant, he or she shall delegate the errand to another person.

Regardless of these rights, a study in 2005 revealed that roughly 50% of petitioners interviewed had suffered retaliation, whether harassment, torture, detention, forced repatriation etc. In addition, the Chinese Constitution specifies that person shall have the right to criticize the government¹⁰, which most petitioners do in one form or another, which is also protected by Article 2(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which China is a signatory.

The People's Police and related Public Security Organs are the only bodies with the right to detain and arrest¹¹, and if no crime is ongoing, or one can believe that a person suspected of a crime will cover or

6 "The Constitution of the Peoples Republic of China," Chapter Two, Article 41. http://english.gov.cn/2005-08/05/content_20813.htm 2008/05/18

7 Ibid.

8 Regulation on letters and visits 2005, Article 46

9 Regulations on letters and visits 2005, Articles 23 and 25

10 "The Constitution of the Peoples Republic of China," Chapter Two, Article 41. http://english.gov.cn/2005-08/05/content_20813.htm 2008/05/18

destroy evidence, Police cannot detain someone without a warrant of detention¹². When detained, the detainee must be arrested or released after 24 hours¹³, and to be arrested, approval must be sought from the Procuratorate¹⁴. When released, a certificate must be produced¹⁵.

Furthermore, the only institution with the right to set up a detention facility of any sort is the judicial administration of the State Council¹⁶, and guards in a prison must be supervised by the Armed Police¹⁷. For the police not to come to rescue when a citizens right have been breached is illegal¹⁸.

For the Court to hand over a criminal to a prison, regardless of crime, a People's Court must serve the prison in question a bill of prosecution from the People's Procuratorate together with its own written judgement, a notice of execution and a registration form of closing the case. A prison may not accept a prisoner without first receiving these documents, and the documents must be complete to be valid¹⁹. After being imprisoned, a notice should be sent to the criminals family within five (5) days²⁰

In all, existing Chinese law largely prohibits the use of arbitrary detention, as it should according to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights²¹.

If a citizen detention or arrest is made, the person apprehended may not be moved, and shall be turned over to police immediately, thus any petitioner who breaks the law while inside a petition office shall be apprehended and, without being moved, be handed over the Police²².

Within 24 hours of arrest, the family members of the detainee must be notified of the detention or arrest, the reason behind it, and the location²³. Furthermore, administrative detention²³ must be carried out by the Police, in a Police detention facility, with a maximum penalty of 15 days and relevant certificate must be handed out.

11 Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China 1997, Article 3

12 Ibid. Article 61 and 89

13 Ibid. Article 65

14 Ibid. Article 69

15 Ibid.

16 Prison Law 1994, Article 11

17 Ibid. Article 41

18 Police Law 1995, Article 21

19 Prison Law 1994, Article 16

20 Ibid. Article 20

The 0.15 % rate for received redress for a petition is clear indication that the petition system has placed more focus on detaining petitioners and trying to get petitioners to cease their work²⁴, and the lack of actions against government bodies and employees, often the aim of petitions, is strictly against the obligation of petition offices to put a petition into its correct channel for redress, whether that is to pass it along to another office, or send it for criminal or administrative review and decide on action on behalf of the person or body that has violated the petitioner²⁵.

FACILITIES

Below are a few of the known Black houses and transfer stations in Beijing. Transfer stations and Black houses are primarily located in the city's south, an area hosting the three main train stations and until recently the “petitioner village”²⁶, an area where large number of petitioners lived while in Beijing.

TRANSFER STATIONS

- **Ma Jia Lou**

Ma Jia Lou is the first known transfer station, located in the south east corner of a the Ma Jia Lou intersection with Beijing's forth ringroad in the south. Holds up to 1000 detainee, functions as a short-term detention center only. No beds are available, and petitioners are kept together sorted by their province. No documentation is provided to detainees during incarceration and release. Petitioners are at least to some extent stored according to their home province.

21 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1976, Articles 91., 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5

22 Regulations on Letters and Visits 2005, Article 47

23 Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China 1997, Article 64

24 Result from study by Yu Jianrong of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a total of 2000 petitioners interviewed. Irene Wang, “Petition offices told to act faster,” South China Morning Post, January 18, 2005

25 Regulations on Letters and Visits 2005, Article 21

26 The 'Petitioner village' and the nearby South Train station was redeveloped during Autumn and winter 2008, and petitioners where cracked down on in an attempt to 'sanitize' the area.

- **Shijingshan sport stadium**

The second transfer station in Beijing, believed to have been opened during 2007, is an underground center located below the Shijingshan sports stadium, nearby Beijing Subway line 1 in Shijingshan district. Holds up to 1000 detainees. Little information exists on this location as of the time of writing this report.

There is information indicating the existence of other transfer stations, among them one at You'anmen nearby Beijing's Tiantan park. However information is scarce about these locations as of writing of this report.

BLACK JAILS

A selection of Black houses, or Black Jails, showing different parts of the system, Police cooperation and how the facilities are run and managed.

- **Jixi city, Heilongjiang province, Beijing Black house**

Located in the basement of the *Inner Mongolian Inn*, behind the Beijing Art museum in Dongcheng district. Basement has been converted to a prison with iron doors and bars. According to a former detainee, one of three Jixi city Black houses in Beijing. Police has been called to this location by an inmate at least two times, both resulting in Police leaving after speaking with a petition official from Jixi city. Water is available to the inmates, but only if they drink it from the facilities single toilet.

- **Shiyian city, Hubei province Beijing Black house**

A Black house operated by Letters and Visits officials from Shiyian, Yunxi and Chenguan townships in Hubei province. Several inmates has been severely beaten while detained here. Has contact with another Black house located in the *Beijing Dongfeng Inn*, and have transferred inmates to that facility,

- **Nanyang city, Henan province Beijing Black house**

Black house located in the *Jing Yuan hostel* in Fengtai district. Facility has around 20 rooms, each room holding between five and ten inmates at full capacity, with two people sharing a bed. Reuters report

Chris Buckley visited this facility and was attacked and held down, but the reporter was able to call the Foreign ministry, and he was later released when staff from the ministry arrived. Six month later, the facility is still operating.

This facility has also been visited by two Channel 4 (UK) reporters (Andrew Carter and Aidan Hartley), who was beaten while investigating the facility, and who was released only after Police who was called interfered, they did not however interfere with management of the facility. The Police wanted the journalist to sign a document stating that they had entered at “government office”, while the assistance Dean Peng was given an administrative warning for disturbing “administrative order” at a government office.

- **Beijing Black house, small transfer station**

A facility located at the north western corner of Taoranting park, Xuanwu district. Facility hosted in the back wing of this two story building. Besides hosting Henan province petitioners, facility is known to be used as a small transfer station. Pictures taken proves police visiting facility.

In another corner of Taoranting park, the south western, another Henan province Black house is located, run by letters and visits officials from Pingdingshan city. Facility is in the basement of the Pingdingshan Beijing letters and visits center.

A third Black house is located near the north eastern corner of Taoranting park, in a complex behind a youth hostel, near Fenfangliuli street. The facility is smaller than most other known Black houses, and is run by officials from Henan province.

- **Henan province Black house**

A Black house hosted in a youth hostel on Taiping street, Xuanwu district, next door to Middle school no. 62. Operated by a manager from the Kaifeng Bureau of Letters and Visits, with hired people to handle guarding and work as retrievers. Petitioners inside has come from Kaifeng, Luoyang and other cities from Henan province. Have been known to pick up petitioners both in front of and inside of the State councils petition office. Police have been called to the location, but without interfering once arrived. Among known inmates are two middle school children from the nearby school. Black house rents room from the

youth hostel without interference.

- **Harbin city, Heilongjiang province Beijing Black house**

A facility in the *Tianmei Inn*, handles petitioners from Harbin city. It's located near Beijing South Train station, at Canlan road 131 , right across the street from the Nanheng street bus stop of bus 381.

CONCLUSION

As this brief indicates, and as the upcoming full report will prove, Black houses are not stand alone facilities but part of a nation-wide system, which are run by Letters and Visits officials with cooperation of not individual Police, but by the Police as an institution, including national units of the Police. Central government ministries indirect cooperation furthermore shows that not only are the system of Black houses run by parts of the government, but allowed to exist by the central government.

The existence of Black houses is clearly illegal, the work of officials of the Letters and Visits office in every is unlawful, including imprisonment, apprehension, ignoring the petitioners right to anonymity, and handling of guarding in these facilities. Likewise is any Police cooperation with Black houses management as well as failure to intervene and assist petitioners not only illegal, but in opposite of the Police's mandate.

The People Procuratorate continuously fails to monitor, supervise and correct the Police for their activities, and the State Council has not executed its mandate over deciding on the existence of these facilities, in clear violation of their mandate.

Information as basis for this report shows a breach of almost all laws involved in determining the rights and obligations of all parties in any way participating in petitioning and the system of Black houses, and it is done with terrible consequences, with beatings, detention, forced repatriation and mistreatment of very large number of people. All of this is funded from the State Council budget that goes to the Letters and Visits system, and ultimately comes from the Chinese taxpayer.

The existence of such a system is a clear violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, specifically those containing the right to criticize one's government, and the government's obligation to ensure that none should suffer arbitrary detention, and while in detention be treated humanely.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the systematic nature of these violations, we strongly recommend that:

- The People's Procuratorate investigates the current practice of retaliation against petitioners, especially the participation of the People's Police;
- The State Council reviews these prisons, and in accordance with the law, order them to dismantle;
- Criminal investigations are launched against those people found to operate or support Black Houses; and
- The National People's Congress review current legislation and practices in regards to the petitioner system, and take appropriate measures to guarantee the right of petitioning without retaliation.

ALSO FROM THE CHINESE URGENT ACTION WORKING GROUP



"DEATHS IN CUSTODY – The Police's free rein to abuse power in detention centers"

A 34 page report on the lack of clear and effective legal framework to properly manage China's 6000 detention centers, and how this has led to a string of most unusual deaths of detainees. The report focuses on the fact that Police are largely responsible for investigating their own crimes against detainees, and how the current laws fail to provide clear guidance for the Procuratorate to investigate crimes committed by detention center staff and police. The report also presents information on 26 cases of unnatural deaths, in most cases obvious murders of detainees by Police. The report also looks at the calls made from both politicians, the media and academia in how the system need be reformed to ensure that the rights of detainees are protected. [January 19, 2011]



"THOUGHT CRIMES - China's use of psychiatric institutions as detention centers"

The report details the use and misuse of China's psychiatric institutions by public security officials, and how the lack of clear regulations concerning placing people in psychiatric custody leaves little space for redress concerning these abuses. It provides an in-depth legal analysis of the legal framework concerning these institutions, as well as on 'Ankang' centers, special custodial institutions where politically unwanted people can be locked up. 'Ankang' centers are part of the administrative penalties system, and little external oversight, from for example the Procuratorate, exist. Misuse of the 'Ankang' institutions, which exists in major cities across China, is widespread and no national regulation or law exist governing these centers. [June 16, 2010]



"PAPERING OVER THE CRACKS - Reform of the forced eviction regime in China"

An extensive report on the current situation concerning forced evictions and demolitions, and how the proposed new law is falling short of providing remedies for what is one of the most widespread human rights violations in China today. The report also details how people are fighting back against unlawful land confiscation, and what role 'barefoot' lawyers play in this fight. Finally, the report uses case studies to highlight different aspects of the problems related to forced evictions and demolitions. [March 29, 2010]



"NO END IN SIGHT - Sustained persecution of human rights defenders in China"

A report detailing how the persecution of human rights defenders has continued unabated at the same high level as during 2008. The report highlights different methods of persecution employed by central and local governments, and how the application of such methods differs between different groups of activists. The report furthermore presents information on key cases of human rights defenders currently being persecuted for their peaceful expression and use of basic rights enshrined in Chinese law. [January 25, 2010]



“MANIPULATION AS INSULATION - The non-renewal of *weiquan* lawyers’ licenses in China”
This report provides information on the situation for lawyers and law firms in China, with focus on the abuse of non-renewal of lawyers’ licenses. It further analyzes frightening new developments concerning the communist party and the state’s growing control of independent lawyers and law firms in China. It also provides an analysis of the hazardous situation lawyers in China face when taking on politically sensitive cases, and how the administrative authorities use the annual re-registration to effectively disbar any lawyers it feels provokes the status quo. [October 21, 2009]



“OLYMPIAN REPRISALS – The Chinese government's response to domestic criticism of the 2008 Olympic Games”
A report outlining how human rights defenders who publicly opposed the 2008 Olympic Games were persecuted by the Chinese state. The report focuses on participants in two campaigns, both advocating for prioritizing better protection of Human Rights over the hosting of the Olympic Games. The report provides information on the technique used by the government to silence these groups, and how it differed between the two groups. [April 23, 2009]



“A BRIEFING ON BLACK HOUSES – System, facilities, victims”
This brief report provides information on the nationwide system of illegal, but government run and funded, jails. The black jails, or black houses, are used to detain petitioners who seek redress for perceived wrongs. The report outlines how the system functions, how the facilities operate, who detains the petitioners, and how the police and central government aids and assist in the operation of the system, as well as a legal analysis. The report was released ahead of the 2009 UN Universal Periodic Review of China. [February 1, 2009]