

## **NEW REPORT DETAILS MURDER OF DETAINEES IN CHINA'S DETENTION CENTERS, HOW THE CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK PROVIDES POLICE WITH FREE REIN TO ABUSE POWER**

-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

CHINESE URGENT ACTION WORKING GROUP (人权卫士紧急救援协会) -- Beijing, China, January 19, 2011 – A new report is being released detailing the grim situation facing detainees in China's more than 6000 detention facilities. The report provides information on more than 20 cases of unnatural deaths, in most cases obvious murder, and how the current legal framework allows the police who manage detention centers free rein to abuse its power. The report shows how police are responsible for investigating their own crimes against detainees and criminals serving their sentences in detention facilities, and how the lack of guidance leaves supervision by the Procuratorate ineffective at best.

The report provides suggestions for how to improve the situation and to minimize the blatant abuse, including murder of detainees. In many cases these suggestions echoes those offered by Chinese politicians, media and academia. The key reform needed is to transfer the mandate to run detention facilities from local police, to review the relevant laws, some which date back to the 1970's and seem more focused on expounding the virtue of socialism then providing effective guidance on the legal matters, and the need to ensure separation between detainees and criminals serving time in detention centers. The many laws concerning different aspects of detention centers need to be reviewed and tightened, as many discrepancies now exist between the different laws and regulations.

– END OF PRESS RELEASE –

Report can be found at '<http://China-Action.org>'

## 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 during 2008 and 2009. The organization also regularly releases reports and background briefs on issues concerning Human Rights, and especially Human Rights defenders, in China.

### 关于人权卫士紧急救援协会

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。

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<http://China-Action.org>

|

[China.Action@hushmail.com](mailto:China.Action@hushmail.com)