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NEW REPORT RELEASED –

“NO END IN SIGHT”: *Persecution of human rights defenders continues unabated 2009*

Chinese Urgent Action Working Group / 人权卫士紧急救援协会 -- Beijing, China – 2010-01-25 – A new report detailing how the persecution of human rights defenders has continued unabated at the same high level as during 2008 was released today. 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.

The report provides an analysis on how the continued institutionalization of “rule by law” affects methods employed to persecute human rights defenders, how the state and the party increases its control of lawyers and law firms, and how local governments are seemingly increasing their use of non-relevant charges to persecute lower profile rights defenders, whilst key activists continues to be charged with “endangering national security”. It furthermore identifies new developments that might come to have an effect on the situation in which rights defenders operate in, such as the freedom of information act and the new human rights plan. It also provides a general overview of the legal situation in which rights defenders work in, including its limitations and problems.

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The report can be found online at <http://China-Action.org>

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.

Secure email: China.Action@hushmail.com | Website: <http://China-Action.org> (no www.)

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