

**BY AIRMAIL**

H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang  
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China  
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**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

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Amsterdam, 25 April 2014

Subject: Messrs. Zhang Junjie, Jiang Tianyong, Wang Chen and Tang Jitian

Your Excellency,

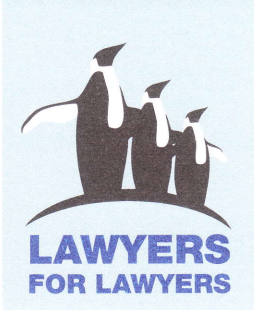
We write to you on behalf of The Dutch Lawyers for Lawyers Foundation ('Stichting Advocaten voor Advocaten'), an independent foundation wholly funded by donations from lawyers, which supports lawyers around the world who are not able to perform their work properly because of harassment and/or improper interference by their governments.

The reason for this letter is our grave concern about the arrest and consequent detention of four Chinese human rights lawyers, **Zhang Junjie, Jiang Tianyong, Wang Chen and Tang Jitian**, on 21 March 2014. According to our information they were arrested while investigating the illegal detention of citizens in a so-called "black jail" (an unofficial detention centre), the 'Legal Education Centre' at Qinglongshan state farm in Heilongjiang province.

On 27 March 2014, mr Zhang Junjie was released, with serious injuries, from a detention centre in Qixing Administrative Detention Centre in Jiansanjiang, Heilongjiang Province. Tang Jitian, Jiang Tyaniong and Wang Cheng were released on April 6 after a 15-day administrative detention period. It has been reported that Tang Jitian, Jiang Tianyong and Wang Chen have also suffered injuries as a result of abuse in custody.

Lawyers for Lawyers reiterates it grave concern for the treatment by the police of our colleagues Zhang Junjie, Jiang Tianyong, Wang Chen and Tang Jitian, especially in light of the serious injuries sustained by Zhang Junjie during his time in custody and given the precedent of torture in Chinese detention centres and against human right lawyers in China in the past in general.

The use of administrative detention of lawyers is an extremely serious threat to the rule of law, which can only function properly if lawyers are able to do their work without any improper interference or harassment by the government. In this case the detention of the four lawyers seems purely related to their work. The torture to which they have been subjected as a means to intimidate them is wholly unacceptable.



We therefore strongly urge the Chinese government to immediately and seriously investigate the serious allegations of torture of these lawyers and the reasons for their detention, which seems to be aimed at intimidating them only.

In this respect, we refer in particular to paragraphs 16 and 17 of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, from which it follows that governments are under an obligation *'to ensure that lawyers are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference'*. Further: *'Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities'*.

According to paragraph 23, *'Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings, without suffering professional restrictions by reason of their lawful action or their membership in a lawful organization'*.

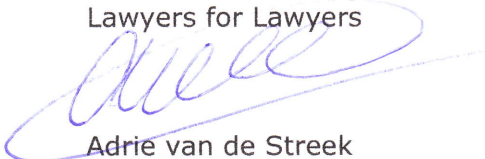
These principles are universally applicable. Therefore, the Chinese government is under an obligation to adequately protect and support its lawyers and human rights defenders.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. We are confident that the Chinese government will give this case the attention it deserves and will continue to monitor this case closely.

On behalf of the board of Lawyers for Lawyers,

Sincerely,

Lawyers for Lawyers



Adrie van de Streek  
Executive director

Letters concerning the same topic were also sent to:

- H.E. Wu Aiyong - Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China
- H.E. Yang Jiechi - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
- H.E. Meng Jianzhu - Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China
- H.E. Sha Zukang - Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China in Geneva
- H.E. Zhang Yuanyuan - Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Brussels
- H. E. Mr. Zhang Jun - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China in The Hague