



06 August 2015

**Subject:** An open letter expressing concerns over the arrests of human rights lawyers and activists in China

**ATT:** H.E. Mr. Ning Fukui, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Thailand

Dear Ambassador Fukui,

I am writing on behalf of Amnesty International Thailand to express our concerns over nationwide crackdown on human rights lawyers and activists in China, which started on 9 July with the disappearance of prominent human rights lawyer Wang Yu. Wang Yu worked at the Fengrui Law Firm in Beijing, of which the director, financial director and other staff members have also been taken away. Lawyers across the country have been targeted, including Zhou Shifeng, Sui Muqing and Li Heping. Many of those detained were part of a group of over 100 lawyers and rights activists who signed a public statement condemning Wang Yu's disappearance.

Amnesty International Thailand is deeply concerned about the negative impact this crackdown will undoubtedly have on the advancement of the 'rule of law' in China. Without the participation of these lawyers and legal activists the legal system will falter and will not be able to meet the needs of many Chinese citizens. Lawyers like Wang Yu, Zhou Shifeng, Sui Muqing and Li Heping should be able to do their work without being harassed, detained and criminally charged for protecting the rights of others.

We respectfully call on the Chinese authorities to:

1. Immediately confirm the whereabouts and legal status of all the lawyers and activists currently detained and missing
2. Ensure all of the detained lawyers and activists have regular, unrestricted access to their lawyers and family and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours Sincerely,

Piyanut Kotsan  
Acting Director,  
Amnesty International Thailand