

Human rights dissident jailed ahead of Olympics

Human rights activist Hu Jia, featured in Christians Against Torture's Easter appeal (below) has been jailed for three-and-a-half years for 'inciting subversion'. His wife commented: "I can't accept such a sentence for writing a few articles. This is irrational and unfair." Appeals for Hu Jia may still be sent to the Chinese authorities.

Christians Against Torture Easter Action 2008

Olympics appeal for rights activist



Human rights activist Hu Jia has been charged with 'inciting subversion', in what appears to be the latest attempt by the Chinese authorities to silence domestic activists' public criticism of China's human rights record.

Hu Jia has been denied access to his lawyer, members of his family and medical treatment, including necessary daily medication for liver disease resulting from Hepatitis B infection.

His wife, Zeng Jinyan, is still under house arrest with their newborn baby. She is not permitted to leave their home and her telephone line and internet connection have been cut.

Hu Jia has campaigned for peasants who have lost their land, arrested dissidents, and people with HIV/AIDS and on environmental issues. He has been detained many times, and was among those held in protests against the jailing of lawyer Gao Zhisheng (who has featured in a previous Christians Against Torture campaign).

Amnesty International says that Hu Jia's formal detention, after being held for months under house arrest, appears to be an attempt to prevent him from continuing with his peaceful human rights activities and to silence his public criticism of China's human rights record ahead of the Beijing Olympic Games. It also sends a message to other Chinese activists not to engage in similar activities.

Please appeal for Hu Jia's immediate release.

- **Express concern** that he is being held for peaceful expression of his views.
- **Request** immediate access to his family, lawyer and medical treatment, pending his release.
- **Ask** that surveillance, harassment and house arrest of his wife Zeng Jinyan cease immediately

Write to

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao Guojia Zongli, The State Council General Office, 2 Fuyoujie , Xichengqu, Beijingshi 100017 , People's Republic of China
Fax: 0086 10 6596 1109

And to

Head of mission: Her Excellency Mrs Fu Ying, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1B 4JL

And please pray for this family, and for all others facing repression for their faith, or because they stand for basic liberties.

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