

[HRC45 | China urged to release lawyer Ding Jiayi](#)

21.09.2020

In a statement at the UN Human Rights Council today, Sophie Luo called for the immediate release of her husband, activist Ding Jiayi, and a clear commitment by the Council to addressing rights violations in China.



□□□□□□□□

In dialogue with UN experts on enforced disappearances, Sophie Luo - whose husband, human rights activist Ding Jiayi, has been held in incommunicado detention for more than six months - emphasised the dangers of Chinese authorities' practices, including the reliance on 'residential surveillance in a designated location', or RSDL.

Luo's testimony highlighted Ding's important work in promoting human rights and universal values in China, and the impact of the crackdown on Ding and other human rights defenders on overall rule of law in the country. Luo and her daughters have been separated from Ding, and remain unable to receive information from him, or to be assured of his access to a lawyer of his or their choice.

The [Working Group's annual report](#) noted that the Chinese government has still - after more than 7 years - failed to positively respond to their request to visit the country; at the same time, the number of outstanding cases taken on by the Working Group increased by over 40% between 2018 and 2019 reporting periods, from 68 to 98. The report also raised concerns with 'the continued use of residential surveillance in a designated location' and emphasised that, as per the UN Declaration, 'accurate information on the detention of persons deprived of liberty and their place or places of detention, including transfers, should be made promptly available to their family members, to their counsel or to any other persons having a legitimate interest in the information'.

