

Thank you, Madame President.

I'd like to bring your attention to an ongoing case of enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention in China that is the content of the joint communication UA CHN 6/2020, dated 9 March 2020.

To group of Special Rapporteurs inquiring about the case, including yourself, Mr. Chair, Chinese government made blatantly false replies (ref No. GJ/21/2020). The facts are the opposite.

My husband Ding Jiayi started activities to promote civil rights in 2011. He advocated for Chinese citizens to practice their rights enshrined in international conventions and the Chinese constitution and to call for freedom, social justice, and love in China. He promoted theories and practices of nonviolent protest, and encouraged citizens to confront social injustice in their daily life.

His peaceful and legal activities brought him three and half year's jail from April 2013 to October 2016 on false charges of "gathering a crowd to disrupt order in a public place". After his release, my husband picked up right where he'd left off – defending the rights of those more vulnerable, and holding power to account.

On December 26, 2019, my husband was forcefully taken away by Yantai Public Security Bureau in Shandong province without any legal notice and was kept in secret detention under "residential surveillance at a designated location", or RSDL, for 6 months without access to his family and his lawyers. He was formally arrested by Linyi Public Security Bureau of Shandong province on June 19 and was moved to Linshu Detention Center under a fake name not known to those of us outside. His lawyers' requests to meet him have been continuously denied using the excuse of State Secrecy. As of today, neither I nor his lawyers have been allowed any communication with him, and his lawyers haven't been provided any evidence of the alleged crime.

What's more, from reliable sources, we have learned that my husband was tortured during his time in RSDL, which you, Mr Chair and your colleagues have determined could constitute enforced disappearance.

Despite this situation, the reply from the Chinese Government states that my husband's legal rights were ensured. I urge the Chinese Government to do as they have said, and return the legal rights to my husband.

By secretly detaining and torturing Ding Jiayi, the Chinese authorities have violated Chinese laws and the international human rights laws that the Chinese government committed to abide by. And it is not an exception. My husband's situation is typical of what China has been practicing against many human rights defenders in China, and other populations as well. This must end.

I call on the Working Group and Member States to investigate the practice of RSDL, to use your voice and your leverage to request China to cease using RSDL and other state-security related laws to target human rights defenders.

I call on the Council and all delegations present to take decisive actions to ensure better monitoring and reporting of the situation in China, and that China is held accountable for its conduct when its actions violate universal human rights and undermine the international human right system.

Thank you.