

HARASSMENT, DETENTION AND DISAPPEARANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN CHINA



Credit: @Badiuca0

Thursday 24 August
13:30 - 14:30

CAGI "La Maison Rose", First Floor Conference Room,
Domaine de la Pastorale, Route de Ferney 106, Geneva

The Chinese government since 2014 has undertaken a massive crackdown on dissenting voices and the defence of human rights. At every turn, advocates for rights ranging from gender equality to adequate housing to freedom from torture risk being surveilled, detained or disappeared. Or, like Cao Shunli, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, and Liu Xiaobo, even death.

In the context of this dangerous environment for rights defence, the UN and international community can and should play a critical role in elevating voices of victims, defenders and their families.



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“ Recent detentions in China are increasingly arbitrary; recent charges against defenders and human rights lawyers are increasingly absurd; and the use of non-legal methods of detention are increasingly frequent... The international community and UN mechanisms should, therefore, be increasingly alarmed and respond accordingly.”

- Yaxue Cao, The founder and editor of ChinaChange.org

“ The death of Nobel Prize winner Liu Xiaobo and enforced disappearance of his wife Liu Xia expose with painful clarity the costs of detention for defenders in China, and reminds us that this cost is also borne by friends and family. For all those at risk for their work to protect and promote human rights, we urge the Human Rights Council to press China for justice and accountability.”

- Sarah M Brooks, ISHR



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Yaxue Cao, The founder and editor of ChinaChange.org

Yaxue Cao is the founder and editor of ChinaChange.org, an English-language website devoted to news and commentary related to civil society, rule of law, and human rights activities in China. The site works to help the rest of the world understand what people are thinking and doing to effect change in China. Reports and translations on China Change have been cited widely in leading global news outlets and in U.S. Congressional reports. Ms. Cao grew up in northern China during the Cultural Revolution and studied literature in the US. She lives in Washington, DC.

Yibee Huang, Chief Executive Officer of Covenants Watch

Ms. Yibee Huang has worked on social issues including environmental protection, labor relationship, and public health; Covenants watch is an umbrella organisation which provides a platform for NGOs working on human rights. She is now focusing her efforts in improving human rights protection in Taiwan. Yibee is now working with Taiwanese colleagues on two leading cases in Taiwan: the case of Mr. Li Ming-che, who got detained by the Chinese authority incommunicado since March 19, 2017, and the case of the environmental disaster case possibly caused by a Taiwanese-based steel company in the coastal areas of Vietnam.

About ISHR

The International Service for Human Rights is an independent, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights. We achieve this by supporting human rights defenders, strengthening human rights system, and leading and participating in coalitions for human rights change.

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