

INVESTIGATE THE TORTURE OF MAO HENGFENG

Mayor of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

HAN Zheng Shizhang
Shanghaishi Renmin Zhengfu
200 Renmindadao, Huangpuqu
Shanghaishi 200003
People's Republic of China

Dear Mayor:

We are writing to express our grave concern for **MAO Hengfeng**, a human rights defender and mother of three, who was returned to her family, unconscious, in a wheelchair.

In February 2010 Mao Hengfeng was sentenced to 18 months of Re-education Through Labour (RTL), as a result of her protest in front of the Beijing municipal intermediate court where human rights activist and Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo was on trial. At an appeal hearing in July 2010, Mao Hengfeng reported that the RTL facility officers had instructed other inmates many times to beat her. In addition to the beatings, she was kept in unsanitary conditions and was forced to work at the RTL facility dumping ground.

Mao Hengfeng was released on medical parole due to high blood pressure in February 2011. She was rearrested two days later on the grounds of having violated the terms for medical parole. She was then taken to the Shanghai City Prison Hospital, where she was unexpectedly released on July 28, 2011. At the prison hospital, she was beaten severely, and at one point, she lost sight and hearing for 24 hours. On the day before the authorities officially ended her RTL term, she kept slipping in and out of consciousness, unable to eat or drink.

Mao Hengfeng remains under police surveillance. The police attempted to beat her when she and her husband went to church and she refused their demand for her to go home.

We call on the Chinese authorities to investigate the allegations that Mao Hengfeng has been tortured and otherwise ill-treated with a view of bringing those responsible to justice. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

YOUR SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

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Send completed petition directly to the address above.