

# ACTION PAGE

## APPEAL FOR ACTIVISTS' RIGHTS

China's accession to the WTO includes a commitment to open up market access to tele-communications, which would play a significant role in Internet development. The PRC government views the Internet as vital to economic and technical development, yet it continues to expend significant resources to maintain control over access to content as well as the content itself. Along with employing technical censorship methods to build a "Great Firewall," the government also clamps down on Internet users. Since January 2000, authorities have arrested at least 39 individuals for publishing or distributing information online. Below are a few of the cyber activists who are currently detained.

**Liu Di**, 22, who used the online name "Stainless Steel Mouse," was arrested on November 7, and her present whereabouts are still unconfirmed. Liu is a fourth year student at Beijing Teacher's University, studying psychology. She had published several essays on the Xici online bulletin board criticizing the government's censorship of the Internet. A day after her disappearance, her home was searched, and officials informed her family that Liu was being investigated for "participating in an illegal organization." Authorities have denied Liu's family the right to visit with her, accusing her of being a threat to national security, and claim that they have kept her in a secret place to put "pressure" on her. Liu, like many others, was simply exercising her right to express her opinions online.

**Tao Haidong**, 45, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment, charged with "inciting to overthrow the state power" after his secret trial on January 8 held at Urumqi People's Intermediate Court. Tao was arrested by officers of the Urumqi Public Security Bureau on July 9, 2002 while he was in the process of posting articles on web sites in China and overseas. Tao edited *Imaginations of a New Human Race*, for which Xi'an officials sentenced him to three years of RTL, but subsequently became active on the Internet and was noted for taking part in discussion groups and posting views under his own name.

**Ouyang Yi**, 35, was charged with "inciting to overthrow the state power" on January 7, and is reportedly being detained in the Sichuan Province No. 1 Detention Center. If convicted, Ouyang faces a prison sentence of up to 15 years. A day after his arrest on December 4, police notified his family of the detention and searched Ouyang's home and confiscated a number of documents, many of which were articles that Ouyang had posted in the Internet. Apparently, Ouyang's arrest was also related to his participation in an open letter to the 16th Party Congress in November calling for political reform.

Featured on this issue's political prisoner profile, **Mu Chuanheng**, 47, was detained on August 14, 2001, and sentenced to three years imprisonment on September 10, 2002 for "incitement to subvert state power." He is currently serving his sentence at Qingdao Dashan No. 1 Detention Center. Mu has previously been reprimanded for publishing his ideas on human rights and political reform in magazines, such as [Theoretical Flag](#), [Loyal Friendship Forum](#), and [Sea Spray](#).

As human rights and labor activists have lobbied and urged, China's implementation of WTO obligations must be monitored in light of government crackdowns on labor protests and labor activists. Since March of last year, workers in Liaoyang have staged a series of major demonstrations, protesting against unfair severance packages and corruption. Labor leaders **Yao Fuxin**, 52, and **Xiao Yunliang**, 56, have been detained since last March, and were charged in January 2003 for subversion by Liaoyang City Intermediate People's Court. The health conditions of both are deteriorating in the City Detention Center of Liaoyang; Yao reportedly has heart problems and symptoms of stroke, and Xiao suffers from heart, lung and eye problems.

**Please join the international community in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of these and other Internet and labor activists.** Please send letters to the designated addresses below, emphasizing the need for free flow of information and the right to exercise freedom of expression, and the right to assembly.

Where appropriate, express concern for medical conditions and demand immediate and appropriate treatment.

**Liu Di:** Unknown location  
**Mayor**, Beijing Municipal People's Government  
Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu 2, Zhengyilu, Dongchengqu, Beijingshi 100744, China

**Tao Haidong:** Sentenced by Urumqi People's Intermediate Court  
**Chairman**, Xinjiang Autonomous Regional People's Government, Xinjiang Weiwuer, Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu 2, Zhongshanlu, Wulumuqishi 830041, Xinjiang Zizhiqu, China

**Ouyang Yi:** Sichuan No.1 Detention Center  
**Governor**, Sichuan Provincial People's Government, Chengdushi, Sichuansheng, China

**Mu Chuanheng:** Qingdao Dashan No.1 Detention Center  
**Governor**, Shandong Provincial People's Government, Zhandongsheng Renmin Zhengfu 1, Shengfu Qianjie Jinanishi, Shandongsheng, China

**Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang:**  
City Detention Center of Liaoyang Governor  
Liaoning Provincial People's Government Shengzhang, Liaoningsheng Renmin Zhengfu  
45 Huangguqu, Beiling Dajie Shenyangshi 110032 Liaoningsheng, PRC  
Fax: 0086 24 86892112; e-mail: Ins-fxxc@online.ln.cn

### Send copies of above appeals to:

**President Hu Jintao**, Chinese Communist Party, Yongdingmen Street, Beijing 100032, PRC

**Prime Minister Wen Jiabao**, Guowuyuan, 9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie, Beijing 100032, PRC

**National People's Congress**, Quanguo Renmin Dahuitang, 19 Xijiaominxiang, Xichengqu, Beijing 100805, PRC