



We condemn the illegal detention of young feminist activists in mainland China and call for their immediate release!

Instead of reminding the world of the historic importance of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its own contribution and commitment to the same, the Chinese state chose to illegally detain five young feminist activists. In a clampdown, prominent activists, Li Tingting (also known as Maizi), Wei Tingting, Wang Man in Beijing, Wu Rongrong in Hangzhou, and Zheng Churang (also known as Datu) in Guangzhou, have been detained.

The arrests were triggered by the five young women preparing stickers printed with sentences in Chinese such as “Stop sexual harassment, let safety be with you, me and her” and “Run police run, arrest those who commit sexual harassment!”, which they planned to distribute on 7 March in the streets of their cities.

The action was timed to coincide with the All-China Federation of Workers submission of Bills to the National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress regarding sexual harassment in the workplace. The aim was to bring public concern and also to call for the setting up of a mechanism to prohibit sexual harassment in public transport. These women have in the past three years, have been doing similar peaceful and creative actions like “Occupy Men’s Toilets” to bring to greater public attention the issue of sexual harassment and demand for equal public spaces for women. This is the first time that they have been unjustly prevented from expressing their concerns.

That, this happened without any solid legal ground, without any due process in the run up to the International Women’s Day is deeply disturbing. It is a violation of the basic tenets of freedom of speech, and also mocks premier Xi Jinping’s declaration that China would uphold gender equality as one of the basic national policies.

We, at the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), a pro-justice anti-poverty global campaign and at the Feminist Task Force, the global alliance dedicated to eradicating women’s poverty and championing gender-justice, call on the Chinese government for the immediate release of our coordinator, Wang Man, and her colleagues. We are gravely concerned for their personal safety and security and call upon the Chinese authorities to ensure that these activists’ legal and procedural rights including rights to meet with lawyers and families, and rights to personal safety are strictly observed. We urge for honouring their bodily integrity, life and liberty and call for their immediate release, pending legal due process!

Release the five Women Activists now!

In solidarity

Amitabh Behar, Marta Benavides, Richard Ssewakiryanga
GCAP Global Co-Chairs

And

Rosa G Lizarde
Global Director, Feminist Task Force