



FALUN DAFA
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

**Supplementary Submission
to Joint Standing Committee on
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Human Rights Subcommittee**

**Inquiry into Australia's Advocacy
for Abolition of the Death Penalty**

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A. Recommendation 2 regarding engaging China's civil society and lawyer groups

We offer the following information in response to a question raised by the Chair during the hearing regarding lawyers in China that the international community could engage on the issue of the death penalty.

We have included brief details below of lawyers in China who Australia could seek to engage. They have personal experience of the sacrifices required to stand up for reforms of the death penalty and extrajudicial killing in China - and the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners.

Since July 2015 many have been arrested or detained.¹ The profiles of some of the most prominent civil rights advocates detained in that nationwide crackdown were Pu Zhiqiang, Zhou Shifeng, Li Heping, Wang Yu, Yu Wensheng, Sui Muqing and Wang Quanzhang.

WANG YU

In July 2015, authorities abducted prominent human rights lawyer Wang Yu from her residence in Beijing. One hundred lawyers signed an Open letter calling for her release.² The Ministry of Public Security responded with raids, abductions, detentions, disappearances, summons, and searches of lawyers who signed the letter.³

“Wang Yu has taken on Falun Gong cases around China—including in Beijing, and the provinces of Hebei, Heilongjiang Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, and Shandong—despite the fact that these cases heighten the chance of police mistreatment and retaliation.”⁴

LI HEPING

“Six decades of Communist rule have inculcated the idea that an individual life can be sacrificed for the greater good.....Very few people are aware of the concept of abolishing the death penalty, let alone the consideration of societal improvement and benefits that comes with getting rid of the sentence.”⁵

“Mr Li is a devout Christian and he has spent his career defending those persecuted by the authorities for their religious or spiritual beliefs, as well as those political activists and dissidents who dare to challenge the Communist Party's monopoly on power. His clients have included other prominent lawyers, including Chen Guangcheng and Gao Zhisheng. He has received a number of international awards, such as the 2008 Human Rights Award from the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe.”⁶

¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/23/world/asia/china-crackdown-human-rights-lawyers.html?_r=0

² http://wqw2010.blogspot.com.au/2015/07/blog-post_68.html

³ <http://chrdnet.com/2015/07/china-halt-police-operations-targeting-human-rights-lawyers-as-national-security-threat/>

⁴ <https://chrdnet.com/2015/07/prisoner-of-conscience-wang-yu/>

⁵ <http://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/05/why-china-executes-so-many-people/275695/>

⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-china-blog-34199455>

TENG BIAO

Teng Biao also spoke at a workshop at the 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty about legal representation in capital cases in China and what the international community could do to support their work. **He said that it was very important to publicize cases and information about the death penalty in China.**

He also recommended supporting lawyers through training and exchanges of good practices and information, especially when they face pressure in China. ⁷

“On April 27, 2007, during the second trial of Ms. Wang Bo, a Falun Gong practitioner from Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, several attorneys including Teng Biao, Li Heping, Li Xiongbing, Zhang Lihui, Li Shunzhang, and Wu Hongwei all defended Ms. Wang.” ⁸

⁷ <http://www.worldcoalition.org/china-lawyers-death-penalty-trial-teng-biao-defence.html>

⁸ <http://en.minghui.org/html/articles/2012/2/20/131603.html>