



Submission No 22

**Inquiry into Australia's Human Rights Dialogues with China  
and Vietnam**

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c/o Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
University of Technology, Sydney

Sydney PEN

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

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, The Guardian:

his lawyer said. , was arrested last April for "inciting subversion of state power". No trial date has been set, , said on Tuesday.

" said. The authorities disclosed their decision to prosecute nearly a year after

. said, however, that had nothing to do with the online calls for 'Jasmine revolution' rallies inspired by uprisings in the Middle East. said he will defend on the basis of freedom of expression but believes prospects for victory look bleak. "You can't be optimistic about anything in China," he said. "In this country, he'll be punished harshly." China's Communist party is preparing for a leadership handover late this year, when its determination to fend off political challenges to its rule is likely to intensify...'

According to PEN's information, , freelance writer and prominent human rights activist, was arrested

. The speed of the legal process is unprecedented. According to the court verdict, his conviction is based on several quotations from over thirty of his articles published on overseas Chinese websites. He has decided not to appeal the verdict.

. He is a member of the Guizhou Human Rights Forum, which was declared an 'illegal organisation' by the Guizhou authorities on 5 December 2011, prior to International Human Rights Day (10 December). At least ten other members of the group have been arrested since 28 November but all have since been released without charge

has been sentenced to nine years in jail for “inciting subversion of state power”. published several essays online calling for freedom of speech and reform of China’s one-party system. He was among hundreds of dissidents detained earlier this year after online calls for protests in China inspired by the uprisings in the Middle East. He told the court he was not guilty and that “democracy will prevail” in China, say reports. has always insisted he was simply expressing his opinions as allowed under the Chinese constitution. His wife told the BBC the trial had been “a performance” and that the verdict had been decided before it began. The indictment against listed several essays he wrote for foreign websites on topics including pieces which criticised the political system in China and praised the growth of civil society. The trial was held behind closed doors and lasted only two hours. In addition to the jail sentence, had his political rights taken away for a further two years. It is believed to be one of the harshest sentences imposed on those involved in the so-called Jasmine Revolution – the attempt to replicate the Arab Spring uprising in China

The Chinese government banned dissident

after writing , which condemned the bloody crackdown in Tiananmen Square.

Uyghur journalist and editor sentenced to , who was arrested , was convicted on state security charges for his reporting on the July 2009 riots in Urumqi. According our information, he was taken from his home

. It is believed that his arrest stems from critical interviews given to foreign media following the unrest which broke out in Urumqi. The prosecution reportedly used as evidence essays written by highlighting mounting ethnic tension in the region prior to the riots, and interviews he gave to Hong Kong media after the violence. was convicted by the Urumqi Intermediate People’s Court on charges of ‘endangering national security’

Veteran Chinese dissident , for “inciting subversion of state power” for allegedly that advocated for human rights and democracy in overseas e-journals. He was sentenced amidst the crackdown on dissidents following the uprisings in the Arab world, which saw 24 lawyers, writers, artists detained by Chinese authorities. He has

been targeted by Chinese authorities since  
, for which he  
, he was arrested again  
. His wife told the New York Times that, after his release,  
authorities deprived him of a chance to have a normal life by ordering prospective  
employers not to hire him and restricting his freedom to work in places

was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment  
for "inciting subversion of state power", ostensibly for the publication of an essay

This essay  
was published as it was considered to be relatively long.  
, the highest record among similar cases on  
the same charge (including that of

). In 2009,  
in the wake of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, began an independent  
investigation into the quality of school building construction, and it was this  
investigation that lawyers and activists consider the main reason for his  
imprisonment. He was particularly interested in why so many schools collapsed  
during the earthquake while the buildings around them remained standing.

Joel Gibson and Simeon Beckett  
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