

4 September 2017

China: Human Rights in China director Zhen Jianghua taken by police to unknown location

On 1 September 2017, police officers took human rights defender **Zhen Jianghua (甄江华)** from his home in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province. The defender's phone, computer, and numerous documents were confiscated from his residence. As of 4 September 2017, no warrant or justification of arrest has been presented to Zhen Jianghua's family, and his whereabouts remain unknown.

[Zhen Jianghua](#) is a human rights activist with over 10 years' experience working in China's rights defence community. He serves as executive director for [Human Rights Campaign in China](#), an organization that campaigns for arrested human rights defenders and helps victims of human rights violations to record and publicize their experiences. The human rights defender has also supported the work of other NGOs, including the management of the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation's trainings in the Zhuhai region. Zhen Jianghua also supports open access to information in his role as Executive Editor of ATGFW.org, a website that provides information on how to bypass Chinese Internet censorship.

On 1 September 2017, police took Zhen Jianghua from his home at 10 pm. A force of approximately 20 officers, including plainclothes and special police, returned with the defender to his home at approximately midnight of that same evening, where they performed a search of the residence and confiscated phones and laptops. Zhen Jianghua's girlfriend was also taken into custody at this time; her phone and computer were also confiscated. She was released from custody at 4 pm on 2 September 2017.

On 2 September 2017, police returned to Zhen Jianghua's home at approximately 6 pm to perform a second search, confiscating promotional materials and official documents of Human Rights Campaign in China. Since the defender's arrest, police have questioned numerous friends and family members of the defender, and instructed several of them not to discuss his situation with outside parties.

Front Line Defenders demands the immediate release of Zhen Jianghua from illegal detention, and believes that this deprivation of Zhen Jianghua's liberty is solely an attempt by local authorities to punish him for his ongoing support for China's persecuted and detained human rights defenders.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in China to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Zhen Jianghua;
2. Provide all required documentation explaining the reason for Zhen Jianghua's arrest to the defender's family;
3. Allow Zhen Jianghua immediate and unfettered access to lawyers, and ensure that his treatment adheres to the conditions set out in the 'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment', adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9

December 1988;

4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in China are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.