

## II. Human Rights

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

#### *International Standards on Freedom of Expression*

The Chinese government and Communist Party continued to restrict expression in contravention of international human rights standards, including Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>1</sup> According to the ICCPR—which China signed<sup>2</sup> but has not ratified<sup>3</sup>—and as reiterated by the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, under Article 19(3), countries may impose certain restrictions or limitations on freedom of expression, if such restrictions are provided by law and are necessary for the purpose of respecting the “rights or reputations of others” or protecting national security, public order, public health, or morals.<sup>4</sup> An October 2009 UN Human Rights Council resolution, however, provides that restrictions on the “discussion of government policies and political debate,” “peaceful demonstrations or political activities, including for peace or democracy,” and “expression of opinion and dissent” are inconsistent with Article 19(3) of the ICCPR.<sup>5</sup> The UN Human Rights Committee specified in a 2011 General Comment that restrictions on freedom of expression specified in Article 19(3) should be interpreted narrowly and that the restrictions “may not put in jeopardy the right itself.”<sup>6</sup>

#### *Freedom of the Press*

### POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE NEWS MEDIA

International experts have cautioned that media serving “as government mouthpieces instead of as independent bodies operating in the public interest” are a major challenge to free expression.<sup>7</sup> The Chinese Communist Party’s longstanding position that the media is a political tool—functioning as a “mouthpiece” for its official positions and in shaping public opinion<sup>8</sup>—received high-profile promotion<sup>9</sup> during the Commission’s 2016 reporting year. President and Party General Secretary Xi Jinping reiterated the primacy of the Party’s control of the media in China during widely publicized visits on February 19, 2016, to Xinhua, People’s Daily, and China Central Television (CCTV)—the three flagship state and Party media outlets—and in a speech on media policy at a Party forum the same day.<sup>10</sup> During the speech, Xi reportedly declared that the media “must be surnamed Party” (*bixu xing dang*)<sup>11</sup> and called for “absolute loyalty” to the Party from official media outlets and personnel.<sup>12</sup> The range of media outlets in Xi’s speech, according to some commentators, also extended to more market-oriented media in China, requiring that these media convey “positive” news about China in conformity with Party ideology.<sup>13</sup>

Although freedom of speech and the press are guaranteed in China’s Constitution,<sup>14</sup> the legal parameters for the protection of the news media in gathering and reporting information are not clearly defined, particularly in the absence of a national press law.<sup>15</sup> The Party and Chinese government continued to use complex and vague

legal and regulatory provisions<sup>16</sup> and a powerful propaganda system<sup>17</sup> to exert political control over journalists and news coverage in China. Chinese and international media reports during the year indicated that government efforts since 2013 and the changing media marketplace have led to tightened management of the news industry<sup>18</sup> and further decreased the space for investigative journalism.<sup>19</sup> An amendment to the PRC Criminal Law that became effective in November 2015, moreover, may place journalists at risk of being criminally charged for “fabricating false reports”<sup>20</sup> in their coverage of “hazards, epidemics, disasters, and situations involving police.”<sup>21</sup>

The Party regularly issues propaganda directives to control news media through the Central Propaganda Department and its lower level bureaus.<sup>22</sup> Experts at Freedom House, a U.S.-based organization that monitors press and Internet freedom, analyzed dozens of such directives from 2015 and found that topic areas were “far broader than mere criticism of the regime, dissident activities, or perennially censored issues . . .” such as Tibet, Taiwan, and Falun Gong.<sup>23</sup> These directives restricted information on public health and safety, economic policy, official wrongdoing, regulations on and instances of media censorship, civil society issues, and the Party’s reputation.<sup>24</sup> In March 2016, journalists also faced increased government censorship compared to previous years when covering the annual sessions of the National People’s Congress and its advisory body, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, as illustrated by a lengthy censorship directive<sup>25</sup> and limited access to delegates.<sup>26</sup> The establishment of “news ethics committees” during the reporting year highlighted the government’s intention to enhance official mechanisms to “maintain and intensify press censorship.”<sup>27</sup>

#### Chinese Media’s “Supervision by Public Opinion”

Debate over the news media’s “supervision by public opinion” (*yulun jian du*)—an official term that affirms a role for the media to report critically in the public interest and to monitor those in power, which has been likened to investigative journalism<sup>28</sup>—was featured in reports during the year about the detention of an investigative journalist and the resolution of a defamation litigation case.

In October 2015, authorities in Jiangxi province detained Liu Wei, an investigative journalist on assignment from Southern Metropolitan Daily, on suspicion of “obtaining state secrets,” for his coverage of the story of a local traditional healer allegedly involved in the death of a provincial legislator.<sup>29</sup> After public security authorities released Liu on bail following a “confession” televised on state-run China Central Television, fellow journalists reportedly stated that the “space for supervision by public opinion . . . was seriously constrained.”<sup>30</sup> Southern Metropolitan Daily editors reprinted a Xinhua editorial that contained Liu’s “confession,” but prefaced the editorial by discussing the difficulties journalists face in conducting their work: “[I]n-depth investigation is how the media gets at the truth of the matter, and it’s a necessary and effective practice. But news investigations, nevertheless, do not enjoy legal impunity . . .”<sup>31</sup>

**Chinese Media’s “Supervision by Public Opinion”—Continued**

Journalists and media companies have been frequent targets of defamation suits in China.<sup>32</sup> One observer called the verdict in a defamation case adjudicated in November 2015 a “historic” judicial endorsement of media oversight.<sup>33</sup> A court in Beijing municipality reversed a verdict, on appeal, of two media companies accused of having harmed the reputation of a luxury goods business in articles published in 2012.<sup>34</sup> The verdict stated, “News media have a right and a responsibility to properly carry out critical supervision.”<sup>35</sup> In his work report to the National People’s Congress in March 2016, Supreme People’s Court President Zhou Qiang specifically raised this case, remarking that the court’s decision “in effect, protect[s] the rights [*quan*] of news media to supervise public opinion.”<sup>36</sup>

CHALLENGES TO THE MEDIA’S “OFFICIAL” ROLE

Chinese citizens and journalists challenged the Party’s news media control and propaganda work during this reporting year, sometimes specifically in response to President Xi Jinping’s speech on Party primacy over news media. A prominent social media commentator<sup>37</sup> and the unknown authors of a letter to Xi who identified themselves as “loyal Party members,”<sup>38</sup> for example, criticized Xi’s February 2016 statements for devaluing the media’s responsibility to report on behalf of the public.<sup>39</sup> An editor at a market-oriented newspaper in Guangdong province quit his job, making note in his March 2016 resignation paperwork that he had “no way to go along with your surname,” in reference to Xi’s injunction to “follow the Party’s surname.”<sup>40</sup> Other challenges to censorship came from Caixin media,<sup>41</sup> a Xinhua staff member,<sup>42</sup> and a former deputy editor of People’s Daily.<sup>43</sup> Authorities countered criticism by shutting down microblog accounts,<sup>44</sup> removing critical content from the Internet and social media,<sup>45</sup> and detaining media professionals<sup>46</sup> and several China-based family members of Chinese journalists and bloggers living overseas.<sup>47</sup>

Chinese authorities continued to broadcast prerecorded confessions on state-controlled media,<sup>48</sup> including those of a journalist,<sup>49</sup> at least two rights lawyers,<sup>50</sup> the Swedish cofounder of a legal advocacy group in Beijing municipality,<sup>51</sup> and the co-owner of a Hong Kong publishing company.<sup>52</sup> The international NGO Chinese Human Rights Defenders asserted that the government used the broadcast of confessions on state media outlets “to denounce individuals or groups,” “control public narratives about government-perceived ‘political threats,’” and retaliate against government critics.<sup>53</sup> Two Chinese officials publicly noted concerns of fairness and access to justice in cases of televised confessions prior to trial.<sup>54</sup> [For more information on televised confessions during the reporting year, see Section II—Criminal Justice.]

Family members of rights defenders, labor rights groups, and lawyers also brought, or planned to bring, lawsuits against official media outlets, with some claiming that the state-run media outlets’ defamatory statements in newspapers and television were politically motivated.<sup>55</sup> The mother of Zeng Feiyang—a labor rights advocate in Guangdong province detained in December 2015—report-

edly withdrew a lawsuit against the state-run news service Xinhua after family members received threats that they would lose their jobs if the lawsuit went forward.<sup>56</sup> In December 2015, a court in Beijing municipality postponed holding the trial in former defense lawyer Li Zhuang's defamation lawsuit against the Party-run China Youth Daily (CYD),<sup>57</sup> reportedly due to the presiding judge's back injury.<sup>58</sup> Li's legal counsel in the case, Peking University law professor He Weifang, noted that Li wanted to bring legal proceedings against CYD in 2011 but was only able to file the case in June 2015 following reform of the judiciary's case filing system.<sup>59</sup> As of August 2016, the Commission had not observed reports that the case had come to trial.

#### HARASSMENT AND CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT OF DOMESTIC JOURNALISTS

The number of professional and citizen journalists detained in China increased in 2015,<sup>60</sup> making China “the world's worst jailer of the press” for the second year in a row, according to the international advocacy group Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).<sup>61</sup> A significant percentage of individuals on CPJ's list were ethnic Tibetans and Uyghurs with backgrounds as freelance or citizen journalists and bloggers,<sup>62</sup> but the number of imprisoned journalists from mainstream media also increased in 2015.<sup>63</sup> In May 2016, China was 1 of 10 countries to vote against CPJ's accreditation for non-governmental consultative status at the United Nations,<sup>64</sup> a move criticized by rights groups<sup>65</sup> and UN<sup>66</sup> and foreign government officials.<sup>67</sup> The international press freedom organization Reporters Without Borders ranked China 176th out of 180 countries in its 2016 World Press Freedom Index, which assesses the “independence of the media, quality of legislative framework and safety of journalists,” and also gave China the worst score under the category “abuse” of all 180 countries covered in the index.<sup>68</sup>

The Chinese government used a variety of legal and extralegal measures to target journalists, editors, and bloggers who covered issues authorities deemed to be politically sensitive. The Commission observed reports of dismissal or disciplinary action over alleged criticism of government policy<sup>69</sup> and editorial “mistakes,”<sup>70</sup> official harassment,<sup>71</sup> physical violence,<sup>72</sup> detention,<sup>73</sup> and prison sentences.<sup>74</sup> [For information on media developments and cases in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and in Hong Kong, see Section IV—Xinjiang—Freedom of the Press and Section VI—Developments in Hong Kong and Macau—Press Freedom.] Selected cases of such harassment and detention included:

- **Gao Yu.** In November 2015, the Beijing High People's Court reduced the April 2015 sentence of Gao Yu—a 72-year-old journalist whose 2014 televised confession of “revealing state secrets” reportedly had been made under duress<sup>75</sup>—from seven years to five years.<sup>76</sup> Although released on medical parole,<sup>77</sup> authorities continued to harass Gao, including by demolishing a small study in her garden and assaulting her son in March 2016,<sup>78</sup> forcing her to leave her home in Beijing municipality for a “vacation” during the annual meeting of the National People's Congress,<sup>79</sup> and not granting her permission to travel to Germany for medical treatment.<sup>80</sup>

- **Li Xin.** In February 2016, the family of Li Xin, a former journalist with the Southern Metropolitan Daily, learned that Li was at an unidentified detention site in China after going missing from Thailand in January.<sup>81</sup> Thai authorities reportedly stated that they had a record of Li's entry into Thailand, but not his exit.<sup>82</sup> Li left China in October 2015, alleging public security bureau officials pressured him to inform on fellow journalists and rights advocates.<sup>83</sup> Li also provided details on how media censorship operates in China in a November 2015 interview with Radio Free Asia.<sup>84</sup>

- **Wang Jing and 64 Tianwang citizen journalists.** In April 2016, authorities in Jilin province sentenced Wang Jing to 4 years and 10 months in prison for her volunteer reporting for the human rights news website 64 Tianwang,<sup>85</sup> including a report on a self-immolation protest in Tiananmen Square in 2014.<sup>86</sup> Chinese authorities also continued to harass and detain other 64 Tianwang contributors<sup>87</sup> during this reporting year. In September 2015, authorities in Zhejiang province arrested Sun Enwei, who had reported on inadequate pension benefits for demobilized soldiers.<sup>88</sup> Authorities in Sichuan province reportedly harassed Huang Qi, 64 Tianwang's founder, after he accompanied two Japanese journalists to report on sites in Sichuan province affected by the 2008 earthquake.<sup>89</sup>

#### HARASSMENT OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AND NEWS MEDIA

The Chinese government and Communist Party continued to use a range of methods to restrict and harass foreign journalists and news media outlets reporting in China. According to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of China's (FCCC) most recent annual report (2015) on working conditions for foreign reporters in China,<sup>90</sup> these methods included official harassment of reporters,<sup>91</sup> news assistants, and sources;<sup>92</sup> attempts to block coverage of issues that authorities deemed sensitive; restrictions on travel to areas along China's border and ethnic minority regions; visa renewal delays and denials; and blocking foreign media outlets' websites<sup>93</sup> and journalists' social media accounts in China.<sup>94</sup> Examples of harassment during the reporting year included:

- **October 2015.** Plainclothes police in Ulanhot city, Hinggan (Xing'an) League, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, forced journalists from Australian and Japanese news publications to stay at a local public security bureau for hours to verify their press credentials.<sup>95</sup> The journalists had planned, but were unable, to interview Bao Zhuoxuan,<sup>96</sup> the son of detained human rights lawyers Wang Yu<sup>97</sup> and Bao Longjun,<sup>98</sup> at his grandmother's home in Ulanhot.<sup>99</sup>

- **December 2015.** Security agents reportedly assaulted foreign journalists on assignment outside a court in Beijing municipality who were reporting on the trial of public interest lawyer Pu Zhiqiang.<sup>100</sup>

- **February and April 2016.** Authorities in Sichuan province prevented Japanese journalists from the Asahi Shimbun from investigating conditions in areas affected by the 2008 earthquake.<sup>101</sup> Unidentified individuals temporarily detained the journalists during the February incident.<sup>102</sup>

Based on the FCCC's annual survey on foreign journalists' experiences obtaining press credentials and work visas, the processing time for annual renewals of press cards (through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and residence visas (through public security bureaus) was shorter in 2015 compared to prior years and a relatively small percentage of correspondents reported problems with their visa renewals.<sup>103</sup> The FCCC, however, emphasized that authorities continued to use visa applications and renewals as a political tool against foreign journalists,<sup>104</sup> illustrated during this reporting year by the Chinese government's effective expulsion of French journalist Ursula Gauthier by not renewing her visa in December 2015.<sup>105</sup> In a November 2015 article, Gauthier had criticized the government's counterterrorism policy in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.<sup>106</sup>

#### *Internet and Social Media Communications*

The scale of Internet and social media use continued to grow in China during this reporting year, while the government and Party continued to expand censorship of content. According to the China Internet Network Information Center, there were 710 million Internet users in China by June 2016,<sup>107</sup> 656 million of whom accessed the Internet from mobile phones.<sup>108</sup> As of April 2016, WeChat, an instant messaging platform, reportedly had more than 700 million monthly active users.<sup>109</sup> Sina Weibo, a microblogging platform similar to Twitter, reportedly had 400 million monthly active users.<sup>110</sup> One scholarly assessment found that government efforts to control social media and telecommunications have resulted in "an exodus from public microblogging platforms to private messaging apps."<sup>111</sup>

#### GOVERNMENT AND PARTY CONTROL

The Chinese government and Communist Party further entrenched institutional oversight and regulatory mechanisms to control Internet governance in China, and reiterated an Internet policy based on China's claims of "Internet sovereignty."<sup>112</sup> According to scholar Rogier Creemers, under President and Party General Secretary Xi Jinping, government and Party leaders have shifted responsibility for Internet governance away from "technocratic" state entities and brought Internet governance "into the cent[er] of political decision-making."<sup>113</sup>

#### **Cyberspace Administration of China**

The expanding influence of the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), designated by the State Council in 2014 as the agency responsible for the "governance of all online content" in China, illustrates the government and Party's shifting priorities in Internet governance.<sup>114</sup> Formerly known as the State Internet Information Office, the CAC is subordinate to the State Council but is directly supervised by the Central Leading Group for Cybersecurity and Informatization, a combined government and Party leadership group headed by Xi Jinping.<sup>115</sup>

### Cyberspace Administration of China—Continued

Draft revisions of regulations managing Internet news services issued in January 2016<sup>116</sup> appear to grant responsibility to the CAC for all news-related online content and supervision of news websites' licensing, editorial liability, and disciplinary decisions.<sup>117</sup> The definition of "Internet news information" in the draft revisions encompasses reporting and commentary on public affairs, including politics, economics, military affairs, and diplomacy, as well as reporting and commentary on emergent or "sudden social incidents" (*shehui tufa shijian*).<sup>118</sup> The scope of the draft revisions, moreover, extends beyond news websites to include "applications, discussion forums, blogs, microblogs, instant messaging tools, search engines, and other applications that contain news, public opinion, or social mobilization functions."<sup>119</sup> At least one Chinese source described the draft revisions as the "toughest" ever, aimed at further restricting the space for the public to discuss the news.<sup>120</sup> In July, the Beijing branch of the CAC reportedly directed domestic Internet companies, including Sohu, Sina, and Netease, to discontinue online news programs producing original content that violated a provision in the 2005 version of the regulations on Internet news services' management that limits the reposting or republishing of news from "central news units" and those directly under the central government.<sup>121</sup> In March 2016, Caixin, a market-oriented media outlet known for its investigative work, reportedly referred to the CAC as "a government censorship organ," following the deletion of an article that discussed restrictions on airing opinions during the annual meetings of China's legislature and its advisory entity.<sup>122</sup> The CAC, moreover, moved to impose "eight requirements" to further online news control, including 24-hour monitoring of online news content and holding editors-in-chief responsible for content.<sup>123</sup> The "eight requirements" were imparted at an August 2016 meeting attended by representatives from official media outlets as well as commercial websites such as Tencent and Baidu.<sup>124</sup>

In June 2016, CAC's prominent director Lu Wei stepped down from his position as China's "Internet czar," though he still held a senior position at the Party's Central Propaganda Department.<sup>125</sup> An August 2016 report in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post speculated that Lu Wei's departure "came after a spate of errors about politically sensitive topics made their way online . . ."<sup>126</sup>

### *Punishing Citizens' Free Expression*

The Chinese government and Communist Party continued to violate the international standards noted at the beginning of this section as well as to exploit vague provisions in Chinese law to prosecute citizens for exercising their right to freedom of speech.<sup>127</sup> Human Rights Watch, for example, asserted that official statistics from the Supreme People's Court on prosecutions on state security and terrorism charges in 2015 signaled that the government had intensified efforts to "smother peaceful dissent."<sup>128</sup> During the UN Committee against Torture's review in November 2015 of China's compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, a member of the official Chinese delegation claimed that "[t]he efforts of the Chinese

judicial authorities were aimed at fighting criminal behaviour that truly undermined national security, not at criminalizing free speech exercised in accordance with the law.”<sup>129</sup> Contrary to this claim, Chinese authorities put individuals on trial during this reporting year who had been detained over the past three years for peaceful assembly and online advocacy for a range of issues such as press freedom, commemorating the violent suppression of the 1989 Tiananmen protests, officials’ financial disclosure, the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), support for the 2014 pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, and discussing ethnic minority rights and policy. Many of these individuals spent months in pre-trial detention without access to lawyers and reported suffering abuse and maltreatment while in custody,<sup>130</sup> in violation of rights accorded in the ICCPR and Chinese law.<sup>131</sup> Examples included the following cases.

- **Beijing municipality.** In December 2015, the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People’s Court sentenced lawyer Pu Zhiqiang to three years’ imprisonment, suspended for three years, on the charges of “inciting ethnic hatred” and “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” based on seven microblog posts that criticized government officials and China’s ethnic policy.<sup>132</sup> Beijing authorities took Pu into custody following his attendance at an event in May 2014 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen protests and their violent suppression.<sup>133</sup> The conditions of Pu’s suspended sentence included restrictions on his activities.<sup>134</sup> In addition, in April 2016, the Beijing municipal justice bureau reportedly sent written notification to Pu on his permanent disbarment from legal practice, a consequence of the criminal conviction.<sup>135</sup>
- **Guangdong province.** Authorities in Guangdong imposed prison sentences on Yang Maodong (commonly known as Guo Feixiong) (six years),<sup>136</sup> Sun Desheng (two years and six months),<sup>137</sup> Liu Yuandong (three years),<sup>138</sup> Wang Mo (four years and six months),<sup>139</sup> Xie Wenfei (four years and six months),<sup>140</sup> and Liang Qinhuai (one year and six months).<sup>141</sup> Authorities charged Guo, Sun, and Liu with “gathering a crowd to disturb order in a public place.”<sup>142</sup> The judge in Guo’s case added the charge of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” while sentencing Guo on November 27, 2015.<sup>143</sup> Security officials in Guangzhou municipality had detained Guo, Sun, and Liu in 2013 in connection with their protests against press censorship,<sup>144</sup> and also for Guo and Sun’s advocacy of government officials’ asset disclosure and China’s ratification of the ICCPR.<sup>145</sup> Authorities charged Wang, Xie, and Liang with “inciting subversion of state power,” a crime of “endangering state security” in the PRC Criminal Law.<sup>146</sup> Although Wang also reportedly was involved in the protests against press censorship in 2013, authorities detained him and other mainland Chinese advocates—including Xie—for their support of the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong in October of that year.<sup>147</sup> Liang, an online commentator, shared his critiques of Chinese President and Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping on the social media network QQ prior to his detention.<sup>148</sup>

- **Qinghai province.** In February 2016, authorities in Qinghai sentenced Tibetan writer Drukar Gyal (also known as Druglo and by the pen name Shogjang) to three years in prison on the charge of “inciting separatism.”<sup>149</sup> Shogjang had written a blog post about security force deployments in Tongren (Rebgong) county, Huangnan (Malho) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai, in the days prior to his detention in March 2015.<sup>150</sup> According to the Tibetan Buddhist monk Jigme Gyatso (also known as Golog Jigme), Shogjang also wrote about the corporal punishment of students in Haibei (Tsojang) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai.<sup>151</sup>

- **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR).** In January 2016, the Urumqi Intermediate People’s Court in Urumqi municipality, XUAR, sentenced Zhang Haitao, an electronics tradesman and rights defender, to serve a total of 19 years in prison for “inciting subversion of state power”<sup>152</sup> and “stealing, spying, buying and illegally supplying state secrets or intelligence for an overseas entity”<sup>153</sup> for more than 200 microblog posts and content he provided to allegedly “hostile” overseas media outlets.<sup>154</sup> In his appeal, Zhang argued that the court verdict had unreasonably equated dissent with spreading rumors and peaceful expression with serious social harm.<sup>155</sup>

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo remained in prison, serving year 7 of his 11-year sentence on the charge of “inciting subversion of state power” for several of his essays and his co-authorship of Charter 08, a treatise advocating political reform and human rights that was circulated online.<sup>156</sup> Advocacy organizations continued to call for his release from prison<sup>157</sup> and for the release of his wife, poet and artist Liu Xia,<sup>158</sup> whom authorities have detained under extralegal detention at the couple’s home in Beijing since October 2010.<sup>159</sup>

### Notes to Section II—Freedom of Expression

<sup>1</sup>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 66, entry into force 23 March 76, art. 19; Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by UN General Assembly resolution 217A (III) of 10 December 48, art. 19.

<sup>2</sup>United Nations Treaty Collection, Chapter IV, Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, last visited 26 July 16. China signed the covenant on October 5, 1998.

<sup>3</sup>State Council Information Office, “Progress in China’s Human Rights in 2012,” reprinted in Xinhua, 14 May 13, sec. 6; State Council Information Office, “Progress in China’s Human Rights in 2014,” reprinted in Xinhua, 8 June 15. According to the 2012 white paper on human rights, the Chinese government “actively works for approval of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.” The State Council, however, did not mention the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in its 2014 human rights white paper.

<sup>4</sup>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 66, entry into force 23 March 76, art. 19(3); UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Frank La Rue, A/HRC/17/27, 16 May 11, para. 24.

<sup>5</sup>Promotion and Protection of All Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Including the Right to Development, adopted by Human Rights Council resolution 12/16 of 12 October 09, para. 5(p)(i).

<sup>6</sup>UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 34, Article 19, Freedom of Opinion and Expression, CCPR/C/GC/34, 12 September 11, para. 21.

<sup>7</sup>UN Human Rights Council, Tenth Anniversary Joint Declaration: Ten Key Challenges to Freedom of Expression in the Next Decade, Addendum to Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, A/HRC/14/23/Add.2, 25 March 10, art. 1(a).

<sup>8</sup>David Schlesinger et al., “How To Read China’s New Press Restrictions,” Asia Society, ChinaFile (blog), 17 July 14; David Bandurski, “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall,” University of Hong Kong, China Media Project, 22 February 16; Jun Mai, “Communist Party Warns of Gap Between ‘Public and Official Opinion,’” South China Morning Post, 21 February 16. Bandurski, for example, points to former Chinese Communist Party leaders’ pronouncements, such as Mao Zedong’s injunction that “politicians run the newspapers,” Jiang Zemin’s “guidance of public opinion,” and Hu Jintao’s “channeling of public opinion,” to illustrate the Party’s expectation that the media serve as its “mouthpiece” and shaper of public opinion.

<sup>9</sup>“Xi Jinping’s View on News and Public Opinion” [Xi jingping de xinwen yulun guan], People’s Daily, 25 February 16; “Party Principle Guides Media Innovation,” Global Times, 22 February 16; “Xi’s Speech on News Reporting Resonates With Domestic Outlets,” Xinhua, 22 February 16; “People’s Daily Chief Yang Zhenwu: Properly Grasp the Needs in the Current Age for Government Officials Running Newspapers” [Renmin ribao she shezhang yang zhenwu: bawo hao zhengzhijia banbao de shidai yaoqiu], People’s Daily, 21 March 16. See also Edward Wong, “Xi Jinping’s News Alert: Chinese Media Must Serve the Party,” New York Times, 22 February 16; China Digital Times, “Xi’s State Media Tour: ‘News Must Speak for the Party,’” 19 February 16.

<sup>10</sup>“Xi Jinping’s View on News and Public Opinion” [Xi jingping de xinwen yulun guan], People’s Daily, 25 February 16; “Xi’s Speech on News Reporting Resonates With Domestic Outlets,” Xinhua, 22 February 16; China Digital Times, “Xi’s State Media Tour: ‘News Must Speak for the Party,’” 19 February 16.

<sup>11</sup>“Xi Jinping’s View on News and Public Opinion” [Xi jingping de xinwen yulun guan], People’s Daily, 25 February 16; Zeng Xiangming, “How To Grasp Three Key Points of ‘Party Media Are Surnamed Party’” [Ruhe bawo “dangmei xing dang” san ge guanjian], People’s Daily, 9 March 16; David Bandurski, “How Xi Jinping Views the News,” University of Hong Kong, China Media Project, 3 March 16.

<sup>12</sup>“Xi Jinping’s View on News and Public Opinion” [Xi jingping de xinwen yulun guan], People’s Daily, 25 February 16; “Xi’s Speech on News Reporting Resonates With Domestic Outlets,” Xinhua, 22 February 16; “Xi Jinping Asks for ‘Absolute Loyalty’ From Chinese State Media,” Associated Press, reprinted in Guardian, 19 February 16.

<sup>13</sup>Shannon Tiezzi, “Xi Wants Chinese Media To Be ‘Publicity Fronts’ for the CCP,” The Diplomat, 20 February 16; Lin Feiyun, “In Imparting the News Media ‘Is Surnamed Party,’ Xi Jinping Launches an Era of Total Control” [Chuanmei “xing dang,” xi jingping kaiqi quanfangwei kongzhi shidai], Initium Media, 23 February 16.

<sup>14</sup>PRC Constitution, issued 4 December 82, amended 12 April 88, 29 March 93, 15 March 99, 14 March 04, art. 35.

<sup>15</sup>Yang Lixin, “Research on Judicial Parameters in Media Tort Liability and Media Rights Protection: Examining the Concept of Soft Standards on Privacy and Judicial Practice in a ‘Guide on the Application of the Tort Liability Law in Cases Involving the Media’” [Meiti qinquan he meiti quanli baohu de sifa jixian yanjiu: you “meiti qinquan zeren anjian falu shiyong zhiyin” de zhiding tantao siyu ruan guifan de gainian he sifa shijian gongneng], Journal of Law Application, Issue 9 (2014), 45, 46; Xu Hao, “Looking at the Media’s Responsibility for Reasonable Review in the World Luxury Association Defamation Case” [Xu hao: cong shishehui mingyu qinquan kan meiti de heli shencha yiwu], Southern Media Net, last visited 18 February 16. The status of the national press legislation is unclear. See, e.g., “Journalist Raises Question About Press Legislation, Official Intentionally Evades It and Adjourns Press Conference” [Jizhe tiwen xinwen fa lifa guanyuan gu zuoyou er yan ta xuanbu sanhui], Radio Free Asia, 11 March 16.

<sup>16</sup>The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television webpage for Chinese reporters includes a section on “relevant documents, laws, and regulations,” at <http://press.gapp.gov.cn/reporter/channels/250.html>, last visited 11 April 16. See, e.g., PRC Law on the

Protection of State Secrets [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo baoshou guojia mimi fa], passed 5 September 88, amended 29 April 10, effective 1 October 10, arts. 9, 27; Supreme People's Court, Several Provisions on the People's Court Accepting Supervision of News Media [Zuigao renmin fayuan guanyu renmin fayuan jieshou xinwen meiti yulun jiandu ruogan guiding], issued 8 December 09. Other key regulations touching on news publications and journalists include the PRC Administrative Licensing Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo xingzheng xuke fa], passed 28 August 03, effective 1 July 04; State Council, Regulations on the Management of Publications [Chuban guanli tiaoli], issued 25 December 01, amended and effective 19 March 11; State Council, Regulations on the Management of Audiovisual Products [Yinxiang zhipin guanli tiaoli], issued 25 December 01, amended and effective 19 March 11; State Administration of Press, Publications, Radio, Film and Television (SAPPRFT), Measures on Managing Information Obtained by Press Personnel Through Professional Conduct [Xinwen congye renyuan zhiwu xingwei xinxi guanli banfa], issued 30 June 14. For Commission analysis on the SAPPRFT Measures of June 2014, see CECC, "China's Media Regulator Places New Restrictions on Journalists and News Organizations," 5 November 14.

<sup>17</sup>"Chinese Media Outlets 'Take Daily Orders' From Government: Journalist," Radio Free Asia, 17 November 15.

<sup>18</sup>"Annual Oversight: Industry Standards Frequently Involve Heavy Strikes, 5 Items of Targeted Work Causing Concern" [Niandu jianguang: hangye guifan pinchu zhongquan, 5 xiang zhongdian gongzuo rener guangzhu], Donghe Information Net, 14 April 16; "Central News Units Clean-Up and Consolidate Journalist Stations: More Than 30 Percent Eliminated or Merged" [Zhongyang xinwen danwei qingli zhengdun jizhezhan: chebing jigou guo sancheng], Procuratorial Daily, 28 January 16; Zhuo Hongyong, "Newspaper Industry Keywords in 2015" [2015 nian baoye guanjian ci], People's Daily, 7 April 16.

<sup>19</sup>Tom Phillips, "China's Young Reporters Give Up on Journalism: 'You Can't Write What You Want,'" Guardian, 11 February 16; Sarah Cook, "The Decline of Independent Journalism in China," The Diplomat, 7 January 16; Jingrong Tong, "Is Investigative Journalism Dead in China?" University of Nottingham China Policy Institute: Analysis (blog), 20 November 15.

<sup>20</sup>Yaqiu Wang, Committee to Protect Journalists, "In China, Harsh Penalties for 'False News' Make It Harder for Reporters To Work," Committee to Protect Journalists (blog), 30 October 15.

<sup>21</sup>PRC Criminal Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo xing fa], passed 1 July 79, amended 14 March 97, effective 1 October 97, amended 25 December 99, 31 August 01, 29 December 01, 28 December 02, 28 February 05, 29 June 06, 28 February 09, 25 February 11, 29 August 15, effective 1 November 15, art. 291.

<sup>22</sup>"Chinese Media Outlets 'Take Daily Orders' From Government: Journalist," Radio Free Asia, 17 November 15. China Digital Times, a U.S.-based Web portal that aggregates English and Chinese language media, features translations of leaked censorship directives at its Ministry of Truth, <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/china/directives-from-the-ministry-of-truth/>. For examples of directives censoring media- and press-related news during the Commission's 2016 reporting year, see, e.g., China Digital Times, "Minitrue: Don't Hype Journalist's Detention," 21 October 15; China Digital Times, "Minitrue: 21st Century Media Verdicts," 24 December 15.

<sup>23</sup>Sarah Cook, "Chinese Journalism, Interrupted," Foreign Policy, Tea Leaf Nation (blog), 6 January 16.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>China Digital Times, "Minitrue: 21 Rules on Coverage of the Two Sessions," 8 March 16; Didi Kirsten Tatlow, "What Chinese Media Mustn't Cover at the '2 Sessions,'" New York Times, Sinosphere (blog), 9 March 16.

<sup>26</sup>Nectar Gan, "No More Idle Chatter in the Great Teahouse of the People," South China Morning Post, 12 March 16.

<sup>27</sup>David Bandurski, "Pulitzer's 'Lookout on the Bridge' vs. China's 'News Ethics Committees,'" Asia Society, ChinaFile (blog), 20 November 15.

<sup>28</sup>David Bandurski, "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall," University of Hong Kong, China Media Project, 22 February 16; Li-Fung Cho, "The Emergence of China's Watchdog Reporting," in Investigative Journalism in China: Eight Cases in Chinese Watchdog Journalism, eds. David Bandurski and Martin Hala (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010), 166-67.

<sup>29</sup>Keira Lu Huang, "Jailed and Refused Bail, Chinese Investigative Journalist Detained After Exposing High Profile Corruption Scandal," South China Morning Post, 19 October 15; International Federation of Journalists, "Chinese Reporter Held on 'State Secret' Charges," 20 October 15.

<sup>30</sup>"Southern Metropolitan Reporter Liu Wei Shows Penitence on CCTV, Released on Bail" [Nandu jizhe liu wei shang yangshi huizui huo qubao houshen], Radio Free Asia, 31 October 15.

<sup>31</sup>"Investigation Into the Truth of the Wang Lin Case" [Wang lin anzhong an zhenxiang diaocha], Xinhua, 30 October 15, reprinted in Southern Metropolitan Daily, 31 October 15.

<sup>32</sup>Benjamin L. Liebman, "Innovation Through Intimidation: An Empirical Account of Defamation Litigation in China," Harvard International Law Journal, Vol. 47, No. 16 (Winter 2006), 54-57.

<sup>33</sup>Feng Yuding, "After Three Years of the World Luxury Association's Lawsuit, Southern Weekend Wins on Appeal" [Yu shishehui suzhan sannian, nanfang zhoumo zhongshen shengsu], Southern Weekend, 9 November 15.

<sup>34</sup>Zhao Fuduo, "World Luxury Association Loses Defamation Lawsuit Against Media on Appeal" [Shishehui su meiti mingyu qinquan zhongshen baisu], Caixin, 9 November 15.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.; Lin Ye, "World Luxury Association's Defamation Lawsuit Against Beijing News Verdict Revised on Appeal, World Luxury Association Loses Lawsuit" [Shishehui su xinjingbao mingyu qinquan an zhongshen gaipan shishehui baisu], Beijing News, 9 November 15.

<sup>36</sup>"Supreme People's Court Work Report" [Zuigao renmin fayuan gongzuo baogao], People's Daily, 13 March 16, sec. 2, para. 6.

<sup>37</sup>“Outspoken Chinese Real Estate Mogul Becomes Latest Target of Party Wrath,” *China Change*, 25 February 16.

<sup>38</sup>“Loyal Party Members Urge Xi’s Resignation,” March 2016, translated in *China Digital Times*, 16 March 16.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*; “Outspoken Chinese Real Estate Mogul Becomes Latest Target of Party Wrath,” *China Change*, 25 February 16.

<sup>40</sup>Austin Ramzy, “Editor Says He Is Resigning Over Media Controls in China,” *New York Times*, *Sinosphere* (blog), 29 March 16; *China Digital Times*, “Unable To Bear the Party Surname, Editor Resigns,” 28 March 16.

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<sup>42</sup>Chris Buckley, “China’s Censors Denounced in Online Attack,” *New York Times*, 11 March 16.

<sup>43</sup>Zhou Ruijin, “Ideological Work Also Needs Reform and Innovation” [Yishi xingtai gongzuo ye yao gaige chuangxin], *Phoenix Review*, 2 February 16; Nectar Gan, “Censors Have Gone Too Far: Influential Voice of Deng Xiaoping Era Accuses China’s Propaganda Chiefs of Too Much Intervention,” *South China Morning Post*, 4 February 16.

<sup>44</sup>Edward Wong, “China Deletes Microblog of Critic of President Xi Jinping,” *New York Times*, 28 February 16; Kenneth Tan, “SCMP’s Online Presence in Mainland China Completely Wiped Out,” *Shanghaiist*, 9 March 16. See also “Outspoken Chinese Real Estate Mogul Becomes Latest Target of Party Wrath,” *China Change*, 25 February 16.

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<sup>46</sup>Committee to Protect Journalists, “Chinese Journalist Jia Jia Disappears, Whereabouts Unknown,” 17 March 16; Edward Wong and Chris Buckley, “China Said To Detain Several Over Letter Criticizing Xi,” *New York Times*, 25 March 16; John Sudworth, “China ‘Detained 20 Over Xi Resignation Letter,’” *BBC*, *China Blog*, 25 March 16.

<sup>47</sup>Amnesty International, “China: Prominent Blogger’s Family Detained Over Letter Lambasting President Xi,” 25 March 16; John Sudworth, “China ‘Detained 20 Over Xi Resignation Letter,’” *BBC*, *China Blog*, 25 March 16; Chang Ping, “My Statement About the Open Letter to Xi Jinping Demanding His Resignation,” *China Change*, 27 March 16.

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<sup>49</sup>“Southern Metropolitan Reporter Liu Wei Shows Penitence on CCTV, Released on Bail” [Nandu jizhe liu wei shang yangshi huozui huo qubao houshen], *Radio Free Asia*, 31 October 15. For coverage of the case of *Caijing* reporter Wang Xiaolu’s televised confession at the end of the Commission’s 2015 reporting year, see Amie Tsang, “*Caijing* Journalist’s Shaming Signals China’s Growing Control Over News Media,” *New York Times*, 6 September 15. For more information on Wang Xiaolu, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00319.

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<sup>54</sup>Jia Shiyu, “Zhu Zhengfu: Suspects Making Confessions on Television Does Not Mean They Are Actually Guilty” [Zhu zhengfu xianfan dianshili renzui budengyu zhen you zui], *Beijing News*, 2 March 16; Mimi Lau, “Pull Plug on China’s Televised Confessions’ Urges Top Political Adviser Ahead of Meeting of Country’s Legislature,” *South China Morning Post*, 1 March 16; Josh Chin, “Chinese Judge Criticizes Televised Confessions,” *Wall Street Journal*, *China Real Time Report* (blog), 15 March 16.

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<sup>56</sup>Pablo Wang and Echo Hui, “The Family of a Well-Known Chinese Activist Was Harassed Into Dropping a Lawsuit Against Xinhua,” *Quartz*, 2 May 16; Mimi Lau, “Mother of Detained Labour Activist Takes on State Media—and Forced Into Hardest Decision of Her Life,” *South China Morning Post*, 1 May 16.

<sup>57</sup>“Li Zhuang Sues China Youth Daily for Defamation of Character, Case Filed After 3 and a Half Years of Trying” [Li zhuang su zhongqingbao mingyu qinquan an shige 3 nian ban zai qisu huo li’an], The Paper, reprinted in Sohu, 8 June 15; Zhao Fuduo, “Former Lawyer Li Zhuang Sues Publisher of ‘China Youth Daily’ for Defamation of Character, Goes to Court on December 4” [Qian lushi li zhuang su “zhongguo qingnian bao” she mingyu qinquan an 12 yue 4 ri kaiting], Caixin, 1 December 15. Li claimed that China Youth Daily reporters failed to conduct investigative journalism in a 2009 article they wrote about Li’s work as counsel in a high-profile criminal case in Chongqing municipality. See also Sida Liu, Lily Liang, and Terence C. Halliday, “The Trial of Li Zhuang: Chinese Lawyers’ Collective Action Against Populism,” *Asian Journal of Law and Society*, Vol. 1 (2014).

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<sup>59</sup>Zhao Fuduo, “Former Lawyer Li Zhuang Sues Publisher of ‘China Youth Daily’ for Defamation of Character, Goes to Court on December 4” [Qian lushi li zhuang su “zhongguo qingnian bao” she mingyu qinquan an 12 yue 4 ri kaiting], Caixin, 1 December 15.

<sup>60</sup>Elana Beiser, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), “China, Egypt Imprison Record Numbers of Journalists,” 15 December 15; International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), “China’s Great Media Wall: The Fight for Freedom,” 30 January 16, 10; “China Holds 23 Journalists, 84 Bloggers in 2015: Press Freedom Report,” Radio Free Asia, 30 December 15. While variance in the data reflects differing approaches to whether citizen journalists and bloggers are included in the data, China’s detention numbers are high as measured by leading press freedom organizations: CPJ reported on 49 detained journalists in 2015; IFJ reported 41; and, according to Radio Free Asia, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) reported on the detention of 23 journalists and 84 bloggers in 2015.

<sup>61</sup>Elana Beiser, Committee to Protect Journalists, “China, Egypt Imprison Record Numbers of Journalists,” 15 December 15; Shazdeh Omari, Committee to Protect Journalists, “China Is World’s Worst Jailer of the Press; Global Tally Second Worst on Record,” 17 December 14.

<sup>62</sup>Elana Beiser, Committee to Protect Journalists, “China, Egypt Imprison Record Numbers of Journalists,” 15 December 15. See also China country report in Freedom House, “Freedom of the Press 2016,” 25 April 16.

<sup>63</sup>Freedom House, “Freedom of the Press 2016,” 25 April 16.

<sup>64</sup>Somini Sengupta, “Press Freedom Group’s Application for U.N. Accreditation Is Rejected,” *New York Times*, 26 May 16. On June 14, 2016, China was elected to a new three-year term on the UN Economic and Social Council. UN General Assembly, “General Assembly Elects 18 Members of Economic and Social Council, Also Adopts Texts, Including One Designating 29 June International Day of Tropics,” 14 June 16; UN Watch, “China, Russia, UAE, Venezuela, Wins Seats on UN Organ Overseeing Human Rights,” 14 June 16.

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<sup>66</sup>Ban Ki-moon, United Nations, “Secretary-General’s Remarks at the Opening of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference,” 30 May 16; “UN Rights Office Concerned Over Denial of Participation for Journalist’s Group, LGBT Organizations,” UN News Service, 31 May 16; Tracy Wilkinson, “Nations With Poor Human Rights Records Block UN Status for Press-Rights Group,” *Los Angeles Times*, 26 May 16.

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<sup>68</sup>Reporters Without Borders, “2016 World Press Freedom Index,” last visited 20 April 16; Reporters Without Borders, “China: Great Firewall and Systematic Imprisonment,” last visited 6 July 16. For general data on China, select the “China” country page; for the abuse score for all countries ranked in 2016, select the “Index Details” page; and for an explanation of the Press Freedom Index, select the page headed “The World Press Freedom Index: What Is It?”

<sup>69</sup>“Zhao Xinyu, Former Editor-in-Chief of Xinjiang Daily, Doubly Expelled” [Xinjiang ribaoshe yuan zongbianji zhao xinyu bei shuangkai], *People’s Daily*, 2 November 15; Tom Phillips, “Chinese Newspaper Editor Sacked for Criticising Beijing’s ‘War on Terror,’” *Guardian*, 2 November 15.

<sup>70</sup>See, e.g., Nectar Gan, “Editor at Liberal Chinese Newspaper Fired Over Xi Front Page,” *South China Morning Post*, 2 March 16; “[Xinhua News Blunder] Report Mistakenly Called Xi Jinping ‘Last Leader’ Alleged To Be ‘Political Mistake,’ Editor Dismissed and Loses Status as Probationary Party Member” [(Xinhuashe cuoshi) cuocheng xi jinping “zuihou lingdaoren” baodao zhi “zhengzhi cuowu” fagao bianji tingzhi ji quxia yubei dangyuan zigel], *Ming Pao*, 16 March 16; Choi Chi-yuk, “Beijing Clamps Down on News Portals, Ordering Round the Clock Monitoring,” *South China Morning Post*, 19 August 16.

<sup>71</sup>See, e.g., “Media: What Do Journalists’ Ordinary Reports Have To Do With State Security?” [Meiti: jizhe zhengchang baodao yu guojia anquan he gan?], *Beijing News*, reprinted in Sina.com, 10 April 16; Cao Guoxing, “CPPCC Delegate Song Xin Intimidates Journalist Raising Questions at Two Sessions: ‘Be Careful, or You’ll Be Taken Away’” [Quanguo zhengxie weiyuan song xin weixie lianghui tiwen jizhe: “xiaoxin ba ni zhuaqilai”], *Radio France Internationale*, 16 March 16.

<sup>72</sup>See, e.g., “Fire at Zhengzhou Property Causes 2 Deaths, Journalists Interviewing Are Hit and Taken Away by Police” [Zhengzhou loupian zhaohuo zhi 2 si jizhe caifang bei da bing zao jingcha daizou], *Henan TV*, reprinted in Sohu, 31 October 15; “Police Station Chief Revealed To Have Beaten Female Reporter Behind Closed Doors, Police at Doorway Blocked Other Jour-

nalists From Entering” [Paichusuo Zhang bei bao guanmen da nu jizhe menkou jingcha zuzhi jizhe jinru], Harbin Broadcast TV, reprinted in Global Times, 21 April 16.

<sup>73</sup>See, e.g., Keira Lu Huang, “Jailed and Refused Bail, Chinese Investigative Journalist Detained After Exposing High Profile Corruption Scandal,” South China Morning Post, 18 October 15; Lan Tianming, “3 Journalists From Wuwei, Gansu, Remain in Custody: Detained Journalist Denies Extortion Accusation” [Gansu wuwei 3 jizhe bei juxu: zaiya jizhe dui qiaozha zhikong yuyi founen], China Youth Daily, 22 January 16; Human Rights Campaign in China, “Arrests Approved for Lu Yuyu, Founder of ‘Not the News’ Site Documenting Civil Society Rights Defense Incidents, and Li Tingyu, on Suspicion of Picking Quarrels and Provoking Trouble, by Dali Procuratorate” [Jilu minjian weiquan shijian “fei xinwen” chuangbanren lu yuyu ji li tingyu liang ren bei dali jianchayuan yi shexian xunxin zishi zui pizhun daibu], 22 July 16; Edward Wong and Chris Buckley, “China Said To Detain Several Over Letter Criticizing Xi,” New York Times, 25 March 16.

<sup>74</sup>Several international media rights organizations maintain lists of detained and imprisoned journalists, writers, and bloggers from China. See, e.g., Committee to Protect Journalists, “2015 Prison Census: 199 Journalists Jailed Worldwide,” last visited 6 May 16; International Federation of Journalists, “China’s Great Media Wall: The Fight for Freedom,” last visited 6 May 16; Independent Chinese PEN Center, Writers in Prison, last visited 6 May 16. In addition, the Commission maintains a Political Prisoner Database at ppdcecc.gov from which individual case data is available.

<sup>75</sup>Amnesty International, China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, Committee to Protect Journalists et al., “Joint Letter to President Xi Jinping,” reprinted in Human Rights Watch, 5 August 15. For more information on Gao Yu, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2004-05037.

<sup>76</sup>“Gao Yu Admitted Guilt and Showed Remorse for Crime, May Temporarily Serve [Sentence] Outside Jail Based on Decision Made According to Law” [Gao yu renzui huizui bei yifa jue ding zanyu jianwai zhixing], Xinhua, 26 November 15; Rights Defense Network, “Today Gao Yu’s Case Verdict Changed on Appeal to Five-Year Prison Term and One-Year Deprivation of Political Rights, Freedom of Speech Again Trampled On” [Gao yu an jin zhongshen gaipan youqi tuxing wu nian, boduo zhengzhi quanli yi nian, yanlun ziyou zai zao cubao jianta], 26 November 15.

<sup>77</sup>“Gao Yu ‘Forced To Travel’ During Two Sessions” [Gao yu lianghui qijian “bei luyou”], Radio Free Asia, 18 March 16.

<sup>78</sup>“Chinese Journalist Gao Yu in Hospital After Demolition Raid on Home,” Radio Free Asia, 6 April 16; “Today, I Must Break My Silence: Veteran Journalist Gao Yu,” Radio Free Asia, 1 April 16; Reporters Without Borders, “RSF Appalled by Harassment of Journalist Gao Yu’s Family,” 31 March 16.

<sup>79</sup>“Gao Yu ‘Forced To Travel’ During Two Sessions” [Gao yu lianghui qijian “bei luyou”], Radio Free Asia, 18 March 16.

<sup>80</sup>“Gao Yu’s Lawyer Calls on Authorities To Follow Through on Promise To Allow Gao To Go Abroad for Medical Treatment” [Gao yu lushi huyu dangju luxing nuoyan pizhun gao dao haiwai juyi], Radio Free Asia, 4 February 16; Human Rights Watch, “China: Detained Activist, Journalist Denied Needed Health Care,” 6 May 16.

<sup>81</sup>Chris Buckley, “Journalist Who Sought Refuge in Thailand Is Said To Return to China,” New York Times, 3 February 16; Tom Phillips and Oliver Holmes, “Activist Who Vanished in Thailand Is Being Held in China, Says Wife,” Guardian, 3 February 16.

<sup>82</sup>Chris Buckley, “Journalist Who Sought Refuge in Thailand Is Said To Return to China,” New York Times, 3 February 16.

<sup>83</sup>“Li Xin: Applies for Political Asylum So That He Doesn’t Split Himself Further” [Li xin: shenqing zhengzhi bihu shi bu xiang ren’ge fenliu xiaqu], BBC, 11 November 15.

<sup>84</sup>“Chinese Media Outlets ‘Take Daily Orders’ From Government: Journalist,” Radio Free Asia, 17 November 15.

<sup>85</sup>“Tianwang Citizen Journalist Wang Jing Sentenced to Prison for 4 Years” [Tianwang gongmin jizhe wang jing bei pan qiu 4 nian], Radio Free Asia, 25 April 16; “China Reissues Charges Against Citizen Journalist,” Radio Free Asia, 24 February 16. Wang began to document petitioners’ activities for 64 Tianwang in 2013 after years of seeking government assistance for information on her elder sister’s disappearance from a factory work shift in 1993. Chuanying District People’s Court of Jilin Municipality, Jilin Province, “Criminal Verdict No. 132 (2015)” [(2015) chuan xing chuzi di 132 hao], 20 April 16, 4, reprinted in “Criminal Verdict for Tianwang Citizen Journalist Wang Jing” [Tianwang gongmin jizhe wang jing xingshi panjueshu], 64 Tianwang, 24 April 16. For more information on Wang Jing, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2014-00104.

<sup>86</sup>Committee to Protect Journalists, “Three Journalists Detained After Reporting on Tiananmen,” 18 March 14.

<sup>87</sup>“Tianwang Citizen Journalist Wang Jing Sentenced to Prison for 4 Years” [Tianwang gongmin jizhe wang jing bei pan qiu 4 nian], Radio Free Asia, 25 April 16.

<sup>88</sup>Huang Qi, 64 Tianwang, “Old War Veteran Sun Enwei Faces Criminal Detention, 11 Citizen Journalists From Tianwang Detained” [Canzhan laobing sun enwei zao xingju tianwang 11 gongmin jizhe zaiya], 29 August 15; Huang Qi, 64 Tianwang, “Zhejiang Arrests Old Soldiers’ Rights Defense Representative Sun Enwei, Police Threaten His Wife To Keep It a Secret” [Zhejiang daibu laobing weiquan daibiao sun enwei jingfang weixie qizi baomi], 30 September 15; “Old Soldier Sun Enwei Criminally Detained, Fellow Soldiers Will Go to Yangjiang for Rights Defense” [Laobing sun enwei zao xingju zhanyou ni yangjiang weiquan], Radio Free Asia, 29 August 15. See also “More Than 4,000 Retired Soldiers Gather at Central Military Commission Holding Banners To Protect Rights” [4000 yu tuiyi junren ju zhongyang junwei la hengfu weiquan], New Tang Dynasty Television, 19 July 16. For more information on Sun Enwei, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2016-00075.

<sup>89</sup>“Interview: ‘The Authorities Fear We Will Expose the Scandal of Post-Quake Reconstruction,’” Radio Free Asia, 4 March 16; “[Xinhua News Agency Blunder] Mistakenly Calling Xi Jinping the ‘Last Leader,’ Report Accused of Being ‘Politically Incorrect,’ Editor Dismissed and Loses Status as Probationary Party Member” [(Xinhuashe cuoshi) cuo cheng xi jinping “zuihou lingdao ren” baodao zhi “zhengzhi cuowu” fagao bianji tingzhi ji quxiao yubei dangyuan zigel, Ming Pao, 16 March 16.

<sup>90</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, “FCCC Annual Working Conditions Report 2015,” reprinted in Wall Street Journal, May 2015.

<sup>91</sup>Ibid. See, e.g., Eric Fish, “‘I Don’t Want To Think About Activating Change’: NYT’s David Barboza on Reporting in China,” Asia Society, Asia Blog, 28 January 16. David Barboza, former Shanghai correspondent for the New York Times and the lead author of a 2012 exposé on the financial holdings of the family of then-premier, Wen Jiabao, indicated in this January 2016 Asia Society interview that Chinese authorities had increased harassment against him in 2015.

<sup>92</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, “FCCC Annual Working Conditions Report 2015,” reprinted in Wall Street Journal, May 2015. See, e.g., Edward Wong, “Tibetan Entrepreneur Has Been Illegally Detained, Family Says,” New York Times, 10 March 16; Edward Wong, “Tibetans Fight To Salvage Fading Culture in China,” New York Times, 28 November 15. For more information on Tashi Wangchug, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2016-00077.

<sup>93</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, “FCCC Annual Working Conditions Report 2015,” reprinted in Wall Street Journal, May 2015. See, e.g., Emily Feng, “China Blocks Economist and Time Websites, Apparently Over Xi Jinping Articles,” New York Times, Sinosphere (blog), 8 April 16; Jonathan Kaiman, “There’s a New BBC in China—And There’s Nothing British About It,” Los Angeles Times, 11 April 16; Greatfire.org, “The New York Times vs. The Chinese Authorities,” 7 May 16. Western media blocked in China during the 2016 reporting year included the New York Times, Bloomberg News, the Wall Street Journal, Le Monde, El País, Time, and the Economist. Chinese censors blocked Reuters in 2015. “Reuters Websites Become Inaccessible in China,” Reuters, 20 March 15; Alistair Charlton, “Reuters News Banned in China: English and Chinese Versions Inaccessible,” International Business Times, 20 March 15.

<sup>94</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, “FCCC Annual Working Conditions Report 2015,” reprinted in Wall Street Journal, May 2015.

<sup>95</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, “Incident Report: Reporters, Chinese Assistant Detained in Inner Mongolia, Blocked From Interviewing Teenage Son of Rights Lawyer,” 13 October 15; Philip Wen, “You Are in Danger. We Are Being Monitored,” Sydney Morning Herald, 14 October 15.

<sup>96</sup>For more information on Bao Zhuoxuan, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00345.

<sup>97</sup>For more information on Wang Yu, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00252.

<sup>98</sup>For more information on Bao Longjun, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00253.

<sup>99</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, “Incident Report: Reporters, Chinese Assistant Detained in Inner Mongolia, Blocked From Interviewing Teenage Son of Rights Lawyer,” 13 October 15; Philip Wen, “You Are in Danger. We Are Being Monitored,” Sydney Morning Herald, 14 October 15.

<sup>100</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China (fccchina), “FCCC Statement on Journalists Assaulted,” TwitLonger post, 14 December 15; “Police Detain Supporters, Bar Journalists Outside Pu Zhiqiang Trial,” Radio Free Asia, 14 December 15.

<sup>101</sup>“May 12 Disaster Reconstruction and Corruption in Sichuan Becomes Forbidden Zone for Reporting, Japanese Journalists Obstructed From Interviewing Individuals Affected by Disaster” [Sichuan 512 zaihou chongjian yan tanfu cheng baodao jinqu rimei caifang zaimin shouzu], Radio Free Asia, 28 April 16.

<sup>102</sup>“Interview: ‘The Authorities Fear We Will Expose the Scandal of Post-Quake Reconstruction,’” Radio Free Asia, 4 March 16.

<sup>103</sup>Foreign Correspondents’ Club of China, “Annual Survey of Visa Issues,” April 2016, reprinted in Committee to Protect Journalists (blog), 4 April 16; Committee to Protect Journalists, “Foreign Press in China Face Fewer Visa Delays but Obstacles Remain, FCCC Finds,” Committee to Protect Journalists (blog), 4 April 16.

<sup>104</sup>Ibid.

<sup>105</sup>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference on December 28, 2015,” 28 December 15; Tom Phillips, “Ursula Gauthier: Foreign Media Must Fight China Censorship, Says Expelled Journalist,” Guardian, 31 December 15.

<sup>106</sup>Ursula Gauthier, “Following the Attacks, China’s Solidarity Isn’t Without Ulterior Motives” [Après les attentats, la solidarité de la chine n’est pas sans arrière-pensées], L’Obs, 18 November 15. Chinese official media heavily criticized Gauthier. See, e.g., “Opinion: Press Freedom No Excuse for Advocating Terrorism,” Xinhua, 28 December 15; “State Media Supports Expulsion of French Journalist for Xinjiang Reporting,” Feichangdao (blog), 11 January 16.

<sup>107</sup>China Internet Network Information Center, “The 38th Statistical Report on Internet Development in China” [Di 38 ci zhongguo hulian wangluo fazhan zhuangkuang tongji baogao], July 2016, 1.

<sup>108</sup>Ibid.

<sup>109</sup>“WeChat Blasts Past 700 Million Monthly Active Users, Tops China’s Most Popular Apps,” Tech in Asia, 17 April 16.

<sup>110</sup>Ibid.

<sup>111</sup>Rogier Creemers, “The Pivot in Chinese Cybergovernance,” China Perspectives, No. 5 (2015), 9.

<sup>112</sup>Dan Levin, “At UN, China Tries To Influence Fight Over Internet Control,” New York Times, 16 December 15; Zhuang Pinghui, “The World Needs New Rules for Cyberspace, Says

China's President Xi Jinping," South China Morning Post, 17 December 15; "Xi Jinping: Let the Internet Enrich the Nation and the People Even More" [Xi jingping: rang hulianwang genghao zaofu guojia he renmin], Xinhua, 19 April 16. For an unofficial translation of Xi's speech, see "Xi Jinping Gives Speech at Cybersecurity and Informatization Work Conference," China Copyright and Media Blog, 28 April 16. See also CECC, 2015 Annual Report, 8 October 15, 66, on "Promoting 'Internet Sovereignty.'"

<sup>113</sup>Rogier Creemers, "The Pivot in Chinese Cybergovernance," China Perspectives, No. 4 (2015), 8.

<sup>114</sup>Ibid., 8.

<sup>115</sup>Ibid., 6–8.

<sup>116</sup>Cyberspace Administration of China, Internet News Information Services Management Regulations (Revised Draft for Solicitation of Comments) [Hulianwang xinwen xinxi fuwu guanli guiding (xiuding zhengqiu yijian gao)], 11 January 16.

<sup>117</sup>"China's New Internet Regulations: Internet News Gathering Requires Establishing Chief Editor" [Zhongguo hulianwang xin gui: wangluo xinwen caibian xu she zongbianji], BBC, 13 January 16; Qian Junke, "Admirable Items in the Revised Draft of the Internet News Information Services Management Regulations" [Wei xiuding hulianwang xinwen xinxi fuwu guanli guiding dianzang], Guangming Daily, 16 January 16.

<sup>118</sup>Cyberspace Administration of China, Internet News Information Services Management Regulations (Revised Draft for Solicitation of Comments) [Hulianwang xinwen xinxi fuwu guangli guiding (xiuding zhengqiu yijian gao)], 11 January 16, art. 2.

<sup>119</sup>Ibid., art. 6.

<sup>120</sup>Zhao Chenting, "Solicitation of Comments on Management Regulations Released, Internet News Industry Faces Major Reshuffling" [Guanli guiding zhengqiu yijian chulu hulianwang xinwenye mianlin da xipai], China Business News, reprinted in IResearch, 14 January 16.

<sup>121</sup>"China Shuts Down Many Online Programs Producing Original News, Sina, Sohu and Netease Included Among Names of Those [Shut Down]" [Zhongguo guanting duo wangzhan yuanchuang shiwen lanmu, xinlang wangyi, sohu bang shang youming], Initium Media, 25 July 16; David Bandurski, "Convergent Control," University of Hong Kong, China Media Project, 25 August 16.

<sup>122</sup>Michael Forsythe, "Chinese Publication, Censored by Government, Exposes Article's Removal," New York Times, Sinosphere (blog), 8 March 16.

<sup>123</sup>Zhu Jichai, "Cyberspace Administration of China Presents Eight Requirements To Fulfill Main Responsibilities Online" [Guojia wangxinban tichu wangzhan luxing zhuti zeren ba xiang yaoqiu], Xinhua, 17 August 16; "Watchdog Asks Websites To Strictly Manage Online Content," Global Times, 18 August 16.

<sup>124</sup>Zhu Jichai, "Cyberspace Administration of China Presents Eight Requirements To Fulfill Main Responsibilities Online" [Guojia wangxinban tichu wangzhan luxing zhuti zeren ba xiang yaoqiu], Xinhua, 17 August 16.

<sup>125</sup>Jane Perlez and Paul Mozur, "Lu Wei, China's Internet Czar, Will Step Down From Post," New York Times, 29 June 16.

<sup>126</sup>Choi Chi-yuk, "Beijing Clamps Down on News Portals, Ordering Round the Clock Monitoring," South China Morning Post, 19 August 16.

<sup>127</sup>Stanley Lubman, "China's Criminal Law Once Again Used as Political Tool," Wall Street Journal, China Real Time Report (blog), 1 December 15.

<sup>128</sup>Human Rights Watch, "China: State Security, Terrorism Convictions Double," 16 March 16.

<sup>129</sup>UN Committee against Torture, Summary Record of the 1371st Meeting (18 November 2015), CAT/C/SR.1371, 23 November 15, para. 23.

<sup>130</sup>"'Tortured' Guangzhou Activist Refuses Food in Detention Center," Radio Free Asia, 7 January 15.

<sup>131</sup>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 66, entry into force 23 March 76, arts. 7, 9, 14.

<sup>132</sup>Jane Perlez, "Chinese Rights Lawyer, Pu Zhiqiang, Is Given Suspended Prison Sentence," New York Times, 21 December 15; "Verdict in Pu Zhiqiang's First Instance Trial, Prison Term of 3 Years Suspended for 3 Years" [Pu zhiqiang yishen xuanpan jianjin 3 nian huanxing 3 nian], Radio Free Asia, 22 December 15. Radio Free Asia reported that, according to Pu's lawyer Mo Shaoping, the three-year sentence was divided into two years for the charge of "inciting ethnic hatred" and one year for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble." See also CECC, 2015 Annual Report, 8 October 15, 68. For more information on Pu Zhiqiang, see the Commission's Political Prisoner Database record 2014-00174.

<sup>133</sup>Austin Ramzy, "Rights Lawyer Detained Ahead of Tiananmen Anniversary," New York Times, Sinosphere (blog), 6 May 14.

<sup>134</sup>Verna Yu, "Beijing 'Silencing' Outspoken Rights Lawyer With Restrictions on Suspended Jail Term," South China Morning Post, 4 January 16.

<sup>135</sup>"Pu Zhiqiang's Lawyer's License Revoked, Lawyer Cheng Hai Summoned Prior to Annual License Renewal" [Pu zhiqiang bei quxiao lushi zige cheng hai lushi wei nianjian bei chuanhuan], Radio Free Asia, 14 April 16; Ben Blanchard, "Prominent Chinese Rights Lawyer Says He Is Formally Disbarred," Reuters, 14 April 16; "Pu Zhiqiang: China Rights Lawyer Has Licence Revoked," BBC, 14 April 16.

<sup>136</sup>Chris Buckley, "Chinese Rights Advocate Known as Guo Feixiong Convicted of Unexpected New Charge," New York Times, 27 November 15; Rights Defense Network, "Tianhe District Court in Guangzhou Municipality Separately Sentences Guo Feixiong to Six Years, Sun Desheng to Two Years and Six Months, and Liu Yuandong to Three Years in Prison" [Guangzhou shi tianhe qu fayuan jin fenbie panjue guo feixiong liu nian, sun desheng liang nian liu ge yue, liu yuandong san nian youqi tuxing], 27 November 15. For more information on Guo Feixiong (also known as Yang Maodong), see the Commission's Political Prisoner Database record 2005-00143.

<sup>137</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Tianhe District Court in Guangzhou Municipality Separately Sentences Guo Feixiong to Six Years, Sun Desheng to Two Years and Six Months, and Liu Yuandong to Three Years in Prison” [Guangzhou shi tianhe qu fayuan jin fenbie panjue guo feixiong liu nian, sun desheng liang nian liu ge yue, liu yuandong san nian youqi tuxing], 27 November 15; Rights Defense Network, “Rights Defender Sun Desheng Today Completes Sentence and Leaves Prison, He Faced Torture, Abuse, and Beatings in Prison” [Renquan hanweizhe sun desheng jinri xing man chuyu yuzhong zao kuxing nuedai oudai], 28 February 16. For more information on Sun Desheng, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2011-00313.

<sup>138</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Tianhe District Court in Guangzhou Municipality Separately Sentences Guo Feixiong to Six Years, Sun Desheng to Two Years and Six Months, and Liu Yuandong to Three Years in Prison” [Guangzhou shi tianhe qu fayuan jin fenbie panjue guo feixiong liu nian, sun desheng liang nian liu ge yue, liu yuandong san nian youqi tuxing], 27 November 15. For more information on Liu Yuandong, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2013-00333.

<sup>139</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Wang Mo, Xie Fengxia (Xie Wenfei) Today Both Sentenced to 4 Years and 6 Months’ Imprisonment” [Wang mo, xie fengxia (xie wenfei) jin jun huoxing 4 nian 6 ge yue youqi tuxing], 8 April 16. For more information on Wang Mo, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2014-00328.

<sup>140</sup>Ibid. For more information on Xie Wenfei, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2014-00209.

<sup>141</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Zhang Rongping (Zhang Shengyu) and Liang Qinhuai Were Separately Sentenced Today to 4 Years and 1 Year and 6 Months in Prison” [Zhang rongping (zhang shengyu), liang qinhui jin fenbie huoxing 4 nian he 1 nian 6 ge yue], 8 April 16. For more information on Liang Qinhuai, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00045.

<sup>142</sup>“Lawyers’ Account: Court in China Adds Last-Minute Charge in Heavy Sentence Against Rights Leader Guo Feixiong,” China Change, 27 November 15 (Guo and Sun); “Liu Yuandong Sentenced to Three Years for ‘Gathering a Crowd To Disturb Order in a Public Place’” [Liu yuandong bei yi “juzhong raoluan gonggong changsuo zhixu” zui pan san nian], Boxun, 27 November 15 (Liu); PRC Criminal Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo xing fa], passed 1 July 79, amended 14 March 97, effective 1 October 97, amended 25 December 99, 31 August 01, 29 December 01, 28 December 02, 28 February 05, 29 June 06, 28 February 09, 25 February 11, 29 August 15, effective 1 November 15, art. 291.

<sup>143</sup>Chris Buckley, “Chinese Rights Advocate Known as Guo Feixiong Convicted of Unexpected New Charge,” New York Times, 27 November 15; “Lawyers’ Account: Court in China Adds Last-Minute Charge in Heavy Sentence Against Rights Leader Guo Feixiong,” China Change, 27 November 15; PRC Criminal Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo xing fa], passed 1 July 79, amended 14 March 97, effective 1 October 97, amended 25 December 99, 31 August 01, 29 December 01, 28 December 02, 28 February 05, 29 June 06, 28 February 09, 25 February 11, 29 August 15, effective 1 November 15, art. 293.

<sup>144</sup>“Translation: Police Indictment Opinion for Guo Feixiong & Sun Desheng,” Siweiluozhi’s Blog, 26 December 13; “Liu Yuandong Sentenced to Three Years for ‘Gathering a Crowd To Disturb Order in a Public Place’” [Liu yuandong yi “juzhong raoluan gonggong changsuo zhixu” zui pan san nian], Boxun, 27 November 15. For more information on the anti-press censorship protests, see the box “January 2013 Southern Weekend Protests” in CECC, 2013 Annual Report, 10 October 13, 64.

<sup>145</sup>“Translation: Police Indictment Opinion for Guo Feixiong & Sun Desheng,” Siweiluozhi’s Blog, 26 December 13.

<sup>146</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Wang Mo, Xie Fengxia (Xie Wenfei) Today Both Sentenced to 4 Years and 6 Months’ Imprisonment” [Wang mo, xie fengxia (xie wenfei) jin jun huoxing 4 nian 6 ge yue youqi tuxing], 8 April 16 (Wang and Xie); Rights Defense Network, “Zhang Rongping (Zhang Shengyu) and Liang Qinhuai Were Separately Sentenced Today to 4 Years and 1 Year and 6 Months in Prison” [Zhang rongping (zhang shengyu), liang qinhui jin fenbie huoxing 4 nian he 1 nian 6 ge yue], 8 April 16 (Liang); PRC Criminal Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo xing fa], passed 1 July 79, amended 14 March 97, effective 1 October 97, amended 25 December 99, 31 August 01, 29 December 01, 28 December 02, 28 February 05, 29 June 06, 28 February 09, 25 February 11, 29 August 15, effective 1 November 15, part 2, chap. 1, art. 105.

<sup>147</sup>Mo Zhixu, “The Southern Street Movement: China’s Lonely Warriors,” China Change, 13 April 16.

<sup>148</sup>“Guangzhou Netizen Liang Qinhuai Faces Criminal Detention for Speech and Online Essays That Supposedly Defamed the Country’s Leaders” [Guangzhou wangyou liang qinhui yin yan huozui zao xinglu wangluo wenzhang bei zhi dihui guojia lingdaoren], Radio Free Asia, 5 February 15.

<sup>149</sup>“CCP Sentences Tibetan Writer Involved in 2008 Tibetan Uprising to Three Years in Prison” [Zhonggong panchu sheji 2008 nian xizang kangbao zangren zuojia sannian tuxing], Tibet Post International, 19 February 16; PRC Criminal Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo xing fa], passed 1 July 79, amended 14 March 97, effective 1 October 97, amended 25 December 99, 31 August 01, 29 December 01, 28 December 02, 28 February 05, 29 June 06, 28 February 09, 25 February 11, 29 August 15, effective 1 November 15, art. 103. For more information on Drukhar Gyal, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2010-00153.

<sup>150</sup>Canadian Journalists for Free Expression et al., “Free Imprisoned Blogger Shokjang, Civil Society Groups Tell Chinese Authorities,” reprinted in Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, 8 April 16; “CCP Sentences Tibetan Writer Involved in 2008 Tibetan Uprising to Three Years in Prison” [Zhonggong panchu sheji 2008 nian xizang kangbao zangren zuojia sannian tuxing], Tibet Post International, 19 February 16.

<sup>151</sup>“CCP Sentences Tibetan Writer Involved in 2008 Tibetan Uprising to Three Years in Prison” [Zhonggong panchu sheji 2008 nian xizang kangbao zangren zuojia sannian tuxing], Tibet Post International, 19 February 16. See also PRC Compulsory Education Law [Zhonghua

renmin gongheguo yiwu jiaoyu fa], passed 12 April 86, amended 29 June 06, effective 1 September 06, art. 29. The PRC Compulsory Education Law prohibits corporal punishment in schools.

<sup>152</sup>PRC Criminal Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo xing fa], passed 1 July 79, amended 14 March 97, effective 1 October 97, amended 25 December 99, 31 August 01, 29 December 01, 28 December 02, 28 February 05, 29 June 06, 28 February 09, 25 February 11, 29 August 15, effective 1 November 15, art. 105.

<sup>153</sup>Ibid., art. 111.

<sup>154</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Xinjiang Rights Defender Zhang Haitao Sentenced by Urumqi Intermediate Court to 15 Years for ‘Inciting Subversion of State Power’ and 5 Years for ‘Providing Intelligence Overseas,’ To Serve 19 Years in Total” [Xinjiang renquan hanweizhe zhang haitao bei wulumuqi zhongyuan yi “shandong dianfu guojia zui” chu youqi tuxing 15 nian, “wei jingwai tigong qingbao zui” panchu youqi tuxing 5 nian, hebing zhixing 19 nian], 18 January 16; Yaxue Cao, “Appeal Begins of Harsh 19-Year Prison Term Given Xinjiang-Based Activist Zhang Haitao,” China Change, 21 February 16. Zhang’s sentence is divided into 15 years for the “inciting” charge and 5 years for the “illegal provision” charge even though authorities ordered him to serve 19 years. For more information on Zhang Haitao, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00343.

<sup>155</sup>“Harshly Sentenced to 19 Years, Zhang Haitao Submits ‘Appeal,’ Family Members in Dire Need of Assistance” [Bei pan 19 nian zhongxing de zhang haitao shaochu “shangsushu” jiaoshu jixu jiuzhu], Boxun, 31 January 16; Yaxue Cao, “Appeal Begins of Harsh 19-Year Prison Term Given Xinjiang-Based Activist Zhang Haitao,” China Change, 21 February 16.

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<sup>158</sup>“International PEN Calls for the Immediate Release of Liu Xiaobo” [Guoji bihui yaoqiu liji shifang liu xiaobo], Voice of America, 9 December 15; PEN American Center, “Dear President Xi: A Message From America’s Writers,” 18 September 15; “Five Years On, Liu Xiaobo’s Wife Stays Silent, Under House Arrest,” Radio Free Asia, 8 October 15.

<sup>159</sup>Amnesty International, “Liu Xia,” 12 November 14; “Liu Xia. A Photographer from China,” Wall Street International, last visited 5 July 16. For more information on Liu Xia, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2010-00629.