

【Joint Letter Regarding the Revocation of Lawyer Li Jinxing's License】

China human rights lawyer Li Jinxing received a notice from the Shandong Provincial Department of Justice on 22 July 2019 regarding the administrative penalty of revocation of his license due to his posts on social media platform *Weibo*. His posts were allegedly inappropriate, slandering the Justice Bureau and provoking discontentment against the Party. On 6 August 2019, Li's hearing took place at the Shandong Lawyers Association. Later in the evening, the decision was passed down that the practice certificate be officially revoked.

Regarding the Chinese government's administrative measures taken against lawyers in recent years, we request the following:

1. To stop using *Lawyers Law of the People's Republic of China (the Lawyers' Law)*, *the Administrative Measures for the Practice of Law by Lawyers* and *the Administrative Measures for Law Firms* to assert administrative pressure on lawyers as a means of deterring lawyers from acting for clients who are being prosecuted by the Chinese Government;
2. To revoke administrative measures taken against lawyers that have been issued and improperly interfere with lawyers' legitimate professional functions;
3. To guarantee that lawyers will not experience threats and obstruction from the State while carrying out their professional duties, and that their representations on behalf of clients not be used against them for prosecution or administrative penalty; and
4. To immediately stop all forms of harassment, threats and assaults on human rights lawyers and their law firms.

[Who is Li Jinxing?]

Li Jinxing is a renowned lawyer specialising in criminal cases in China, and have always fought to overturn wrongful convictions, such as for the Nie Shubin homicide case and the case of the explosion at the Fuqing City Discipline Inspection Commission in Fujian Province. In 2013, he was expelled from the Court by the judge; after allegedly speaking out of turn while defending human rights defender Guo Feixiong in 2014, he was penalised to one year of suspension in 2016. In 2018, he took on the politically sensitive case of former chairman of Anbang Insurance Group Wu Xiaohui, but was repeatedly refused his right to meet with his client.

[The Hearing and Decision Regarding the Revocation of Li Guangxing's License]

Lawyer Li's hearing took place on 6 August 2019, and lasted four hours, during which human rights defenders including the wives of 709 lawyer Wang Quanzhang and human rights lawyer Yu Wensheng, Li Wenzu and Xu Yan, were banned from entering the Court to observe the hearing. Within the Court, there were only 20-odd observers invited by the State. Human rights activist Li Ning and Lawyer Wen Donghai were supposed to act as witnesses, but were also denied access into the Court. The lawyers defending Lawyer Li, Lawyer Zhou Ze and Tsinghua University law professor He Dongbo, presented the argument that Lawyer Li's expression on Weibo was simply an exercise of his freedom of expression and civil right to monitor the government.

In the evening of 6 August, the Shandong Provincial Department of Justice delivered the judgment that Lawyer Li Jinxing's posts on Weibo were against *the Lawyers Law* and *the*

*Administrative Measures for the Practice of Law by Lawyers*¹. Due to the suspension of his license for already a year by the Justice Bureau of Jinan on 28 December 2016, according to *the Lawyers Law*, the Department has decided to revoke Lawyer Li's license to practise.

[Administrative Penalties Against Chinese Human Rights Lawyers]

Every year, lawyers and law firms in China have to go through annual reviews to renew their licenses. It is very common for lawyers and law firms which take on politically sensitive cases to have their licenses revoked or invalidated. *The Lawyers Law, the Administrative Measures for the Practice of Law by Lawyers and the Administrative Measures for Law Firms* are commonly used to crack down on human rights lawyers, legal professionals and law firms.

Since 2017, more than 31 human rights lawyers and law firms have had their licenses revoked, invalidated or suspended.

Initiators:

China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group 中國維權律師關注組

Taiwan Support China Human Rights Lawyers Network 臺灣聲援中國人權律師網絡

Signatories:

Arthur Moses SC, President of the Law Council of Australia 澳洲律師委員會主席

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Association of Francophone and German-speaking Bars of Belgium Lawyers 比利時法語及德語系律師協會

Eva Pils, Professor of Law, King's College London

Faculty of Advocates 蘇格蘭出庭律師協會

Human Rights Committee of the Taipei Bar Association 台北律師公會人權委員會

International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) 國際律師聯盟

IAPL Australia Branch 國際律師聯盟澳洲支部

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Judicial Reform Foundation 財團法人民間司法改革基金會

Law Society of England & Wales 英格蘭及威爾斯律師會

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada 加拿大律師權利觀察

Martin S. Flaherty, Visiting Professor, Princeton University

Ordre des Avocats De Genève 日內瓦律師協會

Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty 台灣廢除死刑推動聯盟

Taiwan Innocence Project 台灣冤獄平反協會

¹ Lawyers Law of the People's Republic of China Article 29 1(1) and the Administrative Measures for the Practice of Law by Lawyers Article 40

**A List of Human Rights Lawyers who are Administratively Penalized by the Government from September 2017 to July 2019
(As of 12 August 2019)**

No.	Date	Name	District	Law Enforcement Agency	Current Practice Status	709 Human Rights Lawyers or Defence Lawyers
1	September 2017	Zhu Shengwu (祝聖武)	Shandong (山東)	Shandong Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	N
2	December 2017	Wang Liqian (王理乾)	Yunnan (雲南)	Yunnan Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	N
3	December 2017	Wang Longde (王龍德)	Yunnan (雲南)	Yunnan Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	N
4	December 2017	Wu Youshui (吳有水)	Hangzhou (杭州)	Hangzhou Municipal Bureau of Justice	9-month Suspension of Practice	N
5	December 2017	Yu Pinjian (玉品健)	Guangdong (廣東)	Guangdong Provincial Department of Justice	Invalidated	N
6	January 2018	Yu Wensheng (余文生)	Beijing (北京)	Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice	Invalidated	Y Defence lawyer for lawyer Wang Quanzhang (王全璋)
7	January 2018	Sui Muqing (隋牧青)	Guangdong (廣東)	Guangdong Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	Y
8	February 2018	Zhou Shifeng (周世鋒)	Beijing (北京)	Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice	Revoked	Y
9	February 2018	Dang Linshan (黨琳山)	Guangdong (廣東)	Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Justice	6-month Suspension of Practice (Remarks: Dang has resumed his right to practice.)	N
10	March 2018	Zhang Kai (張凱)	Beijing (北京)	In March 2018, Zhang Kai published the news that his law firm had been pressured by the authorities to dismiss him. If Zhang is not		Y

				employed by another law firm in 6 months, Zhang's licence will be invalidated.		
11	April 2018	Li Chunfu (李春富)	Beijing (北京)	Marked "Invalidated" on the website of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice	To be Invalidated (Remarks: Lawyer Li has passed the annual inspection.)	Y
12	April 2018	Xie Yanyi (謝燕益)	Beijing (北京)	Marked "Invalidated" on the website of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice (Remarks: Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice issued a notice of invalidation to lawyer Xie in November 2018)	Invalidated	Y
13	April 2018	Li Heping (李和平)	Beijing (北京)	Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice	Revoked	Y
14	May 2018	Huang Simin (黃思敏)	Hubei (湖北)	Hunan Provincial Department of Justice (Remarks: Huang retrieved her practicing license in January 2019. Yet, she has to remain in Hubei as she was unable to complete her transfer from Hubei to Hunan.)	Invalidated (Remarks: Huang has resumed her right to practice.)	Y
15	May 2018	Wen Donghai (文東海)	Hunan (湖南)	Hunan Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	Y Defence lawyer for lawyer Wang Yu (王宇)
16	May 2018	Yang Jinzhu (楊金柱)	Hunan (湖南)	Hunan Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	Y Defence lawyer for lawyer Zhou Shifeng (周世鋒)

17	May 2018	Qin Yongpei (覃永沛)	Guangxi (廣西)	Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Department of Justice	Invalidated	Y Defence lawyer for lawyer Chen Taihe (陳泰和)
18	August 2018	Cheng Hai (程海)	Beijing (北京)	Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice	Invalidated	Y Defence lawyer for lawyer Wang Quanzhang (王全璋)
19	October 2018	Chen Keyun (陳科雲)	Guangdong (廣東)	Guangdong Provincial Department of Justice	Cancelled	Y
20	October 2018	Chang Weiping (常瑋平)	Shaanxi (陝西)	Baoji Municipal Bureau of Justice	3-month Suspension of Practice	N
21	November 2018	Hu Linzhang (胡林政)	Hunan (湖南)	Changsha Municipal Bureau of Justice (Remarks: Hu retrieved his practising license before May 2019. However, he was rated as “Incompetent” in 2019 Annual Inspection.)	6-month Suspension of Practice (Remarks: Hu has resumed his right to practice.)	Y Defence lawyer for human rights defender Zhai Yanmin (翟岩民)
22	November 2018	Ceng Wu (曾武)	Hunan (湖南)	Changsha Municipal Bureau of Justice	6-month Suspension of Practice	N
23	November 2018	Wang Yu (王宇)	Beijing (北京)	Beijing Fengrui Law Firm’s legal license was officially invalidated in November 2018. Meanwhile, Beijing Lawyers Association has refused to provide required documents for lawyers to transfer to another law firm. If lawyers are not employed by another law firm in 6 months, their licenses will be invalidated as well. (Wang Yu, Zhou Lixin and Liu Xiaoyuan have been unable to practice law since 709 Crackdown despite their valid licenses)	Y	
24	November 2018	Zhou Lixin (周立新)	Beijing (北京)		Y	
25	December 2018	Liu Zhengqing (劉正清)	Guangdong (廣東)	Guangdong Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	Y

						Defence lawyer for lawyer Xie Yang (謝陽)
26	January 2019	Cai Ying (蔡瑛)	Hunan (湖南)	Changsha Municipal Bureau of Justice	3-month Suspension of Practice	Y Defence lawyer for lawyer Li Heping (李和平)
27	March 2019	He Wei (何偉)	Chongqing (重慶)	Chongqing Municipal Bureau of Justice	1-year Suspension of Practice	Y
28	April 2019	Zhang Xuezhong (張雪忠)	Shanghai (上海)	Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Justice	Invalidated	Y
29	April 2019	Chen Jiahong (陳家鴻)	Guangxi (廣西)	Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Department of Justice	Invalidated	Y
30	June 2019	Liu Xiaoyuan (劉曉原)	Beijing (北京)	Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice	Invalidated	Y
31	July 2019	Li Jinxing (李金星)	Shandong (山東)	Shandong Provincial Department of Justice	Revoked	Y