

out that these periods are much higher than minimum penalties under the Criminal Law and have raised serious concerns about the unchecked power of the police in imposing such punishments.

New legislation has been proposed to substantially reform or replace RTL, but this remains at draft stage within China's legislature, the National People's Congress, and it is unclear whether or when it will be passed. Amnesty International continues to urge the authorities to abolish the system altogether and ensure that decisions on detention are no longer exclusively in the hands of the police.

Amnesty International is concerned that the forthcoming Olympic Games may be an incentive for the authorities to retain the system in the name of maintaining public order in Beijing. In May 2006, the Beijing authorities reportedly approved the use of RTL to target vagrants and petty criminals in their attempts to "clean up" the city before it hosts the Olympics in 2008.

ACT NOW

Please use your voice and send polite letters to Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, expressing concern that Bu Dongwei has been detained as a prisoner of conscience in violation of his human rights to freedom of expression and religious belief and calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

- Urge Prime Minister Wen Jiabao to ensure that Bu is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment while he remains in custody and that he is given access to his family, lawyers and any medical assistance he may require.
- Ask the Prime Minister to end the use of Re-education through Labour, and other forms of punitive administrative detention imposed without charge, trial or judicial review, ensuring that decisions on detention are no longer exclusively in the hands of the police.
- Call on his administration to take measures to bring all forms of detention in China into conformity with international human rights law and standards, including measures to ensure fair trial and prevent torture.

WRITE TO:

Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China
WEN Jiabao Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyoujie
Xichengqu
Beijingshi 100017
People's Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Amnesty International,
International Secretariat,
Peter Benenson House,
1 Easton Street,
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www.amnesty.org/thechinadebate

February 2008

AI Index: ASA 17/013/2008

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