

## BACKGROUND

Chen Guangcheng is one example of a disturbing pattern of Chinese lawyers and activists being convicted and imprisoned after unfair trials. The pattern continues despite promises by the Chinese authorities to improve human rights in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics in August 2008.

Control, surveillance and arbitrary detention are increasingly being employed against activists and members of their families in Beijing and other parts of China, particularly during significant public events. It is likely, therefore, that the Chinese authorities will employ similar tactics at the time of the Olympics in August 2008. Whether activists are held as detainees in police stations or as prisoners in their own homes, such detention without charge is inherently arbitrary and in violation of international human rights standards.

Amnesty International is particularly concerned about the growing use of forms of house arrest or residential surveillance (jianshi juzhu – known informally in Chinese as “ruanjin” or “soft detention”) against human rights defenders and activists highlighting other issues deemed to be politically sensitive. While the Chinese Criminal Procedure Law lists residential surveillance as one of a number of measures that may be used by the police against criminal suspects, in practice activists are rarely shown any official notice explaining the reasons for their detention and periods often exceed the maximum limit of six months as prescribed by law.

## ACT NOW

**Please use your voice and send polite letters to Wen Jiabao, the Prime Minister of People's Republic of China, urging him to bring about the immediate and unconditional release of Chen Guangcheng.**

- Urge Prime Minister Wen Jiabao to guarantee that Chen Guangcheng is not subjected to further torture and other ill-treatment while he remains in detention.
- Also ask him to initiate a full and impartial investigation into allegations that he has been subjected to torture and ill-treatment in prison, with a view of bringing those responsible to justice.
- Express deep concern that Chen Guangcheng's wife, Yuan Weijing has also been subjected to abuse at the hands of the police due to her attempts to secure justice for Chen Guangcheng.
- Call on the authorities to provide immediate guarantees for her safety and ensure that she can carry out her peaceful and legitimate activities without fears of arbitrary detention, harassment or other serious human rights violations.

### 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,  
London WC1X 0DW,  
United Kingdom

[www.amnesty.org/thechinadebate](http://www.amnesty.org/thechinadebate)

February 2008

AI Index: ASA 17/015/2008

LEGACY OF THE  
BEIJING OLYMPICS  
**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



# FREE CHEN GUANGCHENG

## CHINA'S CHOICE YOUR VOICE

LEGACY OF THE BEIJING OLYMPICS

**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



