

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2007		50	China	Lu Gengsong, history graduate and writer

#### *Announcement*

PEN (the worldwide organization of writers, founded in 1921) reports that human rights activist Lu Gengsong, a history graduate from Zhejiang University and author of the book *A History of Chinese Community Party Corrupt Officials* (2000), was arrested in August 2007, and on 29 September 2007 charged with subversion for his critical writings and pro-democracy activities.

### **INTERNATIONAL PEN WRITERS IN PRISON COMMITTEE (WIPC) RAPID ACTION NETWORK 37/07**

3 October 2007

#### **CHINA:**

Writer and human rights activist Lu Gengsong charged with subversion.

The Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN is seriously concerned about the detention of writer and human rights activist Lu Gengsong, who has been detained since 24 August 2007, apparently for his Internet writings. On 29 September 2007 he was formally charged with “inciting subversion of state power”. International PEN fears that Lu Gengsong may be detained in violation of Article 19 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory, and if so calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

According to PEN’s information, Lu Gengsong was arrested in Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province, on 24 August 2007, following the on-line publication of articles critical of the authorities. His home was searched and his computer and personal files were reportedly confiscated. His wife was also taken in for questioning as a “criminal suspect” and released three hours later. Lu Gengsong was formally charged on 29 September 2007 with “inciting subversion

of state power”, a charge which is often used to silence dissidents. The initial charge of “illegal possession of state secrets” has been dropped. Lu is held at the Xihu (West Lake) Detention Centre in Hangzhou City, where he is reportedly held incommunicado although his wife has been permitted to visit him.

Lu Gengsong, a history graduate from Zhejiang University, taught at the Zhejiang Higher Professional School of Public Security before being expelled in 1993 because of his pro-democracy activities. He went on to become a freelance writer, and has published several books on political reform, including A History of Chinese Community Party Corrupt Officials in 2000. Lu is known for his reporting on human rights violations and his political commentaries published on the Internet. He is also an active member of the banned China Democracy Party (CDP).

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS:**

\*\*Expressing concerns that Lu Gengsong is held for his critical writings and pro-democracy activities;

\*\*Calling for his immediate and unconditional release in accordance with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which China is a signatory.

**GOVERNMENT ADDRESSES:**

His Excellency Hu Jintao

\*\*President of the People’s Republic of China

\*\*State Council

\*\*Beijing 100032

\*\*P.R.China.

Procurator General Mr. Jia Chunwang

\*\*Supreme People’s Procuratorate

\*\*Beiheyuan Street 147

\*\*100726 Beijing

\*\*P.R.China

**\*\*Please note that fax numbers are no longer available for the Chinese authorities, so you may wish to ask the diplomatic representative for China in your country to forward your appeals.**

**\*\*Please copy appeals to the diplomatic representative for China in your country if possible.**

**\*\*Please contact NCH if sending appeals after 3 November 2007\*\***

For further information please contact Cathy McCann at International PEN Writers in Prison Committee, Brownlow House, 50/51 High Holborn, London WC1V 6ER, Tel.+ 44 (0) 20 7405 0338, Fax: +44 (0) 20 7405 0339, email: [cathy.mccann@internationalpen.org.uk](mailto:cathy.mccann@internationalpen.org.uk).