

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER DISAPPEARED WHILE SEEKING URGENT MEDICAL CARE

Human rights defender Yin Xu'an was reportedly taken away by authorities on August 2025, after travelling to Beijing to seek urgently needed medical treatment. Since then, his fate and whereabouts remain unknown despite repeated efforts by his family and supporters. Given his health condition and the authorities' previous interference with his access to medical care, there are grave concerns for his wellbeing. Amnesty International calls on the authorities to immediately disclose his whereabouts, ensure he has access to his family and lawyers of his choosing, and adequate medical care, and release him if he is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Secretary Li Wenbo

Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission
Huangshi Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China
No. 1 Hangzhou East Road, Xialu District
Huangshi City, Hubei Province
People's Republic of China

Dear Secretary Li,

*I am writing to express my grave concern about the enforced disappearance of **Yin Xu'an**, a human rights defender from Daye City, Hubei Province, whose fate and whereabouts have remained unknown since August 2025.*

According to available information, Yin Xu'an was taken into custody by the authorities on 11 August 2025 after travelling to Beijing to seek urgently needed medical treatment for serious health conditions, including severe hypertension, coronary heart disease and renal artery stenosis. Since then, his family and supporters have been unable to obtain any information regarding his whereabouts, legal status or physical condition.

The urgency of the case stems not only from the disappearance itself, but also from the continuing and ongoing nature of the apparent violation and the serious concerns for Yin Xu'an's health.. As you will be aware, enforced disappearance is considered a continuing human rights violation until the person's fate and whereabouts are clarified. As long as the authorities fail to disclose where Yin Xu'an is being held and deny him contact with family, lawyers, and adequate medical care, the risks to his life, health, dignity and liberty and security remain acute.

Given his documented need for specialist medical treatment, every additional day without access to independent contact and medical care may place him at greater risk of lasting harm.

I therefore call on you to:

- ***Immediately disclose Yin Xu'an's whereabouts and legal status, and ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment;***
- ***Ensure that Yin Xu'an has prompt and regular access to his family, lawyers of his choice and any medical treatment he requires, including specialist care where medically necessary;***
- ***Release him immediately and unconditionally if he is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.***

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Yin Xu'an is a long-time human rights defender and petitioner from Daye City, Hubei Province. For nearly two decades, he has sought accountability for alleged human rights violations, including wrongful convictions, arbitrary detention, forced evictions and land expropriation. He has also advocated for legal reforms and for China to ratify and implement international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

As a result of his peaceful activism, Yin Xu'an has faced years of harassment and reprisals by the authorities. He has previously been imprisoned on multiple occasions in connection with his human rights work and activities petitioning authorities. In 2017, he was sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" (寻衅滋事). In 2021, he was again sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment on the same charge. "Picking quarrels and provoking trouble" is a vaguely defined offence frequently used by the Chinese authorities to criminalize the peaceful exercise of human rights, including freedom of expression.

Due to years of harassment, detention and imprisonment, Yin Xu'an reportedly developed and continued to suffer from several serious health conditions, including severe hypertension and coronary heart disease. According to available information, local hospitals in Hubei Province were unable to provide the specialist treatment he required and referred him to Fuwai Hospital in Beijing for further assessment and treatment. Despite the seriousness of his condition, Yin was reportedly repeatedly prevented from travelling to Beijing for medical care. His requests to seek treatment in Beijing were allegedly denied by officials, including members of the Daye Domestic Security Protection Unit and local government authorities.

On 28 July 2025, Yin Xu'an reportedly travelled to Beijing carrying a referral issued by a hospital in Hubei Province for treatment at Fuwai Hospital. However, upon arriving at Beijing West Railway Station, he was allegedly intercepted by officials and forcibly returned by personnel from the Daye Public Security Bureau to his home in Bao'an Town, Daye City.

As his condition continued to deteriorate, Yin travelled to Beijing again on 10 August 2025 and temporarily stayed with a friend while preparing to attend a medical appointment the following day. On 11 August 2025, officials reportedly led by Xu Yuefei, Secretary of the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of Bao'an Town, located and took him away. Since then, his family and supporters have been unable to obtain any information regarding his whereabouts, legal status or physical condition.

Given Yin Xu'an's documented need for specialist medical treatment and the complete lack of information about his condition since August 2025, there are grave concerns for his health and wellbeing. The authorities' previous interference with his access to medical care further heightens concerns that he may be denied adequate and timely treatment while being held incommunicado.

Yin Xu'an's case reflects a broader pattern of retaliation against human rights defenders in China for carrying out their work. Amnesty International has documented the continued use of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, prolonged incommunicado detention, restrictions on access to lawyers, and the criminalization of peaceful human rights activism through offences such as "picking quarrels and provoking trouble".

Enforced disappearance is a crime under international law and a multiple and continuous violation of human rights. It is an autonomous crime with multiple and interconnected elements that might constitute violations of several rights, including the right to life, liberty and security, the right not to be subjected to torture or other ill-treatment, the right of all persons deprived from liberty to be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and the right to legal personality. Any individual who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance is a victim of an enforced disappearance. This includes the families of disappeared persons. The denial of the right to know the truth about the whereabouts of a person forcibly disappeared results in turn in a form of cruel and inhuman treatment for the immediate family.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or Chinese

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 31 December 2026. Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Yin Xu'an (He/him - Yin is his surname, Xu'an is his given name)