

Dear Director,

Poet Wu Mingliang, better known as "Langzi", has been criminally detained on suspicion of "illegal business operations" since August 18, 2017. Amnesty International believes he is being targeted for helping publish an anthology of poems commemorating the late Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Liu Xiaobo.

During a visit to the detention centre by his lawyer on August 23, 2017, Wu Mingliang said that the police officers in the detention centre repeatedly questioned him about an exhibition catalogue of his work that he published without receiving the explicit permission from the authorities. According to Wu Mingliang's friends, Peng Heping, who printed Wu Mingliang's exhibition catalogue, was also criminally detained on suspicion of "illegal business operations" on August 29.

I call on you to release Wu Mingliang and Peng Heping unconditionally and immediately unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that they have committed an internationally recognized offence and are granted a fair trial in line with international standards.

I also call on you to ensure that they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and that they are allowed prompt and regular access to their family, lawyers of their choice and adequate medical care.

At the same time, I urge you to end the use of politically motivated criminal charges against writers, journalists and human rights, trade union and other civil society activists, in an attempt to harass, intimidate and punish them.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,