

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Qin Chao, who is still detained for covering protests prior to the G20 summit. She is a citizen journalist and is from Sichuan-based website “64 Tianwang”.

She had planned to cover the G20 summit, held on 4 and 5 September 2016 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, but was instead administratively detained on 30 August. After ten days, Qin Chao was then criminally detained on suspicion of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble” at the Baofeng County Detention Centre in Pingdingshan City, Henan.

So I urge you to release Qin Chao immediately and unconditionally, since she has been detained for exercising her right to freedom of expression.

I also urge you to ensure that while in detention Qin Chao has regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of her choice, and is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment .

The last, but not the least, I urge you to stop the harassment and detention of journalists, citizens and others who report on protests and other sensitive issues of public interest.

Your prompt attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,