

Director Li Dengquan  
Linyi Shi Public Security Bureau  
7 Shanghai Lu, Lanshan Qu  
Linyi Shi, Shandong Sheng  
People's Republic of China

Dear Director Li:

I am writing to express my concern that former human rights lawyer Ding Jiayi (丁家喜) has been held incommunicado for more than one year since being taken away by the police on 26 December 2019. I find it worrying that this case has again been granted an extension of the investigation period (延长侦查期) to 19 January 2021, meaning that Ding will continue to have no access to his family and lawyers of his choice.

Held in Linyi County Detention Centre, Ding Jiayi has been charged with "inciting subversion of state power" (煽动颠覆国家政权罪) for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of association by joining an informal social gathering in Xiamen on 26 December 2019.

The arrest of Ding Jiayi and other human rights defenders who joined the Xiamen meeting contravenes international human rights laws and standards, including the rights to liberty and to freedom of association. On 23 March 2020, United Nations human rights experts expressed their [grave concerns](#) for Ding Jiayi and two other human rights defenders who had been similarly detained and held incommunicado after joining the Xiamen meeting. The experts said they were dismayed that the Chinese government continues to use national security provisions to target human rights defenders who meet peacefully and solely for exercising their rights.

It is distressing to learn that Ding Jiayi continues to be held in custody without any way for his family and lawyer to check his physical and mental wellbeing. Given the limited safeguards protecting those held incommunicado, I am very worried that Ding is at imminent risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

I therefore call on you to immediately:

- Release Ding Jiayi immediately and unconditionally unless there is sufficient credible and admissible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognized offence and is granted a fair trial in line with international standards.
- Pending his release, ensure that Ding Jiayi has regular, unrestricted access to family and lawyers of his choice and is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment.
- Stop harassing and arresting other human rights defenders who peacefully exercise their right to freedom of association and other human rights.

Yours sincerely,