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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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Dear Minister Guo,

RE: OPEN LETTER CALLING FOR THE URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION OF SU CHANGLAN

We are writing to draw your attention to the dire situation of Su Changlan, who is currently serving a three-year prison sentence at Nanhai District Detention Centre in Foshan City.

We express our deepest concern about Su Changlan's appalling health conditions in detention centre. Already suffering from hyperthyroidism, there has been a sharp deterioration in Su Changlan's health due to ill-treatment and poor detention conditions over the past years. According to her lawyer, Su Changlan said that the conditions in Nanhai District Detention Centre were abysmal and that her cell, of approximately 80 square meters, accommodated 50 to 70 inmates and had insufficient facilities for maintaining adequate hygiene.

As a result, her physical health has suffered and she has developed a heart condition due to an inability to sleep properly, long-term detention, and lack of adequate treatment to her pre-existing hyperthyroidism. She regularly feels numbness in her hands and feet and experiences headaches and regular tearing in her right eye and as a result needs to visit the infirmary on a regular basis. Although she has received some treatment, the relief was short lived, and her health has not improved.

Su Changlan requires immediate transfer to adequate health facilities so as to be able to receive the appropriate medical care she requires. According to Clause 1 of Article 3 in the "Regulations Concerning the Detainees' Rights and Responsibilities to Be Informed by Detention Centres," detainees with illness should have access to immediate medical treatment. In addition, Clause 10 of the same article also stipulates that convicts who meet the statutory requirements can have their sentences commuted, can be released on parole, or allowed temporary service of sentences outside detention centres.

Su Changlan is a well-known activist who has advocated for migrant children's rights, women's health and reproductive rights, forced eviction, and democracy. She has been imprisoned since 27 October

2014, when she was detained on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” after she expressed support for Hong Kong’s pro-democracy protests. Su Changlan was tried on 21 April 2016. Almost a year after the trial, on 31 March 2017, Foshan City Immediate People’s Court sentenced her to three years in prison and three years’ deprivation of political rights for “inciting subversion of state power”. Su Changlan’s appeal of the first verdict was rejected by the Guangdong Provincial Higher People’s Court on 22 May 2017, however her lawyer was only informed of the decision on 6 June 2017. The second instance verdict upheld the initial conviction of the three-year sentence, despite no hearing being conducted, nor her defence lawyers being notified. The court verdict makes it clear that Su Changlan’s prosecution was for her online criticism of the Communist Party and the government, which she posted on overseas websites, on social media, and via Skype and Gmail.

Amnesty International considers Su Changlan to be a prisoner of conscience, held solely for peacefully exercising her human rights to freedom of expression. We therefore urge that she is immediately and unconditionally released. Her imprisonment is arbitrary and conspicuously aims at punishing her for peaceful human rights activities and seems to arise from a general strategy of deterrence of all forms of dissent. Chinese authorities should stop punishing any activity undertaken by human rights activists in peaceful pursuit of fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and information, as provided in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which China has signed and repeatedly stated the intention to ratify.

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who take injustice personally. We are campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Yours sincerely,

Mariela Belski, Executive Director of Amnesty International Argentina

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Wies De Graeve, Director of Amnesty International Belgium (Flemish)

Philippe Hensmans, Director of Amnesty International Belgium (Francophone)

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