China Lawyers Statement Concerning Lawyer Wang Yu’ Disappearance

(101 cosignatory as of 10 July 2015 11 a.m.)

On 9th July 2015, lawyer Wang Yu sent a message on Weixin from her home in Beijing at around 00:10a.m.. The message was as follows: “After sending my husband and my son to the airport, the power at my home was cut. Internet connection was also lost. I heard somebody trying to pry the door open and talking in low voices outside my home. I tried to call my husband and my son but failed to reach them.” After 04:00a.m., contact with Wang was lost.

We are a group of friends and colleagues of Wang Yu and we now issue the following statement with regard to her disappearance.

1. Wang is a rational, courteous and law-abiding lawyer. She is not a terrorist, a drug addict nor an antisocial inciter.
2. Wang has always been open and honest in her practice. If there were any suspicion of illegal activity, the police can call her in for investigation forthrightly and will receive her full cooperation.
3. We strongly condemn the relevant government departments involved in the acts of capturing Wang using means including severing electrical and internet networks. Such actions are those of rogues, they are severe violations of procedural justice and the principle of rule of law.
4. Cutting the power in the middle of the night may lead to mistaking the intruders as thieves or robbers, justifying acts of self-defense on the part of Wang.
5. If the relevant government officials “enforcing the law” in darkness led to physical injury in the parties involved, the relevant government department must bear all legal responsibility.
6. We urge the relevant government departments to perform their duties in accordance to law. Any actions taken against Wang must be communicated to her family within 24 hours. Torture and abuse of power must not be tolerated.

By Wang Quanping (王全平), former Guangdong lawyer

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Li Heping(李和平), Beijing lawyer

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