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**NGOs and Lawyers Groups Call on Governments & Lao Authorities to  
Ensure the Immediate Release of Chinese Human Rights Lawyer Lu Siwei  
A Joint Statement**

**For Immediate Release**

(1 August 2023) Lao authorities have reportedly arrested and detained well-known Chinese human rights lawyer **Lu Siwei** since 28 July 2023. We are gravely concerned that he is at serious risk of forced repatriation to China where he faces the high likelihood of torture and other ill-treatment.

Southeast Asian governments have frequently been pressured into forcibly returning vulnerable individuals back to China, where they have faced arbitrary detention, unfair trials, torture, enforced disappearances, and other ill-treatment. Our organizations have documented numerous cases, ranging from the [2009 forced return](#) of Uyghurs from Cambodia to the [August 2022 disappearance](#) of Chinese democracy activist Dong Guangping from Vietnam into Chinese custody. Gui Minhai, a bookseller, was disappeared [in Thailand in 2015](#) only to resurface in China without his passport. These [individuals](#) are effectively disappeared for extended periods, with family members and colleagues unable to obtain information until months or years after.

**We urge third party governments to:**

- 1. Ask Lao authorities to immediately halt Lu Siwei's repatriation and to move quickly to ensure he has access to the relevant UN authorities and a lawyer of his choice; and,**
- 2. Publicly call on Chinese authorities to drop any potential charges against Lu Siwei.**

By handing Lu Siwei over to the Chinese authorities, the Lao government would be putting Lu Siwei at grave risk of torture and inhuman treatment. UN rights experts have found that the Chinese government frequently subjects rights defenders and lawyers to torture and inhuman treatment. <sup>1</sup>Under international customary law and as a state party to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) since September 2012, the Lao PDR government has a non-refoulement obligation as stipulated in Article 3 of the CAT not to return a person to a state where they are at high likelihood of being subjected to torture.

**We urge the Lao government to:**

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<sup>1</sup> E/C.12/CHN/CO/3, CESCR Concluding observations on the third periodic report of China, including Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, 2 March 2023; and CAT/C/CHN/CO/5, CAT Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of China, 3 February 2016.

1. **Halt all processes of repatriation for Lu Siwei and release him immediately according to its international human rights obligations;**
2. **Arrange for him to meet with the relevant UN authorities and a lawyer of his own choosing;**
3. **Allow him to meet with diplomats from the United States and other countries, as needed, to help him resume his journey to reunite with his family currently in the United States; and**
4. **Pending the above, to disclose his whereabouts and ensure his personal safety as well as his physical and mental well-being.**

**Lu Siwei** is a renowned rights defender and lawyer in China, advocating for vulnerable groups and representing numerous political dissidents. As the Chinese authorities have become increasingly intolerant of independent rights advocacy, they have targeted Lu with intimidation and harassment, including disbarment in January 2021 for online speech that allegedly “endangered national security”. Lu Siwei was also physically attacked while traveling to the hearing for his disbarment. Since then, Lu has been closely monitored by the Chinese authorities and subject to an exit ban since May 2021. It is understood that Lu was in Laos en route to joining his family in the United States.

**Undersigned, in alphabetical order**

1. ALTSEAN-Burma
2. Amnesty International
3. ARTICLE 19
4. Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
5. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
6. Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales
7. Bytes For All, Pakistan
8. Campaign For Uyghurs
9. Chicago Solidarity with Hong Kong
10. ChinaAid
11. China Change
12. Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD)
13. Civic Initiatives
14. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
15. Comité pour la Liberté à Hong-Kong
16. Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation
17. Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt (CADTM)

18. CSW
19. Defense without Borders-Solidarity Lawyers (DSF-AS)
20. Exile Hub, Thailand, Myanmar
21. FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
22. Focus on the Global South
23. Foundation for Media Alternatives
24. Free Expression Myanmar
25. Freedom Seekers International
26. Freiheit für Hongkong e.V.
27. Fresh Eyes, United Kingdom
28. Front Line Defenders
29. Georgetown Center for Asian Law
30. Gill H. Boehringer, Professor, Chair, Australian Branch, IAPL
31. Girl Up Southeast Asia
32. Hong Kong Aid
33. Hong Kong Democracy Council
34. Hong Kong Watch
35. Hongkonger in Deutschland e.V.
36. Human Rights in China
37. Human Rights Now
38. Human Rights Online Philippines (HRonlinePH)
39. Human Rights Watch
40. Humanitarian China
41. HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement
42. ILGA Asia
43. Indonesia Save Uyghur
44. Innovation for Change
45. Innovation for Change-East Asia
46. Innovation for Change South Asia
47. International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers

48. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute
49. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
50. International Society for Human Rights
51. International Tibet Network Secretariat
52. Internet Policy Observatory Pakistan
53. Japan Hong Kong Democracy Alliance (JHKDA)
54. Judicial Reform Foundation
55. Lady Liberty Hong Kong (LLHK)
56. Lamp of Liberty
57. Lawyers for Lawyers
58. Manushya Foundation
59. Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
60. New School for Democracy Association
61. New Yorkers Supporting Hong Kong (NY4HK)
62. Open Net (Korea)
63. PakVoices.pk
64. PEN America
65. Public Virtue Research Institute
66. Safeguard Defenders
67. Saskatchewan stands with Hong Kong
68. Social Innovations Advisory
69. Society of Young Social Innovators (SYSI)
70. Solidarité Chine
71. Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SAFEnet)
72. Taipei Bar Association Human Rights Committee
73. Taiwan Bar Association Human Rights Protection Committee
74. Taiwan Support China Human Rights Lawyers Network
75. Texans Supporting Hong Kong (TX4HK)
76. The Rights Practice
77. Tibet Initiative Deutschland e.V.
78. Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy

79. 29 Principles
80. Uyghur Human Rights Project
81. Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation
82. Wang Dan, Dialogue China
83. We The Hongkongers
84. Winnipeg Hong Kong Concern
85. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
86. Young Leadership for Social Change Network
87. Re-water CIC

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**人權及律師團體呼籲各國政府和老撾（寮國）政府確保  
中國人權律師盧思位被立即釋放  
聯合聲明**

**供立即發布**

（2023年8月1日）據報導，老撾（寮國）政府自2023年7月28日起逮捕並拘留了著名中國人權律師盧思位。我們對盧律師面臨被強制遣返中國，並很可能因而受到酷刑和其他虐待，表示嚴重關切。

東南亞多國經常迫於壓力而將弱勢群體強行遣返中國，被遣返者因此面臨任意拘留、不公平審判、酷刑和其他虐待等風險。各地人權團體有眾多相關紀錄，從 [2009年維吾爾人從柬埔寨被強制遣返](#)，到2022年8月中國民主活動家 [董廣平在越南失蹤](#)，後被發現遭受中國拘留。[書商桂民海2015年在泰國失蹤](#)，其後在中國露面，護照卻被政府扣留。事實上 [這些人](#) 都經歷了長時間的強迫失蹤，其家人和同事往往要在數月甚或多年後才能取得他們的消息。

**我們敦促第三方政府：**

1. 要求老撾（寮國）政府立即停止遣返盧思位，並迅速採取行動，確保他能夠接觸聯合國人員和他選擇的律師；並
2. 公開呼籲中國政府撤銷針對盧思位的任何可能指控。

老撾（寮國）政府一旦將盧思位移交給中國政府，即意味將盧置於遭受酷刑和非人道待遇的嚴重風險。聯合國人權專家已多次指出，中國政府經常對人權捍衛者和律師施以酷刑和非人道待遇。<sup>1</sup>

根據國際習慣法，並自2012年9月起作為聯合國《禁止酷刑及其他殘忍不人道或有辱人格之待遇或處罰公約》（CAT）締約國，老撾（寮國）人民民主共和國政府負有《禁止酷刑公約》第3條規定的不驅回義務，不將任何人遣返至他極有可能遭受酷刑的國家。

**我們敦促老撾（寮國）政府：**

1. 根據國際人權義務，立即中止遣返盧思位的一切程序並釋放他；
2. 安排他會見聯合國有關官員和他自己選擇的律師；
3. 根據需要允許他會見美國和其他國家的外交官員，幫助他繼續前往美國與家人團聚的旅程；以及
4. 在上述情況得到實踐之前，公開其所在，並確保其人身安全和身心健康。

盧思位是中國著名的人權律師和捍衛者，為弱勢群體發聲，並曾代理眾多政治異見人士案件。中國政府近年對權利倡導容忍度愈來愈低，他們對盧律師進行恐嚇和騷擾，包括2021年1月以其網

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<sup>1</sup> E/C.12/CHN/CO/3, 經濟、社會及文化權利委員會關於中國（包括中國香港和中國澳門）第三次定期報告的結論性意見，2023年3月22日；CAT/C/CHN/CO/5 禁止酷刑委員會關於中國第五次定期報告的結論性意見，2016年2月3日。

路言論「涉嫌危害國家安全」為藉口，撤銷其律師資格；盧律師更在前往相關聽證會途中，遭受襲擊。此後，盧思位一直受到中國政府密切監控，並自 2021 年 5 月起被禁制出境。

據了解，盧思位律師此次過境老撾（寮國），是要前往美國與家人團聚。

### 聯署團體（依英文名字母排序）

1. ALTSEAN-Burma
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3. ARTICLE 19
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77. Tibet Initiative Deutschland e.V. 德國西藏倡議
78. Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
79. 29 Principles 29 原則
80. Uyghur Human Rights Project 維吾爾人權項目
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