

Parliamentary questions

28 July 2011

E-007543/2011

[Question for written answer
to the Commission](#)

[Rule 117](#)

[Ana Gomes \(S&D\)](#)

► **Subject: Chen Guangcheng, Chinese lawyer and human rights defender held under house arrest**

I am deeply concerned for Chinese lawyer Chen Guangcheng, who is currently being held under strict house arrest (*ruanjin*) at his home in Linyi Prefecture, Shandong Province.

Mr Chen, a human rights activist who is blind, has been held at his home since his release from prison in September 2010. Since his release he has not been charged with any crime, and there is no basis in Chinese or international law for his detention. Furthermore, Mr Chen's wife, Yuan Weijing, and five-year-old daughter are held with him. The family are denied the right to leave their home for medical treatment, to shop for food or other essentials or for purposes of the child's education.

According to a letter from Yuan Weijing, which was made public in June 2011, the couple have been severely beaten, are denied access to medical treatment and are denied freedom of movement. Surveillance cameras have been set up to watch the house, their telephone and Internet access have been cut off, and their daughter has not been allowed to leave the house since 24 February this year. A recent raid on the family's home by thugs resulted in the confiscation of many personal belongings, including toys.

The Chinese Government often claims that 'China is a country ruled by law'. How is the detention of a man who has not been charged with any crime, along with his innocent wife and young child, permitted to take place in China today?

The Chinese Government must be pressed to release Mr Chen, his wife and child from house arrest, allow them immediate access to medical treatment and permit them to lead a normal life.

What action is the EU taking to urge the family's release?