

(Translated from Chinese)

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of urgent appeal No. UA CHN3/2016 from the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. The Chinese Government has made careful inquiries into the matter referred to in the urgent appeal and wishes to make the following reply:

1. Zhang Shuzhi is a 56-year-old woman from Wangkui county, Heilongjiang Province. On 28 January 2016, the Wangkui County People's Court sentenced her to 4 years' imprisonment for the crime of picking quarrels and provoking troubles. Ms. Zhang appealed the sentence. On 29 March 2016, the Intermediate People's Court of Suihua City, Heilongjiang Province dismissed the appeal and upheld the original sentence. During the proceedings, not only did Ms. Zhang herself exercise her right to a defence, but her defence counsel also made a full submission on her behalf. On 6 April, Ms. Zhang began serving her sentence in the Heilongjiang Women's Prison. She subsequently underwent three medical examinations and [REDACTED]. On 11 May, she was examined at the Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University. All of Ms. Zhang's requests for medical examinations and treatment have been respected in accordance with the law.

2. Liu Jie is a 64-year-old woman from Wangkui county, Heilongjiang Province. In December 2013, the Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang Province Land Reclamation Bureau Court sentenced Ms. Liu to 1 year and 6 months' imprisonment. On 16 February 2015, Ms. Liu was granted a release for medical treatment. On 28 February, she arrived in Beijing for treatment and [REDACTED]. On 31 March, she completed her prison sentence and was released. In February 2016, Ms. Liu was sentenced to 10 days of administrative detention for libel, but due to her illness she has not yet served that sentence.

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