

(Translated from Chinese)

Receipt is hereby confirmed of the communication dated 23 September 2022 from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Chinese Government wishes to make the following reply:

Chang Weiping is a 37 year old male of Han nationality from Baoji, Shaanxi Province, and formerly a lawyer at the Shaanxi Ligang Law Office. In October 2020 he was the subject of criminal coercive measures (arrest) carried out by the Shaanxi Public Security Agency, in accordance with the law, because he was suspected of subversion of the political power of the State. The Baoji Intermediate People's Court in Shaanxi Province held a hearing on 26 July 2022. Mr. Chang and his two defence lawyers appeared in court to participate in the proceedings. Before the court session, Mr. Chang voluntarily signed a statement containing a guilty plea and assuming punishment, and in court he expressed his confession and his sincere repentance. The case is currently being tried in the first instance by the Baoji Intermediate People's Court, and the court will deliver its decision in due course. The People's Court has tried the case in strict accordance with the law, with full guarantees of Mr. Chang's procedural rights. During the proceedings, in addition to Mr. Chang's own exercise of the right to defence, his defence lawyers also fully expressed their positions in his defence. Article 188 of the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China stipulates that "cases involving State secrets or private personal information shall not be heard in public." Article 222 of the Supreme People's Court's Interpretation regarding the application of the Criminal Procedure Law stipulates that "cases involving State secrets or private personal information shall not be heard in public" and that "no one is allowed to attend cases that are not heard in public". As the case of Mr. Chang involves the accusation of subversion of State power, and because it involves State secrets, in accordance with the law, the proceedings are not open to the public and attendance is not permitted.

The detention centre in Baoji, Feng County, fully guarantees Mr. Chang's right to seek medical treatment. Doctors doing their rounds have regularly carried out examinations of Mr. Chang's status and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He has fully recovered. Mr. Chang last received medical care on 15 September 2022. At present, Mr. Chang is in good health and in a good mental state.

China is a country based on the rule of law and the judicial organs protect the basic rights of criminal suspects in accordance with the law. There is no forcing of confessions by torture and there are no situations of torture.

