

## Ai Weiwei Taken into Custody at Airport

China Uncensored Staff

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[Well known Chinese artist and activist, Ai Weiwei](#) was stopped at Beijing airport and taken into custody by the Chinese regime before he took a flight to Hong Kong on Sunday morning, 3rd April.

Ai and his assistant were both stopped by airport customs officers, separated straight away, and taken away by police. Ai's mobile phone has been turned off since then.

Ai's art studio was quickly fenced off by police for 50 meters around. Eight assistants in his art studio were taken away by police, Ai's wife was placed under house arrest, and the living area of their 2 year old son was also ransacked.

According to a Chinese blogger, a reporter from the *Guardian* newspaper, UK, went near Ai's studio and took some photos, but was stopped by Chinese police; his mobile phone was taken by police and photos deleted from his camera. This reporter posted the news on twitter that he saw about 15 to 20 policemen outside of Ai's art studio.

News of Ai Weiwei's arrest at Beijing airport quickly spread throughout the web, someone on twitter posted a warning to the regime: " Ai Weiwei has more then 70,000 '[cao-ni-ma](#)' on twitter from around the country, we can send messages; we must and will have a reaction. If you want to arrest Ai, please think it through! Please think well!"

Another blogger: Why? What can't you publicize? Didn't you just have a meeting talking about --'we shall do everything according to law'...then bring the law out?!"

Beijing police had visited Ai's studio on several occasions last week, insisting on checking personal IDs, including checking people working in his studio.

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