



Many legal professionals have demonstrated that the judicial interpretation of defamation as a cybercrime, recently published by the Chinese Communist Supreme Court and the Supreme People's Procurate is illegal and unconstitutional, and have launched a petition to collect signatures demanding the repeal of the judicial interpretation and to hold those responsible for the interpretation, accountable.

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Many well known Beijing lawyers such as Wang Quanzhang, Li Xiongbing and Mr. Chenghai have launched a citizens' oversight proposal, recommending: "the standing committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) repeal the judicial interpretation of cybercrime."

The lawyers state that many parts of the judicial interpretation are ultra vires legislation, and should be modified or abolished. Furthermore, large parts of the contents of the judicial interpretation were rough, duplicated and inefficient vertical releases, wasting national judicial resources.

The statement added: **"We believe the main purpose of this legislation interpretation is to provide a legal basis for the Public Security Bureau to crack down on internet rumours.** However, the term "cracking down on internet rumours" is a misnomer, what they should crack down on is internet crime). They are also trying to curb the freedom of the public on a variety of

Lawyers Challenge Flawed Judicial Interpretation

China Uncensored Staff

public discontent aired on the internet, however, they published a lot of meaningless content in the judicial interpretation in order to deceive the public.“

Mr. Yang Jinzhu demanded a constitutional review by the NPC on the judicial interpretation of online speech.