

The Chinese communist regime on Boxing Day began a closed door sham trial of prominent Chinese rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang who had been 'disappeared', held incommunicado and allegedly tortured for 3 and a half years.

The regime did not allow relatives, friends, lawyers, representatives of foreign embassies, or the international media to enter the court.

Chinese state media staff tried to interfere and abuse international journalists as they gathered outside the court.

Wife denied visit

Wang's wife, Li Wenzu, was prevented from travelling to Tianjin to attend the hearing by state security who cordoned off her home.

During the 3 and a half years of his 'disappearance', Li had no contact with her husband and was not allowed to visit him. She said seven lawyers she appointed to try to represent Wang had also been unable to visit him.

“He is an innocent man but has been illegally detained for more than three years and the authorities are breaking laws the entire time. Turning down our lawyers and prohibiting them from meeting Wang ... forfeiting his communication rights for 3½ years,” Li said in an interview with the South China Morning Post.

“It’s close to absurd that I have wished for him to be tried fairly in a court of law when the authorities have been breaking the law the entire time ... Wang Quanzhang is innocent and he should be released immediately,” she said.

No rule of law in China

Wang, who took on sensitive cases of complaints of police torture and defended practitioners of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement, went missing in August 2015 during a sweeping crackdown on rights activists.

Most of the other detainees were later released, and several reported being tortured while in detention.

The event is known as the “709 cases” after the day, July 9th 2015, on which detentions began.

According to the charge sheet issued by prosecutors in Tianjin, Wang had “long been infiltrated

by a foreign hostile power”, had received overseas training and funding on multiple occasions, and represented other human rights defenders in 2014 and Falun Gong practitioners in 2013.

The hearing, which the court said involved “state secrets”, was criticised by other lawyers and rights groups for breaching Chinese law.

Cheng Hai, who was Li’s choice to represent Wang but was prohibited by the authorities from doing so, said “Wang was simply practising his legal duty as a lawyer to defend others. The whole indictment against Wang amounts to turning black into white by charging a lawyer for doing his job.”

Communist regime's cowardice

Closed door trials and 'disappearances' of critics are the cowardly tactics of the regime.

Despite the huge power of the communist state it is petrified that its own citizens and the international community will find out the extent of its human rights atrocities.

Amnesty International issued a statement on Wednesday demanding Wang’s immediate and unconditional release.

“This is a sham trial in which Wang Quanzhang is being persecuted only for peacefully defending human rights,” said Doriane Lau, a China researcher from the rights group.