

Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng was released from prison by the communist regime on August 7th, but appears to be under 'house arrest' at his brother's house in Xinjiang province.

Gao's wife, Geng He, who escaped to the United States in 2009, with their two children, has released a statement that Gao had been tortured physically and psychologically whilst in prison.

Geng said that Gao lost 22.5 kilograms (50 pounds) after being fed only a slice of bread and cabbage each day. She said that Gao can no longer speak intelligibly after being deprived of any interaction with people and kept in a small cell with little light and no reading material or television.

"I am completely devastated by what the Chinese government has done to my husband. The only thing I feared more than him being killed was his suffering relentless and horrific torture and being kept alive."

Geng urged the United States to press China to allow him to travel to the United States for medical treatment.

"If President Xi Jinping has any sense of decency or humanity, after crushing my husband both physically and psychologically, the least he could do is allow me as a devoted wife to care for him," Geng said.

Geng herself, Gao's lawyers, and journalists have had great difficulty in contacting Gao because of interference from the regime.

'Subversion'

The three year term was originally handed down on Dec. 22, 2006, for "subversion," after he wrote a series of letters to top Party leaders calling for an end to the persecution of the Falun Gong spiritual practice, following a career spent defending marginalized groups that were persecuted by the Communist Party.

The sentence was apparently suspended for a five year probationary period, but communist mouthpiece, Xinhua claimed that Gao violated the terms of his probation, and so would serve the original sentence.

But it is unclear which of the provisions he may have violated, or how he could possibly have done so.

Laughable pretext

Article 75 of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China says that a criminal whose sentence is suspended must "observe laws and... submit to supervision; report on his own activities...; observe the regulations for receiving visitors...; report to obtain approval from the observing organ for any departure from the city or county he lives in..."

Bob Fu, executive director of ChinaAid, who runs the website FreeGao.com, said at the time: "This is a totally unacceptable and laughable decision, because Gao has been in the custody of Chinese security forces for most of the past five years. How and when could he have committed any crime in violation of his so-called probation?"

Fu said the decision is "nothing more than persecution against a brave human rights lawyer who has already experienced so much torture and abuse."

In his 2006 memoir <u>A China More Just</u>, Gao Zhisheng says that the Communist Party uses "the most savage, most immoral, and most illegal means to torture our mothers, torture our wives, torture our children, and torture our brothers and sisters…" after he spent several months investigating the techniques of torture used by the Communist Party against adherents of Falun Gong.

Gao himself came to be on the receiving end of such torture after speaking out.