Albert Einstein Institution Statement

We are concerned by the arrest and trial of the human rights activists Tang Jingling, Yuan Xinting, and Wang Qingying by the Chinese government for distributing publications by Gene Sharp and Robert Helvey, and some by other authors, on the potential of nonviolent action as an alternative to violence.

We urge the unconditional release of these activists.

It is fortunate for China and the Chinese people that these publications about nonviolent action are available.

We were previously positively impressed by the request from the state-owned Central Compilation and Translation Press (CCTP) to reprint our publication *How Nonviolent Struggle Works*. We hoped that this signaled an advance of the Chinese Communist Party’s political perspective.

In a world of extreme violence, we have hoped that information about the substitution of nonviolent means would be widely welcomed. However, to the contrary, sometimes efforts have been made to restrict this knowledge by provoking protestors to switch to self-defeating violence, banning the distribution of explanatory literature about these peaceful means, and jailing persons with such literature.

Apparently there are still some people in China who fear knowledge of nonviolent alternatives. The arrest and imprisonment of individuals with this knowledge is worrying. These arrests could provoke increased protests.

The Albert Einstein Institution is not associated with any political or doctrinal approach. We aim simply to provide educational materials on nonviolent alternatives. We hope that this effort will be joined by others in all societies.

Gene Sharp
Senior Scholar

Jamila Raqib
Executive Director