

## Meet the Chinese Legal Rights Defenders

**Cao Zhi (George), Attorney and M.A. in Law**—Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *Citizen-Republic Magazine* in China, Director of the “Religion and Law Project,” founder of the Salt-and-Light Fellowship (legal-scholar forum), and prominent defense lawyer for cases on religious freedom. Cao received his M.A. in Law from China University of Political Science and Law.

**Dai Jinbo (Floyd), Attorney**—Legal counsel for Chinese house churches in Anhui, Shandong, and other provinces, and expert researcher at Zhongfu Shengshan Cultural Research center.

**Jiang Tianyong (Tim), Attorney**—Veteran human rights lawyer at Beijing Global Law Firm; defense lawyer for Gao Zhisheng, Gongmeng (Open Constitution Initiative), Azih Research Institute of Beijing, and cases exposing HIV/AIDS proliferation, abuse of earthquake victims, violent family planning and religious persecution; Jiang’s license was revoked in May, 2009.

**Zhang Kai (Kevin), Attorney**—Legal associate at the Yijia Law Firm in Beijing for religious persecution cases, defense lawyer for Uyghur Christians Alimujiang Yimiti and Wusiman Yiming in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; Zhang’s license has been revoked since May, 2009.

**Li Fangping, Attorney and M.A. in Law**—Veteran human rights lawyer who has successfully defended more than 10 high-profile social justice cases, including “top ten influential lawsuit of 2007” against Beijing Netcom, suits on health, education, HIV/AIDS, environmental pollution, and precedent-setting cases on legal policy concerning the death penalty, Information Industry and practices of Criminal Law in China. Li has defended famous activists Hu Jia, Shi Weihai, and Chen Guangcheng in court. Li received his M.A. in Law from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 2003.

**Wang Guangze (Jeffrey), M.A. in Philosophy**—Former international journalist for the New York Times, China Legal Daily, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economic Herald; Caijing Media Scholarship recipient, expert on law and political research and online political columnist.

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### CAO Zhi (George) 曹志



Born Aug. 15, 1976

Attorney Cao Zhi earned his Master’s Degree in Law from the China University of Political Science and Law. He currently works with and researches cases promoting social justice and religious freedom. He specializes in cases concerning persecution and abuses of religious freedom. He has fought painstakingly for human rights of the Chinese people in the Taishi Village event, the cement factory closing incident in Henan, and the arrest of human rights lawyers in other cases—by publishing situational comments and articles on his website. Mr. Cao is the Editor-in-Chief of China’s first underground journal focusing on the research of politics and public law using the republicanism theory. He lectured in the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing in January 2007. The founder of *Citizen · Republic* magazine, he is also the editor of the *Rights Protection Manual* for Christians. He serves as Director for “Religion and Law Project” and is the Chief Website Editor for a private research institute, whose mission is to promote religious freedom in mainland China. He founded and leads a Salt-Light Fellowship, a forum for lawyers and scholars that focuses on rule of law and religious freedom. Mr. Cao has published nearly 20 comments, translations and theses.

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### DAI Jinbo (Floyd) 戴金波



Born in October, 1985

Dai Jinbo was born in October, 1985, in Jingmen, Hubei province. He majored in Sociology at the School of Sociology of China University of Political Science and Law, and received his bachelor’s degree in law. In September 2008, he passed the state examination in jurisprudence, and began his tenure at the Zhongfu Shengshan Cultural Research Institute where he still works today. His work at Zhongfu Shengshan Cultural Research Institute primarily entails writing reviews and comments on current affairs, serving as an agent in religious cases, providing legal training and consultation, and organizing conferences, services, and other events. He has also published many commentaries, pen-named Ding Guquan, on the abolishment of the Chinese House Church Alliance by Ministry of Civil Affairs and the refusals of courts to accept religious cases throughout China, such as the Baixiang religious case of Wenzhou and other incidents. Dai became a Christian and was baptized on July 28, 2005. He has since served as an agent in the religious cases in Dongzhi County, Chizhou, Anhui province and other places. He has also gone to house churches in Linyi, Shandong province and other places to help them defend their rights and provide them with legal training. In the academic seminars on the “Democratization and Christianization of China” held at the Institute of Holy Mountain Cultural Studies, he has presented keynote speeches on many occasions, and he carries a deep understanding of the theories and practice of right defense in China.

## JIANG Tianyong 江天勇



*Born in 1971*

Born in Henan, veteran Chinese human rights Attorney Jiang Tianyong worked on the frontlines of the religious freedom cases for years. Mr. Jiang currently lives in the Haidan District of Beijing with his wife and daughter. His family has been repeatedly threatened, detained, and held under close government surveillance because of Jiang's defense work. He left his work teaching at a middle school in Henan province to engage human rights work in 2004 at the Beijing Globe Law-firm. In 2005, he obtained his attorney's license and began his practice. Taking on a large number of high-profile sensitive human rights cases, both individually and with BG associates, he was inspected thoroughly by the Beijing Bureau of Justice during the annual license renewal and evaluation process in 2006, 2008, and 2009.

Starting in 2006, he has been repeatedly placed under house arrest for the June 4 anniversaries, October 1, the Beijing Olympics and state visits by important diplomats.

Attn. Jiang's license was officially revoked in June of 2009, ending his tenure at Beijing Global Law Firm.

In 2006, Jiang defended cases of migrant workers, human rights attorney Gao Zhisheng, victims of violent family planning policies in Linyi, and Chen Guangchen's case. He was repeatedly harassed and threatened by the secret police of Domestic Security Protection Squad of Beijing for defending these victims in court. The authorities alternately threatened and tried to bribe him to make him stop. Under government surveillance, Jiang was forbidden to travel to sensitive regions, especially to defend these cases in their respective provincial home courts. Jiang was evicted from his home, his wife threatened, and his license was delayed that year. He was illegally stalked for defending Gao Zhisheng and placed under house arrest for five months. At the year's end, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice illegally forced him and the law firm to write a statement of guarantees.

In 2008, Jiang Tianyong began providing legal assistance to people sentenced to re-education through labor and HIV carriers. He provided legal support for the well-known Aizhi Research Institute of Beijing, and Open Constitution Initiative (Gongmeng-OCI). After the March 14 Incident in Tibet, he signed a declaration expressing his willingness to represent the arrested Tibetans. Later that year, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Justice froze his attorney license, in an attempt to break his spirit, and tried to force him to sign incriminating false documents. Jiang refused. After widespread concerns from people both in China and abroad, he finally passed the annual inspection and registration on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

From July 2008 to May 2009, Mr. Jiang defended cases ranging from Falun Gong, HIV carriers in defending their rights, and earthquake victims (Hong Chun case), to Tibetans (Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche the living Buddha and Jigma Lama). Mr Jiang was also intensely persecuted for participating in the direct election of Beijing Lawyers Association, the first democratic election for leadership in a trade association previously appointed by the Beijing government. The Beijing Global law firm was pressured not to renew his contract. The majority of Chinese human rights attorneys who strictly adhered to law failed to pass the annual 2009 exam, and had to stop working on ongoing cases, leaving their clients without representation. Mr. Jiang Tianyong and other human rights attorneys have appealed to the Bureau of Justice for their licenses but have not heard an official response.

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## ZHANG Kai (Kevin) 张凯



*Born October 27, 1979*

Attorney Zhang Kai works for the Yijia Law Firm in Beijing. He has represented numerous religious freedom cases, and was also provided legal assistance in the cases of Alimujiang Yimiti and Wusiman Yiming in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. In May 2009, he experienced physical harassment, detention, and interrogation by police after visiting a client. His law license was refused for renewal in May 2009. With lawyer Li Chunfu, he submitted a statement to the Congressional-Executive Commission on China in July 2009 for the July 10 roundtable, "China's Human Rights Lawyers: Current Challenges and Prospects."

## LI Fangping 李方平



Born November 21, 1974

Li Fangping studied law at Nanchang University from September 1992 through July 1996. In 2003, he graduated with a Master Degree's in Law from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. In his renowned career as a lawyer, he has focused on legal assistance cases, commonwealth lawsuits, and citizen proposals for the advent of improving the status of minority communities, and promoting human rights according to the law.

Attorney Li has been the sole advocate for many minority groups that have sought representation under Chinese law. Early in his career, Li filed the claim for civil compensation for several victims in Hebei, Xingtai, who were infected with HIV via blood transfusion from a government-run blood bank. This case was selected to be one of the premier law events in Hebei Province. He represented the first case regarding HBV discrimination in Tianjin in 2006, a case selected to be one of the top ten influential lawsuits of China in 2006.

Attorney Li also defended victims of "4.10" environment pollution event in Dongyang, Zhejiang Province, and led the appealing for two victims who were sentenced with death penalty in Chengde, Hebei province and Jieyang, Guangdong province. He has defended high-profile social activists Li Xige, Shi Weihan, Hu Jia, and Cheng Guangcheng, as well as social activists for HIV/AIDS and Hemophilia issues with government-run blood donation banks.

Li Fangping is also well-known in China for suing Beijing Netcom in 2007, to reduce the public charge of net surfing. This case was selected to be the top one of "the top ten influential lawsuits" of the China Law Blue Book in 2007. He sued the Beijing Subway Company in 2007, filing the claim for constructing the barrier-free facility for the disabled, which was the first lawsuit in respect of barrier-free facility in China.

Many of his commonweal citizen proposals have been reported on in *Nanfang Weekly*, *Legal Daily*, *China Youth*, *China Times*, *News Weekly*, etc. Below is selection of these Citizen Proposals:

- To abolish the unequal treatment between people from city and from the rural areas
- To reform the legal application of the death penalty
- To improve the method of dealing with the Nanyang Education Group appropriately
- To improve the method of dealing with the migrant school appropriately
- To eliminate discrimination against patients with Hepatitis B
- To review the 15 laws and regulations which would lead to discriminate HBV
- Application for the Information and Industry Ministry to deal with the monopoly between China Telecom and China Netcom
- To Address several problems about the application and precedent of Criminal Law.

Li Fangping has spoken to delegations and at conferences and panels worldwide for his precedent-setting legal work.

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## Wang Guangze (Jeffrey) 王光泽



Born June 20, 1972

Wang Guangze obtained his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Law from Henan University in 1994. Intrigued by the differences between Chinese and Western culture, he pursued his master's degree in Philosophy at the People's University, Beijing, completing his thesis in 1998. After graduation, he worked as a journalist at *China Legal Daily*, a CCP-run newspaper, for five and half years. However his passion in law and politics changed the course of his promising career in media. At the end of 2003, Wang Guangze and Yu Jie wrote a petition entitled "Move Mao Zedong's Body to His Hometown," gaining the signatures of more than thirty Chinese intellectuals. He has further signed various petitions to advocate protecting Chinese human rights and promoting Chinese political system reform.

After the Tiananmen massacre in 1989, Wang Guangze decided to dedicate his life to promoting the democratization of China. In 1999, the members of Chinese Democratic Party (CDP), an opposition party to the CCP, were arrested and prosecuted. Mr. Wang provided them with legal assistance, and was consequently prohibited from interviewing sources for three years. As a result, his employment was terminated at the *China Legal Daily*. After that, he worked for *21st Century Economic Herald* (nicknamed

"the Chinese Wall Street Journal"). After a few months, he was promoted to the Editorial committee. Working as a Chinese political and law expert, he was interviewed by VOA, BBC, RFA, and other overseas media, and was awarded the Caijing Scholarship in 2003, by Beijing University and *Caijing Magazine*—the most prestigious media scholarship in China.

On December 3, 2004, Mr. Wang Gaungze was invited by the 21st Century Chinese Democratic Fund as a Chinese representative to give a speech on Chinese politics at an academic conference, called "Ethnic Relations during the Information Age," an event which was reported widely by various American media. After the conference, he was invited to speak at American University and Flushing Library in New York. He further visited the CECC, NED, VOA, RFA, HRC and RSF. Upon his return to China after speaking at Trinity College in 2004, he was dismissed by the *21st Century Economic Herald*, for speaking on sensitive issues to Western media.

He was hired as a China issue researcher at the Beijing Office of *New York Times*. In 2006, Mr. Wang was nominated as candidate for the "Annual 100 Outstanding Global Chinese Intellectuals" by Chinese citizens. He co-founded an NGO named CRT (China Reconciliation Think-tank) in 2007, similar to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, serving as the coordinator and spokesman in mainland China. Mr. Wang contributes regularly to four political columns in China, and continues to promote religious freedom and democracy through the internet and other media.