

# PETITIONERS IN CHINA

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中国人权  
**HRIC**  
HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA

## On International Women's Day 2008 sign a petition expressing your support for Mao Hengfeng and petitioners in China!

**Government officials, police and hired thugs use a number of tactics in order to restrict petitioners in China:**

- **Detention in “black jails”** – Inmates in these extralegal prisons suffer in cramped, unhygienic environments suffering beatings and even torture from guards.
- **Intercepting petitioners** – Petitioners are detained by officials and hired thugs from their local province and forcibly returned home.
- **Surveillance of petitioners** – Petitioners are heavily monitored, subject to police raids, and can be placed under house arrest if deemed a threat.
- **Detention of family members** – The families of petitioners are often detained as a form of punishment for their actions.
- **Reeducation-Through-Labor** – Officials avoid the checks and balances of the court system by sending petitioners to heavy labor as a punishment for their actions.
- **Forcible placement in psychiatric institutions (RTL)** – Petitioners are silenced by being sent to psychiatric hospitals, where they suffer shock therapy and are forced to take powerful drugs.

**All of these tactics increase in frequency in the lead up and during major political, social and sporting events.**

**The Olympics provides another threat to petitioners who are exercising their lawful rights.**

**Take action and support the lawful rights of petitioners in China as the 2008 Beijing Olympics approach.**