

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



**ZHANG ZHAN  
CHINA**

**REPORTING ON COVID-19 GOT  
HER LOCKED UP**

# ZHANG ZHAN, CHINA

When Wuhan – then the centre of the Covid-19 outbreak in China – went into lockdown, Zhang Zhan was one of the few citizen journalists to report on the unfolding crisis.

Determined to get the truth out, the former lawyer travelled to the beleaguered city in February 2020. She took to social media, reporting how government officials had detained independent reporters and harassed families of Covid-19 patients. Citizen journalists were the only source of uncensored, first-hand information about the epidemic.

Working independently of state-controlled media, citizen journalists face constant harassment for exposing information the government would rather keep quiet.

Zhang Zhan went missing in Wuhan in May 2020. Authorities later confirmed that she had been held by police in Shanghai, 640km away. In June 2020, she began a hunger strike to protest her detention. In December, her body was so weak she had to attend her court hearing in a wheelchair. The judge sentenced her to four years in prison for “picking quarrels and provoking trouble”.

Zhang Zhan was transferred to Shanghai Women’s Prison in March 2021. The authorities continue to refuse her family visits. “We should seek the truth and seek it at all costs,” Zhang Zhan has said. “Truth has always been the most expensive thing in the world. It is our life.”

**Tell China to free Zhang Zhan immediately.**

## WRITE TO CHINA’S AUTHORITIES

Tell them to release Zhang Zhan immediately and unconditionally.

**TO:** President of the People’s Republic of China

**ADDRESS:**

Zhongnanhai, Xichang’anjie  
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017  
People’s Republic of China

**EMAIL:** english@mail.gov.cn

**SALUTATION:** Dear President

REPORT YOUR LETTERS AT [WRITE.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/IMPACT](https://write.amnestyusa.org/impact)

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## SHOW ZHANG ZHAN SHE’S NOT ALONE

Send her a message of hope, such as: Zhang Zhan, your dedication to reporting the truth will continue to inspire others. We will continue to support you and look forward to the day you regain freedom. Keep your spirits up!

**SIMPLIFIED CHINESE:**

张展, 您坚持真相的坚持将会激励他人。  
我们会支持和关注您。  
我期待您重获自由的一天。  
加油!

**TO:** Zhang Zhan

**ADDRESS:**

No 1601, Zhangjing Road, Sijing Zhen  
Songjiang Qu, Shanghai 201601  
People’s Republic of China

*\*To increase the chances of Zhang Zhan actually receiving your message, please do not mention Amnesty International anywhere in it.*

**FOR SOCIAL MEDIA, PLEASE USE:**

#ZHANGZHAN #张展

#FREEZHANGZHAN #放张展