

Editorial

Li Wangyang's Mysterious Death Must Be Looked Into

LI WANGYANG was a name strange to Hong Kong people before his interview with i-Cable was aired on June 2, when we learned that this Hunan activist served two terms of imprisonment adding up to a total of 21 years because of his involvement in the June 4 incident. The interview opened our eyes to the shocking fact that, throughout China, there must be numerous people who, like Li, have suffered long-term imprisonment – or even now are still in prison – because of the incident 23 years ago.

Twice imprisoned, Li talked in the interview about the torture he was subjected to. For instance, he was cuffed with tailor-made handcuffs which were forcibly fastened with the help of a pair of pliers, and this was like clamping the wrist bones with the pliers. When he was discharged from prison in May 2011, Li, who measured more than six feet in height and was

formerly heavily built, was reduced to a man who was deaf and blind and had difficulty moving about. He had to be looked after. However, during the interview, Li still expressed a passionate craving for democracy, and demanded a reversion of the official verdict on the June 4 incident.

It is simply illogical that a man who could endure the ordeal of prolonged imprisonment and the pain of torture would hang himself in the relative comfort of a hospital after leaving prison. Moreover, before his death, he told his sister again and again to buy him a radio so that he might do some listening exercise, which shows that despite hardships he was determined to help himself. Judging by his character and mental state, Li was not one to commit suicide.

And the photographs taken at the scene showing Li's body hanging by the window frame pose several serious questions to the credibility of the suicide claim.

With those questions unanswered, the police's insistence that Li had committed suicide appears unconvincing. As Li was found dead after his interview with i-Cable, it is a logical deduction that his death had to do with the interview.

In the name of maintaining stability, the mainland authorities are using enormous resources to keep dissidents under long-term surveillance. Blind human rights activist Chen Guangcheng, who is now in America, managed to slip past the security guards monitoring him in Dongshigu village, but despite his concrete accusations, those guards have so far gone unpunished. And for his interview with i-Cable, Li also managed to shake off the security guards following him. Could it be that the guards, infuriated by this, took revenge on him? The real cause of Li's death may lie in the answer to this question.

Seeing how Li's body was attached to the window

frame, most people, in mainland China as well as overseas, believe that he had been killed in revenge, and then some people, trying to hide their guilt, faked a suicide by hanging. If such suspicions are correct, the case is very serious since this could not have been the work of an individual, but must have been the work of a group involving at least the state security police and the hospital. It is really horrifying if, instead of being an institution dedicated to save people, a hospital can be party to a murder. And if maintaining stability now means taking unscrupulous measures that do not exclude murder, then China's stability must be in imminent danger.

To dispel unnecessary suspicions, the mainland authorities should look into the case thoroughly and disclose the findings to the public.

 聲檔 english.mingpao.com/critic.htm

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李旺陽離奇掛屍 湖南須徹查交代

李旺陽對港人而言，是一個陌生名字，本月2日有線電視播出他的訪問之後，港人才知道湖南有這個因為六四事件，先後兩次共坐牢21年的人，使人驚覺在全國各地，像李旺陽被長期監禁、甚或未獲釋放的人，不知道還有多少。

李旺陽兩次陷獄，據他在訪問中披露被折磨情況，其中獄方給他戴土製的手銬，用鉗子強力一夾接合，等如鉗子直接夾在手腕上，2011年5月出獄時，身高逾6呎，本來壯碩的李旺陽，已被折磨至失明失聰和行動不便，需要別人照料才可以生活。但是在訪問中，李旺陽仍表現出對民主的熱切追求，要求平反六四。

一個可以忍受牢獄折磨、酷刑痛楚的人，出獄後

卻在較舒適的醫院自縊，並不合理，而且李旺陽死前，還再三囑咐妹妹買收音機給他，讓他鍛煉聽力，顯示他在逆境中，仍然追求改善生活。所以，就個人心理和狀態而言，看不到李旺陽有尋死迹象。

至於從李旺陽掛屍窗欄的現場圖片所見，有幾大疑點和不合理之處，公安人員則一口咬定他「自殺」，但是在種種疑點面前，公安人員的說法並無說服力。而李旺陽之死，是在接受有線電視採訪之後，所以他的死與這次採訪有關，是合理推論。

內地當局以維穩之名，耗費大量人力物力長期監控異見人士，已赴美的失明維權人士陳光誠擺脫監控人員，雖然他作了具體指控，但是迄今東師古村

的監控人員，未見有人被整頓。當日，李旺陽擺脫監控人員才得以接受有線電視訪問，這樣會否激怒監控人員而報復，或許是事態關鍵。

李旺陽掛屍之後，知道現場情況的人，包括內地和海外，大多認為李旺陽遭報復致死，然後有人製造李旺陽自縊的表象，以圖過關。若這個推論符合事實，性質非常嚴重，不會是個人做法，而是集體行為，起碼涉及國保和醫院；試想想，醫院本應是救急扶危之所，假如竟然成為配合殺人之地，實在太恐怖了。另外，設若維穩演變至不擇手段地包括殺人，則使人警覺中國的穩定就走到危險邊緣。

為了使人對李旺陽之死不作太多聯想，適當做法是當局徹查事態真相，然後公之於世。

Glossary

ordeal /ɔ:'di:l/
a difficult and unpleasant experience

surveillance /sɜ:'veɪləns/
the act of carefully watching a person suspected of a crime or a place where a crime may be committed