

### **Activist Hu Jia Arrested in Beijing: Number of Jailed Writers Rises to 42**

The arrest last week of high-profile activist and blogger Hu Jia in Beijing is raising concerns that the Chinese government may be ratcheting up its efforts to control internal dissent in the months leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Hu Jia, a freelance reporter and blogger, civil rights, environmental and AIDS activist based in Beijing, was arrested at his home in Beijing on December 27th and is now being held incommunicado on charges of “suspicion of inciting subversion of state power.” Hu had continued to speak out and post his vocal critiques of human rights abuses and environmental degradation in China despite being confined to virtual house arrest since May 18, 2007. He recently testified to the European Union via webcam, calling the Olympics a “human rights disaster.”

His arrest came days after Chinese authorities detained several members of the Independent Chinese PEN Center and forced the cancellation of an awards dinner the group was planning in Beijing, and two weeks after Wang Dejie, another well-known human rights defender and cyber-dissident was jailed after criticizing the pre-Olympics human rights climate in China.

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