

**STRENGTHENING JUVENILE
RIGHTS OR DOING THE OPPOSITE:
THE LEGAL MYSTERIES OF THE
CHINESE JUVENILE JUSTICE
SYSTEM BEHIND THE “LI GANG-
RAPE CASE”**

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After a three-decade expansion since 1984, the Chinese juvenile justice, largely seen as a subsystem of general criminal justice, has reached a good scale, and the idea of “giving priority to education and supplementing it with punishment” has served as a fundamental principle. Encouraged by this, government officials have enacted more legal provisions to safeguard juvenile offenders’ rights. However, the one-sided principle of education first and punishment second often ignores legitimate requests arising from victims and the general public. In effect, this philosophy not only draws criticism to juveniles’ rights, it may also undermine fairness and justice in society as a whole. Advocating for and establishing a unified specialized juvenile justice system is unavoidable. Restorative approaches must be introduced to focus on juvenile offender

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accountability, offender competency development,
and community protection.