

June 2000	Lu Hongfu is employed by Qingxing Powder Machinery Co., Ltd., a Sino-Japanese joint venture in Yixing city, Jiangsu province, doing odd jobs in a chemical micropowders workshop and working as an assistant painter.
August 2001	Lu Hongfu shows symptoms of dizzy spells, vomiting, bleeding gums and night sweats.
October 2001	Lu Hongfu's symptoms worsen and the First Affiliated Hospital of Suzhou University diagnoses him with acute myeloid leukaemia.
February 2002	An oncologist at First Affiliated Hospital of Suzhou University proposes a "sibling allogeneic bone marrow transplantation" or an "autologous peripheral hematopoietic stem cell transplantation". The first treatment costs 300,000 yuan; the second 200,000 yuan. Qingxing Co. refuses to pay for either treatment.
February 2002	Lu Hongfu applies for an occupational illness appraisal.
27 March 2003	Lu Hongfu's father Lu Guoqiang asks Qingxing Co. for help but his request is rejected by a Japanese manager. In a fit of anger, Lu Guoqiang overturns the manager's desk and is locked up by the local public security bureau for 15 days.
12 April 2002	The first deputy mayor of Yixing city endorses Lu Hongfu's application for an occupational illness appraisal and sends it on to the Yixing Municipal Public Health and Epidemic Prevention Station. But the application is never acted upon.
13 June 2002	Lu Hongfu applies to the Yixing Labour Dispute Arbitration Committee for arbitration and requests that his illness be certified as an occupational disease.
7 June 2002	The Yixing Labour Dispute Arbitration Committee refuses to hear the case on the ground that "the request that we certify that this case of acute myeloid leukaemia is an occupational illness caused by exposure to a hazardous work environment is hereby rejected because determining this question does not fall within the jurisdiction of this committee".
21 June 2002	Lu Hongfu files a lawsuit against Qingxing Co. in the Yixing Municipal Court for compensation for medical expenses, food expenses, nursing expenses, accommodation expenses and psychological damages totalling 590,000 yuan.
30 July 2002	The Yixing Municipal Court issues civil ruling (2002)

	<p>Yi-Min-Su-Zi No. 4, finding that the labour dispute between Lu Hongfu and Qingxing Co. may only be brought to court after it has gone through arbitration and that for this reason, "this court rejects this lawsuit".</p>
	<p>Lu Hongfu and Lu Guoqiang refuse to accept the Yixing Municipal Court's ruling and file an appeal with the Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court.</p>
26 September 2002	<p>The Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court issues civil ruling (2002) Xi-Min-Zhong-Zi No. 005, which finds that this is a labour dispute case. The Wuxi court also reverses Yixing Municipal Court's civil ruling (2002) Yi-Min-Su-Zi No. 4 and orders it to hear the case, which had already been rejected by the Yixing Labour Dispute Arbitration Committee.</p>
6 November 2002	<p>The Yixing Municipal Court sends a letter to Qingxing Co. instructing it to examine the evidence in this case.</p>
5 December 2002	<p>The Yixing Municipal Court issues civil ruling (2002) Yi-Min-Yi-Zi No. 4105, suspending the trial on the ground that "the health administration departments of Jiangsu province have not yet approved medical institutions to diagnose occupational illnesses in that province and it has therefore so far been impossible to appraise whether Lu Hongfu suffers from occupational leukaemia."</p>
7 April 2003	<p>Lu Hongfu's leukaemia has progressed to a critical stage. The Yixing Municipal Court commissions the Jiangsu Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to appraise whether Lu is suffering from an occupational illness. The centre concludes: "we think that at present it is impossible to confirm or rule out that this is a case of occupational leukaemia."</p>
4 May 2003	<p>Lu Hongfu dies of his illness, having run up medical bills of 250,000 yuan.</p>
26 May 2003	<p>The Yixing Municipal Court issues civil ruling (2002) Yi-Min-Yi-Chu-Zi No. 4105, finding that because an occupational illness appraisal of Lu Hongfu's illness has not yet been conducted, Lu may not directly institute legal proceedings in this court. The court therefore rejects the request for a lawsuit.</p>
	<p>Lu Guoqiang files an appeal with the Wuxi Municipal</p>

	Intermediate Court.
21 July 2003	The Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court issues civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zai-Zhong-Zi No. 412 , which finds that Lu Hongfu must first complete the preliminary procedure of an occupational illness diagnosis and appraisal and may not appeal this case directly to this court. The court therefore rejects the appeal and upholds the Yixing Municipal Court's civil ruling (2002) Yi-Min-Yi-Chu-Zi No. 4105 .
	Luo Guoqiang submits a retrial application to the Wuxi Intermediate Court.
4 December 2003	The Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court issues notification (2003) Xi-Min-Jian-Zi No. 216 , disallowing the request for a new trial and upholding its own civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zai-Zhong-Zi No. 412 . The court orders Lu Guoqiang to drop his request for a new trial.
	Lu Guoqiang refuses to accept Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court's civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zhong-Zi No. 412 , and files an application for a retrial with the Jiangsu Provincial Higher Court.
13 July 2004	The Jiangsu Provincial Higher Court issues notification (2004) Su-Min-Yi-Jian-Zhi-Zi No. 034 , informing Lu Guoqiang that the court has decided to order the Suzhou Municipal Intermediate Court to file and review civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zai-Zhong-Zi No. 412 , which Lu Guoqiang had refused to accept.
13 September 2004	The Suzhou Municipal Intermediate Court issues notification (2004) Su-Zhong-Min-Yi-Jian-Zi No. 0034 , informing Lu Guoqiang that the court has decided to file and review the case.
20 December 2004	The Suzhou Municipal Intermediate Court issues notification (2004) Su-Zhong-Min-Yi-Jian No. 034 , stating that because Lu Hongfu had not completed the occupational illness diagnosis and appraisal procedure, Lu Guoqiang could not directly institute legal proceedings in court. Therefore, "there was nothing improper in the court of first instance's rejection of the lawsuit".
	Because he refuses to accept the Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court's civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zai-Zhong-Zi No. 412 , Lu

	Guoqiang lodges an appeal with the Yixing Municipal Procuratorate.
30 July 2005	The Yixing Municipal People's Procuratorate issues notification (2005) Yi-Jian-Min-Xing-Li-Tong-Zi No. 25 , regarding its decision to file and review the case.
14 November 2005	The Jiangsu Provincial People's Procuratorate issues prosecutorial protest (<i>minshi kangsushu</i>) (2005) Min-Shi-Kang-Su-Shu No. 148 , stating that the factual findings and application of the law in the Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court's civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zhong-Zi No. 412 were inappropriate. The procuratorate therefore rejects the intermediate court's decision that the Lu family "must first complete the relevant preliminary procedure and may not appeal this case directly to the Court" and argues that it is inappropriate to continue to demand that an occupational appraisal be conducted.
27 February 2006	The Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court in Jiangsu issues civil ruling (2006) Xi-Min-Yi-Jian-Zi No. 0010 , deciding to retry the case that had resulted in its civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zhong-Zi No. 412 , which Lu Guoqiang had refused to accept.
16 August 2005	The Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court subpoenas Lu Guoqiang to discuss his case. The court proposes a mediation procedure to reach a mediated settlement with Qingxing Co. Lu agrees to the mediation but proposes that Qingxing Co. reimburse him for medical expenses and give due consideration to reimbursing him for the expenses he has incurred during the more than five years he and his son spent trying to resolve this problem. The court thinks that Qingxing Co. cannot accept this.
October 2006	The Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court convokes Lu Guoqiang and representatives of Qingxing Co. to a mediation meeting. Qingxing Co. proposes to pay a compensation of 50,000 yuan and demands that Lu withdraw his lawsuit. Lu Guoqiang rejects this proposal.
6 November 2006	The Wuxi Municipal Intermediate Court issues civil ruling (2006) Xi-Min-Zai-Zhong-Zi No. 0015 , upholding its earlier civil ruling (2003) Xi-Min-Zhong-Zi No. 412 .
March 2007	The Wuxi Municipal Politics and Law Committee dispatches local public security, procuratorate, and court officials to Lu Guoqiang's

	home to persuade him to agree to Qingxing Co.'s mediation settlement proposal, but Lu rejects this proposal. The officials warn him not to contact the foreign media.
June 2007	Under the supervision of the Yixing Municipal Petitions Bureau, Lu Guoqiang and Qingxing Co. conclude a written "agreement" in which Qingxing Co. undertakes to pay Lu a compensation of 93,000 yuan, to be paid in installments, with the precondition that Lu pledges not make any further petitions to the authorities.