

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/037/2004

09 August 2004

Further Information on UA 221/04 (ASA 17/035/2004, 14 July 2004) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment/medical concern

CHINA **Wang Guofeng (m)**
 Li Suzhi (f)

New names: Li Dan (m)
 Pan Zhongfeng (m)
 Fan Zhenbang (m)

Wang Guofeng and Li Suzhi have been released. According to Li Suzhi, the couple were detained for sending children to the school established by their fellow HIV/AIDS activist Li Dan for children whose parents were HIV-positive or who had died of AIDS.

Li Dan himself was reportedly detained on 8 August by local officials in Zhecheng county, Henan province, and is now held at an undisclosed location. He had been preparing to travel to nearby Shuangmiao village to meet other activists and people with HIV/AIDS who were planning protests over the Chinese government's handling of the epidemic. A colleague who was detained with him was released shortly afterwards.

Li Suzhi told reporters that she and her husband had each been fed a single plain roll at meal times, with nothing else but water. She said they had both lost a lot of weight and were too weak to walk.

The two HIV/AIDS activists arrested on 9 July are now known to be Pan Zhongfeng and Fan Zhenbang. They are believed to be held in a detention centre in Zhecheng county, Henan province. They have reportedly been accused of leading a group of people into a hospital in Henan earlier this year and taking away equipment to protest at the lack of support for AIDS patients in the province. It is not known whether they have been formally charged.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese or your own language:

- asking to be told where Li Dan is held and urging the authorities to release him unless he is to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure that he has unrestricted access to a lawyer, his family and medical treatment while he remains in custody;
- expressing concern that Li Dan appears to have been detained solely for peaceful activities and urging the authorities to ensure that all human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear of arbitrary detention, harassment or other abuses;
- welcoming the release of Wang Guofeng and Li Suzhi, but expressing deep concern that they appear to have been detained arbitrarily and were not given adequate food in custody;
- asking to be told what charges Pan Zhongfeng and Fan Zhenbang are facing, and stating that they should be released immediately unless charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that they have access to a lawyer of their choosing and their families, as well as adequate medical attention, food and water while they remain in detention.

APPEALS TO:

Director of the Henan Provincial Department of Justice

Guo Junfeng Tingzhang

Sifating

8 Jingsilu

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Henansheng

People's Republic of China

Fax: + 86 371 590 6385

Salutation: Dear Director

Premier of the People's Republic of China

Premier Wen Jiabao

Guowuyuan, 9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Fax: + 86 10 6596 3374

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Mayor of Shangqiu City People's Government

Mao Fenglan Shizhang

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and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 September 2004.