

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 262/91 (ASA 17/46/91, 26 July 1991 and follow-ups ASA 17/49/91, 6 August 1991 and ASA 17/51/91, 19 August 1991) - Solitary Confinement/Health Concern/Ill-Treatment

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC): Wang Juntao
 Chen Ziming
 Ren Wanding
 Bao Zunxin
 Wang Dan
 Liu Gang

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) has reported that prisoners of conscience, Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming who started a hunger-strike on 13 August 1991 have begun to eat again. The men who were imprisoned for 13 years for their involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests started their hunger-strike in protest against their prison conditions. Amnesty International remains concerned about their physical well-being and that of three other prisoners of conscience who continue to be held in solitary confinement at Beijing Prison no. 2.

In the first official acknowledgement that Wang Juntao is suffering from hepatitis the NCNA reported on 31 August 1991 that Dr Mo Yishan, Head of the Central Hospital of the Beijing Reform-through-Labour Administration, had said that Wang Juntao showed signs of "a hepatitis relapse" and that he had subsequently been sent for treatment to a better hospital. It also quoted Li Jinghai, Deputy Director of Beijing Prison no. 2, and Dr Mo as saying that, since they were moved to solitary confinement in early April 1991, Wang Juntao had had five medical examinations and Chen Ziming had had three.

Wang Juntao, Chen Ziming, Bao Zunxin, Ren Wanding and Wang Dan are still being held in solitary confinement in Beijing Prison no. 2. In an article published on 30 August 1991, officials from the Ministry of Justice are quoted as saying "...for the time being Wang and others are put in single cells so that they can familiarize themselves with the prison regulations and reflect on their crimes for further remoulding". The same report also said that they are being allowed to meet members of their families every month and have access to books sent in by their relatives with permission from the prison authorities. Wang Dan who had reportedly been suffering from a throat ailment has now been "cured".

It is reported that Chen Ziming's wife was allowed to visit him in prison last week but she had to sign a guarantee that she would not violate prison regulations. This is probably to ensure that she does not publicise any news about her husband. The wife of Wang Juntao is still seeking permission to see her husband. Wang Juntao's wife has recently been ill in hospital and was receiving medical treatment for a reported heart condition.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Liu Gang, a prisoner of conscience, sentenced to six years' imprisonment in February 1991 has been transferred from Beijing Prison no. 2 to a prison in north-east China and is no longer being held in solitary confinement. However it is not known where Liu Gang is being held.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Wang Juntao, Chen Ziming, Bao Zunxin, Ren Wanding and Wang Dan are still being held in solitary confinement;

- urging that, until such time that they are released, they be held in accordance with agreed international standards, in particular the provisions of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

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- expressing concern that all five prisoners named above are held for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of association and expression and urging that they be released unconditionally.

APPEALS TO:

1.

Minister of Justice:

CAI Cheng Buzhang

[Salutation: Your Excellency]

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2.

Director of Reform-through-Labour:

YAO Yunhui Juzhang

[Salutation: Dear Sir]

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3.

Beijing Municipal Procurator:

HE Fangba Jianchazhang

[Salutation: Dear Sir]

Beijingshi Renmin Jianchayuan

Beijingshi

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China Daily (an English-language newspaper)

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Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of The People's Republic of China in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 21 October 1991.