

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 17/61/95

UA 208/95 Prisoners of conscience / Fear of further arrests 24 August 1995

PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA Ding Zilin (f), university professor, human rights
activist
Jiang Peikun, her husband

On 18 August 1995 Ding Zilin and her husband, Jiang Peikun, were arrested in Wuxi city, Jiangsu province, and reportedly accused of "economic irregularities". Amnesty International believes that this accusation is unfounded and fears that their detention may mark the beginning of a campaign by the Chinese authorities to keep dissidents out of the way during the forthcoming Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women.

Ding Zilin, a professor at the People's University in Beijing whose son was killed on 3 June 1989 in Tiananmen Square, has been outspoken in her campaigning on behalf of the families of those killed or injured during the suppression of the 1989 pro-democracy movement. In May 1995 she initiated a public appeal, signed by 26 other relatives of victims of the June 1989 crackdown, calling for a "fair and independent" investigation into the suppression of the pro-democracy protests. Ding Zilin has also collected information from families of others killed in the June 1989 suppression in efforts to persuade the government to change the verdict on the student protests which the authorities have branded as "counter revolutionary".

A source has reported that although the charge against Ding Zilin and Jiang Peikun relates to "economic irregularities", the real reason for the arrest was to prevent Ding Zilin from making contact with the women from all over the world who will be attending the Beijing Conference. It is not, however, believed that she was planning to attend, as she had not registered for the event.

The arrests follow the execution of at least 16 people in Beijing which officials said were carried out in order to ensure "public order" during the Conference. This conforms to a general pattern of mass arrests by the Chinese authorities in the run up to major international events and anniversaries in China. Earlier this year, over 50 people were arrested prior to the sixth anniversary of the suppression of the democracy protests in June 1989.

Amnesty International fears that the arrest of Ding Zilin and her husband, who is himself not known to have been involved in any form of human rights protest, may mark the beginning of further arrests of activists in the week leading up to the United Nations Conference. Beijing is expecting an estimated 40,000 foreign visitors during the Conference which will last from 30 August to 15 September. The forthcoming arrival of such a large number of international delegates, for the first conference of this type ever held in China, has led the Chinese authorities to strengthen security measures in the capital.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters in Chinese, English or your own language:

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ding Zilin and Jiang Peikun as prisoners of conscience;
- seeking assurances that no further dissidents will be detained in the run-up to, and during, the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women.

APPEALS TO:

Vice-Minister of Public Security
Member of the Organizing Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women
TIAN Qiyu fubuzhang
Gong'anbu
14 Dongchang'anlu
Beijingshi 100741
Peoples Republic of China
Telegrams: Vice-Minister Public Security, Beijing, China
Salutation: Dear Minister

Premier of the People's Republic of China

LI Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Faxes: + 86 10 512 5810 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs); 512 0309

Telegram: Premier Li Peng, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

XIAO Yang Buzhang

Sifabu

Xiaguangli

Beijingshi 100016

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN (Please forward to Xiao Yang Buzhang)

Faxes: + 8610 467 7351

Telegram: Minister of Justice Xiao Yang, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of State Security of the People's Republic of China

JIA Chunwang Anquanbuzhang

14 Dongchang'anlu

Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Minister of State Security Jia Chunwang, Beijing, China

Salutation: Dear Minister

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Beijing Ribao

34 Xibiaobei Hutong

Dongdan

Beijingshi

Peoples Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 October 1995.