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**Health Concern**

**12 October 1990**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: BAO Zunxin**

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Bao Zunxin, an intellectual imprisoned without charge in Beijing since July 1989, is reported to have attempted to commit suicide twice in prison, according to information which reached Amnesty International on 11 October. He was arrested during the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters which started in June last year, and Amnesty International has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience. He is reported to suffer from high blood pressure and a heart disease for which he must take medicines every day. The reasons for his reported attempts to commit suicide are not known.

It was reported in July that Bao Zunxin's wife had had no news of him since 24 January 1990. She had been previously allowed to correspond with him and was granted permission to see him for the first time on 24 January on the occasion of the Chinese New Year. However, all communications stopped after that date and she received no further news of him.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Bao Zunxin is detained at Qincheng, a maximum security prison for political prisoners located north of Beijing, but little is known of the conditions in which he is held. It is known, however, that many intellectuals and student leaders held there have been put under duress - and some tortured - to force them to "confess" during interrogation.

Before his arrest, Bao Zunxin was a researcher at the Institute of Chinese History of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), as well as a member of the Chinese Communist Party, magazine editor and the author of many books.

Shortly after his arrest, all his books were banned, he was fired from his post at the CASS and expelled from the Party.

Since June 1989, he has been mentioned on several occasions by the Chinese official media as one of the intellectuals whom the authorities regard as being responsible for encouraging the 1989 students' unrest and "counter-revolutionary turmoil". He took an active part in the pro-democracy movement, signing public appeals and petitions issued by a group of intellectuals. He had previously joined in an appeal for the release of political prisoners in China, which was addressed to the authorities by 42 leading Chinese academics in February 1989.

Amnesty International is concerned that Bao Zunxin has been arbitrarily imprisoned without charge or trial for over a year for peacefully expressing his views and that his life may be in danger due to the conditions of his imprisonment. It is calling on the Chinese authorities to investigate his situation without delay, to provide him with all necessary medical treatment, and to release him unconditionally.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at reports that Bao Zunxin has attempted to commit suicide in prison, possibly due to his conditions of detention, and that he suffers from a heart complaint and high blood pressure for which he needs regular medication;
- expressing concern that Bao Zunxin has been arbitrarily detained for well over a year without charge or trial for peacefully expressing his views;
- urging the authorities to investigate his situation without delay, and to provide him with all necessary medical treatment;
- urging that he be released unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO**

LI Peng Zongli  
Guowuyuan  
Beijingshi  
People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN  
22478 MFERT CN  
(Please forward to Prime Minister LI Peng)

WANG Fang Buzhang  
Gonganbu, Dong Chang'an Jie  
Beijingshi  
People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN  
22478 MFERT CN  
(Please forward to Public Security Minister  
WANG Fang)

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 November 1990.