

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 17/81/96

14 August 1996

Further information on UA 265/95 (ASA 17/102/95, 28 November 1995) and follow-up (ASA 17/15/96, 2 February 1996) - Health concern / Prisoner of conscience

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Zeng Jingmu, Roman Catholic Bishop, aged 75

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned about the health and well-being of 75-year-old prisoner of conscience Zeng Jingmu. He is still reported to be ill and it is not known what, if any, medical treatment he has received. Furthermore, the organization has just learned that on 18 March 1996, he was assigned to three years' "reeducation through labour", an administrative punishment, for his peaceful religious activities. He is due for release on 22 November 1998.

Zeng Jingmu, who will be 76 years old on 21 October 1996, was known to be suffering from a serious case of pneumonia when he was detained for "shelter and investigation" on 22 November 1995. He had contracted the illness while detained by the police for 15 days in October 1995 and was reported to have been frail and in poor health prior to this detention.

During his hearing on 18 March, Zeng Jingmu was accused by the Fuzhou Reeducation through Labour Committee of having "contravened regulations for supervising the registration of social organizations and, without registering, has organized group meetings at his home".

The Committee Decision Statement says that on 10 August 1995 the Chongren County People's Government issued an order banning "illegal" meetings at Zeng Jingmu's home. On 4 October 1995 he was assigned to 15 days' administrative detention by the Chongren County police for "contravention of regulations for supervising the registration of social organizations". On the day of his release, 18 October 1995, he is accused of having "organized an illegal meeting for about 300 people" and another meeting the following day for "about 100 people". He is also accused of having organized daily meetings in his home for "dozens of people" from 19 October to 20 November 1995.

In June 1958 Zeng Jingmu was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, and in June 1983 he was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, for "counter-revolutionary" activities.

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

- demanding the immediate and unconditional release of Bishop Zeng Jingmu
- demanding that he be given immediate medical treatment.

APPEALS TO:

Director of the State Council Bureau of Religious Affairs

Ye Xiaowen, Juzhang

Guowuyuan Zongjiao Shiwuju

Guowuyuan

22 Xianmen Dajie

Beijingshi 100017

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Director, State Council Bureau Religious Affairs, Beijing, China

Salutation: Dear Director

Director of the Department of Public Security

Sun Shusen, Tingzhang

Gong'anting

Yangminglu

Nanchangshi

Jiangxisheng

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Director, Public Security department, Nanchang, Jiangxi, China

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Commissioner of the Administrative Office of Fuzhou Prefecture

Zhuanyuan

Fuzhoudiqu Xingzhenggongshu

33 Gandongdajie

Linchuanshi 344100

Jiangxisheng

People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of 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 30 September 1996.