

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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*Please bring this action to the attention of the refugee coordinator in your section*

Further information on UA 179/92 (ASA 26/01/92, 1 June 1992) - Fear of forcible return (refoulement)

LAOS: Huang Guisheng

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Huang Guisheng was reportedly returned by the Laotian authorities to the People's Republic of China on 5 June 1992, despite the fact that he had been recognized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in accordance with its mandate, to be a refugee in need of protection.

This action by the Laotian authorities is in clear contravention of the internationally-recognized principle of *non-refoulement* which prohibits states from forcibly returning any person to a country where they risk serious human rights violations. This principle is recognized as a customary norm of international law, binding on all states, whether or not they are party to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

Amnesty International is concerned that Huang Guisheng risks being imprisoned as a prisoner of conscience in China because of his stated past involvement in dissident political activities. Huang Guisheng was reportedly ill-treated in detention in China on two occasions in 1990 and 1991. Amnesty International has expressed concern about his case to the Chinese authorities, asking that they take steps to ensure that he is not ill-treated and seeking information about what has happened to him after his return.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters**

- strongly condemning the action of the Laotian authorities in returning Huang Guisheng to China, in view of the risk that he might face human rights violations after his return, and that he had been recognized by UNHCR as a refugee in need of protection;

- forcefully reiterating the Laotian authorities' obligation under international law not to forcibly return anyone to a country where he or she risks serious human rights violations.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. President:

Kaysone Phomvihan  
Office of the President  
Vientiane, LAOS

**Dear President**

**Telegrams: President Kaysone Phomvihan, Vientiane, Laos**  
**Telexes: 4317 MINAE LS; 4320 MINAE LS**  
**(both c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Page 2 of FU 179/92**

2. Prime Minister:  
General Khamtai Siphandon  
Office of the Council of Ministers  
Vientiane  
LAOS

**Dear Prime Minister**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, General Khamtai Siphandon, Vientiane, LAOS**  
**Telexes: 4317 MINAE LS; 4320 MINAE LS**  
**(both c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Laos in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 July 1992.