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To: Health professionals
From: Medical office / East Asia team
Date: 4 October 2001

**Update on
MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION
Conviction and continuing ill-health: Li Wangyang
China**

[previous action: ASA 17/025/2001, 25 July 2001; web:
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/ASA170252001>]

Key words prisoner of conscience / ill-health / ill-treatment

Amnesty International's concerns

Li Wangyang was sentenced on 20 September 2001 to ten years' imprisonment on charges of "incitement to subvert state power". He was apprehended in May 2001 after campaigning to demand compensation for the ill-treatment received in prison. Amnesty International is renewing its call for appeals on his behalf.

A veteran labour activists, Li Wangyang was sentenced in 1990 to 13 years' imprisonment for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy movement and was due for release in 2002. However, he was twice released on medical grounds, firstly in 1996, after which he was returned to prison prematurely and again in June 2000. It is reported that he spent many periods in solitary confinement and suffered severe beatings from prison guards while in detention.

In February 2001 he undertook a hunger-strike while still being temporarily on medical parole. He demanded compensation for the ill-treatment received in prison, intending to use this compensation to pay for the treatment of his ailments reportedly acquired during his 11 years in prison. Li Wangyang was subsequently again harassed and finally re-arrested in May 2001, followed by a recent conviction. His sister Li Wanglin was sentenced on 7 July 2001 to 3 years' detention reportedly on subversion charges for her part in helping publicise her brother's case. Li Wangyang is reported to be weakened by his hunger strike and by the chronic ailments he suffers. Since at least May 2001 he has been reported to have been unable to walk unaided.

Amnesty International is urging that Li Wangyang be promptly released on the grounds that he is a prisoner of conscience and that he meanwhile receive proper diagnostic attention and whatever medical care he requires.

Recommended actions

Please write letters in English and use professionally-headed paper if you use this in your profession,

stating that you are writing about Li Wangyang whom you believe has been imprisoned solely for non-violent expression of his opinions and whom you regard as a prisoner of conscience; appealing for Li Wangyang's prompt and unconditional release; expressing serious concern at reports of Li Wangyang's medical problems, at least some of which appear to have been acquired, and left untreated, in prison;

seeking information on his current state of health and asking for details of whatever medical treatment he is receiving;
urging that Li Wangyang receive all necessary medical care in accordance with provisions set out in international standards.

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response, referring to your previous letter(s). Please do not be discouraged by the possible lack of replies to your letters. They are noticed. Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 16 December 2001, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Addresses

Zhang Yunchuan - Governor of the Hunan Provincial Government
Hunansheng Renmin Zhengfu
7 Wuyizhonglu
Changshashi 410011
Hunansheng
People's Republic of China

Director of the Hunan Provincial Department of Justice
WU Zhenhan Tingzhang
Sifating
2 Shaoshanlu
Changshashi 410011
Hunansheng
People's Republic of China

Copies

Chinese Medical Association
42 Dongsi Xidajie
Beijing 100710
People's Republic of China
Fax: (86) 10 6512 3754
email: cmafrd@public3.bta.net.cn

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.