

# PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TEN YEARS AFTER TIANANMEN

## *TIANANMEN*

*By James Fenton*

<i>Tiananmen</i>	<i>They lie in state.</i>
<i>Is broad and clean</i>	<i>They lie in style.</i>
<i>And you can't tell</i>	<i>Another lie's</i>
<i>Where the dead have</i>	<i>Thrown on the pile,</i>
<i>been</i>	<i>Thrown on the pile</i>
<i>And you can't tell</i>	<i>By the cruel men</i>
<i>What happened then</i>	<i>To cleanse the blood</i>
<i>And you can't speak</i>	<i>From Tiananmen.</i>
<i>Of Tiananmen</i>	
	<i>Truth is a secret.</i>
<i>You must not speak.</i>	<i>Keep it dark.</i>
<i>You must not think.</i>	<i>Keep it dark</i>
<i>You must not dip</i>	<i>In your heart of hearts.</i>
<i>Your brush in ink.</i>	<i>Keep it dark</i>
<i>You must not say</i>	<i>Till you know when</i>
<i>What happened then,</i>	<i>Truth may return</i>
<i>What happened there</i>	<i>To Tiananmen.</i>
<i>In Tiananmen</i>	
	<i>Tiananmen</i>
<i>The cruel men</i>	<i>Is broad and clean</i>
<i>Are old and deaf</i>	<i>And you can't tell</i>
<i>Ready to kill</i>	<i>Where the dead have been</i>
<i>But short of breath</i>	<i>And you can't tell</i>
<i>And they will die</i>	<i>When they'll come again.</i>
<i>Like other men</i>	<i>They'll come again</i>
<i>And they'll lie in state</i>	<i>To Tiananmen.</i>
<i>In Tiananmen.</i>	

Hong Kong 15 June 1989

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## The 1989 Pro-Democracy Protests

***“With regard to the political disturbance of 1989, the Party and the Government have already drawn the correct conclusion and this will not be changed in any way.”***

1998

*Li Peng, Prime Minister of China,*

The 4<sup>th</sup> June 1999 marks the tenth anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of unarmed civilians in Beijing and the arrest of tens of thousands of demonstrators in major cities and provinces around China. On the night of 3 to 4 June heavily armed troops and hundreds of armoured military vehicles stormed into the city to clear the streets of pro-democracy demonstrators, firing at onlookers and protesters in the process. These events were caught on television screens around the world and caused an international outcry and demands for an open investigation. The number of those killed or injured during the crackdown is unknown but witnesses estimate fatalities to be in the hundreds. There were also fears that the crackdown was severe in other parts of China where no foreign media were present and punishments much harsher. The authorities reacted vigorously to the threat caused by the wide-ranging support for the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

The protests started in April 1989 and spread quickly to various provinces in China. The demands included an end to official corruption and calls for political and economic reform. Demands which are similar to those being reported today on a smaller scale throughout China.

The demands in 1989 drew wide public support and millions joined peaceful demonstrations as the 1989 pro-democracy movement gained momentum in Beijing and throughout China.



Many of those killed were unarmed civilians killed by soldiers during the night of 3 to 4 June 1989, when martial law troops and military vehicles moved from the outskirts of Beijing - toward the city centre after martial law was declared on 20 May 1989. Others were summarily shot and killed by soldiers during the days which followed the massacre, when martial law troops were already in full control of central Beijing. The troops' movement towards central Beijing was ostensibly to "enforce" martial law and to "clear" Tiananmen Square which had been peacefully occupied by students for several weeks. During their advance, some of the troops deliberately opened fire at crowds whenever they met obstruction or a large group of people. As a result, many civilians who were just onlookers or local residents, as well as peaceful protesters, were killed or injured.

Amnesty International considers that many of the killings resulted from excessive use of force by some army detachments and amounted to extrajudicial executions. The government justifies the events as the "suppression" of a "counter-revolutionary riot".

## The 1989 Pro-democracy Movement Ten Years On

According to Chinese official sources, nearly 2,000 prisoners convicted of counter-revolutionary crimes remain imprisoned. Amnesty International has records of 241 prisoners who are still imprisoned or on medical parole and serving long sentences for their activities in connection with the 1989 pro-democracy protests.<sup>1</sup> The real figure is considered to be far higher. The cases included in the list also show the wide discrepancies between the sentences passed in different areas of China for the same offence. The arbitrary use of the law has long been a concern for Amnesty International. Many prisoners after their arrest in 1989 were often transported to prisons outside their home province making it more difficult for family and friends to visit. Those that are still imprisoned are mainly the "unknown" cases such as workers (see below) who received particularly harsh sentences.

Many of those still imprisoned for their activities during the 1989 protests were convicted of "counter-revolutionary" offences which are no longer crimes under Chinese law. These crimes were removed from the Criminal Law when it was revised in 1997 but the cases of those serving sentences for "counter-revolutionary" offences have not been reviewed. Governments, non-governmental organizations and the European Union have called for these cases to be reviewed in the light of the revised legislation.

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<sup>1</sup>See *People's Republic of China: Tiananmen - 10 Years On - "Forgotten Prisoners"*, ASA 17/09/99, April 1999.

Thousands remain imprisoned after unfair trials and many of those who have served their sentences for their involvement in the 1989 protests have their movements closely monitored and their freedoms restricted. Upon release some have continued to campaign for political and social reforms and have faced further terms of imprisonment after unfair trials<sup>2</sup>. Many are unable to find work and face constant harassment and difficulties trying to readjust to civilian life.

## Calls for Accountability

The government steadfastly refuses to review the cases of those still imprisoned for taking part in the 1989 protests and to redress the miscarriages of justice and human rights violations which occurred at that time. Those killed or injured have still not been fully accounted for nor has compensation been granted to the families affected.

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<sup>2</sup> For further information, see *People's Republic of China - No Improvement in Human Rights - The Imprisonment of Dissidents in 1998*, ASA 17/14/99.

Since the massacre in 1989, the Fourth of June every year has become a focus for those whose lives have been affected by the crackdown against the 1989 pro-democracy movement. Commemorations continue around the world including Hong Kong. The

underlying message remains the same and is repeated year after year.

Within China, police stifle attempts by activists to commemorate the anniversaries and activists such as **Miao Xike** arrested last year after staging a one-man protest on Tiananmen Square was once again detained by police in early March this year. The authorities themselves recognise that 1999 is a particularly sensitive year for China with many planned anniversaries. In February the former mayor of Beijing urged vigilance against political enemies during the upcoming “sensitive period” which includes the crackdown against the 1989 pro-democracy movement. Tiananmen Square has been closed to the public this year until July.

Families of those killed or injured mark the anniversary by urging the authorities to account for the deaths of family members and to grant compensation. **Ding Zilin’s** son **Jiang Jielian**, aged 17, was one of those shot dead on the night of 3 June 1989. Despite harassment, economic sanctions, intimidation and periodic detention, **Ding Zilin** and her husband **Jiang Peikun** have continued to provide humanitarian support to many bereaved families directly affected by the killings in 1989.

Their efforts have continued this year with the formation of a newly-formed group of June Fourth victims. This group has appealed to Chinese leaders to use the tenth anniversary and the close of the twentieth century to establish a fair and independent inquiry into the events.

Two years ago, **Ding Zilin**, a mother and professor at a Beijing University said:

**“If my son were alive....**

**For eight years I have been preoccupied with this thought, which cut deeper whenever I saw youths of his age. I would be struck with an empty feeling, a sensation that I was falling into an abyss. If he were alive he would be twenty-five years old. At that time he was only seventeen, yet he stood more than six feet.**

**Now he would be taller.**

**On the evening eight years ago, that most sinister moment, he left home determined. He went to a most dangerous place.**

**He never came home again.**

*'If you fall, we will take your place'!* This was the slogan they held up while marching in support of the college students on hunger strike. The time was May 17, 1989. Those characters were written in black ink on a white background and were eye-catching. He was marching in the front row, holding the banner of 'People's University High School' and followed by all his schoolmates. He did fall, fulfilling his promise with his young life.

I often think: what is a person living for, after all ?

If my son were alive ...

I would give him all my love.

I would do everything to support him, to put him through college, get degrees and go abroad for further studies, just like many other mothers of my generation.

He died, however, taking with him all my love and hope.

Does life truly end up in nothingness ?

But I cannot forget what he said to me on that evening before leaving home:

*"If all the parents in the world were as selfish as you are now, would our country and our nation have any hope ?"*

Indeed, what we adults dared not or would not take responsibility for was placed on the shoulders of our minors. Perhaps his was only a momentary passion generated by idealism. However,

Why don't we adults give something for ideals ?

A friend once tried to comfort me. She said:

*"If a person lives just to be alive, his life would be meaningless even if he reached his seventies. Although your son lived for only seventeen years, he achieved a life full of value."*

I am not sure if my son's death was meaningful, because so-called meaning can only mean something to the living; some day the living might be talking about the "June 4" and make only small talk about those who died on that day! But I still believe that people should not sustain a meagre life, for such a life can only be sustained by compromising one's dignity.

I know my son. If he had not died during that massacre, if he were alive today, I believe he would not give up his pursuit of liberty. He would be fulfilling his duties to this era by plunging himself into the surging tide of democratization.

Here it suddenly occurs to me: *What would I be if my son were still alive ?*

After the June 4<sup>th</sup> disaster, perhaps I would be like a scared hen, to be more careful in protecting my son, to constrain his freedom in both thought and action with all the instinctive love of a mother, making him an obedient citizen. It is almost certain that such an attitude would give rise to conflict between mother and son, because he would not tolerate selfishness and cowardice. He would not despise me or sever the ties with me, because he loves his mother deeply,

but he would take the road chosen by himself.

In the end, I would have to go along.

It is often said that children are the continuation of parents' lives, which has been reversed in our family. I am still alive today. Moreover, I have awakened from ignorance and slumber, and have regained my dignity, but this rebirth has been achieved at the expense of my son's life.

My breath, my voice, and my whole being are the continuation of my son's life, forever..."

In addition to family members, former dissidents imprisoned in 1989, and others seeking democratic reforms commemorate this date by making appeals and submitting petitions. **Wang Dan**, a former prisoner of conscience and a student leader during the 1989 protests is now exiled in the United States of America having been sentenced twice since 1989 for calling for democratic reforms. On 15 January 1999, **Wang Dan** initiated a Global Petition Campaign supported by a number of non-governmental human rights organizations.<sup>3</sup>

The refusal of the government to instigate any form of inquiry into the 1989 massacre goes against the Government's apparent willingness to improve its human rights record through dialogue with governments and the recent signing of two key human rights conventions. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1989 pro-democracy protests would be an occasion for the government to demonstrate to its citizens and to the world that it is sincere in working towards an improvement in human rights and decide to instigate an open inquiry into the events surrounding the Fourth June and offer compensation to its victims.

## Ten Prisoners Imprisoned Ten Years

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<sup>3</sup>For further information see Amnesty International's web page:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/news/31701999.htm>

Listed below are examples of prisoners who are still imprisoned for their activities during the 1989 protests or who have been imprisoned simply for supporting and gathering information about those who were involved in the 1989 protests. Amnesty International has documented the names of 241 people believed to be still imprisoned or on medical parole for their involvement in the protests although the real figure is considered to be far higher<sup>4</sup>.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Li Hai</b> <b>Beijing Municipality</b></p>
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**Li Hai**, a prisoner of conscience, and former student in Beijing at the time of the 1989 pro-democracy protests, is serving a nine-year sentence for gathering information about political prisoners jailed since 1989.

Following the government crackdown on the pro-democracy protests in June 1989, Li Hai was detained for over a year. After his release, like many others who had been involved in the protests and who continue to ask for political reforms, he was unable to continue his studies or to find work.

Li Hai began to sign petitions commemorating the 4 June events and called on the authorities to institute reforms, for which he was detained on several occasions. These petitions called for the establishment of the rule of law, the implementation in practice of rights enshrined in the constitution and political reforms. Li Hai was also investigating the situation of those who remained in jail in connection with the 1989 crackdown. In May 1995 he was arrested and held in incommunicado detention for nearly 18 months during which time the initial charge of “hooliganism” brought against him after his arrest was dropped and replaced by that of “prying into state secrets”. According to information received by Amnesty International the charge of “prying into state secrets” was based solely on accusations that Li Hai had attempted to gather information about political prisoners jailed since the 1989 crackdown including details of their cases and places of detention. Such information can in no way be construed as constituting a “state secret”.

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<sup>4</sup>For further information see *People’s Republic of China: Tiananmen - 10 Years On - “Forgotten Prisoners”*, ASA 17/09/99, April 1999.

Amnesty International considers that Li Hai was convicted and sentenced on this charge for attempting to monitor human rights violations in China and that he is a prisoner of conscience jailed in violation of international human rights standards. The trial was held in secret and his family excluded. On 18 December 1996 Li Hai was convicted of allegedly “prying into state secrets” and sentenced to nine years’ imprisonment.

According to a report issued by his mother, Li Hai is suffering abuse in prison and is being denied family visits and medical treatment. Li Hai’s mother **Gong Liwen** issued an appeal in March this year to the Chinese authorities threatening a sit-in if the abuse did not stop. Li Hai is imprisoned in Liangxiang Prison, Beijing.

**Amnesty International considers that Li Hai, a prisoner of conscience, is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of association and expression in violation of international human rights standards. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release.**

#### ADDRESSES

Chief Procurator of Beijing Municipal People's Procuratorate

**HE Fangba** Jianchazhang  
Beijingshi Renmin Jianchayuan  
39 Dongjiaominxiang  
Dongchengqu  
Beijingshi 100006  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Director of the Beijing Municipal Justice Bureau

**ZHANG Xuming** Juzhang  
Beijingshi Sifaju  
199 Haihutuncun  
Yongdingmenwai  
Beijingshi 100075  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Director**

<p><b>Wang Lianxi</b> <b>Beijing</b></p>
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**Wang Lianxi**, a woman, was arrested on 6 June 1989 with seven others for their involvement in the 1989 protests. Wang Lianxi, aged 44, came from Beijing.

A few days after the 3-4 June events the Beijing Intermediate People's Court sentenced Wang Lianxi and her co-defendants to death on 17 June after convicting them of arson. They had been charged with wounding soldiers, stealing weapons and setting fire to military vehicles

during the army crackdown in Beijing on 4 June. The eight defendants<sup>5</sup>, were shown on Chinese national television on 17 June entering the court room with their hands handcuffed behind their backs. They were described on television as "workers, peasants, unemployed and people with criminal records". They reportedly appealed against the verdict. Wang Lianxi's sentence was later revised to life imprisonment but the other seven prisoners - all men - were executed five days after their trial on 22 June. Wang Lianxi was reportedly not executed because her defence lawyer had argued that she was mentally retarded.

Cases such as Wang Lianxi's were dealt with quickly under legislation adopted in 1983 which provided for the speedy sentencing of offenders who are deemed by the authorities to "seriously endanger public security". On 20 June 1989 the Supreme People's Court issued a circular to all high people's courts and military courts stating that courts should try cases promptly and mete out severe punishments to those who participated in the "counter-revolutionary riot". As a result, many were summarily tried and executed for their participation in the pro-democracy protests. The summary nature of the trials and the absence of adequate safeguards for defence has long been a concern for Amnesty International.

**As in other cases of people serving long sentences for alleged criminal offences committed during the 1989 protests and in view of the summary nature of the trials and that appeals for re-trials in accordance with international standards have gone unheeded, Amnesty International is calling on the authorities to grant an amnesty to Wang Lianxi and all those still imprisoned in connection with the 1989 protests.**

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<sup>5</sup>The eight co-defendants were named as: Wang Lianxi, Lin Shaorong, Zhang Wenkui, Chen Jian, Zu Jianjun, Wang Hanwu, Luo Hongjun and Ban Huijie.

President of Beijing Municipal High People's Court

**QIN Zhengan** Yuanzhang  
Beijingshi Gaoji Renmin Fayuan  
215 Xiheyuan  
Chongwenqu  
Beijingshi 100051  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Chief Procurator of Beijing Municipal People's Procuratorate

**HE Fangba** Jianchazhang  
Beijingshi Renmin Jianchayuan  
39 Dongjiaominxiang  
Dongchengqu  
Beijingshi 100006  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sun Xiongying</b> <b>Fujian Province</b></p>
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**Sun Xiongying**, a prisoner of conscience, aged 33, was arrested on 29 September 1989 and accused of defacing a statue of Mao Zedong and putting up “reactionary” posters in Fuzhou city. He was sentenced to 18 years’ imprisonment, one of the longest sentences imposed on 1989 pro-democracy activists. Sun Xiongying was formerly a cadre with the training office of the Sparetime College in Fuzhou City, Fujian Province.

At the time of his arrest, and local residents reportedly informed the authorities about his protest activities during June and September 1989. According to a Chinese official radio broadcast, Sun was “hostile toward the proletarian dictatorship and the socialist system” and had been under investigation by the authorities in the towns of Fuzhou and Xia’men since 4 June 1989. The report went on to say that, “after listening to reactionary radio broadcasts for a long time, Sun cherished the ideals of bourgeois liberalization and became greatly dissatisfied with the Party, government and socialist system”. It described how he used eggshells filled with black paint to deface the statue of Mao Zedong in the square in front of the Workers’ Cultural Palace in Fuzhou and the name plaque of the Fuzhou municipal government offices. He was also accused of “scribbling reactionary slogans in public places” such as Xia’men University and at a factory and on Xia’men city university campus.

At his trial on 21 December 1989 Sun was sentenced by the Fuzhou Intermediate People's Court for "counter-revolutionary sabotage, counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement". Following a revision of the Criminal Law in 1997, these crimes were removed from the Criminal Law. Sun Xiongying is serving his sentence at Fujian no. 2 Prison. His sentence will be completed on 28 September 2009.

**Amnesty International considers Sun Xiongying to be a prisoner of conscience held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of conscience and expression in violation of international human rights standards. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release.**

#### ADDRESSES

Governor of the Fujian Provincial People's Government

**HE Guoqiang** Shengzhang  
Fujiansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
28 Hualin Lu  
Fuzhoushi 350003  
Fujiansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Chief Procurator of the Fujian Provincial People's Procuratorate

**ZHENG Yizheng** Jianchazhang  
Fujiansheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
Fuzhoushi  
Fujiansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**Liu Baiqiang**  
**Guangdong Province**

**Liu Baiqiang**, aged 31, is serving a prison sentence in Guangdong Province for writing “counter-revolutionary” messages in support of the 1989 pro-democracy movement. According to an official report, while already serving a prison sentence for “theft” in 1989 Liu Baiqiang wrote messages in his prison cell on tiny scraps of paper and released these into the air attached to the legs of locusts.

Liu Baiqiang was already serving a ten-year sentence for theft at the time but on 6 June 1989 he was sentenced to an additional eight years’ imprisonment for “counter-revolutionary incitement and propaganda” by the Jiangmen Municipality Intermediate People’s Court. According to an official report Liu Baiqiang secretly wrote several leaflets bearing the words, “Down with Deng Xiaoping and Li Peng”, “Long Live Freedom”, “Deng Xiaoping should step down” and “Tyranny”. After showing these to his cellmates, he reportedly “attached these to the legs of locusts and released the insects into the air”.

Liu Baiqiang is now serving a combined sentence of 17 years at Shaoguan prison in Guangdong Province. In recent years, Liu Baiqiang’s 17-year-sentence has reportedly been reduced on two occasions firstly in June 1995 by one year and three months and again by another year and three months in July 1997. His sentence will be completed in December 2003.

**As in other cases of people serving long sentences for alleged criminal offences committed during the 1989 protests and in view of the summary nature of the trials and that appeals for re-trials in accordance with international standards have gone unheeded, Amnesty International is calling on the authorities to grant an amnesty to Liu Baiqiang and all those still imprisoned in connection with the 1989 protests.**

**ADDRESSES**

Governor of the Guangdong Provincial People's Government  
**LU Ruihua** Shengzhang  
Guangdongsheng Renmin Zhengfu  
305 Dongfeng Zhong Lu  
Guangzhoushi 510031  
Guangdongsheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Chief Procurator of the Guangdong Provincial People's Procuratorate

**WANG Jun** Jianchazhang  
Guangdongsheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
26 Cangbian Lu  
Guangzhoushi 510090  
Guangdongsheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**Li Wangyang**

**Hunan Province**

Li Wangyang, a prisoner of conscience, aged 45, was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. He was a factory worker and comes from Shaoyang, Hunan Province.

Li Wangyang has been suffering from heart problems and a goitre and Amnesty International has appealed for his release on several occasions. In July 1996 he was released on medical parole but eight months later he was taken back to Yuanjiang prison in the middle of his treatment. Last year his family was quoted as saying that, "Li Wangyang's health is still very bad and he needs to see a doctor but the prison won't let him...We hope attention can be drawn to his case so he will be allowed to see a doctor".

Hunan was among the most active areas in rallying support for the 1989 pro-democracy protests in Beijing. On 20 May 1989 in response to the imposition of martial law in Beijing, a number of workers in Hunan decided to establish their own independent labour unions. Li Wangyang became chair of the independent Shaoyang Workers' Autonomous Federation. He reportedly organized strikes and demonstrations, gave speeches and was a popular and influential figure locally in Shaoyang. Independent or autonomous workers' groups remain illegal in China and their members are at risk. The All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) is the only officially recognized trade union. It is government-controlled and maintains a monopoly on representing workers' interests in China. Workers involved in the 1989 pro-democracy movement received very lengthy sentences compared to other political activists.

Li Wangyang was arrested on 9 June 1989, a few days after the crackdown in Beijing. According to a report in the official newspaper *Hunan Daily*, Li Wangyang was accused of putting up banners, issuing leaflets, carrying out liaison trips, spreading rumours, uttering reactionary slogans, inciting workers to go on strike and founding the independent and

autonomous workers organization in Shaoyang. He was charged with “counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement” and tried by the Shaoyang City Intermediate People’s Court in early 1990. These crimes were removed from the Criminal Law when it was revised in 1997.

Li Wangyang has been imprisoned in Longxi Prison, transferred to Yuanjiang Prison, moved to the Yueyang Labour Reform Farm and then reportedly sent back to Yuanjiang Prison in Hunan Province. Li Wangyang has reportedly been severely ill-treated. Torture and ill-treatment are frequently reported by prisoners in China. Hundreds of political detainees were reportedly tortured in the months following the government’s crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement. Prisoners are expected to conform to standards of behaviour which involve total obedience however arbitrary. This may be enforced by inmates appointed as “cell bosses” as well as by prison officers themselves. Prisoners have reported being tortured or ill-treated when they complain, do not fulfil work quotas, disobey orders or “resist reform”.

Li Wangyang is due to be released in June 2002 aged 54.

**Amnesty International considers that Li Wangyang, a prisoner of conscience, is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association in violation of international human rights standards. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release.**

**Amnesty International is also appealing for the allegations of ill-treatment to be impartially investigated and for assurances that Li Wangyang is given all necessary medical care in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.**

#### **ADDRESSES**

Governor of the Hunan Provincial People's Government  
**YANG Zhengfu** Shengzhang  
Hunansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
7 Wuyizhonglu  
Changshashi 410011  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Director of the Hunan Provincial Department of Justice

**WU Zhenhan** Tingzhang

Sifating

2 Shaoshanlu

Changshashi 410011

Hunansheng

People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Director**

### **Hunan Province**

Liu Xin, aged 15 at the time of his arrest in June 1989, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. Liu Xin was a middle school student and comes from Shaoyang City, Hunan Province.

On 19 May 1989, Liu Xin reportedly went out onto the streets with his brother-in-law to watch a demonstration and allegedly supplied matches which were used by someone else to burn a car during the protests in Shaoyang City. He was arrested in June 1989, charged with "arson" and sentenced in September 1989 by the Shaoyang City Intermediate Court. Liu Xin denied the charge and insisted he was only a spectator. His brother-in-law who was with him at the time was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Hunan Province was among the areas considered the most active in rallying support for the 1989 pro-democracy protests and the response of the authorities after the crackdown was harsh.

After his trial, Liu Xin was reportedly held with adult prisoners in Longxi Prison where he was made to work with them and treated in the same way as he was considered to be a political prisoner. He had to work at cutting marble slabs, though he was too frail to be able to fulfil the work quotas. It is not known whether he was punished as a result.

Liu Xin is due to be released in June 2004 aged 30 having spent half his life in prison.

Amnesty International is concerned that Liu Xin, a juvenile at the time of his arrest and imprisonment has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment after an unfair trial and received a sentence totally disproportionate to the "offence" he was alleged to have committed. Amnesty International is calling for his release.

Amnesty International is also concerned that subjecting juvenile prisoners to the same regime of work and conditions of detention as adult prisoners is in violation of fundamental international human rights treaties, in particular the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, ratified by China on 2 March 1992.

#### ADDRESSES

Governor of the Hunan Provincial People's Government

**YANG Zhengfu** Shengzhang  
Hunansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
7 Wuyizhonglu  
Changshashi 410011  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Director of the Hunan Provincial Department of Public Security

**ZHANG Shuhai** Tingzhang  
Gong'anting  
96 Bayilu  
Changshashi 410001  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

#### ~~Hunan~~ Province

Hu Min, a worker in Yueyang, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for his involvement in the 1989 protests. He was reportedly arrested on 9 June 1989 in Hunan Province with eight other workers - Guo Yunqiao, Mao Yuejin, Wang Zhaobo, Huang Lixin, Huang Fan, Wan Yewang, Pan Qiubao and Yuan Shuzhu. All were members of the Yueyang Workers' Autonomous Federation in Hunan. Guo Yunqiao received a suspended death sentence and his co-defendants received prison sentences ranging from seven to 15 years.

In response to the news of the killings in Beijing on 4 June 1989, the nine reportedly lay down on the railway tracks of Yueyang's Baling Railway Bridge in protest against the killings. They then took part in a march attended by thousands of demonstrators carrying wreaths and setting off fire crackers. When the march reached the offices of the municipal government demonstrators took down a government sign and trampled it underfoot. They were arrested soon after. In September 1989 the Yueyang City Intermediate People's Court sentenced the nine workers to various terms of imprisonment. All were charged with "hooliganism". Guo Yunqiao considered the "ringleader" was given a suspended death sentence<sup>6</sup> and the others received prison terms ranging from seven to 15 years. Guo Yunqiao's death sentence has now reportedly been commuted to life imprisonment.

Hunan Province has historically always stood in the vanguard of various significant political movements. The province was one of several areas of China where the 1989 pro-democracy movement was particularly strong and as a consequence the repression was amongst the most severe in China. During 1989, autonomous student organizations and independent workers' groups were set up in most cities and districts in Hunan.

It is believed that Hu Min is imprisoned in Hengyang, Hunan Provincial Prison no. 2.

**Amnesty International is concerned that Hu Min and his co-defendants were imprisoned for apparently peaceful political activities. It is also concerned that they were denied a fair trial. In view of the summary nature of the trials at the time, the length of time they have spent in prison and the fact that appeals for re-trial have gone unheeded, Amnesty International is calling for their release.**

#### **ADDRESSES**

Governor of the Hunan Provincial People's Government  
**YANG Zhengfu** Shengzhang  
Hunansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
7 Wuyizhonglu  
Changshashi 410011  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

President of the Hunan Provincial High People's Court  
**ZHAN Shunchu** Yuanzhang

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<sup>6</sup>In the case of suspended death sentences, the offender has to carry out "reform through labour" and if he/she shows repentance and willingness to "reform" the sentence is usually commuted after two years to life or a fixed term of imprisonment.

Hunansheng Gaoji Renmin Fayuan  
Changshashi  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear President**

<p><b>Xiong Xiaohua</b> <b>Hunan Province</b></p>
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Xiong Xiaohua, a prisoner of conscience, aged 32, was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Xiong Xiaohua was a student at the time and formerly worked as a technician at the Xiangtan Power Machinery Factory in Hunan Province.

A graduate from the Xiangtan Mechanization Special School, Xiong Xiaohua was arrested in July 1989 and sentenced in November 1989 by the Xiangtan City Intermediate Court on a charge of "hooliganism". According to reports at the time, Xiong had organized a group of former classmates to print and distribute propaganda materials, and shouted slogans on 29 May in Xiangtan during the 1989 protests.

Hunan Province has historically always stood in the vanguard of various significant political movements. The province was one of several areas of China where the 1989 pro-democracy movement was particularly strong and as a consequence the repression was amongst the most severe in China. During 1989, autonomous student organizations and independent workers' groups were set up in most cities and districts in Hunan.

Xiong Xiaohua is believed to be imprisoned in Longxi Prison and is due to be released in July 2003 aged 35.

**Amnesty International considers that Xiong Xiaohua, a prisoner of conscience, is being held for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association in violation of international human rights standards. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release.**

## ADDRESSES

Governor of the Hunan Provincial People's Government

**YANG Zhengfu** Shengzhang  
Hunansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
7 Wuyizhonglu  
Changshashi 410011  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Chief Procurator of the Hunan Provincial People's Procuratorate

**ZHANG Shuhai** Jianchazhang  
Hunansheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
Changshashi  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Chief Procurator**

<p><b>Lei Fengyun</b> <b>Sichuan Province</b></p>
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Lei Fengyun, a prisoner of conscience from Sichuan Province, aged 39, was sentenced for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

Lei Fengyun, a graduate student, reportedly went to Beijing in late May or early June 1989 to support the demonstrations. Following the crackdown in June, Lei Fengyun returned to his hometown (Deng Xiaoping's birthplace) in Guang'an County, Sichuan. There he reportedly gave a speech condemning the actions taken by the authorities in Beijing, and reportedly included a reference to Deng Xiaoping's family tombs in his speech. He was arrested later in June at the South West China Teachers' University, Chongqing where he was studying for a two-year post-graduate teacher training qualification. Lei Fengyun was reportedly charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" and sentenced to a lengthy prison sentence following an unfair trial. Reports about the length of the prison sentence vary from 12 to 20 years' imprisonment. It is believed that Li Fengyun was sentenced in late 1989 and tried by a court in Guang'an County. The crimes of "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" were removed from the Criminal Law when it was revised in 1997.

It is not known where Lei Fengyun is being held. It is reported that after his arrest he was allowed prison visits by former students from the South West China Teachers' University and was said to be teaching Chinese to other prisoners. Prior to his post-graduate studies, Lei Fengyun had worked as a teacher at the Daishi Middle School, Guang'an County, Sichuan. He is married and has a daughter aged 16.

**Amnesty International considers Lei Fengyun to be a prisoner of conscience held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression in violation of international human rights standards. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release.**

#### **ADDRESSES**

Governor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Government

**SONG Baorui** Shengzhang  
Sichuansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
Duyuanlu  
Chengdushi 610016  
Sichuansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Chief Procurator of the Sichuan Provincial People's Procuratorate

**GONG Dulun** Jianchazhang  
Sichuansheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
Chengdushi  
Sichuansheng  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Li Yongsheng</b> <b>Tianjin Municipality</b></p>
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**Li Yongsheng**, a prisoner of conscience, aged 39, is serving a 12-year sentence for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. He was an unemployed worker and comes from Tianjin city.

Li Yongsheng was arrested on or around 11 June 1989 in Tianjin. According to the official newspaper *Tianjin Ribao* Li Yongsheng was a member of a picketing group who illegally organized the “Tianjin residents’ petitioning team” and engaged in “rumour-mongering and instigation” at the Nanyuan Airport in Beijing during the 1989 protests. Li Yongsheng was one of many suspects who had allegedly fled Beijing after the 3-4 June massacre and was arrested by the Tianjin Public Security Bureau. He was later sentenced to 12 years’ imprisonment on charges of “counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement”. These crimes were removed from the Criminal Law when it was revised in 1997. Li Yongsheng is imprisoned in Beijing No. 1 Reform Through Labour Detachment which is also known as the Qinghe Farm.

Other prisoners who were involved in the 1989 protests are also held in the Qinghe Farm. Prisoners at this labour camp have to undergo hard labour and conditions are known to be particularly harsh. The Qinghe Farm is one of the oldest and largest penal facilities in China and includes several agricultural units and factories. It is located about 130 kilometres southeast of Beijing and 40 kilometres northeast of Tianjin city.

**Amnesty International considers that Li Yongsheng, a prisoner of conscience, is being held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression in violation of international human rights standards. Amnesty International is appealing for his immediate and unconditional release.**

**ADDRESSES**

Mayor of Tianjin Municipal People's Government

**LI Shenglin** Shizhang  
Tianjinshi Renmin Zhengfu  
167 Dagulu, Hepingqu  
Tianjinshi 300040  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Mayor**

Director of the Tianjin Bureau of Justice

**SUN JIALIN** Juzhang

Sifaju

119 Changdedao

Hepingqu

Tianjinshi 300050

People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Director**