

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Zhang Lin, 36

Pro-democracy and labour rights activist Zhang Lin, held in a labour camp in south China, is reported to have been repeatedly beaten and tortured, and to be in poor health as a result.

Zhang Lin has spent 10 months in the Guangzhou No.1 "Re-education-Through-Labour" Centre in Guangdong province. His mother was recently allowed to visit him for the first time, and said that his face was yellow, "like earth", and swollen, there were signs of injuries on his arms and neck, his temperature was low and he showed symptoms of hepatitis. She has appealed for his release on medical parole.

Required to work 14 hours a day while in poor health, Zhang Lin was reportedly beaten whenever he tried to resist this regime and argued with the guards about it. According to his mother, he has been tortured six times, as a result of which he twice attempted suicide. He was beaten by other inmates acting on orders from the guards, stripped of his clothes and dragged on the ground for long distances, and had his head forced under water. The torture only stopped when he was half dead or gave in to the guards. In July, he went on hunger strike for six days to protest at his treatment and conditions of detention.

Zhang Lin, from Anhui province, has been imprisoned several times for his involvement in the pro-democracy movement. In 1997, following his release from three years' detention in a labour camp, he went to the USA, returning to China for the first time in November 1998. He was arrested in Guangzhou on 12 November, a few hours after he entered China from Hong Kong. He was reportedly accused of "illegally entering the country" and "hiring prostitutes" - an accusation believed to be unfounded - and "sentenced" to three years of "re-education through labour" - an administrative punishment imposed without formal charge or trial, served in a forced labour camp.

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

- expressing deep concern at reports that Zhang Lin has been repeatedly tortured in detention and is in poor health as a result;
- urging the authorities to immediately transfer him from the Guangzhou No.1 Re-education Through Labour Centre to another place where his safety can be guaranteed and where he can be given appropriate medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to impartially investigate the allegations that Zhang Lin has been tortured, to make the result of the investigation public, and punish those found responsible;
- expressing concern that Zhang Lin is arbitrarily detained, in violation of international human rights standards, and urging the authorities to review his case without delay and release him unconditionally.

APPEALS TO:**Premier of the People's Republic of China****ZHU Rongji** Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Telegrams: Premier Zhu Rongji, Beijing, China

Faxes: Your Excellency, Zhu Rongji, c/o Ministry of Communications : + 8610 6 529 2345

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Telexes: 44563 OFAGDCN

Telegrams: Governor, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Fax: c/o Guangdong People's Government Beijing Office : + 8610 6841 5047

Salutation: Dear Governor

Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China

HAN Zhubin Jianchazhang

Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan

147 Beiheyuan Dajie

Donganmen, Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100726

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

(Please forward to the Procurator-General)

Telegram: Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, Beijing, China

Salutation: Dear Procurator-General

COPIES TO: Members of Parliament in your country, diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country and Xinhua news Agency, **Email: Xinhua@cb.col.com.cn**

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 October 1999.