

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/12/98

12 May 1998

Further information on UA 265/95 (ASA 17/102/95, 28 November 1995) and follow-up (ASA 17/15/96, 2 February 1996; ASA 17/81/96, 14 August 1996) - Health concern/prisoner of conscience

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Zeng Jingmu, Roman Catholic Bishop, aged 77

According to reports received by Amnesty International, Bishop Zeng Jingmu of Yujiang, Jiangxi province, was released from his place of detention into house arrest on Saturday, 9 May. He is said to be extremely sick but no further details of his health are available at present. He is reported to be restricted to his home and only permitted visits from close relatives.

Zeng Jingmu was serving a three year term of "reeducation through labour", imposed without charge or trial, which is due to expire on 22 November 1998.

Amnesty International welcomes the humanitarian gesture of releasing such an elderly man from custody, but is concerned that his sentence does not appear to have been cancelled. The organization is also concerned at reports of his extremely poor health and seeks assurance from the Chinese authorities that despite being at home he will have access to adequate medical facilities.

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

- welcoming Zeng Jingmu's release from detention as a humanitarian gesture, but demanding that his release be made unconditional and that he be permitted freedom of movement and association;
- seek assurance that he will have access to all necessary medical facilities.

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

Telegram: Director of the State Council Bureau of Religious Affairs, Beijing, China

Salutation: Dear Director

Governor of Jiangxi Provincial People's Government

SHU Shengyou Daishengzhang

Jiangxisheng Renmin Zhengfu

5 Beijingxilu

Nanchangshi 330046

Jiangxisheng

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Governor, Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China

Salutation: Dear Governor

and to diplomatic representatives of the 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 23 June 1998.