

EXTERNAL

File Index: AS/A 17/02/97
Distrib: PG/SC

To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Asia Regional Program
Date: 15 January 1997

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Liu Nianchun
CHINA

Keywords

Theme: POC / ill-health / ill-treatment

Summary

Liu Nianchun, born 1948, and married with a daughter, is serving a three year sentence for writing a petition and accepting money from abroad. Liu Nianchun is reportedly ill with gastrointestinal problems. There are concerns that he is not receiving adequate medical care. He is also concerned that he was ill-treated at the instigation of prison guards in Tuanhe labour camp. Amnesty International has adopted Liu Nianchun as a prisoner of conscience and is urging his immediate and unconditional release.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- appealing for Liu Nianchun's prompt and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience
- noting with grave concern his reported medical problems; seeking information on his current state of health and asking whether he is now receiving proper medical treatment — seek details
- requesting that an impartial and open inquiry be carried out into the ill-treatment he suffered at the Tuanhe labour camp
- urging that Liu Nianchun receive all necessary medical care in accordance with provisions set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

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.

Addresses

JIANG Zemin, Guojia Zhuxi [President of the People's Republic of China]
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China
QIAO Shi, Weiguanzhang [Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee]
Quanguo Renmin daibiao Dahui

Renmin Da Huitang
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

TAO Siju Buzhang [*Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China*]
Gong'anbu
14 Dongchang'an lu
Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China

Copies

Please send copies of your letters to:

Laogai Suozhang [*Director of Shuanghe labour camp - where Liu is currently held*]
Laogaijinchang
Shuanghe nongchang
Gannaxian 2213
Heilongjiang Sheng 162105
People's Republic of China

Laogai Suozhang [*Director of Tuanhe labour camp - where Liu was ill-treated*]
Beijingshi Laogaisuo
Huang cun
Daxing Xian
Beijing
People's Republic of China

and to the nearest diplomatic representative of the People's Republic of China.

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ILL-TREATMENT AND HEALTH CONCERN

Liu Nianchun
CHINA

Liu Nianchun, born 1948, is a labour activist, married with one daughter. He is currently serving a three year prison term and is regarded by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience. Liu Nianchun was a signatory to seven 1995 petitions calling for human rights protections and democratic reforms and was arrested in Beijing on 21 May 1995. He was accused of accepting illegal aid from human rights organizations abroad and drafting appeals in collaboration with former student leader Wang Dan (sentenced on 30 October 1996 to 11 years' imprisonment) and others. The appeals called on the Chinese government to release political prisoners, institute political tolerance, strengthen the rule of law and learn from the events of 4 June 1989 [the night on which the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square were ended by military intervention].

On 5 July 1996, Chu Hailan, Liu Nianchun's wife (who has also been closely monitored, detained and harassed by the Public Security Bureau) was informed by police that her husband had been ordered to serve three years' re-education through labour on top of the period he had already spent in custody. Chu Hailan was ordered by the authorities in Beijing to meet her husband at the Tuanhe labour camp near Beijing and to bring along some personal possessions and 300 yuan [US\$36]. However, the police subsequently withdrew permission for her to visit the camp. When she later was allowed to visit, the authorities announced on her arrival that Liu Nianchun had already been transferred, on 10 July 1996, to the Shuanghe labour camp in the remote northeastern Heilongjiang Province, hundreds of kilometres away. While Liu Nianchun was held at the Tuanhe labour camp, he was beaten by other inmates at the instigation of the prison guards and as a result sustained injuries for which he was denied treatment. Chu Hailan appealed to the authorities to allow medical treatment for her husband and drew attention to the beatings he had undergone at the Tuanhe labour camp.

Liu Nianchun is weak and has serious health problems, including serious problems in the gastrointestinal tract: he is passing blood and pus, and suffering weight loss. This was confirmed by a doctor at the Tuanhe labour camp. In spite of this, he is believed to be continuing to do heavy work. Amnesty International regards Liu Nianchun as a prisoner of conscience and is urging his immediate release, prompt access to proper medical evaluation and treatment, and an investigation into the beatings inflicted at the Tuanhe labour camp.

Background

Liu Nianchun is a veteran dissident and labour activist. He participated in the "democracy wall" movement of the late 1970s. In 1981 he was convicted of "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" after sending his brother's diary abroad and he was sentenced to three years imprisonment. (His brother, Liu Qing, was a prominent activist during the democracy wall period and was sentenced to three, and subsequently a further eight, years in detention for his activities.

He is now in the USA. Liu Nianchun participated in the 1989 pro-democracy protests and in 1994 was detained for five months without charge or trial after he had tried to formally register the League for the Protection of the Rights of the Working People in March 1994.