

---

# *amnesty international*

---

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### CHEN LONGDE IS ON CRUTCHES

#### Appeal for his immediate release

November 1997

AI Index: ASA 17/46/97

Action Ref: CHIRAN 06/97

Distr: CO/GR

**Chen Longde**, a prisoner of conscience, who jumped from a window to escape beatings by prison officers and fellow prisoners in August 1996 has been left seriously disabled as a result. His parents have said that their son is now using crutches to walk and still has to work at the Luoshan labour camp in Zhejiang Province.<sup>1</sup>

**Chen Longde** suffered from fractures to his legs and hip and other injuries following the incident in August 1996. He spent months in hospital but was returned to the labour camp in December 1996. According to recent information he is currently urinating blood, his trachea is inflamed, he is in pain and has difficulty walking and requires crutches. A metal sheet applied to bones in his legs should have been removed in June but the labour camp officials have not yet allowed this operation to take place. There are fears that if the operation does not go ahead **Chen Longde** is likely to suffer further discomfort and long-term effects.

---

<sup>1</sup>For further background see, Amnesty International's document, *The People's Republic of China: Chen Longde is Tortured*, ASA 17/88/96, dated September 1996.

**Chen Longde's** parents have appealed to the authorities since September 1996 for their son's release on medical parole and recently appealed again on 27 October 1997. Officials have declined to comment. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have also appealed for his release.

Police apprehended **Chen Longde** on 28 May 1996 after he, **Wang Donghai** and five other Zhejiang activists issued an open letter to the National People's Congress (China's parliament) on the seventh anniversary of the 1989 pro-democracy protests. The letter called for the release of **Wei Jingsheng** (now released on 16 November 1997 on medical parole and in exile in the US) and for a review of the 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy protests. In 1995, **Chen Longde** was detained and released on two separate occasions for signing petitions. In 1989 he was imprisoned for three years for his involvement in the 1989 pro- democracy protests.

Following his arrest in May 1996, **Chen Longde** was assigned to serve three years' re-education through labour without being charged or tried. Re-education through labour is an administrative punishment imposed by local government committees. Political dissidents and those suspected of committing petty crimes are being assigned to labour camps for up to three years without charge or trial.

According to a statement made this year by Jiang Jinfang, a division chief with the Beijing Bureau of Re-education through Labour, there are some 230,000 inmates serving labour terms of re-education through labour in 280 labour camps throughout China. Many are serving terms in labour camps for minor offences such as gambling, prostitution and theft, but this form of punishment has increasingly being used in recent years to detain political dissidents such as **Chen Longde** without charge or trial.

*Please send faxes/express and airmail letters in English, Chinese  
or in your own language:*

- ◆ *urging the prompt and unconditional release of Chen Longde as a prisoner of conscience;*
- ◆ *expressing grave concern about his reported medical problems and concern that Chen Longde is in poor health and is still required to carry out forced labour on crutches;*
- ◆ *urging that Chen Longde receive all necessary medical care in accordance with provisions set out in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.*
- ◆ *urging that an open and impartial inquiry into the torture sustained by Chen Longde be carried out and those responsible be brought to justice.*

*Please send appeals to:*

Acting Governor of the Zhejiang Provincial People's Government

**CHAI Songyue** Daishengzhang  
 Zhejiangsheng Renmin Zhengfu  
 Shengfulu, Hangzhoushi 310025  
 Zhejiangsheng  
 People's Republic of China

Director of the Reeducation-Through-Labour Administration of the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China

**MENG Qingchen** Sizhang  
 Sifabu  
 Laodong Jiaoyang Gongzuo Guanliju  
 14 Dongchang'anlu  
 Dongchengqu  
 Beijingshi 100741  
 People's Republic of China

Minister of Public Health of the People's Republic of China

**CHEN Minzhang** Buzhang  
 Weishengbu  
 44 Houhai Beiyan, Gulou Xidajie  
 Beijingshi  
 People's Republic of China

This document is sent to China and CHIRAN Coordinators for action by groups. It is sent to Sections for information only. Check with the East Asia Sub-Regional Team if sending appeals after 5 WEEKS LATER.

Number of words: 741

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM

---