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@40 Public Security and Reform-Through-Labour officers take Chen Ziming back to prison

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Chen Ziming, a prisoner of conscience and veteran pro democracy activist was re-imprisoned on Sunday 25 June in Beijing. Originally arrested in 1989 following the crackdown on the pro democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in June 1989, Chen Ziming was sentenced in 1991 to 13 years for "counter-revolutionary" activities and for allegedly masterminding the June 4 protests. On May 13 1995 Chen Ziming was released on medical parole, officially for "skin disease". After medical examination he was found to be actually suffering from skin, heart and liver ailments as well as urinary tract cancer. At the time of his release Chen Ziming had served five years of his sentence.

An unofficial source in China stated that about 40 officers from the Beijing Public Security Department and the reform-through-labour department came to his house and took him away at around 11 p.m. It was reported that the authorities who took him away claimed that he had recovered from his illness and must serve out the remainder of his 13 year sentence for "counter revolutionary" activities.

Since Chen Ziming's release on medical parole he has been under virtual house arrest in Beijing. Despite the heavy surveillance around his home in Beijing Chen Ziming was a signatory to one of the recent pro-democracy petitions asking for an investigation into government corruption.

Chen Ziming is a veteran pro democracy activist and took part in the 1979 "Democracy Wall" protests when he worked on the influential journal Beijing Spring. In 1986 Chen Ziming and fellow activist Wang Juntao set up an independent social science institute, the Beijing Social and Economic Research Institute. Chen Ziming was arrested in October 1989 along with Wang Juntao, the other so-called "Black Hand" of the pro democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in June 1989 and the Institute was closed down.

Chen Ziming was detained with his wife in Guangdong. After four months of solitary confinement and subsequent detention, Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao were both brought to trial on 12 February 1991. After closed hearings they were sentenced to 13 years imprisonment and an additional four years of deprivation of political rights for "conspiring to subvert the government" and "carrying out

counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" during the 1989 pro-democracy protests. It was reported that Chen Ziming's lawyer had his licence revoked because he presented a strong defence. Since April 1991, both Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming were held in solitary confinement and both were reported to have undertaken hunger strikes. Chen Ziming's wife, Wang Zhihong, was released without charge in mid-November 1990 after being held for over a year without charge. It was reported that she had been seven months pregnant at the time of the arrest and subsequently lost the baby.

After his release from prison and later his release from the Beijing hospital where he was undergoing treatment his wife made numerous appeals to the Ministry for Public Security asking that the heavy police surveillance on their house be lifted and that Chen Ziming be allowed to make walks in the neighbourhood.

US State Department spokesperson Nicholas Burns spoke on Tuesday 27 June about Washington's concern over Chen's re-imprisonment given his poor state of health. It has been suggested by many that the original release of Chen Ziming in April 1994 and Wang Juntao in May 1994 and his subsequent flight to the United States were part of a campaign by the Chinese Government to persuade President Clinton to undo the link between China's human rights policy and the renewal of its Most Favoured Nation status, a move being discussed in America at the time. There have been recent press reports suggesting that the recent re-imprisonment of Chen Ziming and the other arrests of dissidents in recent weeks are a response by the Chinese government to the invitation of Taiwan's prime minister to the United States and the ensuing deterioration of relations between the two countries.

During Chen Ziming's medical treatment there were numerous reports that the authorities had been asking his family to cover the cost of the treatment, one report suggested the authorities were asking for close to 10,000 RMB (HK \$ 9,060) unless Chen Ziming admitted his guilt in a signed statement. Chen Ziming stated that he had never and would never admit to guilt.

Chen Ziming's case has received widespread attention because of his public standing in China and because of the circumstances surrounding his imprisonment and subsequent trial and ill health. In December 1993 the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted a resolution declaring that the detention of Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao was "arbitrary being in contravention of articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and political Rights". The Working Group went on to request the Government of the People's Republic of China to take the necessary steps to remedy the situation in order to bring it into conformity with the provisions and principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Decision No.63/1993 (Peoples Republic of China); E/CN.4/1995/31/Add.1, pp33)

In an appeal issued by Chen Ziming's wife and mother, addressed to The National Peoples Congress and the Ministry of Justice among other Chinese authorities, strong concern was expressed over the future state of Chen Ziming's health and the constant medical treatment he needs to stop the spread of cancer to other parts of his body. His doctors have reportedly stressed the need for frequent check ups and 24 hour care.

Amnesty International has recorded at least fifty arrests of dissidents around China in the four weeks surrounding June 4. This crackdown far exceeds previous years crackdown on dissent around the anniversary of the June 4 1989 pro democracy protests when several dozen activist were detained and questioned. Amnesty International is concerned that Chen Ziming is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for his peaceful political activities. Amnesty International calls on the Chinese Government to release him immediately and unconditionally, and to ensure that he receives adequate medical treatment.

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

Urging that Chen Ziming be unconditionally and immediately released as he is a prisoner of conscience and is being held for the peaceful expression of his right to freedom of speech.

Expressing concern that Chen Ziming has been taken back into prison at a time when his health is still poor and his medical conditions need further treatment.

Expressing concern that Chen Ziming is one of numerous dissidents in China who have been questioned, forcibly sent out of Beijing, detained and arrested recently in the period around the sixth anniversary of the June 4 1989 pro democracy protests and that the harassment of dissidents for the peaceful expression of their views and signing of petitions should be stopped.

Urging that Chen Ziming's relatives be allowed to stay with him in prison to ensure he receive the constant medical care his condition needs.

Please send appeals to:

JIANG Zemin Guojia Zhuxi
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Your Excellency

President JIANG Zemin

LI Peng Zongli
Guowuyuan
9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie
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People's Republic of China

Premier LI Peng
State Council

XIAO Yang Buzhang
Sifabu
Xiaguangli
Beijingshi 100016
People's Republic of China

Minister XIAO Yang
Ministry of Justice

WANG Mingdi Juzhang
Sifabu
Laodong Gaizao Gongzuo Guanliju
14 Dongchang'anlu
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People's Republic of China

Director WANG Mingdi
Ministry of Justice
Prison Administration Department (formerly
the Reform-Through-Labour Administration)

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

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

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN (or 22193) (Please transfer to Public Health Minister Chen Minzhang)
Telephone: (86 10) 440531, Salutation: Your Excellency

Department (formerly
14 Dongchang'anlu
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criminals)

the Reform-Through-Labour Administration)
(Guides the People's Republic of China

Name of Addressee
Address
People's Republic of China
Telexes:
Faxes:
(Please forward to ...)
(Salutation: Dear ...)

Title
Name

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 7 AUGUST 1995.

KEYWORDS: REARREST1 / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / ILL-HEALTH1 / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS /

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