

AI INDEX: ASA 17/51/95
28 JULY 1995

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, HARRY WU,
"CONFESSES" TO STEALING STATE SECRETS**

The Chinese Authorities should immediately and unconditionally release Hongda Harry Wu, Amnesty International said today.

Harry Wu, the human rights activist accused on 8 July of "stealing state secrets", was shown yesterday on a video recording on Chinese television "confessing" in the presence of a Chinese official, that the information in two television programmes he made with a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) television reporter was "wrong and untrue".

"The video shows Harry Wu looking tired and unkempt and we continue to have serious concerns for his physical safety," the human rights organization said. "We are also concerned about possible sleep deprivation due to long, intense periods of interrogation."

Amnesty International considers Harry Wu to be a prisoner of conscience.

Xinhua, China's official news agency, also released an accompanying statement in which Harry Wu admitted that "the contents of the two video tapes, falsely accusing China of exporting products made by prisoners, were 'wrong' and untrue" and that he had "cooked up the tapes together with [a] BBC correspondent ...".

However, the video and the *Xinhua* news agency news release fail to substantiate any of the accusations made by officials against Harry Wu, that he "stole state secrets". The *Xinhua* statement claims that none of the information he is accused of providing to foreign governments and organizations was correct.

"If this is the case, how can he be accused of stealing state secrets? These accusations appear ill-founded and contradictory," Amnesty International stated.

The organization urges the authorities to ensure that while in detention, Harry Wu is treated in accordance with international standards for the treatment of prisoners, receives treatment for existing medical conditions and that he is protected from all forms of ill-treatment.

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