

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 17/37/94  
Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 413/94**

**Ill-treatment / Health concern**

**24 November 1994**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA      Zhang Lin, 31, physics graduate**

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Zhang Lin, a pro-democracy activist detained in Anhui province, has been ill-treated in the labour camp in which he is being held, according to a letter he smuggled out of the camp which was cited in a Reuters' report of 22 November 1994. Zhang Lin, a prisoner of conscience, is apparently in ill-health and being denied medical care.

Zhang Lin's letter reportedly says that, for one hour on 1 November, a guard at the Nanhu labour camp repeatedly punched and kicked him and subjected him to electric shocks with a 15,000 volts electric baton. He writes that this was inflicted on him because he could not work due to constant pain in his hands and feet.

Zhang Lin also refers to "his illness becoming more serious", without giving further details. He says that "his hands and feet hurt all day" and that he has requested medical treatment on more than ten occasions but has been refused each time.

Arrested in May 1994, Zhang Lin was sentenced in late August to three years of "reeducation through labour", a form of administrative detention imposed without charge or trial. He was held incommunicado until 4 September, when his wife and other relatives were allowed to visit him for the first time since his arrest. He was then held at a detention centre in Bengbu city, in northern Anhui province.

According to his wife, he went on hunger-strike for a week in late August after police informed him of his sentence and of plans to transfer him to a coal mining labour camp in Anhui province. She reported that he was then generally in poor health and suffering from a nervous complaint. The family was not given any formal notification of the reasons for his sentence or the identity of the labour camp to which he was to be transferred. He has apparently been denied family visits since his transfer which is presumed to have taken place in September or October.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Zhang Lin, a labour activist and graduate in nuclear physics from Qinghua university in Beijing, had been detained several times previously for his political activities. This included two years in jail from 1989 to 1991 for organising students in his home town of Bengbu during the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

He is reported to have been a key member of an independent labour rights group formed in Beijing in early 1994, the League for the Protection of the Rights of the Working People (LPRWP), which was refused legal registration by the authorities in March. Several sponsors of the LPRWP were arrested between March and May.

Zhang Lin was detained in Beijing on 28 May and transferred to detention in Bengbu on 2 June. His sentence to three years of "reeducation-through-labour" was imposed without a trial and no formal charges were brought against him. However, he was reportedly told by police that he was being sentenced because

his marriage licence was not in order and because he had too many contacts with foreign journalists.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, telexes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at reports that Zhang Lin has been ill-treated at the Nanhu labour camp in Anhui province, and that he is in poor health and has been denied medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to provide Zhang Lin with all appropriate medical treatment and to immediately launch an impartial investigation into his reported ill-treatment and make the findings of the investigation public;
- expressing concern that Zhang Lin has been sentenced, without trial, for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights, in violation of international standards, and urging that he be released immediately and unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO**

Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China

**ZHANG Siqing** Jianchazhang  
Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan  
147 Beiheyuan Dajie  
Donganmen, Dongchengqu  
Beijingshi 100726  
People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN**

**(Please forward to Zhang Siqing Jianchazhang)**

**Telegrams: Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate Zhang Siqing, Beijing, China**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator-General**

Governor of the Anhui Provincial People's Government

**FU Xishou** Shengzhang  
Anhuisheng Renmin Zhengfu  
85 Changjiang Lu  
Hefeishi  
Anhuisheng  
People's Republic of China

**Telegrams: Governor Fu Xishou, Hefei, Anhui Province, China**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Chief Procurator of the Anhui Provincial People's Procuratorate

**LIU Sheng** Jianchazhang  
Anhuisheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
Hefeishi  
Anhuisheng

**Telegrams: Chief Procurator of the Provincial People's Procuratorate Liu Sheng, Hefei, Anhui Province, China**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Procurator**

**COPIES 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 2 January 1995.