

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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*Limited appeal: please send up to 10 appeals per section*

20 May 1992

UA 167/92

Ill-treatment of a former prisoner of conscience involved  
in the 1989 pro-democracy protests

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Han Dongfang

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Han Dongfang, a former prisoner of conscience, and a prominent labour activist during the 1989 pro-democracy protests, has reportedly been ill-treated at the Dongcheng District People's Court in Beijing. The incident took place on 14 May 1992. He was reportedly severely beaten, handcuffed, abused, kicked and stunned with electric batons by court officials. Han Dongfang is already ill with tuberculosis. A medical certificate shown to Reuters stated that the beatings Han Dongfang had received, had caused his chest cavity to fill with fluid, an injury unrelated to the tuberculosis.

Han Dongfang has subsequently filed a suit at the Beijing Procuratorate demanding that the Dongcheng District People's Court officials who ill-treated him be punished and that he receive compensation for his injuries. Han Dongfang had been summoned to the Dongcheng District People's Court on a matter relating to his housing. He and his wife are reportedly facing eviction from their home.

It is very unusual for AI to hear of a case of a former prisoner of conscience being severely ill-treated in court by court officials. As the anniversary of the 1989 pro-democracy protests approaches (4/5 June), there are fears that the authorities may be prepared to take strong measures against supporters of the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

During the 1989 pro-democracy protests Han Dongfang was one of the founding members of the independent Beijing Workers' Autonomous Federation (BWAFF) established during the protests in May of that year. The government declared it illegal in June 1989. Han Dongfang was arrested in June 1989 and held for twenty-two months until his release on bail for medical treatment in April 1991. Before his release Han Dongfang was charged in March 1990 with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" but in November 1991 after his release it was announced that the charges had been dropped. During his detention Han Dongfang had become seriously ill with tuberculosis and it is believed that this was the reason for his release.

Since his release Han Dongfang has reportedly been dismissed from his job, remains under constant police surveillance and ordered not to see foreigners or to discuss his period of detention.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about these allegations of ill-treatment against Han Dongfang and urging that they be investigated promptly and impartially and that the findings be made public;
- urging that all those responsible be brought to justice and that he receive full compensation for any injuries suffered;
- noting that ill-treatment is in contravention of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or punishment ratified by China in October 1988;

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- urging that no restrictions be placed on Han Dongfang's freedom of movement and association;
- urging that measures be implemented to ensure that others at risk do not suffer similar ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. Procurator General

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Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan

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People's Republic of China

**Faxes: + 86 1 512 1158**

**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN; 22478 MFERT CN (Please forward to LIU Fuzhi Jianchazhang)**

**[Salutation: Dear Procurator]**

2. Beijing Municipal Procurator

HE Fangba Jianchazhang

Beijingshi Renmin Jianchayuan

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 210217 FAOGB CN; 22476 BJGVT CN (Please forward to HE Fangba Jianchazhang)**

**Faxes: + 86 1 512 1158**

**[Salutation: Dear Sir]**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Dongcheng District People's Court

Dongchengqu

37 Fuxue Hutong

Beijingshi 100007

People's Republic of China

Dongcheng District People's Procuratorate

Dongchengqu

No. 83 Dong 41 Tiao

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People's Republic of China

and to the Chinese diplomatic representatives in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 July 1992.