

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 26/91 (ASA 17/10/91, 25 January 1991) - Legal Concern

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: CHEN Xiaoping
LIU Gang**

Six more pro-democracy activists were brought to trial in Beijing in early February 1991, including Chen Xiaoping and Liu Gang. The verdicts against both men were announced by the official New China News Agency (NCNA) on 12 February 1991.

Liu Gang, a 29-year-old physics post-graduate at Beijing University, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment and an additional two years' deprivation of political rights. Announcing the verdict, the NCNA said that this was a "mitigated" sentence because he had "acknowledged his crimes" and "showed willingness to repent". He had gone on trial on 6 February on the charge of "plotting to overthrow the government".

Chen Xiaoping, a 29-year-old constitutional law lecturer in Beijing, went on trial on 5 February 1991 on the same charge as Liu Gang, but was "exempted from criminal punishment". According to the NCNA, this was because he had "surrendered to the authorities" (after the 4 June 1989 crackdown) and had "shown repentance". He is believed to have been released after the judgement was passed (on or before 12 February).

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the sentence passed against Liu Gang, a prisoner of conscience jailed for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights, and urging the authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally;
- welcoming the release of Chen Xiaoping but enquiring whether he is subjected to any restrictions;
- urging the authorities to publish the names of all those reportedly released recently.
- urging the authorities to ensure that political detainees who may go on trial in future are given fair and open trials in accordance with international standards.

APPEALS TO:

LI Peng Zongli (Premier)
 Guowoyuan
 Beijingshi
 Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
 People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

CAI Cheng Buzhang (Justice Minister)
 Sifabu
 Sanlihe
 Beijingshi
 Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
 People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN
 (Please forward to Cai Cheng Buzhang)

REN Jianxin Yuanzhang
 President, Supreme People's Court
 Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan
 Beijingshi
 Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
 People's Republic of China

COPIES TO:

JIANG Zemin Zhongyang Weiyuanhui Zongshuji
 Guowuyuan
 Beijingshi
 Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
 People's Republic of China (Party General Secretary)

SHAO Huaze Zong Bianji (Chief Editor, People's Daily)
 Renmin Ribao
 Jintaixilu No. 2
 Chaoyangmenwai
 Beijingshi
 People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 March 1991.