

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 101/01 - Death penalty

3 May 2001

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)

Jin Ruchao  
Wang Yushun  
Hao Fengqin  
Hu Xiaohong

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Jin Ruchao, Wang Yushun and Hao Fengqin were reportedly executed on 29 April.

Hu Xiaohong, who had been sentenced to death for selling Jin detonators and fuses worth 33 yuan (US \$4) in June 2000, has had his death sentence suspended for two years. Under Chinese law, at the end of the two years the death sentence is commuted to life imprisonment unless the prisoner is found to have "intentionally committed crimes" during the period of suspension. However, the type of crime which might warrant execution is not known and Amnesty International is concerned that prisoners may be executed for minor crimes committed in prison.

Jin Ruchao was convicted of the 15 March bombing of four residential buildings, as well as the murder of his girlfriend on 9 March. The other two men were convicted of making explosives and selling them to him.

A national "Strike Hard" campaign to crack down on crime was announced in Beijing on 11 April, aimed at "cracking down on evil forces and wiping out hooligans" and focussing on violent crimes as well as crimes involving multiple theft or robbery. On that day alone, 89 people were executed. Since then there have been almost daily reports of mass executions and the total of people executed since 11 April is reported to be about 500.

Amnesty International remains concerned that this renewed crackdown may influence the proceedings and outcome of criminal trials during the campaign. Previous anti-crime crackdowns have resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of people sentenced to death and a large number of suspected miscarriages of justice.

**Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. Please send a final round of telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Chinese or your own language:**

- expressing your regret at the executions of Jin Ruchao, Wang Yushun and Hao Fengqin;
- urging the authorities not to execute Hu Xiaohong;
- expressing grave concern that the national "Strike Hard" campaign will result in summary trials and a potential rise in the number of miscarriages of justice in China;
- urging the authorities to reduce their use of the death penalty, in accordance with international trends and United Nations resolutions;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment, and as a violation of the right to life, as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**APPEALS TO:**

Premier of the People's Republic of China  
**ZHU Rongji** Zongli  
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9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

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**Faxes:** + 8610 6 520 5316/467 7046 (c/o Ministry of Justice)  
+ 86 10 6 851 2174 (c/o Ministry of Radio, Film, TV)  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China  
**XIAO Yang** Yuanzhang  
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**Telegram:** President, Supreme People's Court, Beijing, China  
**Salutation:** Dear President  
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Governor of the Hebei Provincial People's Government  
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**Salutation:** Dear Governor

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**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 June 2001.