

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: ASA 17/04/92
Distr: UA/SC**

8 January 1992

Further information on UA 377/91 ASA 17/66/91, 8 November 1991 - Fear of Ill-treatment

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: **Liu Gang**
 Tang Yuanjuan
 Zhang Ming
 Li Wei
 Leng Wanbao
 Kong Xianfeng

Following a statement issued on 6 November 1991 by supporters of the above-named six prisoners there was a news blackout. Subsequently one official report said that at least two of the six had been denied their monthly prison visits by relatives. (The names of the two have not been made public.) The six, who are all prisoners of conscience, had threatened to start a hunger-strike on 15 November in protest against the prison conditions and ill-treatment of prisoners at the Lingyuan labour camp. Since then there are reports that Liu Gang (one of the six prisoners) has had his arm broken by jail warders for trying to stage a hunger-strike and that officials had tried to force-feed Liu Gang.

The statement issued in November said that prisoners at the Lingyuan labour camp in Liaoning province are beaten with fists, electrified batons and leather belts; they are forced to work up to 14 hours a day and beaten if their work does not come up to standard. The statement also said that prisoners are held in overcrowded cells and that medical care and nutrition is poor.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- urging that the six prisoners be released quickly and unconditionally.
- expressing concern at reports that Liu Gang's arm has been broken and that he has been force-fed following the threatened hunger-strike. Urge that these reports be quickly and impartially investigated and that the findings be made public in accordance with the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ratified by China in 1988.
- expressing concern that at least two of the six prisoners have been denied their monthly family visits following the threatened hunger-strike and urge that the visits be re-instated.
- expressing concern about the general well-being of the six prisoners and urge that they be treated in accordance with international standards for the treatment of prisoners.

APPEALS TO:

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Salutation: Your Excellency

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Salutation: Dear Director

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(please forward to LIU Fuzhi Jianchazhang)

Salutation: Dear Procurator

4) Governor of Liaoning Province:

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Salutation: Dear Governor

5) Chief Procurator of Liaoning Province:

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Salutation: Dear Procurator

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or your office, if sending appeals after 20 February 1992.