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Further information on UA 16/91 (ASA 17/03/91, 16 January 1991) - Legal Concern

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: WANG Haidong

and new names: LI Shuntang ZHOU Wanshui

LIU Xiaojing LU Xiaochun YANG Junzhong YU Yongjie

WANG Haidong, who was named in UA 16/91 as due to appear before the Beijing Intermediary People's Court on 15 January 1991, is believed to have been charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement", a charge similar to that faced by Bao Zunxin, also named in UA 16/91.

The six others named above also reportedly went on trial on 15 January, on charges including arson, looting, larceny and "blocking traffic". There are no details on their cases, although they are all reportedly dissidents held in connection with the pro-democracy movement of the Spring 1989. They face charges which may, in "serious cases", carry the death penalty. More than 900 death sentences were known to have been pronounced in China in 1990, a marked increase over previous years. Some of those sentenced and executed were accused of committing acts of violence during the June 1989 unrest.

Trials procedures in China fall far short of international standards for fairness. Defendants may be unable to obtain the assistance of the lawyers of their choice and to call defence witnesses. In trials of other dissidents held earlier this month, defendants reportedly had to submit their defence statements to the court in advance for approval.

Amnesty International is concerned that Wang Haidong, Li Shuntang, Liu Xiaojing, Yang Junzhong, Zhou Wanshui, Lu Xiaochun and Yu Yongjie may be denied a fair and open trial in accordance with international standards for fair trials.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging the authorities to make public the trial proceedings against Wang Haidong, Li Shuntang, Liu Xiaojing, Yang Junzhong, Zhou Wanshui, Lu Xiaochun and Yu Yongjie and the evidence on which the charges against them are based;
- urging the authorities to ensure that their trials are open to the general public and conducted in accordance with international standards for fairness and to allow international observers to attend the trials.

APPEALS TO:

LI Peng Zongli (Prime Minister)

Guowuyuan Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 2100070 FMPRC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

CAI Cheng Buzhang (Justice Minister)

Sifabu Sanlihe Beijingshi People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

(Please forward to Cai Cheng Buzhang)

LIU Fuzhi Jianchazhang (Chief procurator)

Zuigao Renmin Jianchazhang Donganmen Beiheyan Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Faxes: +86 1 512 1158

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(Please forward to the addressee)

COPIES TO:

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Renmin Ribao Jintaixilu 2 Chaoyangmenwai Beijingshi 100733 People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of the PRC in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 1 March 1991.