

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 65/92 (ASA 17/21/92, 21 February 1992) - and follow-up(s): ASA 17/49/92, 18 August 1992, ASA 17/105/93, 15 February 1993 and ASA 17/08/93, 22 February 1993 - Medical Concern/Prisoner of Conscience

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Li Guiren

and new names:                   Zheng Xuguang  
  Ma Shaohua

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Li Guiren, who was arrested in 1989 for his involvement in the pro-democracy movement and released on parole for medical treatment a year ago, was re-arrested on 16 February 1994 from his home in Xi'an, in Shaanxi province. He is believed to be a prisoner of conscience.

According to unofficial sources in China twelve plain clothes policemen arrived at his house on the morning of 16 February and took him away without explanation, except to say they were returning him to Weinan Prison where he was formerly detained.

Li Guiren was released on parole 16 months before his sentence was due to expire in June 1994, and until that time would be on probation. According to the Chinese Criminal Law his parole would be revoked if he "*commits any further crime*" during the period of probation and would have to serve out the rest of his remaining sentence along with any additional sentence that may be imposed.

Parolees who have been released for medical treatment are normally allowed to remain free until such time as they have "*recovered*".

Amnesty International is concerned that Li Guiren, aged 50, is not in a fit state to survive another period of imprisonment. Since his release from prison Li Guiren's health has still been poor. He suffers from a serious heart condition, is unable to walk more than a few steps without getting out of breath and is too weak to undergo the necessary surgery.

Although no reasons were given for Li Guiren's re-arrest it is believed to be in connection with the detention in late November 1993 of former prisoners of conscience **Zheng Xuguang** and **Ma Shaohua**, who had visited Li Guiren's home a couple of times. Earlier in November, the two men had launched a campaign in Xi'an calling for human rights improvements. They had held discussions with members of the Beijing based "*Peace Charter*" group whose manifesto called on the Chinese Communist Party to respect human rights and introduce political reforms. Several members of this group were detained for questioning and later released, except for Qin Yongmin who has been administratively sentenced to two-years "*re-education through labour*", and is a prisoner of conscience. Zheng Xuguang and Ma Shaohua have not been heard of since their arrest.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Li Guiren was arrested in June 1989 for trying to organize a strike at the Hua Yue Publishing House, of which he was editor-in-chief, in protest at the 4 June massacre in Beijing. He was also accused of taking part in demonstrations and other activities during the 1989 protests.

In March 1991, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. During his detention his health deteriorated rapidly and he was reportedly denied proper

medical care. According to his relatives, before his release on parole on 18 February 1993 he was on the brink of death.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern that Li Guiren has been re-arrested and urging the authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing concern that Li Guiren may not survive a further period of imprisonment and calling for him to receive appropriate medical attention;
- urging that the conditions attached to his release last year be lifted as he was held for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of association and expression;
- urging that the authorities make public the whereabouts of Zheng Xuguang and Ma Shaohua and any charges made against them.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Public Security

**Tao Siju** Buzhang

Gong'anbu

14 Dongchang'anlu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN**

**Faxes: + 861 512 1176** (Previously + 86 1 421 4222) or 861 544 1569

**Telegram: Minister of Public Security Tao Siju, Beijing, China**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) Governor of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Government

**Fan Xiaomei** Shengzhang

Shaanxisheng Renmin Zhengfu

Xixin Jie

Xi'an Shi 710004

Shaanxisheng

People's Republic of China

**Telegram: Governor Fan Xiaomei, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

3) Chief Procurator of the Shaanxi Provincial People's Procuratorate

**Yang Lie** Jianchazhang

Shaanxisheng Renmin Jianchayuan

Xi'an Shi

Shaanxisheng

People's Republic of China

**Telegram: Chief Procurator of the Provincial People's Procuratorate Yang Lie, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Procurator**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Editor, Shaanxi Daily

Zongbianji

Shaanxi Ribao

1 Dongduan Huangchengnanlu

Hepingenwai

Xi'an Shi

Shaanxisheng

People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 April 1994.