

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety/Assault/Prisoner of conscience

PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Wang Jinbo (m), aged 30, prisoner of conscience

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Wang Jinbo, a prisoner of conscience from Shandong Province, has reportedly been subjected to repeated attacks, including beatings, by other prisoners in an unspecified prison in Shandong. Amnesty International fears for his safety.

Little is known about the beatings, but the prison authorities have reportedly failed to take any action against the perpetrators of the attacks, or to ensure Wang Jinbo's safety. It is not known whether Wang Jinbo has suffered any injuries as a result of the attacks.

His family have not been permitted to visit him at any time during his detention. Since his arrest Wang Jinbo has reportedly conducted at least five hunger strikes in protest at his treatment. The authorities have reportedly cut off his family's telephone in recent days.

Wang Jinbo was formerly a member of the banned opposition China Democracy Party, and has been detained several times for his political activities. He was arrested in May 2001 and three months later was charged with "inciting the subversion of state power". This related to articles he had sent to overseas Chinese organizations via the Internet, calling for a re-evaluation of the 1989 Tiananmen protests and the release of political prisoners in China. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Wang Jinbo was tried on 14 November 2001 by the Intermediate People's Court in Linyi, Shandong Province, but no family members were permitted to attend the trial. On 13 December 2001 it was officially announced that Wang Jinbo had been sentenced to four years' imprisonment. He appealed against the verdict but the appeal was unsuccessful

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The China Democracy Party was founded in Zhejiang Province in 1998 by a group of well-known dissidents in China. Within hours of trying to officially register the CDP in July 1998, as a non-violent opposition political party, key members of the CDP were arrested and arrests continued throughout China. Some of its leaders have been sentenced to prison terms of up to 13 years.

Since China linked up with the global Internet in 1994 scores of rules and regulations have been introduced, equipment confiscated, sites banned and internet cafes controlled and shut down throughout China. Wang Jinbo is one of dozens of people who have been detained for Internet-related "offences" in violation of fundamental human rights guaranteeing freedom of opinion and expression. For further information see *State Control of the Internet in China*, (AI Index: ASA 17/007/2002) and *State Control of the Internet in China: Appeal Cases*, (AI Index: ASA 17/046/2002), dated November 2002.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Chinese or in your own language.**

- expressing concern for the safety of Wang Jinbo, who has reportedly been beaten by fellow prisoners in prison and expressing concern at reports that prison authorities have refused to take any action against those involved;
- urging that immediate measures be taken by the authorities to guarantee his safety;

- calling for a full, independent and impartial investigation into these allegations and to make the results public;
- urging that those found responsible, including officials who may have failed to take action to prevent the abuse are brought to justice;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Wang Jinbo as a prisoner of conscience imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association;
- pointing out that China ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment in October 1988 but has failed to introduce effective measures and safeguards to prevent torture.

**APPEALS TO:**

Acting Governor of the Shandong Provincial People's Government

ZHANG Gaoli Daishengzhang  
 Shandongsheng Renmin Zhengfu  
 1 Shengfuqianjie  
 Jinanshi  
 Shandongsheng  
 People's Republic of China

**Telegram:** **Acting Governor, Jinan, Shandong Province, China**

**Email:** **contest@sdonline.cn.net**

**Salutation:** **Dear Governor**

Director of the Shandong Provincial Department of Justice

LIANG Dechao Tingzhang  
 Sifating  
 9 Jinshilu  
 Jinanshi 250014  
 Shandongsheng  
 People's Republic of China

**Fax:** **+ 86 531 690 2739 (c/o Foreign Affairs Office of Shandong Province)**

**Salutation:** **Dear Director**

Minister of Justice

Zhang Fusen  
 Sifabu (Ministry of Justice)  
 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie, Chaoyangqu  
 Beijingshi 100020, People's Republic of China

**Telegram:** **Justice Minister, Beijing, China**

**Fax:** **+ 86 10 65 292345 (c/o Ministry of Communications)**

**E-mail:** **minister@legalinfo.gov.cn**

**Salutation:** **Dear Minister**

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

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 March 2003.