

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 17/12/91

Distr: UA/SC

29 January 1991

Further information on UA 414/90 (ASA 17/62/90, 12 October 1990);
UA 485/90 (ASA 17/71/90, 30 November 1990); UA 487/90 (ASA 17/72/90,
3 December 1990 and follow-up ASA 17/09/91, 24 January 1991);
UA 07/91 (ASA 17/02/91, 11 January 1991); UA 16/91 (ASA 17/03/91,
16 January 1991); UA 18/91 (ASA 17/04/91, 18 January 1991) - Legal Concern

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Wang Dan, Ren Wanding, Bao Zunxin, Guo
Haifeng, Yao Junling, Liu Xiaobo

Wang Dan (see UA 487/90 and follow-up), **Ren Wanding** (see UAs 485/90 and 07/91) and **Bao Zunxin** (see UAs 414/90 and 16/91), all prisoners of conscience, were sentenced on 26 January 1991 by the Beijing Intermediate People's Court to prison terms ranging from four to seven years. **Guo Haifeng** (see UA 07/91) was sentenced to four years and his associate **Yao Junling** was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. **Liu Xiaobo** (see UAs 485/90 and 18/91) was reported by the official New China News Agency to have been released because "he showed repentance and performed some major meritorious service".

All were charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation" except **Guo Haifeng** and **Yao Junling** who were charged with "counter-revolutionary sabotage".

Wang Dan was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. According to the New China News Agency he was given a "lesser sentence" because he had shown "such repentance as confessing his own crimes and exposing others".

Ren Wanding, a former prisoner of conscience who had previously spent four years in prison for his activities in the 1979 democracy movement, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. The official report stated that "[Ren] committed grave crimes and showed no repentance".

Bao Zunxin was sentenced to five years' imprisonment but was reported to have been "repentant".

Foreign correspondents and diplomats in Beijing continue to be denied permission to attend the trials. The New China News Agency reported that 300 people had attended the trials, but according to other sources, those admitted were selected in advance by the authorities and there was no free access to the courts hearing the cases.

Trial procedures in China fall far short of international standards for fairness. The defendants tried recently were reportedly unable to designate lawyers of their choice. In trials of other dissidents held earlier this month, defendants reportedly had to submit their defence statements to the court in advance for approval. It is also a common practice in China for the verdict to be decided before the trial.

Amnesty International is concerned that all six may have been denied fair trials in accordance with international standards.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern that **Wang Dan, Ren Wandong** and **Bao Zunxin**, have been sentenced to prison terms for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of association and expression and urging the authorities to release them immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing concern at reports that the charges against **Guo Haifeng** and **Yao Junling** may be unfounded and urging the authorities to make public evidence on which the charges against them are based;
- expressing concern that the recent trials fail to meet international standards for fair trials and urging the authorities to make public a full transcript of the trials;
- urging the authorities to ensure that current and future trials are open to the general public and conducted according to international standards for fair trials and that international observers be permitted to attend the trials;
- welcoming reports that **Liu Xiaobo** has been released but inquiring whether any restrictions were placed on him as a condition for his release.

APPEALS TO

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and to the PRC diplomatic representatives in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 12 March 1990.