

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 487/90 (ASA 17/72/90, 3 December 1990, and follow-ups ASA 17/09/91, 24 January and ASA 17/12/91, 29 January 1991) - Legal Concern

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA : LU Jiamin

Official sources have announced on separate occasions since early January that over 60 dissidents have been released or exempted from criminal punishment.

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) recently announced the release of 18 people who had committed "minor offences" and "had shown repentance". They had all reportedly been charged but were released without being tried.

Eleven people were released following a decision by the Beijing People's Procuratorate; these included Lu Jiamin, who had been detained since 11 July 1989. Others released at the same time were Chen Bo, Xiong Yan (see UA 184/89, ASA 17/34/89, 16 June, and follow-up ASA 17/68/89, 18 July 1989), Ding Xiaoping and Wen Jie. Seven others were freed following a decision by the Beijing Public Security Bureau, including Chen Wei and Zhang Wei. Five other people who were tried but "exempted from criminal punishment" were also reportedly freed, and according to the official NCNA, 45 other detainees whose names were not disclosed were released without being charged.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Airmail letters:

- welcoming reports of the releases but inquiring whether any restrictions have been placed on Lu Jiamin, Chen Bo, Xiong Yan, Ding Xiaoping, Wen Jie, Chen Wei and Zhang Wei as a condition for their release.

APPEALS TO:

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and to the 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 14 March 1991.