

EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals
China co-groups / Chiran co-ordinators
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia
Date: 13 February 1991

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

©WANG Juntao
People's Republic of CHINA

Keywords

Theme: ill-health/POC/fair trial

Summary

Wang Juntao, aged 52, has been held since November 1989 for his role in the pro-democracy protests in Beijing in June 1989. He was charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation" and "conspiring to overthrow the government". On 12 February 1991 Wang Juntao was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment with 4 years' deprivation of political rights. Amnesty International has learned that Wang Juntao is ill with hepatitis and is urging that he be guaranteed adequate medical care and regular access to his wife and family. Amnesty International is also urging his release on the grounds that the charges laid against him relate solely to the non-violent expression of his political beliefs.

Recommended Actions

Express letters and telegrams are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- saying that you are writing about the case of Wang Juntao, arrested in November 1989 in connection with pro-democracy protests in Beijing in 1989
- noting reports that he is suffering ill-health due to hepatitis
- seeking details of his present condition and asking for assurance that he will receive all necessary medical care, including access to specialist doctors if necessary
- protesting that Wang Juntao is imprisoned solely for his peaceful political views and should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Addresses

Premier
Li Peng Zongli
Guowoyuan
Beijingshi
Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
People's Republic of China

Minister of Justice
Cai Cheng Buzhang
Sanlihe
Beijingshi
Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
People's Republic of China

Chen Minzhang Buzhang
Minister of Health
Weishengbu
44 Houhai Beiqian
Gulou Xidajie
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

Please send copies of your letters to:

SHAO Huazhe Zong Bianji
People's Daily[Renmin Ribao]
Jintaixi lu
Chaoyangmenwai
Beijingshi 100733
People's Republic of China

China Daily[Zhongguo Ribao]
15 Huixin Dongjie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100029
People's Republic of China

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MEDICAL CONCERN

WANG Juntao
People's Republic of China

Wang Juntao, aged 32, was arrested in November 1989 for his role in the pro-democracy movement in China which culminated in the large-scale protests in Tiananmen Square and the subsequent crushing of the protest by the People's Army on the night of 3/4 June 1989. In November 1990 his relatives were told that he had been charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation" and "conspiring to overthrow the government". On 12 February 1991 Wang Juntao was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment with four years' deprivation of political rights. Amnesty International has now received information that Wang Juntao is ill with hepatitis, although no further details are available. Wang Juntao was permitted to see his wife on 9 February 1991 for the first time since his arrest. The organization is urging the authorities to guarantee that Wang Juntao receives necessary medical care, and is permitted visits from his wife and family and access to a legal adviser. Amnesty International have adopted Wang Juntao as a prisoner of conscience and are calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

Background

Wang Juntao is an economist who, at the time of his arrest, was working at the Beijing Research Institute of Social and Economic Sciences, and was editor of the *Economics Weekly*. He was arrested in early November 1989 in southern China together with Chen Ziming and several other people who were trying to leave China via Hong Kong. Regarded by the authorities as one of the main "instigators" of the students protests, he was, with Chen Ziming, one of the most wanted men in China after the crackdown of 4 June 1989. His name appeared on a list of intellectuals for whom "internal" (non-public) arrest warrants were issued by the Ministry of Public Security in June and October 1989.

Wang Juntao had been involved in unofficial movements for democracy since 1976 when, at the age of 17, he was imprisoned after taking part in peaceful demonstrations held in Tiananmen Square in April 1976 against the rule of the "Gang of Four" and in support of Deng Xiaoping who had then fallen from power. Following his release, he joined the Communist Youth League and entered Beijing University in 1978. He was again active during the "democracy wall" movement of 1978-79, founding and editing the unofficial journal *Beijing Spring*. In 1980, he presented himself as a candidate in local elections held in the Beijing University district.

Together with other intellectuals, he was actively involved in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, and is said to have been close to some student leaders. He was subsequently accused by the authorities of being one of the "black hands" who pulled strings "behind the scenes" of the democracy movement.

Wang Juntao is held at Qincheng prison, north of Beijing. Despite numerous requests, his wife, Hou Xiaotian, was not allowed to visit him in prison until 9 February 1991 after he had become ill. On 10 July 1990, Hou Xiaotian made a public appeal to the authorities to release her husband or give him a fair trial. In it she said:

"As a citizen, as a family member of one who is detained, I have my rights to appeal to the Party, the people and the government. Firstly, I appeal for fair and just treatment of Wang Juntao and all other innocent intellectuals. Wang Juntao was always reasonable. The more you arrest reasonable men like him, the more unreasonable people there will be in society, the more unstable elements will emerge. Also I appeal to the entire society to protect the treasure of our nation -- its talent -- and preserve their right to contribute their talent to the people and country that they so love. If there is a trial it should be conducted by the people ... He [Wang Juntao] never advocated turmoil, was never involved in any conspiracy, much less is organizing a counter-revolutionary rebellion". (The London Independent, 11 July 1990).

Amnesty International is concerned that Wang Juntao did not receive a fair trial. Under procedures for trial established in Chinese law, there is no right to be presumed innocent before being proved guilty and in practice the verdict and the sentence are generally determined before the trial hearing takes place. Most political trials are closed to the public, with only the defendant's close relatives allowed to attend. The defendants may not always choose their own lawyers and may have to accept one appointed by the state. Furthermore, lawyers are usually unable to challenge the legitimacy of the indictment and limit their role to one of mitigation. According to reports, the authorities have appointed a group of state lawyers to represent detainees at the trials of individuals charged with "counter revolutionary" offences related to the events of 1989.

The United Nations Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment state the following with regard to medical care:

Principle 24

A proper medical examination shall be offered to a detained or imprisoned person as promptly as possible after his admission to the place of detention or imprisonment, and thereafter medical care and treatment shall be provided whenever necessary. This care and treatment shall be provided free of charge.

Principle 25

A detained or imprisoned person or his counsel shall, subject only to reasonable conditions to ensure security and good order in the place of detention or imprisonment, have the right to request or petition a judicial or other authority for a second medical examination or opinion.

Principle 26

The fact that a detained or imprisoned person underwent a medical examination, the name of the physician and the results of such an examination shall be duly recorded. Access to such records shall be ensured. Modalities therefor shall be in accordance with relevant rules of domestic law.