

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/18/98
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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Asia Regional Program
Date: 6 July 1998

***Further information on
MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION***

**Liu Nianchun
CHINA**

(See AI Index ASA 17/02/97, 15 January 1997 and ASA 17/03/98, 30 January 1998)

Theme: POC / ill-health / ill-treatment/ lack of medical care

Summary

Amnesty International has received reports that Liu Nianchun's health continues to deteriorate and that there have been further complications. Liu Nianchun, who was already reported to be suffering from a throat tumour and hypertension, appears to have lost further weight and to have developed mouth sores which make it difficult for him to eat or speak. Liu's circumstances are reported to be the result of lack of medical attention and ill-treatment.

Liu Nianchun, born 1948, a labour activist, is serving a three year re-education through labour sentence for being a signatory to petitions urging democratic reforms and for accepting aid from human rights organizations abroad. Amnesty International has adopted Liu Nianchun as a prisoner of conscience and is urging his immediate and unconditional release.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- stating that Amnesty International considers Liu Nianchun a prisoner of conscience imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs and appealing for Liu Nianchun's immediate and unconditional release;
- expressing concern at reports that his health conditions have deteriorated and that he has not been provided with adequate medical care;
- seeking further information on his current state of health and asking for details of whatever medical treatment he is receiving;
- urging that Liu Nianchun receive all necessary medical care in accordance with provisions set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response.

Addresses

JIANG Zemin, Guojia Zhuxi *[President of the People's Republic of China]*
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

QIAO Shi, Weiyuanzhang *[Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee]*
Quanguo Renmin daibiao Dahui
Renmin Da Huitang
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

GAO Changli Buzhang *[Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China]*
Sifabu
Xiaguangli
Beijingshi 100016
People's Republic of China

Copies

Please send copies of your letters to:

Laogai Suozhang *[Director of Tuanhe labour camp]*
Beijingshi Laogaisuo
Huang cun
Daxing xian
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

Beijing Municipality Bureau of Public Health
Weishengjuzhang *[Director, Public Health Bureau]*
2 Huaibaishujie
Yuanwu qu
Beijingshi 100053
People's Republic of China

and to the nearest diplomatic representative of the People's Republic of China.

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***Further information on
ILL-TREATMENT AND HEALTH CONCERN***

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CHINA**

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Summary

Amnesty International has received reports that Liu Nianchun's health continues to deteriorate and that there have been further complications. Liu Nianchun, who was already reported to be suffering from a throat tumour and hypertension, appears to have lost further weight and to have developed mouth sores which make it difficult for him to eat or speak. Liu's circumstances are reported to be the result of lack of medical attention and ill-treatment.

Liu Nianchun, born 1948, a labour activist, is serving a three year re-education through labour sentence for being a signatory to petitions urging democratic reforms and for accepting aid from human rights organizations abroad. Amnesty International has adopted Liu Nianchun as a prisoner of conscience and is urging his immediate and unconditional release.

Background information

Liu Nianchun was a signatory to seven 1995 petitions calling for human rights protection and democratic reforms and was arrested in Beijing on 21 May 1995. He was accused of accepting illegal aid from human rights organizations abroad and drafting appeals in collaboration with former student leader Wang Dan, who served 2 years of an 11 year sentence before his release on medical parole on 19 April 1998.

After his arrest, in May 1995, he was held in incommunicado detention for 14 months in a labour camp at Shuanghe, in the chilly northeastern province of Heilongjiang more than 1,000 kilometres northeast of Beijing. In July 1996, Liu Nianchun was taken from Shuanghe farm labour camp to Tuanhe labour camp. Liu Nianchun should have been released on 21 May 1998 according to Chinese law which provides that the sentence begins on the day of the arrest. By contrast, Chinese authorities said Liu will complete his sentence in July 1999. According to reports, Liu Nianchun's condition has been visibly deteriorating in the past two years. At the end of last year the Tuanhe labour camp authorities confirmed that Liu Nianchun's health was poor and asked Liu Nianchun's relatives to help pay his medical expenses.

On the morning of 21 May 1998 Wu Huifen and Chu Hailan, the mother and wife of Liu Nianchun, visited him at Tuanhe Labour Camp. They said that he appeared extremely thin and was difficult to recognise. Chu Hailan stated that he was holding his stomach in pain the whole time she saw him and that she was not allowed to give him some traditional Chinese medicine to relieve his pain. They said that Liu Nianchun had developed an ulcer and gastro intestinal tumour, that his mouth was affected by numerous sores and that his gums have new "tumours". Liu's circumstances resulted, they said, from lack of medical attention and ill-treatment. At six in the evening of the same day Wu Huifen, who is over eighty years old, and Chu Hailan, held a silent protest before the Great Hall of the

People, where China's parliament meets, calling on authorities to give Liu Nianchun needed medical attention and carrying a banner that read "Safeguard Our Legal Rights". They were both taken away by Tiananmen Square police for questioning. They were then transferred to the police station of their residential area, where Chu Hailan was forced to write a "confession", though she admitted no wrong-doing. At midnight they were escorted home.