

To: Sections

The following information was telexed/faxed/e-mailed to Urgent Action coordinators and was not printed for general distribution to the UA network because the situation was liable to change quickly. This printed version is being sent to sections in the weekly mailing for information only and therefore has an AI Index number.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Trials

6 February 1991

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA : CHEN Yanlin
ZHANG Yafei**

Two more people held for their activities during the 1989 pro-democracy movement, Chen Yanlin and Zhang Yafei, went on trial in Beijing on 5 February, according to an official notice announcing their trial outside the Beijing Intermediate People's Court.

Chen Yanlin and Zhang Yafei face two charges: carrying out "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation" and "organising and leading a counter-revolutionary group", the notice said. No further details were given about them. According to China's criminal law, the latter charge carries sentences ranging from five years' to life imprisonment.

These two cases bring to 21 the number of people tried since December 1990 for their activities during the 1989 pro-democracy movement. Official sources have so far announced the verdicts against 17 of those tried, 12 of whom were sentenced to prison terms. Sentences have been handed down between one and ten days after the beginning of the trials.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Trial procedures in China do not conform to international standards for fair trials. Defendants may be unable to obtain the assistance of the lawyers of their choice and to call defence witnesses. In trials of other dissidents held in January 1991, defendants reportedly had to submit their defence statements to the court in advance for approval.

Amnesty International is concerned that Chen Yanlin and Zhang Yafei may be prisoners of conscience detained for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights and that they may be denied fair and open trials in accordance with international standards for fair trials.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging the authorities to make public the trial proceedings against Chen Yanlin and Zhang Yafei and the evidence on which the charges against them are based;
- urging the authorities to ensure that their trials are open to the general public and conducted in accordance with international standards for fairness and to allow international observers to attend the trials.

APPEALS TO:

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 March 1991.