

ANP EXTERNAL

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Date: 19 February 1996

MEDICAL CONCERN

**Zhang Xianliang
CHINA - Shanghai**

Zhang Xianliang is a 50-year-old prisoner of conscience who is in need of medical attention. He has spent several previous periods in detention for his political activities and is well known for his dissident views. He is currently serving a sentence of three years' re-education through labour and is due for release in June 1996. His sentence was imposed without charge or trial.

Zhang was part of a group in Shanghai who for several years have tried to seek legal registration for a Shanghai Human Rights Association. He has written numerous articles expressing his political views, took part in the 1978-79 "Democracy Wall" movement in Shanghai, and was a founder of an unofficial journal entitled *Science and Democracy*. He was arrested for these activities in 1982 and served a five year sentence of imprisonment.

After his release, Zhang Xianliang was detained again by police for 24 hours on 3 June 1993 on the eve of the anniversary of the 4 June 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. In late May and early June of 1993 he had given interviews to foreign journalists about the arrest of dissidents in Shanghai. He was also reported to have been planning to hold a commemorative meeting on the fourth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre together with friends, and his detention is believed to have been, in part, to prevent him attending that meeting. Although released on bail, he was taken back into custody on 5 June 1993 and accused of "inciting incidents" by writing a letter of protest about Wang Miaogen, a prisoner of conscience forcibly confined to a psychiatric hospital without medical grounds, for alerting foreign journalists to the case and for planning to organize activities around the 4 June anniversary. He was sentenced without charge or trial to three years' re-education through labour and is currently held in labour camp in Dafu, Anhui province.

His conditions of detention are poor and he is forced to write daily "self-criticisms" of his activities. In addition, he was forced to withdraw an appeal against his sentence in order to secure a passport for his daughter. His family have been subjected to repeated police harassment, have been kept under close surveillance and have suffered discrimination and difficulty in finding employment.

Zhang Xianliang is reported to have a number of medical problems, notably heart problems and hypertension which causes him shortage of breath, bad headaches, dizziness and tinnitus. He is also reported to suffer from rheumatoid arthritis and prostate problems.

Amnesty International is seeking information on the medical attention he is receiving and is urging his unconditional and early release as a prisoner of conscience.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Asia Regional Program
Date: 19 February 1996

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Zhang Xianliang
CHINA - Shanghai

Keywords

Theme: POC/ill-health

Summary

Zhang Xianliang is a well-known dissident who has spent previous terms in prison for his political views and is currently serving a three-year sentence without charge or trial. He is a prisoner of conscience and is known to have a number of medical problems requiring attention. Please see the details attached.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- appealing for Zhang Xianliang's immediate and unconditional release
- noting that he is reported to have a number of medical problems and seeking information on the medical attention he is receiving
- urging that he receive all the necessary medical care

Addresses

Xue Mingren Juzhang
Sifaju
225 Wuxinglu
Shanghaishi 200030
People's Republic of China
(Director Xue Mingren,
Bureau of Justice)

Chen Minzhang Buzhang
Weishengbu
44 Honhai Beiyuan, Xichengqu
Beijingshi 1007525
People's Republic of China
(Minister Chen Minzhang,
Ministry of Public Health)

