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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1989 MASSACRE - THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SILENCED

UPDATE ON BAO TONG

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Since the printing of this document, AI Index: 17/20/97, there has been a significant change in the circumstances of one of the featured prisoners, **Bao Tong**.

On 26 April 1997, **Bao Tong** was finally released from "house arrest" or a disguised form of continued detention in a state-owned facility. His release was conditional on his family moving from an apartment in central Beijing, which had been allocated to him as a senior official, to a specially prepared apartment in Shijinghan, a western suburb some 10 km from the centre of the city. **Bao Tong** is reportedly weak and in poor health. Although reunited with his family, as part of his sentence, **Bao Tong** will be deprived of his political rights until May 1998. During this time he will reportedly be forbidden to talk to journalists or to publish. Other restrictions on freedom of expression and association and strict surveillance are commonly imposed as part of this penalty, but no further information is available as yet on how they apply in **Bao Tong's** case.

Amnesty International welcomes the release of prisoner of conscience Bao Tong and calls for all remaining restrictions on him to be removed immediately and unconditionally.

<p>KEYWORDS: CONDITIONAL RELEASE1 / PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / BANNING / HOUSE/TOWN ARREST /</p>

This report updates the document: *People's Republic of China: The eighth anniversary of the 1989 massacre - those who have been silenced* (AI Index: ASA 17/20/97) issued by Amnesty International in April 1997. Anyone wishing further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document.

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