

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/030/2004

17 June 2004

Further Information on UA 200/04 (ASA 17/027/2004, 17 June 2004) - Arbitrary detention/fear of torture or ill-treatment

CHINA

**Dr Jiang Yanyong (m), aged 72
Hua Zhongwei (f), aged 72, his wife
Hu Jia (m)**

Hua Zhongwei was released on the evening of 15 June. She said that both she and her husband, Dr Jiang Yanyong, were “comfortable” during their two weeks in detention, but no details were available of where they were held. Dr Jiang remains in custody.

Dr Jiang Yanyong and Hua Zhongwei were arbitrarily detained on 1 June. According to a Reuters press report citing confidential sources, Hua Zhongwei is “optimistic” that her husband will be released soon.

Dr Jiang was apparently detained in an attempt to stop him having any contact with Chinese activists or foreign journalists in the run-up to the 15th anniversary of the military crackdown on demonstrators in Tiananmen Square on 4 June 1989.

On 24 May 2004, a senior Beijing official told domestic and foreign journalists that Dr Jiang Yanyong’s “work and life, including academic activities, do not face any restriction”. Dr Jiang and his wife were detained eight days later.

Dozens of other political activists were also detained at around the same time as Dr Jiang and Hua Zhongwei. Hu Jia, who has publicly protested and campaigned on a number of social issues, was detained and beaten on several occasions. Amnesty International is concerned that because of his peaceful political activism, Hu Jia is at particular risk of being arbitrarily detained and ill-treated again.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese or your own language:

- urging the Chinese authorities to immediately release Dr Jiang Yanyong, pointing out that he appears to have been detained solely for exercising his fundamental right to freedom of expression;
- asking for assurances that Hu Jia, and others like him, will not face reprisals for their peaceful lobbying and campaigning activities;
- urging the Chinese authorities to release all prisoners detained solely for taking part in peaceful protests when either participating in or commemorating the events of 4 June 1989.

APPEALS TO:

President of the People’s Republic of China

HU Jintao Guojia Zhuxi

Yongneixijie

Beijingshi 100017

People’s Republic of China

Telegram: President Hu Jintao, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Premier of the People's Republic of China

WEN Jiabao Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuang Chenggen Beijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Premier Wen Jiabao, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau

MA Zhenchuan Juzhang

Gong'an Ju

19 Qianmen Dongdajie

Xuanwu Qu

Beijingshi 100740

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 July 2004.