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# *amnesty international*

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## £CHINA

### @Three Shanghai dissidents sentenced without trial

12 OCTOBER 1994

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Amnesty International is calling for the release of Yang Zhou, Bao Ge and Yang Qingheng, three dissidents detained in Shanghai since mid-1994 who were recently sentenced to three year terms of "reeducation through labour", a form of administrative detention imposed without charge or trial. As is the case for those sentenced to "reeducation through labour" they were denied access to a lawyer and the right to defend themselves<sup>1</sup>.

The families of Yang Zhou and Bao Ge were informed of the sentences on 11 October 1994 when public security bureau (police) officers visited their homes. The police gave both families a written notice of the sentence passed on their relative, but the notice did not give any indication of the accusations made against them. Yang Qingheng's family is reported to have received a similar notice from the police on 7 October 1994.

**Yang Zhou**, 50, has been detained since 12 May 1994<sup>2</sup> and is reported to be in poor health. His wife, Li Guoping does not know where her husband is being detained and has not been allowed to see him since his detention, nor is she permitted to send money, food or medicine. According to foreign press reports, Li Guoping was told by the police that her husband had been accused of publishing reactionary materials and stirring up public unrest which she thinks may relate to a collection of articles and letters written and privately published by Yang Zhou two years ago. Li Guoping told journalists that she had started a twenty-four hour protest hunger strike as soon as she heard that her husband had been sentenced.

**Bao Ge** was detained on 3 June 1994<sup>3</sup>, after sending an open letter to the Chinese government asking for a national human rights organization to be set up. He had also been campaigning to seek

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<sup>1</sup> "Reeducation through labour" is imposed without trial by committees composed of representatives from the police and other departments from the local governments in China. A right of appeal to the courts is in theory possible after sentencing, but the sentence is not suspended during the appeal procedure. Such appeals are usually rejected in political cases.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about Yang Zhou, see *Appeal for human rights activists detained in Shanghai*, 25 May 1994, AI Index: ASA 17/21/94.

<sup>3</sup> For more information about Bao Ge, see *More dissidents arrested in the run up to Tiananmen anniversary*, 16 June 1994, AI Index: ASA 17/23/94

compensation from Japan for victims of wartime atrocities committed by Japanese troops in China. According to his family he was sentenced on 10 September 1994. He is reported<sup>4</sup> to have been ill-treated in detention; his family does not know where he is being detained and has been refused permission to send him any medication.

**Yang Qingheng**, a 50-year-old businessman, was reportedly detained on 10 May 1994. In April 1994 he is said to have sought permission from the Shanghai police to hold a protest march on 1 May seeking human rights improvements. He has been involved in pro-democracy activities in Shanghai since the late 1970s and spent two years in prison from 1983 to 1985. In 1993 he spent about a month under house arrest. It is not known where he is currently imprisoned.

*Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language,*

- *expressing concern that Yang Zhou, Bao Ge and Yang Qingheng were sentenced to three years of detention without a trial for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights, in violation of international human rights standards, and*
- *urging the authorities to release Yang Zhou, Bao Ge and Yang Qingheng immediately and unconditionally.*

*Please send appeals to:*

Mayor of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

**HUANG Ju** Shizhang  
Shanghaishi Renmin Zhengfu  
30 Fuzhoulu  
Shanghaishi 200002  
People's Republic of China  
**Telexes:** 333 15 SMERT  
**Telegram:** Mayor Huang Ju, Shanghai, China  
**Salutation:** Dear Mayor

Premier of the People's Republic of China

**LI Peng** Zongli  
Guowuyuan  
9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie  
Beijingshi 100032  
People's Republic of China  
**Telexes:** 210070 FMPC CN or  
22478 MFERT CN  
**Faxes:** +86 1 512 5810  
**Telegram:** Premier Li Peng, Beijing, China  
**Salutation:** Your Excellency

Director of the Shanghai Bureau of Public Security

**ZHU Daren** Juzhang  
Gong'anju  
185 Fuzhoulu  
Shanghaishi 200002  
People's Republic of China  
**Telegram:** Public Security Bureau Director Zhu Daren, Shanghai, China  
**Salutation:** Dear Director

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<sup>4</sup> See *Reuter*, Shanghai, 11 October 1994

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