

EXTERNAL

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*@ PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT*

**Yu Dongyue - 20 year term of imprisonment  
Yu Zhijian - life imprisonment  
Lu Decheng - 16 year term of imprisonment**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Yu Dongyue, Yu Zhijian and Lu Decheng have all been adopted as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International. They are all young men in their twenties who were sentenced following the mass demonstrations and protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989. The sentences range from 16 years to life imprisonment and there have been reports that all three have been subjected to torture. Amnesty International is also gravely concerned that Yu Dongyue and Yu Zhijian have been held in solitary confinement since 1989 and are reported to be seriously ill.

**Background to arrest and sentence**

The three men were arrested in Beijing in May 1989 and accused of putting up "reactionary" wall posters and throwing paint at Mao Zedong's portrait in Tiananmen Square on 23 May 1989. All were brought to trial on charges of "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" and "counter-revolutionary sabotage", the former charge carrying a sentence of anything between 10 years and life imprisonment. They were tried by Beijing Intermediate Court in a trial falling short of internationally accepted standards and were sentenced on 11 August 1989. The judge made the following comments about the three defendants in his summing up at the close of their trial:

"This court of justice believes that the accused Yu Zhijian, Yu Dongyue and Lu Decheng are hostile to the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] leadership, antagonistic to the government representing the people's democratic dictatorship and the socialist system. They took advantage of the turmoil in Beijing, put up reactionary posters, and delivered reactionary speeches to carry out counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement. In broad daylight, they soiled the huge portrait of Chairman Mao hanging on Tiananmen Tower [...] The three accused have conducted counter-revolutionary sabotage and the nature of their crimes is extremely vicious and their case serious. They have incurred the greatest public indignation: therefore they must be severely punished in accordance with the law."

Following the trial they were transferred from Beijing to Hunan, the province where they had been resident, and are now serving their sentences at Hunan provincial No 3 prison in Lingling. The Lingling prison authorities were reportedly instructed to hold them in a strict regime unit and they were placed in solitary confinement. The solitary confinement cells in Lingling are reported to be small - just over two square metres and without any ventilation or heating. They are said to be damp and dark and the sanitation very inadequate. Prison regulations dictate that prisoners may be held in solitary confinement for no longer than two

weeks, but were overridden in this instance. Lu Decheng was returned to a shared cell after six months, but Yu Dongyue and Yu Zhijian remain in solitary confinement 2½ years after their incarceration at Lingling prison. Prisoners in solitary confinement are reported to be allowed to leave their cells for brief periods three times a day to eat their food in a small exercise yard.

Yu Zhijing's health is reported to have deteriorated dramatically; he is reported to have suffered serious weight loss and to appear emaciated. Yu Dongyue is reported to have become badly disturbed psychologically, to be very confused and to have lost control of some bodily functions. There are, in addition, reports that they have been subjected to physical ill-treatment after making "reactionary statements" about government officials. It is reported that the prison authorities have stated that the two men have "completely failed to reform their reactionary nature" because they have consistently refused to admit that they acted with "counter-revolutionary" intent. It appears that the cruel and inhuman manner in which they are treated is the result of their refusal to admit guilt.

Yu Dongyue (sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment) is aged 24 and was a fine arts editor of a local newspaper prior to arrest. Yu Zhijing (sentenced to life imprisonment) is aged 27 and was a teacher at Tantou primary school in Dahu township, Hunan. Lu Decheng (sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment) is aged 28 and worked for the Hunan Motor Transportation Company.

Amnesty International is calling on the government of the People's Republic of China to release these three men unconditionally and to conduct an open and impartial investigation into the reports that they have been tortured. Amnesty International is also calling urgently for an end to the solitary confinement of Yu Zhijing and Yu Dongyue. There is considerable concern for their state of health and future well-being.

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia  
Date: 23 June 1992

*MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

**Yu Dongyue  
Yu Zhijian  
Lu Decheng**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**Keywords**

Theme: POCs/ solitary confinement/ ill-health/ fair trial

**Summary**

Amnesty International is calling for the release of the three prisoners of conscience named above who were sentenced in 1989 to terms of imprisonment ranging from 16 years to life following the mass demonstrations and events of May and June 1989. All were reportedly tortured and placed in solitary confinement following their trial and two still remain in solitary confinement over 2½ years later. Both are reported to have suffered very badly as a result. Please see the details attached.

**Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below:

- raising the cases of Yu Dongyue, Yu Zhijian and Lu Decheng and expressing concern at the lengthy sentences which were handed down to all three men; expressing the view that they were arrested for the expression of their political beliefs, and urging that they be released
- expressing concern that they are reported to have been tortured and held in long-term solitary confinement following their trial in August 1989
- expressing deep concern that Yu Dongyue and Yu Zhijian are still in solitary confinement 2½ years
- noting that both are said to be in a very worrying state of health as a result; asking how frequently they are seen by the prison medical officer and, if they do have regular access to medical attention, whether the doctor has not strongly advised against such unusually prolonged isolation
- expressing concern about the consequences that such treatment might have for their

long-term health and well-being

- urging that an end to their solitary confinement is ordered without further delay and seeking assurances that they will be given all necessary medical attention

### Addresses

Jianyazhang (Prison Director, Lingling)  
Provincial Laodong Vehicle Parts Factory\*  
Hejiaping  
Yongzhon City  
Lingling Prefecture  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

Qi Zhenying Jianchazhang (Chief Procurator of  
Hunansheng Renmin Jianchayuan Hunan Province)  
Changshashi  
Hunansheng  
People's Republic of China

### Copies

Please send copies of letters to the diplomatic representatives of China in your own country

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\*Please note that after sentencing it is normal practice for prisoners to be sent to labour camps such as this to serve their sentences.