

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary Detention/Fear of Ill-treatment

3 June 1992

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: WANG Wanxin
and one other man, name not known

Wang Wanxin, a 42 year-old man, was detained by plainclothes police today, 3 June 1992, on Tiananmen Square in Beijing while trying to unfurl a banner commemorating the Beijing massacre of 4 June 1989. Amnesty International is concerned that Wang Wanxin has been detained and may be facing ill-treatment as a result of his attempt to stage a peaceful protest.

Wang Wanxin was detained along with another man whose name is not known. It is unclear why the other man was detained and it is also feared that he may be at risk of ill-treatment in detention.

Journalists present at the scene reported that Wang Wanxin was taken away by about 30 plainclothes police officers. Journalists who had filmed the scene were also detained, and the video they had taken was confiscated.

Wang Wanxin told reporters in Beijing prior to his protest that he had been previously detained in 1966 and 1976 for supporting the then-disgraced leader, Deng Xiaoping. The banner he tried to unfurl was inscribed with a slogan condemning Chinese leaders and criticizing the 4 June 1989 massacre in Beijing. Wang Wanxin said he wanted to ask for compensation for grievances suffered in the past at the hands of the authorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Chinese authorities have increased their vigilance against dissident activities at the approach of the anniversary of the 4 June 1989 massacre. Dissidents who were held after 4 June 1989 have reported a widespread pattern of ill-treatment in police custody. On 14 May 1992, Han Dongfang, a prominent labour activist and former prisoner of conscience who led protests during the Spring 1989 pro-democracy movement, was severely beaten by court officials when he responded to a summons to a local tribunal in Beijing (see UA 167/92, ASA 17/35/92, 20 May 1992). Amnesty International is concerned that Wang Wanxin and his co-detainee may be ill-treated in detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

- urging the immediate and unconditional release of Wang Wanxin, whose attempted protest on Tiananmen Square was reportedly entirely peaceful;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Wang Wanxin and his co-detainee are

protected from ill-treatment in detention;

- urging that peaceful demonstrators are not detained, particularly in the context of the anniversary of the 4 June 1989 crackdown in Beijing.

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APPEALS TO:

1. Mayor of Beijing Municipality:

Chen Xitong

Shizhang

Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu

2 Zhengyilu

Donghengqu

Beijingshi 100744

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210217 FAOGB CN; 22476 BJVVT CN

Faxes: + 86 1 512 1158 (Please forward to Mayor Chen Xitong)

(Salutation: Dear Sir)

2. Minister of Public Security

Tao Siju

Buzhang

Gong'anbu

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People's Republic of China

Faxes: + 86 1 421 4222

(Salutation: Your Excellency)

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Director, Beijing Public Security bureau

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Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of China in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 July 1992.