

To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Asia Regional Program  
Date: 31 July 1997

## **MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION**

Wang Dan  
CHINA

### **Keywords**

Theme: POC / ill-health / ill-treatment

### **Summary**

Wang Dan, currently serving an 11 year prison term for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government, is seeking medical parole after being reported to be suffering from dizziness and searing headaches. In late June, Wang Lingun, Wang Dan's mother, applied for medical parole on behalf of Wang Dan as a result of his medical problems. He is still suffering from throat infections which have plagued him since the start of his imprisonment. He also is reported to suffer from inflammation of the prostate gland. Both ongoing ailments have failed to improve with medical treatment. It is concerned that Wang Dan receive an adequate medical evaluation and is seeking information on his current health and assurances he will receive a proper diagnosis and treatment. It is also calling for his release as a prisoner of conscience.

### **Recommended Actions**

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- o noting with concern reported medical problems of Wang Dan; seeking information on his current state of health and asking whether he is now receiving proper medical treatment
- o urging that Wang Dan receive all necessary medical care in accordance with provisions set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
- o urging that Wang Dan be immediately and unconditionally released as a prisoner of conscience

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter reiterating your concerns and seeking a response.

### **Addresses**

Li Peng                      (*Premier of the People's Republic of China*)  
Zongli  
Gowuguan  
9 Xihuanehenggen Beijing  
Beijingshi, 100032

People's Republic of China  
 Xiao Yang *(Minister of Justice of People's Republic of China)*  
 Buzhang Sifabu  
 Xiaguanggli  
 Beijingshi 100016  
 People's Republic of China

Wen Shizhen, Daishengzhang *(Governor)*  
 Liaoningsheng Renmin Zhengfu  
 45 Huangguao  
 Beiling Dajie  
 Shenyangshi 110032  
 People's Republic of China

### **Copies**

Please send copies of your letters to:

Wang Mingdi  
 Director, Administration of Reform Through Labour  
 Sifabu - Ministry of Justice  
 Xiaguangli  
 Beijingshi 100016  
 People's Republic of China

and to the nearest diplomatic representative of the People's Republic of China.

EXTERNAL

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## ***ILL-TREATMENT AND HEALTH CONCERN***

**Wang Dan  
CHINA**

Wang Dan, born 1969, was a leading student activist in the pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing in May and June 1989. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for his involvement and was released on parole in February 1993 but kept under strict police surveillance. After his release, Wang Dan continued to call for protection of human rights and for political reform. He was detained on 21 May 1995 for 17 months before his sentencing by a Beijing court in October 1996. He is currently serving an 11 year prison term for "conspiring to subvert the government" and is regarded by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience.

In late June 1997, Wang Linyun, mother of Wang Dan, applied for medical parole on behalf of Wang Dan after he was reported to be suffering from dizziness and searing headaches. He is still suffering from throat infections which have plagued him since the start of his imprisonment. He also is reported to suffer from inflammation of the prostate gland. AI is concerned Wang Dan has not received an adequate medical evaluation and is seeking information on his current health and assurances he will receive a proper diagnosis and treatment.

On 20 July 1997, Wang Xiangcheng (father of Wang Dan) made a further appeal for Wang Dan's health to be protected and confirmed reports that his throat and prostate inflammations have failed to respond to medical treatment.

### **Background**

Wang Dan was tried on 30 October 1996 in the Beijing Intermediate People's Court. The trial took a mere four hours and no witnesses were called. The charge of "plotting to overthrow the government" was based on Wang Dan's:

- writing articles critical of the government which were published in newspapers and magazines overseas;
- having contacts with Chinese organizations and individuals in exile in the USA
- accepting financial assistance from overseas;
- drafting a petition to the authorities which was signed by more than 80 people and published overseas;
- "plotting" with Wei Jingsheng [another prisoner of conscience] "to unite illegal organizations in the country" and writing to some dissidents in order to keep in touch;
- setting up a mutual assistance fund to help prisoners of conscience and their families.

Amnesty International believes that these alleged activities represent no more than the peaceful exercise of Wang Dan's fundamental right to freedom of expression and association and involved no threat of the use of force or violence. Wang Dan was convicted and sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment. The verdict was read out from a written text at the end of the trial. This and the speed with which the judge commented on the case—a lengthy interview was published in English by the

official New China News Agency within one hour of the finish of the trial—suggested that the verdict was decided and prepared in advance.

On 5 November 1996, Wang Dan appealed to the Beijing High People's Court against his prison sentence. The appeal was summarily rejected. His lawyer was not present and he was not permitted to speak. The hearing reportedly took ten minutes. Within days he had been moved to Jinzhou Prison, Liaoning Province, some 500 km to the northeast of Beijing.

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On 22 July 1997, a march was held in Hong Kong to ask the government of Hong Kong to communicate to Beijing the marchers' appeal for Wang Dan's release.