

EXTERNAL

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Date: 15 May 1991

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>MEDICAL CONCERN</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">@Chen Xuedong PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA</p>

Chen Xuedong, a student of physics at Nanjing University was arrested in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, on 13 June 1989 shortly after the pro-democracy movement of 1989 was violently put down by military intervention. He was accused of setting up a "demonstration headquarters" and a "broadcasting station" for the Nanjing Students Federation to spread "counter-revolutionary rumours" and incite workers to strike. The day after his arrest officials reportedly denounced Chen as "a leading instigator and organizer of counter-revolutionary activity and social turmoil in Nanjing and Jiangsu Province".

Chen Xuedong has now been detained for over 22 months. Amnesty International believes that he was arrested for his non-violent activities during the 1989 pro-democracy protests. He has been adopted as a prisoner of conscience held solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of association and expression.

Background

Chen Xuedong is aged 26. He was born in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province. He is reported to have been one of the main organizers of the students' protests at Nanjing University during the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in China. He is also said to have been one of the organisers of a student march from Nanjing to the People's Congress in Beijing when students from throughout China were planning to march to Beijing in support of calls for political change. The march had left Nanjing when the military crackdown against the pro-democracy movement took place on 3-4 June 1989.

The exact number of those detained in the wake of the 4 June 1989 crackdown is not known, although some sources estimate the number of arrests to have run into tens of thousands. It is difficult to monitor the whereabouts and circumstances of all those detained as the authorities have not issued comprehensive details of arrests. Amnesty International has collected the names of over 700 people believed to have been detained in connection with the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Many of those detained since the June 1989 events remained in prison for over a year without charge or trial. In early 1991, the Chinese Government brought to trial some prominent dissidents who had been charged shortly before with "counter-revolutionary" offences. Most of those tried have received prison sentences ranging from two years to life imprisonment following unfair trials.

Chen Xuedong is said to be in poor health. He suffers from severe gastric problems requiring medication and a special diet. He is reported to be denied visits and letters from his family.

Amnesty International is calling for Chen Xuedong's immediate and unconditional release on the grounds that he has been detained for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights. It is also seeking assurances from the Chinese authorities that while he remains in prison he be granted proper medical care and access to his family and lawyers.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia
Date: 15 May 1991

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Chen Xuedong
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Keywords

Theme: POC/ill-health

Summary

Chen Xuedong is a 26-year-old student adopted as a prisoner of conscience. He has been imprisoned in Nanjing for almost two years since his arrest in June 1989 following the military crackdown against the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrators in China. Amnesty International is calling for his unconditional release from prison. He is said to suffer from gastric problems which require medication and attention to diet.

Recommended Actions

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

- expressing concern at the imprisonment of Chen Xuedong, a prisoner of conscience jailed in Nanjing in June 1989 for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights
- noting that he suffers from gastric problems, seeking information on his state of health and assurances that he will receive access to adequate medical care while he remains in prison
- urging the authorities to review his case and release him immediately and unconditionally.

Addresses

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Han Peixin Zhuren
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Copies of your letter should be sent to:

President
Chinese Medical Society
Zhonghua Zongjiao Xuehui
42 Dongsi Xi Dajie 100710
Bejingshi
People's Republic of China

and to Chinese diplomatic representatives in your own country.