

Date: 22 December 1993



Amnesty International is concerned about the three men named above who are forcibly confined to psychiatric institutions in China for the expression of political dissent rather than because of genuine medical need. Two of the men have previously been imprisoned for political reasons. All are currently reported to be held in psychiatric hospitals run by the police (Public Security Bureau) in Beijing (Wang Wanxing) and Shanghai (Wang Miaogen and Xing Jiandong).

Wang Wanxing - (Beijing: An Kang Public Security Bureau Hospital)

Wang Wanxing, who is aged 43, was detained by police in Beijing on 3 June 1992 while trying to unfurl a banner in Tiananmen Square to commemorate the events of 4 June 1989 when the army was called in to suppress public demonstrations in support of democratic reforms. His wife was informed of his detention four days after his arrest and was not told why he had been detained.

In an interview filmed in secret in April 1993 by the British-based Yorkshire Television, Wang Wanxing confirms that he has been confined to the hospital since July 1992 after initially being detained for a month in the Chao Yang detention centre. The An Kang hospital is reported to be managed by the Beijing Public Security Bureau and to employ police as well as medical personnel.

There is no evidence that Wang Wanxing has any past incidence of mental illness. His wife is reported to have been told by a doctor at the An Kang hospital that he was suffering from "political paranoia". She has not been told what drugs he is being given, although, according to the human rights organizations *Asia Watch and Physicians for Human Rights*, he is receiving a drug containing opiates and benzodiazepines. This causes him to experience numbness, dizziness, nausea and fatigue.

Following his transfer to the psychiatric hospital in July 1992, Wang's wife was reportedly put under pressure by hospital personnel to sign papers confirming that her husband had mental problems. Initially she refused to sign, but did so after she was told that Wang would escape sentencing and would be released more quickly if she signed. He has now, however, been confined for one and a half years.

Wang Wanxing was previously imprisoned in the late 1970s for supporting the then-disgraced leader, Deng Xiaoping. He later received an apology from the government for his imprisonment.

Wang Miaogun - (Shanghai: An Kang Public Security Bureau Hospital)

Wang Miaogun was arrested by police in Shanghai in late April 1993 and forcibly committed to the Shanghai An Kang Public Security Bureau Hospital. He is reported to have been arrested to prevent him from conducting a public protest while the East Asian Games were in progress. These were held in Shanghai in May 1993 when China was making a bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games and Wang Miaogun is said to have made it known that he opposed the Games taking place. His arrest was one of a number of preventive arrests made by the Shanghai police at the time to forestall any disruption of the East Asian Games. Most of those arrested were held for a short period only, but Wang Miaogun is still held.

According to unofficial sources, Wang Miaogun is not suffering from mental illness and there is no justification for him having been committed to hospital. Following his arrest a number of his friends started a signature campaign and undertook other activities calling for his release. Several of them were arrested between May and July 1993 as a result. One - veteran pro-democracy campaigner Zhang Xianliang - was subsequently sentenced without trial to three years' "re-education through labour". Wang Miaogun has no family to visit him, having lived alone in Shanghai prior to his arrest, and his friends have been barred from seeing him. He has now been held for eight months without anyone being allowed to visit.

Wang is aged 41 and was leader of the Shanghai Workers Autonomous Federation (SWAF) which was formed during the 1989 pro-democracy movement and subsequently banned. His role in the SWAF led to a previous arrest in June 1989 with eight other SWAF members who were accused of "having spread rumours, distributed leaflets and incited strikes". He was detained for two years without charge or trial for "re-education through labour" and, following his release in 1991, was unable to find employment.

Agence France Presse reported on 4 June 1993 that, while held in police custody before his committal to hospital, Wang Miaogun was beaten up by police, kicked in the head, tied up and gagged with a sock on several occasions.

Xing Jiandong - (Shanghai: An Kang Public Security Bureau Hospital)

Xing Jiandong was detained by the police in Shanghai on 7 September 1993 for demonstrating peacefully outside the Australian Consulate. Earlier in the year he had sought permission to demonstrate from the Public Security Bureau, but this was refused. He appealed against the decision and, when his appeals were rejected, went ahead with his demonstrations. On arrest Xing Jiandong was served with a seven-day administrative detention order but, rather than releasing him at the end of this period, the police transferred him to the psychiatric ward of the An Kang Public Security Bureau Hospital in Shanghai. On admission to the hospital he is said to have been tied to a bed for three days and nights. His wife was not informed of his arrest until several days after he had been detained.

Xing Jiandong's family are reported to have been informed verbally that he is mentally ill, but have been shown no medical records from the hospital to support the claim. It is further reported that his family were pressured by the Public Security Bureau to give their consent to Xing Jiandong's confinement and were told that he would be sent to a labour camp for a period of between one and three years if they did not give their written agreement. Xing Jiandong is aged 28.

Amnesty International does not have details of the diagnoses which were made when these three men were confined, nor of the specific drug treatment they may be receiving. It believes, however, that all were committed to psychiatric hospital for political rather than medical reasons.

The organization is expressing its concern to the Chinese authorities about such abuse of psychiatry for political purposes and the suffering caused to the individuals concerned, and is calling urgently for the release of all three men.

EXTERNAL

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From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia
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MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

Wang Wanxing
Wang Miaogen and
Xing Jiandong

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Keywords

Theme: psychiatric abuse

Summary

Amnesty International has information about three men forcibly confined to psychiatric hospitals in China following their arrest by police in 1992 and 1995 and believes that they were confined for political rather than genuine medical reasons; indeed, two of them were earlier imprisoned on political grounds. Wang Miaogen and Xing Jiandong were arrested in Shanghai in 1995 where they are currently confined to police-run psychiatric hospitals. Wang Wanxing was arrested in Beijing in June 1992 and, similarly, is in a police-run psychiatric hospital in Beijing. Please see the details attached.

Recommended Actions

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

- raising the cases of Wang Wanxing, Wang Miaogen and Xing Jiandong and expressing your deep disquiet that they were forcibly confined to psychiatric hospital following arrest, although all information suggests that there was no medical justification for this
- expressing your concern that all three appear to have been arrested for exercising the right to freedom of expression and that, in the absence of any real indication of mental illness, confinement to psychiatric hospital appears to be for political reasons
- seeking information on the treatment that the three men are being given and on the diagnoses which were made when they were admitted to hospital

- noting with deep concern that all have now been held for a number of months - and in the case of Wang Wanxing for a year and a half - and urging their release from psychiatric hospital without delay

Addresses

(Minister of Public Security)
 TAO Siju
 Gong'anbu Buzhang
 14 Dongchang'anlu
 Beijingshi 100741
 People's Republic of China
Telexcs: 210070 FMPRC CN
Faxcs: +86 1 512 1176
Telegrams: Minister of Public Security
 Tao Siju, Beijing, China

(Minister of Public Health)
 CHEN Minzhang
 Weishengbu Buzhang
 44 Houhai Beigan, Gulou Xidajie
 Beijingshi
 People's Republic of China
Telexcs: 210070 FMPRC CN (please
 transfer to Public Health Minister Chen
 Minzhang)
Telegrams: Minister of Public Health Chen
 Minzhang, Beijing, China

For appeals for Wang Wanxing

*(Mayor of Beijing Municipal
 People's Government)*
 Li Qiguan
 Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu Shizhang
 2 Zhongyilu
 Dongchenggu
 Beijingshi 100744
 People's Republic of China
Faxcs: +86 1 512 1158 (Please
 forward to Mayor Li Qiguan)
Telegrams: Mayor Li Qiguan,
 Beijing, China

For appeals for Wang Miaogen and Xing Jiandong

*(Mayor of Shanghai Municipal People's
 Government)*
 HUANG JU Shizhang
 Shanghaishi Renmin Zhengfu
 30 Fuzhoulu
 Shanghaishi 200002
 People's Republic of China
Telegrams: Mayor Huang Ju Shizhang,
 Shanghai, China

Copies to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.