

6 September 2002

Further information on UA 273/02 (ASA 17/043/2002, 6 September 2002) – Possible “disappearance”/fear for safety New concern: Incommunicado detention

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Dr Wan Yanhai (m), aged 38

Amnesty International has received reports suggesting that Wan Yanhai is being detained on suspicion of “leaking state secrets”, apparently in connection with the distribution on the internet of a government report containing information about the spread of AIDS in Henan province.

On 4 September a colleague of Wan Yanhai at the Aizhi Action Project was reportedly informed by the Ministry of State Security that Wan Yanhai is “under investigation”, although the official did not reveal where Wan Yanhai was being held. It appears that Wan Yanhai has not yet been formally charged.

Since the creation of the Project, Wan Yanhai has published essays about HIV/AIDS on the Aizhi Action Project's website (www.aizhi.org), which has helped to highlight the connection between HIV/AIDS and the selling of blood in villages in central Henan province.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Scores of Chinese dissidents, human rights defenders and advocates of reform have been detained or imprisoned on charges relating to “state secrets”. Amnesty International is concerned that the legislation on state secrets is being used to prevent public debate of issues which have little to do with national security, and to imprison people for the non-violent and legitimate exercise of their right to freedom of expression and association.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in Chinese, English or in your own language:

- urging the authorities to release immediately and unconditionally Wan Yanhai, who appears to be detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression;
- pending his release, urging the authorities to immediately inform Wan Yanhai's family of his whereabouts;

- urging the authorities to ensure that Wan Yanhai receives full access to his family, lawyers and medical treatment, while he remains in custody;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that all human rights defenders in China can carry out their work without fear of detention without charge, or other human rights violations.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of State Security of the People's Republic of China

XU Yongyue Anquanbuzhang

14 Dongchanganjie

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Minister of State Security, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China

JIA Chunwang Buzhang

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Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

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Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Public Health of the People's Republic of China
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and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 October 2002.