

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 17/45/93
Distr: UA/SC

23 December 1993

Further information on UA 377/91 (ASA 17/66/91, 8 November 1991) - and follow-up(s): ASA 17/04/92, 8 January 1992, ASA 17/29/92, 9 April 1992, ASA 17/52/92, 11 September 1992, ASA 17/19/93, 14 May 1993 - Medical/Legal Concern/Torture

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:Liu Gang

Prison authorities have reportedly forbidden Liu Gang's family from visiting him for at least one year. Liu Gang's father, Liu Guichun, and his sister, Liu Ming, were informed of this decision during a recent visit to the prison in north-east China, where Liu Gang, the 32-year-old former student leader, is serving a six-year sentence. They were apparently given no reason for the decision. Liu Ming reportedly sustained an injury to her head in a scuffle with a prison guard as she tried to insist on seeing her brother. The family, who live in Jilin Province in north-east China, travelled to Beijing in the first week of December to report the incident to the Justice Ministry and to call for action.

Amnesty International is concerned that Liu Gang's family have been denied the right to visit him in prison, particularly in view of reports that Liu Gang has been repeatedly ill-treated at the prison since 1991. It is also concerned that his sister was injured by a prison official as she insisted on seeing her brother. Liu Ming is particularly concerned that she will no longer be able to monitor her brother's state of health.

For the past two years there have been repeated allegations that Liu Gang and other political prisoners held in Lingyuan No.2 Labour-Reform Detachment in Liaoning Province have been subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment since their arrival. In August 1993, Amnesty International published a document entitled "*Appeal for Liu Gang*" (AI Index: 17/34/93), which describes Liu Gang's own account of the appalling living conditions in prison and the brutal ill-treatment he has suffered.

Since the publication outside China in Spring 1993, of Liu Gang's account of his situation, the authorities in Beijing have denied that he was tortured and in bad health. In one report by the official English-language magazine *Beijing Review*, published in late August 1993, Liu Gang's claims that he was ill-treated were refuted with the statements of prison officials and the magazine concluded that there was no evidence that he was ill-treated.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that prison authorities have denied Liu Gang's family the right to visit him in prison in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and urging them to reverse this decision;
- urging the authorities to release Liu Gang immediately and unconditionally and to ensure that he receives all appropriate medical care;
- expressing concern that no action appears to have been taken by the authorities

to investigate previous allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners in Lingyuan, or to ensure the prisoners' safety and take other appropriate measures, such as the suspension from duty of all officers alleged to have either ordered, used or acquiesced to the use of torture;

- urging the authorities to take such measures without delay, particularly to ensure prisoners' safety, and to launch an impartial investigation by an independent authority into the allegations of torture and ill-treatment at Lingyuan, the results of which should be made public.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

XIAO Yang Buzhang

Sifabu

Xiaguangli

Beijingshi 100016

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

(Please forward to Xiao Yang Buzhang)

Faxes: + 861 467 7351 (Previously + 86 1 408 1046)

Telegram: Minister of Justice Xiao Yang, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China

ZHANG Siqing Jianchazhang

Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan

147 Beiheyuan Dajie

Donganmen, Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100726

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

(Please forward to Zhang Siqing Jianchazhang)

Faxes: + 861 512 6655 ext.1053

Telegram: Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate Zhang

Siqing, Beijing, China

Salutation: Dear Procurator-General

Governor of the Liaoning Provincial People's Government

YUE Qifeng Shengzhang

Liaoningsheng Renmin Zhengfu

45 Huangguqu, Beiling Dajie

Shenyangshi 110032

Liaoningsheng

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 80039 LFAO CN or 80040 SYFAO CN

(Please forward to Yue Qifeng Shengzhang)

Telegram: Governor Yue Qifeng, Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China

Salutation: Dear Governor

Director of Lingyuan No.2 Labour Reform Detachment

Jianyuzhang

Liaoning Di Er Laogai Zhidui

Jiaodao Dadui

Lingyuan Qiche Zongzhuangchang

Lingyuanxian
Liaoningsheng
People's Republic of China

Telegram: Prison Director, Lingyuan No. 2 Labour Reform Detachment, Lingyuan county, Liaoning Province, China

Salutation: Dear Director

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 3rd February 1994.