

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information (2) on UA 150/95 (ASA 17/43/95, 28 June 1995) and follow-up ASA 17/48/95, 12 July 1995 - Arbitrary Arrest / Fear for Safety

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Hongda Harry Wu (m), aged 58, human rights activist

China's official news agency, *Xinhua*, today released a video recording of Harry Wu "confessing" that the information in two television programmes he made with a television reporter of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was "wrong and untrue". The video was shown on Chinese television and reportedly shows Harry Wu, looking tired and unkempt, making his confession in the presence of a Chinese official. *Xinhua* also released an accompanying statement, according to which Harry Wu admitted that "the contents of the two video tapes, falsely accusing China of exporting products made by prisoners, were 'wrong' and 'untrue'" and that he had "cooked up the tapes together with [a] BBC correspondent..."

Harry Wu was accused on 8 July 1995 of "stealing state secrets". According to *Xinhua*, the accusation relates to information broadcast in the two BBC television programmes. However, the *Xinhua* statement claims that none of the information he is accused of providing to foreign governments and organizations was correct. It therefore remains unclear what he has done which amounts to "stealing state secrets" and the accusation appears ill-founded and contradictory.

Amnesty International considers that Harry Wu Hongda is a prisoner of conscience detained solely for his human rights activities. The organization continues to have serious concerns for his physical safety.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Hongda Harry Wu;
- urging the authorities to ensure that, while in detention, Hongda Harry Wu is treated in accordance with international standards for the treatment of prisoners and that he is protected from all forms of ill-treatment;
- urging that he receive medical treatment for existing medical conditions.

APPEALS TO:

Director of the Hubei Department of Public Security

TIAN Qiyu Juzhang

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Wuhanshi 430070

Hubeisheng

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Director of the Department of Public Security Tian Qiyu, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China

Salutation: Dear Director

Premier of the People's Republic of China

LI Peng Zongli

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Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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People's Republic of China

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 7 September 1995.