

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 377/91 (ASA 17/66/91, 8 November 1991) - and follow-ups: ASA 17/04/92, 8 January 1992, ASA 17/29/92, 9 April 1992 - Medical/Legal Concern

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Liu Gang, student
 Tang Yuanjuan, worker
 Zhang Ming, student
 Li Wei, worker
 Leng Wanbao, worker
 Kong Xianfeng, student

A letter recently smuggled out of China accuses prison officials at the Lingyuan no. 2 Labour Reform Camp in Liaoning Province of torturing political prisoners so severely that they have passed out and some have had to be hospitalized. The letter describes different methods of torture used against inmates over a period of time. Political prisoners at the Liaoning Labour Reform Camp are reportedly often beaten by common criminals and prison guards, given electric shocks with high voltage batons, and forced to work more than twelve hours a day.

Liu Gang and 10 other prisoners reportedly refused to participate in what the prison authorities called an "orientation course" which was to take place after their transfer to the camp in April 1991. The course required prisoners to recite from memory the "standards of conduct for criminals undergoing reform". As a result Liu Gang and five others were reportedly shackled with leg irons and sent into solitary confinement in a strict regime unit. The other five were allowed to stay in the labour camp and be "corrected". In protest the prisoners went on hunger-strike and as a result the prisoners were dealt with even more harshly by the prison authorities.

The letter claims that Liu Gang was beaten, kept in 20-pound leg irons and repeatedly tortured with an electric prod to his genitals. He is also reported to have been forced to sit motionless on a bench from 8 am until 9 pm each day during which time his legs swelled. The electric baton used to torture **Tang Yuanjuan** reportedly ran out of power and a guard kicked him and broke two of his ribs. **Leng Wanbao** who remained silent whilst being tortured had his mouth prised open with a baton by a prison guard.

Later on 4 June 1991, **Li Wei** staged a one-day hunger-strike. Several prison guards stripped Li Wei and pinned him down to the floor. He was then repeatedly struck with electric batons all over his body. Li Wei sweated profusely, went into spasm and became motionless.

On New Year's Day 1992, after going on hunger-strike with eight other political prisoners to demand a visit by their families, **Zhang Ming** was also stripped naked, kicked and beaten by a prison official and common criminals who escorted him. The prison official was reported to have said to Zhang Ming, "So you want to stage a hunger-strike? Go right ahead. Labour reform detachments aren't afraid of deaths! When one dies, we'll bury one. When two die, we'll bury a pair!"

A number of hunger-strikes have been staged at Lingyuan no. 2. labour reform camp by prisoners of conscience held for their involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations. They have been organized in protest against the conditions of their imprisonment. Last year Liu Gang's arm was reportedly broken as a result of the torture he had received at the labour camp.

The Chinese authorities continue to deny that torture is commonplace. The Government ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture in October 1988 but it has consistently failed to introduce effective safeguards against torture.

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FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the six prisoners named above as prisoners of conscience;
- urging that the persistent allegations of ill-treatment and torture at Lingyuan no. 2 Labour Reform Camp in Liaoning Province be investigated promptly and impartially, that the findings be made public and that those responsible be brought immediately to justice;
- urging that the prisoners be given immediate access to their family and independent doctors;
- expressing concern that the government which ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture in October 1988 has consistently failed to introduce effective safeguards against torture.

APPEALS TO:

1. Premier
Li Peng Zongli
Guowoyuan
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China
Telegrams: Premier Li Peng Zongli,
Beijing, China
Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN;
22478 MFERT CN
Faxes: + 86 1 512 0309;
+ 86 1 601 4562;
+ 86 1 512 5810
Salutation: Your Excellency

People's Republic of China
Telegrams: Procurator-General
Jianchazhang, Beijing, China
Faxes: + 86 1 512 1158
Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN;
22478 MFERT CN
Salutation: Dear Procurator-General

2. Director of Reform-through-Labour:
Yao Yunhui Juzhang
Safabu
Laodong Gaizao Gonzuo Guanliuju
Dongchenggu
Beijing 100741
People's Republic of China
Telegrams: Director of Reform through-
Labour, Yao Yunhui Juzhang,
Beijing, China
Faxes: + 86 1 408 1046
Salutation: Dear Director

3. Procurator-General:
Liu Fuzhi Jianchazhang
Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan
Beijingshi

4. Governor of Liaoning Province:

Governor Yue Qifeng, Liaoning province

Liaoningsheng Renmin Zhenfu

1 Siduan, Beiling Daijie

Shenyangshi 11032

Liaoningsheng

People's Republic of China

**Telegrams: Governor Yue Qifeng of
Liaoning Province, Shenyang,
Liaoning Province, China**

**Telexes: 80039 LFAO CN or 80040 SYFAO
CN (please forward to Yue
Qifeng)**

Salutation: Dear Governor

5. Chief Procurator of Liaoning Province

Chief Procurator Xu Sheng

Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

**Telegrams: Chief Procurator Xu Sheng of
Liaoning Province, Beijing,
China**

**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN;
22478 MFERT CN (please
forward to Xu Sheng)**

Salutation: Dear Procurator

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 23 October 1992.