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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Update on Shen Tong, Qi Dafeng, Qian Liyun: prisoners of conscience

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On 24 October 1992, Shen Tong was released without charge from police custody and deported back to the USA where he had been resident before returning to China in August 1992. Several days later on 30 October, Qian Liyun was released. Even though Qian Liyun was not charged, some conditions were placed on her release. Amnesty International remains concerned that Qi Dafeng remains in police custody.

Shen Tong, Qi Dafeng and Qian Liyun were arrested on 1 September for what the Chinese Government reportedly later called "surveillance and investigation". The three were accused of trying to establish a branch in China of the "Democracy For China Fund".

Both Shen Tong and Qian Liyun were held in a government "guest-house" in Tong County, east of Beijing. Qian Liyun was later transferred to a county detention centre before her release.

Recent reports indicate that at least three other people who had been in touch with Shen Tong remain unaccounted for and may be detained in Changsha, Hunan Province. They are: Sun Xiaobai, Zu Guoqiang and Mao Wenke. Amnesty International is concerned that they too may be prisoners of conscience detained for their peaceful right to freedom of association and expression.

*Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language, **welcoming the release of Shen Tong and Qian Liyun but expressing concern that Qi Dafeng is still being held. Urge that the restrictions against Qian Liyun be lifted quickly. Inquire about the whereabouts of Qi Dafeng, Sun Xiaobai, Zu Guoqiang and Mao Wenke and urge that they be released quickly and unconditionally.***

Please send appeals to:

Mayor of Beijing Municipality

Chen Xitong

Shizhang

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People's Republic of China

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(Please forward to Mayor Xitong)

(Salutation: Dear Sir)

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(Salutation: Your Excellency)