

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 17/57/95

17 August 1995

Further information on EXTRA 95/95 (ASA 17/54/95, 11 August 1995) - Executions / Fear of further executions

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
Yuming

Wang

Zhang Zhejun
Xie Qiusheng
Pan Yongli
Jiao Zengtian
Dong Zhong

On 16 August 1995, 16 people were convicted of criminal offences and sentenced to death by the Beijing Municipal First Intermediate Court. Six of them, those named above, were executed at a large public rally immediately after the hearing, apparently without being granted the right to appeal. Amnesty International fears that the remaining 10 face imminent execution in a continuing "anti-crime campaign" in Beijing in the lead up to the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women.

The *Beijing Evening News* reported on 16 August that the 16 were convicted of crimes such as breaking into homes and robbing the occupants, of knife attacks in the street and of kidnapping to extort ransom. The newspaper quoted the court as saying that "these criminals had seriously undermined social order in the capital". Most were ex-convicts who had refused to reform after periods of "re-education" and "continued to threaten society", according to the paper.

It is not known whether the 10 remaining have appealed against their death sentences. Under Chinese law, the defendants have between three and 10 days after the passing of sentence to appeal to another court. If no appeal is lodged, their sentences will be automatically referred for review to the Beijing High People's Court. This court must then rule on the appeal or review the case within one and a half months. This process can be accelerated and review of death sentences can take place within only a few days after the trial. Successful appeals are rare.

This brings to at least 16 the number of executions in Beijing announced in the past week. On 10 August, the authorities announced that they had executed more than 10 people, also convicted by the Municipal First

Intermediate Court of various criminal offences. The *Beijing Daily* reported that the aim of those executions was to ensure "public order" during the forthcoming UN Conference on Women to be held in the capital from 30 August to 15 September.

There is a pattern of "anti-crime campaigns", including executions, prior to big festivals or major events in China. Executions are announced by the press, openly aiming to deter the population from taking part into any kind of "public disorder" during festivals or crowded occasions. During those campaigns, pressure is put on local authorities to increase the number of "solved cases" and may result in a number of executions being carried out with even fewer legal guarantees than usual.

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

- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment and as a violation of the right to life as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;**
- urging that the death sentences passed on ten unnamed people sentenced by Beijing First Intermediate Court on 16 August be commuted;**
- expressing deep regret that at least 16 people have already been executed during an execution campaign prior to the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women, and urging the authorities to put a stop to this campaign.**

APPEALS TO:

**Mayor of Beijing
LI Qiyan Shizhang
Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu
2 Zhengyilu
Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100744
People's Republic of China
Telegrams: Mayor LI QiYan, Beijing, China
Salutation: Dear Mayor**

**President of Beijing Municipal High People's Court
SHENG Liangang Yuanzhang
Beijingshi Gaoji Renmin Fayuan
215 Xiheyuan
Chongwenqu**

**Beijingshi 100051
People's Republic of China
Telegrams: President Sheng Liangang, Municipal High
People's Court, Beijing, China
Salutation: Dear President**

**Vice-Minister of Public Security
Member of the Organizing Committee to the Fourth United
Nations World Conference on Women
TIAN Qiyu Fubuzhang
Gong'anbu
14 Dongchang'anlu
Beijingshi 100741
People's Republic of China
Telegrams: Vice-Minister Tian Qiyu, Ministry of Public
Security, Beijing, China
Salutation: Dear Vice-Minister**

***Sections are also asked to bring this information to the
attention of their government's delegation to the World
Conference on Women in Beijing as well of non-government
organizations in their countries preparing to attend.***

COPIES TO:

**Chief Editor LI Bingren, *Beijing Evening News*
Beijing Wanbao
34 Xi Biaobei Hutong
Dongdan
Beijingshi 100743
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 25 September 1995.**