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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

@CHEN ZIMING'S HEALTH DETERIORATES

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After being released on medical parole on 13 May 1994 **Chen Ziming**, a 43-year-old prisoner of conscience, was recently re-imprisoned on 25 June 1995 but his health has continued to deteriorate and he is being denied proper medical care. Chen Ziming is ill with cancer and other ailments. Chen Ziming's medical records have reportedly disappeared from the hospital where they were being kept and his bank account has been frozen thus denying his wife any means to pay for his medical expenses.

Chen Ziming was detained in October 1989 and brought to trial on 12 February 1991. After closed hearings he was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment and an additional four years of deprivation of political rights for "conspiring to subvert the government" and "carrying out counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" during the 1989 pro democracy protests.

In December 1993 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted a resolution declaring that the detention of Chen Ziming was "arbitrary being in contravention of articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and political Rights".

In May 1995 Chen Ziming was released on medical parole after numerous appeals on his behalf by his wife, Wang Zhihong. Chen Ziming underwent an operation in November 1994 to check the spread of his cancer. The operation was reportedly a success, but it was stressed that the illness was extreme and that after care was the most important element in his recovery.

Chen Ziming was undergoing 24 hour care from his wife and three monthly check ups when he was taken back into prison on Sunday 26 June in Beijing. It was reported that the authorities who took him away claimed that he had recovered from his illness and must serve out the remainder of his 13 year sentence.

During the United Nations Conference on Women which took place in Beijing during August and September, it was alleged that Wang Zhihong, wife of Chen Ziming was pressured into moving from her home in Beijing and when she refused she was reported to have been left with little alternative but to go, on 29 August 1995 - the eve of the conference - to the prison where her husband is being held. Wang Zhihong had been requesting the release of her husband on urgent medical reasons or for her to be allowed to nurse him in prison. She was released on 15 September after the Conference had ended. It has been reported that the Public Security Bureau froze the bank accounts of Wang Zhihong and Chen Ziming on 27 August for a period of six months. Wang Zhihong was unaware of this until she attempted to withdraw money needed for Chen Ziming's medicine after her release from prison. According to sources, all of Chen Ziming's medical records have disappeared from the hospital where they were kept.

Reports have suggested that the prison authorities have allowed Chen Ziming to be examined by a doctor and a Chinese traditional doctor. However, he is not being given the type of 24 hour care which is necessary to check the disease. In addition there are no facilities in prison for Chen to prepare the traditional medicine prescribed to him. The recent freezing of his bank account means that he is unlikely to be able to buy any medicine at all.

Currently his condition is reported to have deteriorated very rapidly. Examples of this include his inability to eat and sleep properly. Chen Ziming's resistance to other illnesses is also decreasing and he has been affected by numerous colds during the weeks he has been in prison. In addition his psychological well being has been affected by the fact that he has been placed in exactly the same cell, in the same prison as he had been in during the first five years of his sentence.

Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in English, Chinese or in your own language,

- ◆ *expressing concern that reports have shown that the health of Chen Ziming is deteriorating rapidly and urging that Chen Ziming be given all the medical care that he needs;*
- ◆ *urging that Chen Ziming be released immediately and unconditionally in view of the fact that he is a prisoner of conscience and is being held for the peaceful expression of his right to free speech;*
- ◆ *expressing concern and dismay at the current freeze on the bank account of Chen Ziming and his wife and asking for this to be lifted so that medical supplies can be bought.*

Please send appeals to:

Premier of the People's Republic of China

LI Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Faxes: + 86 10 512 5810 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Telegram: Premier Li Peng, Beijing, China. Salutation: Your Excellency

Director of the Prison Administration Department (formerly the Reform-Through Labour Administration) of the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China

YAO Yunhui Juzhang

Laodong Gaizao Gongzuo Guanliju

14 Dongchang'anlu

Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Minister of Public Health of the People's Republic of China

CHEN Minzhang Buzhang

Weishengbu

44 Houhai Beiyuan, Gulou Xidajie

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN (22193 according to FEandA 1993)

(Please transfer to Public Health Minister Chen Minzhang)

Telegram: Minister of Public Security Chen Minzhang, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Copies to :

Xinhua News Agency, Fax: +86 102019332

This document is sent to China and CHIRAN Coordinators for action by groups. It is sent to Sections for information only. Check with the East Asia Sub-Regional Team if sending appeals after 30 November 1995

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