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# *amnesty international*

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## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### @Harassment and surveillance of the families of dissidents in China during the World Conference on Women

11 October 1995

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At least 10 relatives of prisoners of conscience and dissidents are known to have been detained, restricted or harassed by police in Beijing and other places during the past four weeks apparently to prevent contacts between them and foreign visitors or journalists during the Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum of Women which started in Beijing in late August and ended on 15 September. Some of them have been told openly by police that these measures were designed to hamper possible talks between delegates and members of the foreign press during the conference. As a result, many have been put in practical house arrest. The people listed below form only part of the total number of people throughout China whose freedom of movement has been restricted during the Women Conference.

**Wang Zhihong**, wife of prisoner of conscience Chen Ziming was pressured into moving from her home in Beijing to the prison where her husband is being held after the abrupt ending of his release on medical parole. According to recent sources she was ordered by the police to leave Beijing on 29 August 1995, the eve of the Conference. 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. Chen Ziming is still in prison and is reportedly receiving no medical treatment for his cancer. There is no way Chen Ziming can receive his medicine in prison as the special facilities needed for his treatment, including the preparation of traditional Chinese medicine, are not available. It is also 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 on her release from prison. According to sources, all of Chen Ziming's medical records have disappeared from the hospital where they were kept.

**Wang Lingyun**, mother of former student leader and prisoner of conscience Wang Dan, has been under constant surveillance since her son was detained on 21 May 1995. She has reportedly been constantly followed by security officers. On 26 August 1995, plainclothes security officers came to

her house and openly asked her for cooperation in an even more close surveillance in order not to let foreigners or foreign journalists to visit her during the conference. She has been followed on her way to work, and police have visited her office. In these circumstances, she has not been able to go to work but took some work back home. Her son, Wang Dan, who had spent several years in prison after the 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy protests, was re-arrested in May 1995 after signing a petition calling on the authorities to respect human rights. Wang Dan was among 50 people who were detained or questioned during the month of May in the period leading up to the sixth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests. Many have now been released but Wang Dan is among ten or so people who remain in detention (see ASA 17/69/95 for details of these people). He is not known to have been formally charged with any offence and his whereabouts remain unknown. It is alleged that he may be held with Wei Jingsheng in a "guesthouse" used for detention of dissidents in the north of China. Amnesty International has called on the authorities to release him.

**Zhu Hailian**, the wife of the labour activist and prisoner of conscience Liu Nianchun, has also been put under 24 hour police surveillance. Before the opening of the conference, several plainclothes officers came to her house, requested her cooperation in this surveillance and have been following her 24 hours a day. She has been told to report all her telephone conversations to the police and those she makes from public phones are watched. There were reports that she had been asked to leave Beijing during the Conference, but she refused because of her young child. Liu Nianchun was arrested at the same time as Wang Dan, again after signing one of the human rights petitions issued by various groups at that time. Liu Nianchun is still detained in a secret place, without charge or trial. Police denied information obtained by Zhu Hailian according to which Liu had been going on hunger strike. He has already been detained several times for his involvement in pro-democracy movement, including three years as an editor of Today, a review magazine published during the Democracy Wall movement. Amnesty International has also appealed for his release.

In Shanghai, **Yan Huili**, wife of prisoner of conscience Zhang Xianliang, was reportedly told by police to leave Shanghai and has been to the labour camp where her husband is being held. Zhang Xianliang is serving a three year "re-education through labour" sentence imposed in 1993 without charge or trial for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression reportedly he is in very bad health. Unlike Wang Zhihong, no news has been received about Yan Huili's current whereabouts. It is reported that many other people have been asked to leave Shanghai.

**Ding Zilin**, a professor at the People's University of Beijing and an outspoken petitioner on behalf of the victims of the killings that occurred on the night of third June 1989 was arrested with her husband Jiang Peikun in Wuxi, Jiangsu province on 18 August 1995. Ding Zilin was released on 30 September. According to unofficial sources she was being held for investigation of alleged "economic irregularities", but the authorities have so far not disclosed why she was held and she is not known to have been formally charged. According to various sources, her detention was primarily to prevent foreign journalists from contacting her during the Women's Conference.

The detention and harassment of these people seriously undermine the right of the women to exercise their fundamental right to freedom of expression and association and contrast with the objectives of the World Conference on Women. As head of the Amnesty International delegation to the Conference, Pierre Sane, Secretary General of Amnesty International made an appeal to Li Peng, the Prime Minister of China during the Conference requesting that this harassment and intimidation be stopped.

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

- ◆ **urging that the harassment and surveillance of dissidents and their families during the World Conference be stopped immediately and the be allowed to exercise their right to freedom of expression and association;**
- ◆ **urging that Wang Dan, Chen Ziming, Liu Nianchun and Zhang Xianliang be immediately and unconditionally released;**
- ◆ **urging that the pattern of harassment and restrictions of dissidents and their relatives during major events and anniversaries be stopped.**

*Please send appeals to:*

Vice-Minister of Public security (Member of organizing committee for Fourth World Conference on Women)

Tian Qiyu fubuzhang

Gonganbu

14 Dongchanganlu

Beijingshi 100741

Peoples Republic of China

Telegrams : Vice-Minister Tian Qiyu, Ministry of public security, Beijing, China.

Salutations : Dear Vice-Minister

Premier of the People's Republic of China

Li Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

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

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

TAO Siju Buzhang

Gong'anbu

14 Dongchang'anlu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Minister of Public Security Tao Siju, Beijing, China. Salutation: Your Excellency

Mayor of Beijing Municipal People's Government

Li Qiyuan Shizhang

Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu

2 Zhengyilu

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Mayor Li Qiyuan, Beijing, China. Salutation : Dear Mayor

Mayor of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government

Xu Kuangdi Shizhang

Shanghaishi Renmin Zhengfu

30 Fuzhoulu

Shanghaishi 200002

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Mayor Xu Kuangdi, Shanghai, China

Salutation: Dear Mayor





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