

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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*Please bring this action to the attention of the refugee coordinator in your section.*

EXTRA 69/92

Fear of Refoulement/Legal Concern

21 August 1992

THAILAND:

LI Maolong (also known as NA Tiansheng)

LI Suwen

SUN Guohua

LIN Jinquan

ZHANG Zhiping

LIU Kaiming

HAN Xiao (also known as WANG Guoping)

CHEN Zhang

HAN Daichun

ZHANG Yan

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Amnesty International has received reports that the 10 people named above, all citizens of the People's Republic of China currently detained in Thailand, are at imminent risk of being forcibly sent back to China. Amnesty International believes that they would be at grave risk of imprisonment for their peaceful political activities if returned to China. Amnesty International is also concerned about their current detention in Thailand, and that some of them may be detained for political reasons.

According to reports received by Amnesty International, Li Maolong and Li Suwen were detained by police in Bangkok on 3 June 1992. They were reportedly preparing to commemorate the third anniversary of the 4 June 1989 crackdown in China when they were detained. They are members of the Bangkok Branch of the China Alliance for Democracy (CAD), a political group based in New York, United States of America.

On 28 April 1992, Sun Guohua, Lin Jinquan, Zhang Zhiping, Liu Kaiming, Han Xiao, Chen Zhang, Han Daichun and Zhang Yan, also CAD members, were reportedly detained on charges of illegal entry into Thailand. Amnesty International understands that at least some of them had been formally recognized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as refugees in need of protection. All were said to be still detained in Bangkok on 18 August.

Amnesty International has received reports that some of these people have been told by Thai immigration officials that they will be returned to China. Amnesty International believes, in view of their pro-democracy activities in China in 1989 and their membership of the CAD, that if they are returned to China they would be at risk of serious human rights violations, including imprisonment for their peaceful political activities and possibly ill-treatment or torture in detention.

The international principle of *non-refoulement*, which is binding on all states, prohibits states from sending any person, in any manner whatsoever, to a country where he or she would be at risk of serious human rights violations. Accordingly,

Amnesty International is calling on the Thai authorities not to send any of these individuals to China, or to any other country where they are not afforded effective and durable protection against return to China.

Amnesty International is also concerned that these individuals have been detained in Thailand. International standards dealing with the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers state that the detention of refugees and asylum-seekers should normally be avoided.

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Amnesty International therefore is calling on the Thai authorities to ensure that these individuals are brought promptly before a court which will examine the specific reasons for their detention in light of Thai national law and international human rights standards; and to ensure that they are protected from *refoulement* to China.

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

- expressing concern at the continued detention of Li Maolong and the nine other Chinese asylum seekers named above and calling on the Thai authorities to ensure that these individuals are brought promptly before a court which will examine the specific reasons for their detention in light of Thai national law and international human rights standards;

- urging the Thai authorities to ensure that the Chinese asylum seekers named above are protected from *refoulement* to China.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun  
Government House  
Nakhorn Pathom Road  
Bangkok 10300, Thailand

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Panyarachun, Bangkok, Thailand**  
**Telexes: 84791 IMFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**  
**Faxes: + 66 2 280 1443**

2. Police General Pow Sarasin  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
Asdang Road  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Bangkok, Thailand**  
**Telexes: 84791 IMFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**  
**Faxes: + 66 2 224 6191; + 66 2 223 2215**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** diplomatic representatives of Thailand accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 October 1992.