

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 17/03/95

Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 24 January 1995

MEDICAL CONCERN

Health concern: BAO Tong

CHINA

Bao Tong, aged 62, who was first arrested on 28 May 1989 and sentenced to a seven-year prison term on 21 July 1992, is now experiencing a serious deterioration in his health. In recent years he has undergone five operations for polyps in his colon, most recently in 1993. His white cell count is reported to be 2000 mm^{-3} , half the normal minimum. He is also reportedly showing signs of fatigue and inflammatory pain.

Bao Tong has been in poor health since his arrest in 1989 and petitions for his release on bail to seek medical treatment have all been denied, most recently in December 1994. Bao Tong is currently held in Beijing First Hospital and is returned to Qincheng prison, 80 km north, for monthly family visits. The effect of this is that his family is unable to speak with the treating doctors and the authorities have refused permission for Bao Tong to be examined by a doctor of the family's choice or for his medical records to be reviewed for the family.

AI is seeking guarantees that Bao Tong's condition will be properly monitored and that his family will be kept regularly informed of his medical condition.

Background

Prior to his arrest, Bao Tong was a close associate of the deposed Chinese Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang, a member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee (CCPCC) and Director of the CCPCC Research Centre for Return of the Political Structure. He was arrested a few days before the student-led pro-democracy protests were crushed by the army in Beijing in June 1989 and was accused of "revealing party secrets" by allegedly telling colleagues about the impending imposition of martial law on 20 May 1989. Following his arrest, he was held for a year in solitary confinement at Qincheng prison, then released in May 1990 and placed under house arrest. On 21 January 1992 he was re-arrested at his home and has been held in Qincheng prison since then. He was charged with "counter-revolutionary incitement" and "leaking state secrets" and is due for release in May 1986.

Bao Tong is a prisoner of conscience and Amnesty International calls for his unconditional release.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - ASA
Date: 24 January 1995

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Health Concern: BAO Tong
CHINA**

Theme keywords: medical care/ill-health

Summary

Bao Tong, 62 years old, was arrested on 28 May 1989 and sentenced on 21 July 1992 to seven years' imprisonment. In recent years he has undergone five operations for polyps in his colon, most recently in 1993. His white cell count is reported to be 2000 mm^{-3} , half the normal minimum. He is also reportedly showing signs of fatigue and inflammatory pain. Bao Tong is held in Beijing First Hospital and is returned to Qincheng prison for monthly visits. The effect of this is that his family is unable to speak with the treating doctors and the authorities have refused permission for Bao Tong to be examined by a doctor of the family's choice. AI is seeking guarantees that Bao Tong's condition will be properly monitored and that his family will be kept regularly informed of his medical condition. Bao Tong is a prisoner of conscience and AI calls for his unconditional release.

Recommended actions

Letters from health professionals, preferably written in English or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

- raising the case of Bao Tong, aged 62, currently held in Beijing First Hospital
- noting that in Bao Tong has had serious health problems over the past few years and that in particular he has had polyps removed from his colon and that his white cell count is reported to be half the normal minimum
- expressing concern that he and his family appear to be kept ignorant of the state of his health
- calling for Bao Tong to be guaranteed necessary medical monitoring and for his medical condition to be appropriately treated
- calling for his family to be permitted access to the treating doctors or for a doctor of their choice to review his medical records

■ noting that Bao Tong was imprisoned for the non-violent expression of his political beliefs and urging that he be released as a prisoner of conscience

Addresses

Premier of the People's Republic of China

LI Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

CHEN Minzhang Buzhang

Weishengbu

44 Houhai Beiyan, Gulou Xidajie

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Salutation: Your Excellency