

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/017/2004

21 April 2004

**Further Information on UA 34/03 (ASA 17/010/2003, 5 February 2003) - Fear for safety/ Assault/ Prisoner of Conscience**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WANG Jinbo (m), aged 32**

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Wang Jinbo's health is reportedly worsening after a series of hunger strikes in protest at his treatment in prison. He has reportedly complained of a constant fever and a bad cough. Amnesty International fears for his safety. It is not known whether he is being allowed medical treatment, but his family has recently applied for his release on medical parole.

In 2003 he was reportedly subjected to repeated beatings by other inmates in Shandong No.1 Prison, allegedly instigated by the prison authorities. It is not known if the beatings are continuing, but there has been no investigation into the beatings he has already suffered.

Unlike his fellow inmates, Wang Jinbo is not permitted to make telephone calls home. He is now allowed visits by his family, but these are tightly controlled by the prison authorities. He was allegedly held in solitary confinement for several months in 2003.

According to reliable sources Wang has regularly protested against his sentencing and has written letters about his treatment in prison. It is possible that the ill-treatment is a result of his refusal to accept his conviction.

Wang Jinbo was sentenced to four years' imprisonment in December 2001 on charges of "inciting the subversion of state power". The charges arose from articles he had emailed to overseas organizations, calling for a re-evaluation of the June 1989 pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, and the release of political prisoners. He had been detained several times before for his political activities as a member of the banned China Democracy Party.

News of his worsening situation comes ahead of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, in which hundreds of people died. Dozens of people are still imprisoned as a result of the crackdown. It is common practice in China at particular times such as key anniversaries or the occasion of political party congresses to impose stricter controls on those wishing to freely express their opinions.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Wang Jinbo is one of at least 54 people detained in China for internet-related offences, in violation of the fundamental human right to freedom of expression, and freedom of opinion. Since China linked up with the global internet in 1994 scores of rules and regulations have been introduced, equipment confiscated, websites banned and internet cafes controlled and shut down throughout China. For further information see *Controls tighten as internet activism grows* (ASA17/001/2004) and *State control of the internet in China* (ASA 17/007/2002), and related *Appeal cases* (ASA 17/046/2002).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese, English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Wang Jinbo, and urging the authorities to provide him with necessary medical treatment and full access to his family, and to ensure that he is not assaulted by other prisoners;
- calling on the authorities to release Wang Jinbo immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association;

- calling for a full and independent inquiry into allegations of ill-treatment of Wang Jinbo, with the outcome made public and those found responsible brought to justice, in accordance to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ratified by China in 1988.

**APPEALS TO:**

Acting Governor of the Shandong Provincial People's Government

**HAN Yuqun** Daishengzhang

Shandongsheng Renmin Zhengfu

1 Shengfuqianjie

Jinanshi

Shandongsheng

People's Republic of China

**Telegram:** **Acting Governor, Jinan, Shandong Province, China**

**Salutation:** **Dear Governor**

Director of the Shandong Provincial Department of Justice

**LIANG Dechao** Tingzhang

Sifating

9 Jinshilu

Jinanshi 250014

Shandongsheng

People's Republic of China

**Telegram:** **Director of the Provincial Department of Justice, Jinan, Shandong Province, China**

**Salutation:** **Dear Director**

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

**ZHANG Fusen** Buzhang

Sifabu

10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie, Chaoyangqu

Beijingshi 100020

People's Republic of China

**Telexes:** **210070 FMPRC CN or 22478 MFERT CN (Please forward to the Minister of Justice)**

**Telegram:** **Minister of Justice, Beijing, China**

**Salutation:** **Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

Governor of the Shandong No.1 Prison

**QI Xiaoguang** Jianyuzhang

Shandong di yi jianyu

91 Gongye Nanlu

Jinanshi

Shandongsheng

People's Republic of China

**Salutation:** **Dear Prison Governor**

and to diplomatic representatives of 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 2 June 2004.