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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Wave of arbitrary detentions in Inner Mongolia

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Ten people reportedly labelled by the Chinese authorities as “nationalist separatists” have been held without charge or trial in Inner Mongolia since mid-December 1995. Two others have been more recently detained reportedly for informing foreign organizations about the detentions. Some of the detainees are reported to be connected with an organization called the Southern Mongolian Democratic Alliance (SMDA). Many other people were briefly detained later in December 1995 for taking part in two demonstrations protesting against the detentions.

The authorities are reported to have circulated an internal document accusing several people by name of being members of the SMDA and of being “nationalist separatists”. According to unofficial sources, the SMDA was established “to promote the concept of a high degree of autonomy for China’s minority nationalities, as guaranteed in the constitution” but is regarded by the government as “a counter-revolutionary organization that is carrying out activities aimed at splitting the nation”.

During the evening of 10 December 1995, three people, Hada, Hei Long and Shuangzhu, were detained by police from their homes in Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia, and their homes were searched.

Hada

Hada, age 40, is general manager of the Mongolian Academic Bookshop; **Hei Long**, age 31, is a junior lecturer at the Inner Mongolia Teacher Training College and **Shuangzhu** is a postgraduate student in the Department of Mongolian Language at the Inner Mongolia Teacher Training College.

When the police searched Hada’s home, they reportedly took away various documents including 13 essays on the theory of national autonomy and over 100 name cards and addresses of international academic contacts. The police gave Hada’s wife, Xinna, a notice of “shelter and investigation” for her husband which stated: “We have decided to take him [Hada] in for

investigation according to rules laid down in Document 56 of the State Council (80)¹, because of his suspected involvement in Case 101". According to reports the internal document states that the 13 essays confiscated from Hada's home are an expression of 'nationalist separatist' sentiments, and refers to the SMDA as a "counter-revolutionary organization".

Hei Long was released from police custody on 11 December, but the police returned on 13 December and took him away again. His family were reportedly given a "shelter and investigation" notice similar to that for Hada. Hei Long is believed to be held at the Inner Mongolia Public Security Bureau Detention Centre. Shuangzhu is thought to have been released.

Several other people believed to be suspected of nationalist activities were detained by police on 11 and 12 December. Twenty-nine year-old **Tegexi**, who works in the Soviet-Mongolian Office of the Inner Mongolian Bureau of Foreign Affairs, was away on business in Tongliao when the police searched his home on 10 December. On 12 December the police went to Tongliao, arrested Tegexi and flew him back to Hohhot. He is currently being held under a "shelter and investigation" order and is believed to be detained in the Inner Mongolia Public Security Bureau Detention Centre.

On 11 December the home of **Chen Haishan**, a 28 year-old office worker, was searched by the police. On the day his home was searched he was summoned to the public security bureau but was released shortly afterwards. The police went to his home again on 13 December and he is now being held at the Inner Mongolia Public Security Bureau Detention Centre for "shelter and investigation".

Three more people, Chang Ming, Dogtengbayar and Narisu were detained on 11 December 1995. **Chang Ming**, aged 30, is a researcher in the History Department of the Inner Mongolia Institute of Social Sciences; **Dogtengbayar**, aged 30, is a junior lecturer at the Inner Mongolia Technical College of Mongolian Literature and is also editor of the college's publication 'Mongolian Studies Research' (*Mengguxue Yanjiu*), his home was searched by the police; **Narisu** (f), is a junior lecturer at the Inner Mongolia Institute of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. Dogtengbayar and Narisu were released after being briefly detained for questioning. However, on 16 December Dogtengbayar was taken away again by the police for "shelter and investigation", having reportedly been accused of inciting students to "march and cause trouble". He is believed to be held at the Inner Mongolia Public Security Bureau Detention Centre.

Chang Ming

¹ The document referred to is the "Notice of the State Council on the Unification of the Two Measures of Forced Labour and Shelter and Investigation Together with Re-education through Labour" (29 February 1980). "Shelter and investigation" (*shourong shencha*) is a form of preventive detention to hold people without charge, on the sole authority of the police, often for several months. Many people held for "shelter and investigation" are subsequently assigned to a period of "re-education through labour", another form of administrative detention, without going through any judicial process.

Xinna

On 16 December 1995, up to 100 students from several colleges gathered at the Mongolian Language College to protest against the detentions. A poster giving details of the recent detentions was put up in front of the Mongolian Academic Bookshop². Police dispersed the demonstration and detained a number of people. Hada's wife Xinna, a teacher at the Inner Mongolian Marketing and Supply College, was held for investigation by the provincial public security bureau and accused of inciting the students.

Xinna was released on 12 January 1996 pending investigation and was held for several weeks under house arrest. She has recently been redetained by the public security bureau together with **Haowushisi**, aged in his forties. Sources indicate that the official reason for Xinna and Haowushisi's detentions are that they gave an interview to the Voice of America radio station, informed "foreign reactionary organizations" about the recent detentions and "divulged state secrets".

More than 200 high school students, university students and others held a second demonstration in Hohhot on 30 December 1995 to protest against the detentions. They marched from the Teacher Training College to the Inner Mongolia Normal University holding portraits of Genghis Khan, singing Mongol songs and some people distributed leaflets protesting against the oppression of Mongols by the Chinese authorities. The demonstration was dispersed by the police outside the Inner Mongolia Normal University and 27 people were detained, including several members of the SMDA.

According to *Reuters*³, a university official said that all the students had been released into the custody of the school authorities and disciplined for taking part in the demonstration. However, **Xinjiltu**, a graduate student at the Teacher Training College, **Gabiyatu**, a student from the Inner Mongolia School of Finance and **Hasibagen**, a research student in modern history at Inner Mongolia University are reported to be subject to "shelter and investigation" orders and are being detained at the Inner Mongolia Public Security Bureau Detention Centre.

Also believed to be in detention is **Bao Qingshan**, aged 30, who works as a local official in Zhe prefecture, Inner Mongolia.

² On 29 December 1995, several days after Hada and Xinna were detained, the *Guangming Daily* published an article about the Mongolian Academic Bookshop. The article says that Hada and Xinna have "developed their own special style of business throughout the years: both they and their staff are bilingual in Mongolian and Chinese" and goes on to say how their bookshop, which "enjoys an international reputation", has expanded to have assets worth 100,000yuan and sells books to almost 70 universities and libraries worldwide, including Cambridge University in the UK, Waseda University in Japan, and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin in Germany.

³ *Reuters*, 1 February 1996.

The Mongolian Academic Bookshop

Amnesty International is concerned that Hada, Hei Long, Chang Ming, Dogtengbayar, Xinjiltu, Gabiyatu, Hasibagen, Chen Haishen, Tegexi, Bao Qingshan, Xinna and Haowushisi are arbitrarily detained for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of opinion and association. It is also concerned that several of them are being detained without charge, under a form of administrative detention.

Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in English, Chinese or in your own language urging their immediate and unconditional release, to:

Premier of the People's Republic of China

LI Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Faxes: + 86 10 512 5810

(via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Telegram: Premier Li Peng, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Chairman of the Nei Menggu Autonomous Regional People's Government

WULIJI Zhuxi

Nei Menggu Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu

1 Xinhua Dajie

Huhehaoteshi 010055

Nei Menggu Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Chairman of the People's Government, Huhehaote, Nei Menggu Autonomous Region, China

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Director of the Department of Public Security

LI Maolin Tingzhang

Gong'anting

Haila'er Donglu

Huhehaoteshi 010051

Nei Menggu Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Director of the Department of Public Security, Huhehaote, Nei Menggu Autonomous Region, China

Salutation: Dear Director

KEYWORDS: DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL / ARBITRARY ARREST / DEMONSTRATIONS / MINORITIES / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / ACADEMICS / STUDENTS / WOMEN / PHOTOGRAPHS

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