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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

@More dissidents arrested in the run up to Tiananmen anniversary

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Jiang Qisheng, a 46-year old aeronautics graduate, was arrested in Beijing on 28 May 1994, a day after giving an interview to the British newspaper, *The Sunday Times*.

In the 5 June edition of the newspaper he was quoted as saying that "the pro-democracy movement is still active, though it has broken up and driven underground. You cannot see any big rivers, but there are many, many small streams."

Jiang Qisheng

Jiang had acted as interpreter when the newspaper interviewed Ding Zilin, a philosophy professor, whose son was killed in Beijing on 4 June 1989 during the military crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Ding Zilin has been campaigning for several years for the authorities to account for all those killed in 1989 and hold those responsible accountable. Jiang Qisheng had told the newspaper that he knew he was putting himself at risk for his association with Ding Zilin, who is under surveillance and routinely harassed by police, but he thought that conditions for dissidents were improving and that the authorities were showing greater tolerance.

Jiang Qisheng's wife, Chen Hong, said she only found out that her husband had been arrested when she phoned the police to report him missing. When she went to the police station where he was held, she was not allowed to see him

and was not told why he was being held. There is still no news of him, nor any indication that he has been formally charged. The couple have a 12-year-old son.

Jiang was first arrested in June 1989 and imprisoned for 18 months for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests when he was a member of the People's University Student's Autonomous Federation.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned by the arbitrary arrest and detention of Jiang Qisheng, which violate basic international human rights standards, and by the continued silence of the Chinese authorities, several weeks after his arrest, as to the reasons why he is being held. His and other arbitrary arrests carried out in the past few weeks seem to confirm a trend started earlier this year at increased repression of all potential sources of dissent in China.

Two other dissidents were also reportedly arrested in Beijing in the days leading up to the fifth anniversary of Tiananmen. **Wang Zhongqiu**, a postgraduate law student from Beijing University was taken into custody at the end of May 1994 and has not been heard of since. Wang was one of the organizers behind a recently formed independent labour rights group, the League for the Protection of the Rights of the Working People, which had been refused legal registration by the Beijing authorities in March. **Zhang Lin**, a former pro-democracy activist who had been imprisoned in 1989, was arrested on 2 June 1994 and sent back under detention to his home town in Anhui province. The reasons for his arrest and his current status are not known.

Meanwhile in Shanghai, following the arrest of five human rights activists at the end of May¹, **Bao Ge**, a leading dissident, was detained on 3 June 1994. He was arrested after sending an open letter to the Chinese government asking for a national human rights organization to be set up. According to his sister, Bao was going to publish the names of over 100 people who wished to take part in the organization which was calling for compensation for the relatives of those killed during the 1989 massacre and which planned to investigate issues such as free labour unions, freedom of religion and the protection of the rights of women and children. Bao Ge, has been under close surveillance and detained for questioning on a number of occasions since March 1994.

Amnesty International considers Jiang Qisheng, Wang Zhongqiu, Zhang Lin and Bao Ge to be prisoners of conscience held solely for the non-violent exercise of the right to freedom of conscience and expression and calls for their immediate and unconditional release.

Amnesty International's continuing concerns about human rights violations related to the 4 June 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy protests in China are described in detail in the document: *Human Rights Violations Five Years After Tiananmen*, published in June 1994 (AI Index: ASA 17/20/94).

¹See Amnesty International report dated 25 May 1994 *Appeal for Human Rights Activists Detained in Shanghai*, Index: ASA 17/21/94

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / ARBITRARY ARREST1 / INCOMMUNICADO
DETENTION / BANNING / HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / STUDENTS /
TRANSLATORS / ANNIVERSARIES /

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

◆ urging the Chinese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Jiang Qisheng, Wang Zhongqiu, Zhang Lin and Bao Ge unless they are promptly charged with recognizably criminal offences in accordance with international standards;

◆ urging that if they have already been charged with recognizably criminal offences, the authorities make public the specific accusations on which these charges are based and ensure that they are granted access to their relatives and lawyers of their choice without delay.

Please send appeals to:

Minister of Public Security

Tao Siju

Gong'anbu

14 Dongchang'an lu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN

Faxes: + 861 524 1596

Telegram: Minister of Public Security Tao Siju, Beijing, China

(Salutation: Dear Minister)

Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate

Zhang Siqing

Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan

147 Beiheyan Dajie

Donganmen, Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100726

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Faxes: + 861 512 6655

(Please forward to Procurator-General Zhang Siqing)

Telegram: Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate Zhang Siqing, Beijing, China

(Salutation: Dear Procurator-General)

This document is being mailed (rather than being sent through faxpress) to China and CHIRAN Coordinators for action by groups. It is being sent to Sections for information only. Check with the China Research Team at the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 31 July 1994.

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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM