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Legal Concern

6 March 1991

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: LUO Haixing
LI Longqing
LI Peicheng

Three more pro-democracy supporters from Hong Kong, who have been detained in south China since late 1989, were sentenced on 4 March 1991 to terms of imprisonment of four and five years on charges of "concealing counter-revolutionary elements". They went on trial on 26 February at the Guangzhou (Canton) Intermediate People's Court and the sentences were passed one week later. The trial reportedly lasted for two and a half hours. They were found guilty of helping prominent pro-democracy activists, Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao, who were trying to flee the country after the 4 June 1989 crackdown by the authorities.

Luo Haixing, aged 42, a businessman and former Beijing representative of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Li Longqing, aged 32, and Li Peicheng, aged 34, all Hong Kong residents, had been arrested by the Public Security Bureau between October and December 1989 in Guangdong Province.

Luo Haixing and Li Peicheng were sentenced to five years' imprisonment and Li Longqing to four years' imprisonment. The court verdict stated that Luo Haixing had supplied the address of Chen Ziming's hideout to a Hong Kong film director and democracy activists, but Luo's lawyer argued that he had not committed a crime since he was unaware that Chen Ziming was a "counter-revolutionary". In the case of the other two defendants, the court verdict said Li Longqing had helped 14 people to escape the country and Li Peicheng had helped 17 democracy activists to escape.

Lawyers for the three men had pleaded for light sentences. Luo Haixing's wife, Zhou Mimi, said she was unable to attend her husband's brief trial as his lawyer was only notified of the proceedings a few hours in advance. Luo Haixing's family plans to file an appeal on 5 March against the sentence.

Since the beginning of 1991 at least 36 people held since 1989 for their role in the pro-democracy protests have been tried in Beijing and elsewhere.

At least 20 of them have so far been sentenced to terms ranging from 2 to 13 years plus deprivation of political rights, and six others were "exempted from criminal punishment". By 5 March 1991 the verdicts against at least 10 other defendants had not yet been announced.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the trials and sentences passed against Luo Haixing, Li Peicheng and Li Longqing;
- stating that Amnesty International considers people imprisoned for helping others exercise peacefully the right to freedom of expression and association to be prisoners of conscience, providing their motives are humanitarian rather than mercenary;
- urging the authorities to make public full details of the trial proceedings against Luo Haixing, Li Longqing and Li Peicheng and the evidence on which

the charges against them are based;

- expressing concern that trials fail to meet international standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO:**Prime Minister:**

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and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 April 1991.