
amnesty international

£CHINA

@Christians arrested during Easter and others serving sentences

12 MAY 1995

AI INDEX: ASA 17/26/95

DISTR: REL CO/GR/SC

Over 20 Roman Catholics and Protestants are reported to be in detention after a large number of arrests were made during Easter celebrations in April 1995. Those arrested belong to religious groups who peacefully carry out their religious activities outside the officially recognized Catholic Patriotic Association (CPA) and Three-Self Patriotic Association.

Amnesty International is concerned that the people named in this document are prisoners of conscience and urges the Chinese government to release them immediately and unconditionally.

Jiangxi province

Between 30 and 40 Roman Catholic believers were separately arrested on 13, 14, 18, 19, 25 and 26 April 1995 by police officers from Linchuan city, Jiangxi province. Many were released shortly after arrest, but 17 people are believed to remain in detention.

Those still detained are reported to be held in several places including detention centres in Chongren county, Yihuang county and Linchuan city in Jiangxi province. They are

Cui Maozai	male, age 42, arrested April 26
Gao Jianxiou	female, age 46,
Gao Shuyun	female, age 45, detained in Chongren town
Huang Guanghua	female, age 43, detained in Linchuan town
Huang Meiyu	female, age 40

Lu Huiying	female, age 51
Pan Kunming	male, age 30
Rao Yanping	female, age 18
You Xianyu	female, age 42
Wang Yuqin	a nun, age 23, arrested April 25
Wu Yinghua	female, age 30
Wu Jiehong	female, age 46
Yu Shuizai	male, age 50, arrested April 26
Zeng Yinzai	female, age 60, arrested April 25
Zhang Wenlin	male, age 60, is reported to be blind
Zhu Changshun	male, age 40, arrested April 13
Zhu Lianrong	male, age 49

According to reports many of the detainees were beaten by police officers during their arrests and two women detainees, **Gao Shuyun** and **Huang Guanghua** were so badly beaten that they now need help to eat.

Hebei province

On 17 April 1995 an unofficial Roman Catholic priest, **Chi Huitian** () was arrested by police officers from Shuangjingcun, Ningjin county, Hebei province. Chi Huitian had been preparing to celebrate Easter mass for a large congregation in an open field near his home. According to sources, Chi Huitian was told by the police to cancel the planned mass and, in future, to take his instructions from the Catholic Patriotic Association diocesan bishop. He was also told that his congregation must attend the Easter Mass being held in the local CPA church and that they should permanently transfer there to worship.

Chi Huitian and his congregation allegedly refused to accept the instructions from the police and were threatened with having fines levied against them if they attended the unofficial Easter mass. In addition, Chi Huitian was told that his house would be sealed and sacred altar items confiscated if he and the congregation did not comply. Despite these threats, Chi Huitian reportedly went ahead with his Easter Mass and he was subsequently taken away by police officers. It is not known where he is being detained.

Shanxi province

Three Protestant house-church leaders were arrested on 13 April 1995 at a house-church meeting in Changzhi city, Shanxi province. According to reports, everyone present at the meeting was arrested, most were subsequently released but six people remain in custody. The six detainees are believed to be three local house-church leaders, who were not named, and three non-locals who were named as **Li Tianen** (), a housechurch leader, in his late 60s from Shanghai; **Chen Qunying** (), a surgeon from Hangzhou and **Brother Shi** (). Li Tianen has been arrested and detained on more than one previous occasion.

On 20 April 1995 Chen Qunying's home in Hangzhou was reported to have been searched. It is understood that he suffers from diabetes and a heart condition and had recently taken early retirement due to poor health. He only has a limited supply of medicine with him.

Qinghai province

Qin Guoliang () and **Li Zhixin** (), Roman Catholic priests from an unofficial church in Qinghai province are reported to be serving two years of "reeducation through labour" at Duoba Labour Camp outside Xining, Qinghai province. The majority of prisoners at Duoba Labour Camp are reported to have to work at carrying rocks and blocks of ice.

Qin Guoliang, aged 60, was arrested in Xining on 3 November 1994 and is reported to be in poor health due to the hard work he was made to do at the labour camp. Sources say that since March 1995 he has been permitted to perform lighter duties and is now prison treasurer. Reports also say that Qin Guoliang does not receive sufficient food and has a swollen face. He spent 15 years from 1955 imprisoned for his religious activities outside the official church. After serving his sentence he reportedly remained at the Xining No.4 Labour Camp as a "detained employee" producing bricks.

Li Zhixin was arrested on 29 March 1994. Before his arrest he was a worker at the Huafei factory in Fujiahai, Xining city, Qinghai province.

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

- expressing concern that Cui Maozi, Gao Jinxiou, Gao Shuyun, Huang Guanghua, Huang Meiyu, Lu Huiying, Pan Kunming, Rao Yanping, You Xianyu, Wang Yuqin, Wu Yinghua, Wu Jiehong, Yu Shuizai, Zeng Yinzai, Zhang Wenlin, Zhu Changshun and Zhu Liaorong from Linchuan town, Jiangxi province, are believed to be detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of religion and urge that they be immediately and unconditionally released;*
- express concern that Gao Shuyun, Huang Guanghua and others were reportedly beaten during arrest and urge the Chinese authorities to investigate these allegations and bring any perpetrators to justice;*

Director of the Jiangxi province Justice Department

Fan Youxian, Tingzhang

Sifating

Nanchangshi

Jiangxisheng

People's Republic of China

Faxes: +86791 222 847

Telegram: Director of the Provincial

Justice Department Fan Youxian, 50 Beijingxilu,

Nanchang, Jiangxi, China

- expressing concern that Chi Huitian from Ningjin town, Hebei province is believed to be detained for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of religion and urge that he be immediately and unconditionally released;*

Director of the Hebei province Justice Department

Zhang Chunfu, Tingzhang

Sifating

3 Shiyilu, Shijiazhuangshi 050051

Hebeisheng

People's Republic of China

Faxes: + 86 311 26615

Telegram: Director of the Provincial

Department of Justice Zhang Chunfu,

Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, China

- *expressing concern that six Protestants, including Li Tianen, Chen Quying and Brother Shi are believed to have been detained after a house-church meeting in Changzhi city, Shanxi province, for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of religion and urge that they be immediately and unconditionally released;*
- *also expressing concern that Chen Quying is reported to suffer from diabetes and a heart condition for which he only has limited medical supplies;*

Director Shanxi province Justice Department

Wang Xiwen, Tingzhang
Sifating
Xinwenyuanxiang
Taiyuanshi 030001
Shanxisheng
People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Director of the Provincial
Department of Justice, Taiyuan, Shanxi
province, China

- *expressing concern that Qin Guoliang and Li Zhixin have been sentenced without charge or trial to periods of "reeducation through labour" which they are now serving in Qinghai province for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of religion and urge that they be immediately and unconditionally released;*

Director of Qinghai province Justice Department

Zhaxi Nima, Tingzhang
Sifating
151 Nandajie
Xiningshi 810000
Qinghaisheng
People's Republic of China

Telegram: Director of the Provincial
Department of Justice, Zhaxi Nima, Xining,
Qinghai Province, China

This document is sent to China and CHIRAN Coordinators for action by groups. It is sent to Sections for information only. Check with the East Asia Sub-Regional Team if sending appeals after 15 June 1995. Number of words: 1292

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE1 / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - CATHOLIC1 / RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE1 / MASS ARREST / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / ILL-HEALTH / DETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - CATHOLIC / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - PROTESTANT / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - PROTESTANT / DOCTORS / WOMEN / POLICE /

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