

URGENT ACTION

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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Killings in Beijing

Further shootings of unarmed civilians by soldiers in Beijing have continued over the past three days. Eyewitnesses have reported seeing people shot while looking out of their windows in residential buildings, or in the streets. In one particular incident shown on television abroad on 7 June, troops from the 27th Army moving in large numbers towards the east of the city were shown shooting passers-by in Changan Avenue without warning or provocation. Four people are reported to have been killed and several others injured in the incident.

Reports of deliberate killings by troops searching for student leaders and teachers in several Beijing University campuses have also been received. Troops are reported to have visited about ten Beijing Institutes and Universities between 4 and 6 June, but were said to have withdrawn from all campuses on 7 June, except the Beijing Fine Arts College. Estimates of the numbers killed vary. One report suggests that 100 people were killed and 400 badly injured by troops at Beijing University (Beida), that 80 were killed at Qinghua University and 93 others at Beijing's Teachers College.

In a message to the Oxford University Student Union on 6 June Students at Beijing University stated that soldiers had entered the campus searching for student leaders of the democracy campaign, and had gone from dormitory to dormitory killing students on the spot who attempted to resist or protest. They also cited unconfirmed reports that the authorities have drawn up a list of university academics and staff to be killed. Another source has reported that about 120 students were taken from the dormitories at Beijing University, lined up outside and shot by soldiers.

On 7 June the Chinese authorities put the total number of dead in Beijing at 300 and denied that any students had been killed in Tiananmen Square. International news reports and eye witness reports indicate both a far higher number of deaths and also that a number of these occurred when troops forcibly took possession of Tiananmen Square. Some estimates suggest that as many as 10,000 people may have been killed, a high proportion of them unarmed civilians. The bodies of many of those who died there are believed to have been subsequently burnt.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the deliberate killings of unarmed protesters and civilians by government forces;
- urging the authorities to halt the killings and take immediate steps to end current human rights violations.

APPEALS TO:

LI Peng Zongli
Guowuyuan
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

(Prime Minister LI Peng)

Telegrams: Li Peng Zongli, Beijingshi, China
Telexes: 22478 MFERT CN (Please forward to Prime Minister Li)

YANG Shangkun Guojia Zhuxi (President YANG Shangkun)
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Yang Shangkun Guojia Zhuxi, Beijingshi, China
Telexes: 22478 MFERT CN (Please forward to President Yang)

QIAO Shi Weiyuan (Member QIAO Shi, Chinese Communist Party Politburo
Zhongyang Zhengzhiju Standing Committee Member)
Changwuwei yuanhui
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Qiao Shi Weiyuan, Beijingshi, China
Telexes: 22478 MFERT CN (Please forward to Politburo Member Qiao)

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China and to the office of the New China News Agency (Xinhua) in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 July 1989.