

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Medical Concern/Fear of Ill-treatment 18 June 1993

People's Republic of China:Ren Wanding

In a letter sent to the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Zhang Fengying, the wife of Ren Wanding, a human rights activist jailed in China since 1989, has asked the United Nations to consider the plight of her husband.

In her letter to the U.N., dated 16 June 1993, Zhang Fengying expresses concern that her husband, who is serving his seven-year sentence in Beijing Prison No.2, may now be subjected to punishment because of an incident which happened at the prison on 15 June during her monthly visit. According to her account Ren Wanding was mistreated by prison guards after requesting to see his medical file, from which he believed records had been removed in order to prevent his release on medical grounds. The prison guards became angry at this request, twisted Ren Wanding's arm behind his back, put a hand over his mouth and took him away claiming he would undergo a "severe punishment". As he was being taken back to his cell, Ren Wanding declared that he would go on hunger strike in protest.

Amnesty International fears that as a "severe punishment" Ren Wanding may be placed in solitary confinement, which could lead to a further decline in his physical and mental well-being. The organization is also concerned about the effects a hunger strike may have on his state of health.

Ren Wanding's health appears to have deteriorated considerably since his imprisonment. He is reportedly suffering from severe internal and external haemorrhoids, acute gastritis, as well as chronic sinusitis and chest infections. He has developed cataracts that have seriously reduced his vision and is in danger of losing his eyesight completely. He has apparently not received any specialist medical treatment.

Ren Wanding was arrested in Beijing in 1989 for distributing essays and making speeches calling for respect for human rights, freedom of speech and the rule of law, during the 1989 pro-democracy protests. A veteran human rights activist, he had been previously jailed for four years after founding the "Human Rights Alliance" in Beijing during the 1979 "Democracy Wall" movement. (Please see UA 262/91, ASA 17/46/91, 26 July 1991 and follow-ups: ASA 17/49/91, 6 August 1991, ASA 17/51/91, 19 August 1991, ASA 17/55/91, 9 September 1991, ASA 17/57/91 17 September 1991 and ASA 17/65/91 dated 39 October 1991).

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Ren Wanding, who has not used or advocated violence,

has been detained for the peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression and urging that he be released immediately and unconditionally;

- urging that he receive proper medical care appropriate to his state of health in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

XIAO Yang Buzhang

Sifabu

Xiaguangli

Beijingshi 100016

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Xiao Yang, Sifabu Buzhang, Beijingshi, P.R. China

Telexes: 210020 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN (please forward to Xiao Yang Buzhang)

Faxes: + 861 467 7351

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China

ZHANG Siqing Jianchayuan

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Zhang Siqi, Jianchayuan Zhang, Beijingshi, P.R. China

Telexes: 2100070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN (please forward to Zhang Siqi Jianchazhang)

Faxes: + 861 512 6655 ext.1053

Salutation: Dear Procurator-General

3) Mayor of Beijing Municipal People's Government

Li Qiyuan Shizhang

Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu

2 Zhengyilu

Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100744

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210217 FAOGB CN or 22476 BJGVT CN? * This may be incorrect - sections have had problems using these two telex numbers. Pse. check before using Faxes:

+ 86 1 512 1158 (Please forward to Mayor Li Qiyuan)

Telegram: Li Qiyuan, Shizhang, Beijingshi, P.R.China

Salutation: Dear Sir

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of China in Austria during June at the following address:

The Chinese Embassy:

The Ambassador

Botschaft der Volksrepublik China

Metternichgasse 4, 1030 Wien

Austria

Faxes: + 43 1 713 68 16

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 July 1993.