

PUBLIC

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Medical concern/
prisoners of conscience

18 July 2002

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC Li Wangyang (m) - seriously ill
OF CHINA Li Wanglin (f)**

Li Wangyang, a prisoner of conscience in Chishan Prison in Yanjiang city, Hunan Province, is reportedly seriously ill. Prison authorities have reportedly denied him medical treatment. His sister, Li Wanglin, was sent to a labour camp for three years in July 2001 for publicly supporting her brother in his appeal for compensation for the abuses he had allegedly suffered in prison.

A former labour activist, Li Wangyang has spent 11 years in prison. He is said to be suffering from heart disease, hyperthyroidism, neck and lower back pain and is going blind. He was sentenced in September 2001 to ten years' imprisonment on charges of "incitement to subvert state power", after campaigning for compensation for the ill-treatment he had received in prison while serving a previous term of imprisonment.

Li Wangyang was sentenced in late 1989 to 13 years' imprisonment for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. He was twice released on medical grounds, firstly in 1996, after which he was returned to prison while still receiving medical treatment, and again released because of his poor health in June 2000. He allegedly spent many periods in solitary confinement and suffered several beatings from prison guards while imprisoned for the first time.

Following his release, he undertook a 22-day long hunger strike in February 2001 to demand compensation for the ill-treatment he received in prison, to pay for medical treatment for his illnesses. After trying to obtain a response from the government on this issue, he was harassed by the police and finally re-arrested in May 2001.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- appealing for Li Wangyang's immediate and unconditional release on the grounds that he is imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and is now seriously ill in prison;
- expressing concern about his poor health and urging that he receive all necessary medical care in accordance with the provisions set out in international standards for medical care.
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Li Wanglin, on the grounds that she is arbitrarily imprisoned solely for publicly supporting her brother in his appeal for compensation.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

ZHANG Fusen Buzhang

Sifabu

10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie, Chaoyangqu

Beijingshi 100020

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

(Please forward to the Minister of Justice)

Telegram: Minister of Justice, Beijing, China
Fax: + 86 10 6529 2345
E-mail: minister@legalinfo.gov.cn
Salutation: Your Excellency

Acting Governor of the Hunan Provincial People's Government
ZHANG Yunchuan Daishengzhang
Hunansheng Renmin Zhengfu
69 Wuyizhonglu
Changsashi 410011
Hunansheng
People's Republic of China
Telexes: 98182 CSPG CN (Please forward to the governor)
Telegram: Governor, Changsha, Hunan Province, China
E-mail: webmaster@hunan.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Governor

Director of the Hunan Provincial Department of Justice
WU Zhenhan Tingzhang
Sifating
2 Shaoshanlu
Changshashi 410011
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People's Republic of China
Telegram: Director of the Provincial Department of Justice, Changsha, Hunan Province, China
Salutation: Dear Director

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 August 2002.