

Public

AI Index: ASA 17/030/2002

Distrib:
PG/SC

To: Health professionals
From: Medical office / China team
Date: 23 July 2002

MEDICAL ACTION

Ill-health Li Wangyang, prisoner of conscience, China

(previous actions: 6 July 1998, ASA 17/015/1998; 27 July 2001, ASA 17/025/2001)

Key words prisoner of conscience / ill-health / ill-treatment

Amnesty International's concerns

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. Amnesty International has issued appeals on Li Wangyang's behalf in 1998 and 2001 and is renewing its call for action, including for his sister Li Wanglin.

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.

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 in June 2002 because of his poor health. He allegedly spent many periods in solitary confinement and suffered several beatings from prison guards while imprisoned for the first time. He was sentenced again 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 the previous term of imprisonment.

Recommended actions & addresses

Please write letters in English to the authorities below, using professionally-headed paper if you use this in your profession:

- enquiring about the current state of health of Li Wangyang, held in Chishan Prison in Yanjiang city, and urging that he receive all necessary medical care in accordance with the provisions set out in international standards including the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
- 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;
- 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.

Addresses

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
 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
 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
 Hunansheng
 People's Republic of China
 Salutation: Dear Director

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 China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS)

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

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response, referring to your previous letter(s). Please do not be discouraged by the possible lack of replies to your letters. They are noticed. Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 29 August, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Monitoring of action

If you have access to e-mail you can help our attempt to monitor letter-writing actions. If you write one, two, three or more letters, please send us an e-mail and let us know. Please write in the subject line of your e-mail the index number of the action and the number of letters you write

e.g. ASA 17/030/2002 - 2

Please send your message to medical@amnesty.org Thank you.