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Legal Concern/Fear of Ill-Treatment

15 July 1992

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA:

HU Shenglun - lecturer  
KANG Yuchun - medical doctor  
LIAO Jia'an - postgraduate student  
LIU Jingsheng - worker  
SHANG Hongke - student  
WANG Shengli - postgraduate student

and at least four others

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Amnesty International has recently learned that the Chinese authorities have reportedly detained more than 10 people since early June 1992, including the six named above, accusing them of carrying out "counter-revolutionary" activities. All or some of them are reportedly suspected of being members of the China Progressive Alliance (Zhongguo Jinbu Tongmeng, CPA), a recently established underground organization. A manifesto attributed to the CPA states commitment to non-violence and opposition to dictatorship as principles of the organization. Amnesty International is concerned that those named above may be prisoners of conscience, held solely on account of the non-violent expression of their political views.

Liao Jia'an, aged 24, and Wang Shengli, aged 26, both postgraduate students at the Department of Philosophy of People's University in Beijing, were detained without charge on 8 June 1992 by the Beijing Public Security Bureau (police). University authorities stated on 12 June that they had "printed and distributed counter-revolutionary leaflets" thus "breaking the Criminal Law". Students reported that their dormitory was searched twice by police who found paper and a manual stencil printer.

Shang Hongke, a student from the Department of History of the same university, reportedly went missing on 1 June. He is believed to have been detained, although nobody witnessed the arrest. His classmates reported two weeks later that they had no information about his whereabouts.

Kang Yuchun, a medical doctor at the Department of Psychiatry of Andingmen Hospital in Beijing; Hu Shenglun, a lecturer at the Foreign Languages Institute; and Liu Jingsheng, a worker, were detained around 3 June. Their detention was "confirmed" by "reliable sources", according to unofficial sources in Hong Kong and to a report on 24 June in the Hong Kong-based newspaper, Wah Kiu Yat Po.

Amnesty International is concerned that the six detainees are at risk of torture and ill-treatment, of being held in prolonged incommunicado detention, and of being held without charge or trial or tried unfairly.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

After the Tiananmen incidents of 1989, Liao Jia'an and Wang Shengli had reportedly established an authorized organization within their university, the Readers' Society (*Dushu She*), which published a stencilled journal called *Everybody* (*Dajia*). They were reportedly under observation by university authorities because of articles published in that journal. They had recently stopped their involvement with the society and the journal in order to prepare for exams, classmates reported.

Shang Hongke had taken part in the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Beijing: because of this he was not allowed to take his graduation exams in 1990 and was not assigned to a job. He had been allowed to remain on the campus until his detention, the Wah Kiu Yat Po reported.

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Kang Yuchun's relatives were reportedly told by officials at his hospital that the State Security Ministry (the counter-espionage organ of the government) was responsible for Kang Yuchun's detention. The hospital authorities refused to answer the relatives' queries in mid-June and reportedly told them that "it was best for them not to pursue the matter". Kang Yuchun is believed to be detained in Pinggu District, near Beijing.

All six arrests appear to be related to the emergence of the CPA, and at least five other people, unnamed, are said to be sought by the authorities in this connection. There were reports that some of the detainees suspected of belonging to the CPA were detained under other pretexts, such as "watching pornographic videos".

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:**

- urging the authorities to release those named immediately and unconditionally if they are held solely on account of the non-violent expression of their political views; otherwise, to ensure that they are either brought to trial promptly and fairly on recognizably criminal charges, or released;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that the detainees named above are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and are given immediate and regular access to relatives and independent medical doctors;
- urging that the whereabouts and any charges against the detainees named above be made public, as well as the names and whereabouts of any others detained in connection with the CPA;

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Mayor of Beijing Municipality:  
**Chen Xitong**  
Shizhang  
Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu  
2 Zhengyilu  
Donghengqu  
Beijingshi 100744  
People's Republic of China  
**Telexes: 210217 FAOGB CN or 22476 BJVGT CN**  
(Please forward to Mayor Chen  
**Xitong**)

2) Minister of Public Security  
**Tao Siju**  
Buzhang  
Gong'anbu  
14 Dong Chang'anlu  
Beijingshi 100741  
People's Republic of China  
**Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Director, Beijing Public Security bureau  
**Su Zhongxiang**  
Juzhang

Beijingshi Gobg'anju  
19 Qianmen Dongdajie  
Xuanwuqu

Beijingshi 100740  
People's Republic of China

Editor, Beijing Daily  
Liu Hushan  
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34 Xibiaobei Hutong  
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Beijingshi  
People's Republic of China

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 26 August 1992.