

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 262/91 (ASA 17/46/91, 26 July 1991) - Solitary Confinement/Health Concern

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC): Wang Juntao
Chen Ziming
Ren Wandong
Bao Zunxin
Wang Dan

Wang Juntao, a key activist in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, held in solitary confinement although seriously ill with hepatitis, is now threatening to start a hunger-strike on 13 August 1991 in protest against conditions which are described as "*squalid, inhumane and illegal*".

The family have been fighting to have Wang Juntao admitted to hospital and are now appealing to the city's Reform Through Labour Bureau to have him temporarily released for medical treatment. Wang Juntao fell ill with hepatitis over five months ago, before his trial. In February 1991 he was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment for his role in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. Hou Xiaotian, Wang Juntao's wife, said "*he has grown sick and feeble in the punishment cell ... This hunger-strike will lead to only one result: the death of Wang Juntao*". Hou Xiaotian also quoted an official as saying that Wang Juntao's conditions would not improve unless he changed his anti-government attitude.

Four other prominent dissidents, Chen Ziming, Wang Dan, Ren Wandong and Bao Zunxin are also suffering from chronic health problems. They have all been held in solitary confinement in Beijing Prison No. 2 since early April 1991. Bao Zunxin has reportedly been admitted to a prison hospital with a heart complaint.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that Wang Juntao is to go on hunger-strike;
- referring back to your previous correspondence, urging that a fair and open judicial investigation be undertaken into the conditions under which Wang Juntao, Chen Ziming, Wang Dan, Ren Wandong and Bao Zunxin are being held;
- urging that in accordance with international standards, adequate medical care be granted to all detainees, and stressing that prolonged solitary confinement may amount to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- pointing out that China ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in October 1988;
- expressing concern that Wang Juntao, Chen Ziming, Wang Dan, Ren Wandong, Bao Zunxin and Liu Gang are imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of association and expression and urging that they be released immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO:Minister of Justice:

CAI Cheng Buzhang

(Salutation: Your Excellency)

Sifabu

Xiaguangli

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 2100170 FMPC CN; 22478 MFERT CN**(Please forward to Cai Cheng Buzhang)****Faxes: + 86 1 408 1046**Director of Reform-through-Labour:

YAO Yunhui Juzhang

[Salutation: Dear Sir]

14 Dongchangan Street

Dongcheng District

Beijing 100741

People's Republic of China

Faxes: +86 1 408 1046Beijing Municipal Procurator:

HE Fangba Jianchazhang

[Salutation: Dear Sir]

Beijingshi Renmin Jianchayuan

Beijingshi

Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210217 FAOGB CN or 22476 BJVVT CN**(Please forward to HE Fangba Jianchazhang)****Faxes: +86 1 512 1158****COPIES TO:**China Daily (an English-language newspaper)

CHEN li Zongbianji

Xilang Zhongguo Ribao

2 Jintai Xilu

Chaoyangmenwai

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 17 September 1991.