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**CHINA: "PUBLIC ORDER" EXECUTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR WOMEN'S  
CONFERENCE AN OUTRAGE**

*Amnesty International expressed outrage that the Chinese government executed at least 10* people in Beijing in its continuing crackdown to ensure "public order" during the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women, due to convene in just two weeks time.

"It is an outrage that the conference is being used as a justification by the Chinese state to kill people and commit other human rights violations," Amnesty International said.

More than 10 people convicted of murder, robbery and other crimes have already been executed, following a familiar pattern of "anti-crime campaigns" -- which include executions -- that take place prior to big festivals or major events in China.

The Beijing Daily reported: "To safeguard the capital's public order during the upcoming World Women's Conference, the Municipal First Intermediate Court quickly handled a batch of criminal cases." After being approved by the Beijing High People's Court, the executions were carried out "in recent days".

Chinese police are also sweeping Beijing, expelling jobless rural arrivals and taking activists into custody, in preparation for the conference, according to Amnesty International.

"Will the Fourth UN Conference on Women be remembered for contributing to improvements in human rights of women worldwide, or for the human rights violations against Chinese citizens committed in the name of 'safeguarding the capital's public order'?"

Further human rights violations should not be tolerated in China's preparations for a conference that will discuss the status and rights of women, according to Amnesty International, which will raise protest about this crackdown with the Government of China and governments attending the conference.

In the continuing crackdown before the conference, which will run from 30 August to 15 September, authorities briefly detained Beijing resident Tong Zeng after he organised a news conference for women forced into prostitution for soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army. The news conference was stormed by police as an old Chinese woman was relating her experience as "comfort woman".

Tong was later released, reportedly ordered to leave Beijing, and warned not to attend the NGO Forum, where he is registered through his China Research Center for Aging.

The "public order" crackdown in the run-up to the women's conference occurs against the backdrop of continuing repression of political dissent since the end of May, Amnesty International said. About half of the 50 dissidents detained around the last 4 June anniversary of Tiananmen events are believed to be still in detention.

One dissident recently released after six years of detention, Liu Gang, issued an open letter to Chinese authorities complaining that police are harassing him and his family. Liu has said that authorities beat him during his years in prison. Other dissidents recently taken into custody include Liu Fenggang and Gao Feng, two Christian activists with close ties to the dissident community

"Amnesty International is alerting all those who plan to attend the conference that China's so-called efforts to 'safeguard the public order' for their arrival limits the full diversity of opinion represented at the conference," the organization said.

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