

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AISI 17/63/95

Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 1 September 1995

## *MEDICAL CONCERN*

CHEN Ziming  
CHINA

Chen Ziming is a 42-year-old prisoner of conscience imprisoned for his role in the June 1989 pro-democracy protests. Following his arrest in 1989, Chen Ziming was sentenced in 1991 to 13 years for "counter-revolutionary" activities and for allegedly masterminding the protests of 4 June 1989. On 13 May 1994 Chen Ziming was released on medical parole, officially because of a "skin disease", after having served four years of imprisonment. However on medical examination he was found to be suffering from cancer, as well as skin, heart and liver ailments. Surgical treatment of the cancer was undertaken in November 1994 and subsequently Chen was given radiotherapy while being held under virtual house arrest. He was re-imprisoned on 25 June 1995 in Beijing after a one day hunger strike in protest at the arrests of dissidents during the run up to the sixth anniversary of the May and June pro-democracy protests.

### **Background**

Chen Ziming is a veteran pro-democracy activist and took part in the 1979 "Democracy Wall" protests when he worked on the influential journal *Beijing Spring*. In 1986 Chen Ziming and fellow activist Wang Juntao set up an independent social science institute, the Beijing Social and Economic Research Institute. Chen Ziming was arrested in October 1989 along with Wang Juntao, the other so-called "Black Hand" of the pro democracy protests in Tiananmen Square in June 1989 (see medical action AISI 17/18/91, 13 February 1991) and the Institute was closed down.

Chen Ziming was detained with his wife, Wang Zhihong, in Guangdong. After four months of solitary confinement and subsequent detention, Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao were both brought to trial on 12 February 1991. After closed hearings they were sentenced to 13 years imprisonment and an additional four years of deprivation of political rights for "conspiring to subvert the government" and "carrying out counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" during the 1989 pro-democracy protests. It was reported that Chen Ziming's lawyer had his licence revoked because of his role as defence lawyer. Since April 1991, both Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming were held for periods of solitary confinement and both were reported to have undertaken hunger strikes. Wang Zhihong was released without charge in mid-November 1990 after being held for over a year without charge. It was reported that she had been seven months pregnant at the time of the arrest and subsequently lost the baby.

During Chen Ziming's medical treatment there were numerous reports that the authorities had been asking his family to cover the cost of the treatment, one report suggested the authorities were asking for close to 10,000 RMB (approximately 1200 US dollars) unless Chen Ziming admitted his guilt in a signed statement. Chen Ziming stated that he had never and would never admit guilt.

Chen Ziming's case has received widespread attention because of his public standing in China and because of the circumstances surrounding his imprisonment and subsequent trial and ill health. In December 1993 the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted a resolution declaring that the detention of Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao was "arbitrary being in contravention of articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and political Rights". The Working Group went on to request the Government of the People's Republic of China to take the necessary steps to remedy the situation in order to bring it into conformity with the provisions and principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Decision No.63/1993 (People's Republic of China); E/CN.4/1995/31/Add.1).

In an appeal issued by Chen Ziming's wife and mother, addressed to the National People's Congress and the Ministry of Justice among other Chinese authorities, strong concern was expressed over the future state of Chen Ziming's health and the constant medical treatment he needs to stop the spread of cancer to other parts of his body. His doctors have reportedly stressed the need for proper clinical management. A press report in late July said that Chen has been deprived of medication since his return to prison.

Amnesty International is concerned that Chen Ziming is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for his peaceful political activities. Amnesty International calls on the Chinese Government to release him immediately and unconditionally, and to ensure that he receives adequate medical treatment.

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Asia Regional Program  
Date: 1 September 1995

## *MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

**CHEN Ziming**  
**CHINA**

### **Keywords**

Theme: medical care/POC

### **Summary**

Chen Ziming is a 42-year-old prisoner of conscience serving a 13 year sentence for his role in the June 1989 pro-democracy protests. Despite his being diagnosed as suffering from cancer during a period of medical parole, he was returned to prison in late June 1995 following a one day hunger strike in support of arrested dissidents. Concerns are heightened following recent reports that he is being denied medication. AI is urging his release and access to appropriate medical care.

### **Recommended Actions**

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in English or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

- expressing serious concern at the return to prison of Chen Ziming in June 1995 after he had been diagnosed as suffering from cancer
- seeking information about his current state of health; apart from asking for details of his cancer, you could mention reports that he is also suffering from hepatitis B and heart disease and seek clarification
- urging that he be given all the medical care that he needs
- urging that he be released in view of the fact that he has committed no recognizable crime and has not used or advocated violence

### **Addresses**

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Salutation: Your Excellency

President JIANG Zemin

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Premier Li Peng  
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Minister XIAO Yang  
Ministry of Justice

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Director WANG Mingdi  
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*Minister of Public Health of the People's Republic of China*  
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**Copies to :**

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and to the nearest diplomatic representative of the People's Republic of China.