
amnesty international

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

CHEN LONGDE IS TORTURED

19 September 1996

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In an attempt to avoid repeated beatings and an assault with an electric baton **Chen Longde** attempted to commit suicide by jumping from a third-storey window and is now seriously injured in hospital. The torture sustained by **Chen Longde** was an apparent punishment because he had refused to write a report "acknowledging guilt and submitting to the law".¹ **Chen Longde** was reportedly kicked, punched and beaten with an electric truncheon by a senior prison officer on 15 August at the Luoshan labour camp in Zhejiang Province. He was beaten and kicked again by a group of officers on 17 August and fellow prisoners were reportedly told by a senior prison officer that their sentences would be reduced if they succeeded in beating such a report out of **Chen Longde**. In desperation, he jumped from the third-floor of the labour camp. Labour camp officials later reportedly admitted that **Chen Longde** had jumped on 17 August after being beaten with electric batons.

Members of **Chen Longde's** family were permitted to visit him at the police-run Hangzhou Qingchun hospital for ten minutes. He had difficulty speaking, had lost three teeth and was being treated for hip and leg fractures.

Chen Longde, a prisoner of conscience, was apprehended on 28 May 1996 in Zhejiang Province after having signed petitions to the National People's Congress (China's Parliament) calling for the release of political prisoners in China and for a public inquiry into the suppression of the 1989 pro-democracy protests. The authorities considered these actions "endangered national security" and he was assigned without charge or trial to three years' re-education-through-labour on 27 July 1996. Following the 1989 pro-democracy protests, petitions have been signed and distributed around the anniversary of 4 June events. As a result many petitioners have been questioned, harassed, detained, placed under house arrest or assigned to labour camps for up to three years by the authorities.

Chen Longde who used to work in an aluminium factory has been involved in various activities calling for democratic reforms in China and for the release of other prisoners of conscience. Last year **Chen Longde** was detained and released on two separate occasions for signing

¹It is standard practice for prisoners assigned to "re-education-through-labour" to write such reports.

petitions and in 1989 he was imprisoned for three years for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests.²

China ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1988.

Amnesty International is calling for **Chen Longde's** immediate and unconditional release as a prisoner of conscience. It calls for a fair and open inquiry into the allegations of torture of **Chen Longde**, that doctors, lawyers and relatives have prompt and regular access to him and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

²See *People's Republic of China: Detention and Harassment of Dissidents before 4 June Anniversary*, A/SF 17/65/96 and *People's Republic of China: Update on Dissidents Detained Around 4 June 1995*, A/SF 17/69/95.

Please send faxes/express and airmail letters in English, Chinese or in your own language, urging

- ◆the immediate and unconditional release of **Chen Longde** as a prisoner of conscience;
- ◆that an open and impartial inquiry into the torture sustained by **Chen Longde** be carried out, that **Chen Longde** receive adequate compensation for his injuries and that all those responsible be brought to justice;
- ◆that relatives, doctors and lawyers have prompt and regular access to **Chen Longde**;
- ◆*an immediate end to the practice of allowing prisoners to discipline, punish or ill-treat other prisoners.*

Please send appeals to:

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