

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 19/01/92

Distr: UA/SC

PLEASE BRING THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SECTION'S REFUGEE COORDINATOR

EXTRA 76/92 Fear of forcible return (refoulement)

4 September 1992

HONG KONG: LIU Yijun, female, former journalist and editor, poet

LIN Lin, female, computer programmer

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Liu Yijun and Lin Lin, two women from the People's Republic of China, are under imminent threat of being forcibly returned from Hong Kong to China. Amnesty International believes that if returned to China they would be at grave risk of imprisonment as prisoners of conscience and possibly torture. The organization is calling on the Hong Kong authorities not to send the two women back to China and to ensure that they be afforded effective and durable protection against such return.

Liu Yijun, aged 29, is a university graduate, former journalist and editor, and poet. She has stated that during and shortly after the Beijing pro-democracy movement, a Hainan magazine which employed her published articles by her which were critical of policies and practices prevalent in China. She stated that the magazine was closed by the authorities after it published its third issue, in September 1989. According to Amnesty International's information, that magazine was one of dozens of publications in Hainan which were shut down during that period because of their reformist stand.

Lin Lin, aged 24, is a computer programmer. She has stated that she had travelled to Beijing during the 1989 pro-democracy movement, although she had not taken a major part in it. When she returned to her university at Xi'an, she was allowed to continue her studies and graduate, but only after she had written self-confessions and undertaken not to have future involvement with dissidents. Later, she became friends with Liu Yijun and allowed her to stay in her dormitory.

Lin Lin said that she realized that her giving shelter to Liu Yijun broke the undertaking she had made not to be further involved in political activities, but she took that risk, partly because she had seen Liu Yijun's poetry in Beijing during the pro-democracy movement. However, her colleagues became aware that she was giving shelter to Liu Yijun and she feared that she could be accused of "harbouring fugitives". She said that this fear of being accused of criminal activities prompted her to follow Liu Yijun when the latter decided to leave for Hong Kong.

Amnesty International believes that these two women, if returned to China, would be at grave risk of imprisonment as prisoners of conscience and possibly torture. In particular, the organization knows of a number of people who since 1989 have been imprisoned on the charge of "harbouring fugitives" and whom

the organization regards as prisoners of conscience.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned that the Hong Kong authorities have refused these two women's request for protection and have stated to Amnesty International that they will not discuss the reasons for that decision. If the authorities refuse to divulge reasons for a negative decision it is impossible for asylum-seekers to exercise an effective appeal, as required by international standards.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- urging the Hong Kong authorities not to forcibly return Liu Yijun and Lin Lin to China and to ensure that they be given effective and durable protection.
- expressing concern that, so far as Amnesty International is aware, Liu Yijun and Lin Lin have not been informed of the reasons for the refusal of their request for protection, and therefore have been unable to effectively challenge that decision.

**APPEALS TO:**

Secretary for Security  
Mr Alistair Asprey  
Secretary for Security  
Government Secretariat  
Hong Kong  
**Telegrams: Secretary for Security,  
Government Secretariat, Hong Kong**  
**Telexes: 73380 GOV HX**  
**Faxes: (+852) 868 5074**

**Salutation: Dear Mr.**

Governor of Hong Kong  
Mr Chris Patten  
Governor of Hong Kong  
Government House  
Hong Kong  
**Telegrams: Governor of Hong Kong,  
Government House, Hong Kong**  
**Telex: 73380 GOV HX**  
**Faxes: (+852) 810 6734**

(Please forward to Governor Chris Patten)

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Rt. Hon Alistair Goodlad  
Minister of State, Foreign and  
Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AL  
**Faxes: (+44) 71 270 2668**

President  
Law Society of Hong Kong  
910 Swire House  
Chater Road  
Hong Kong  
**Faxes: (+852) 845 0387**

Ms. Jacqueline Leung QC  
Chairman  
Hong Kong Bar Association  
LG3 Supreme Court Building  
Supreme Court Road  
Hong Kong  
**Faxes: (+852) 869 0189**

and to diplomatic representatives of the United Kingdom accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after **17 September 1992.**