
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 43/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - TURKEY, CHINA

PLEASE NOTE: The debate about the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women still has not taken place. We will let you know first thing on Monday morning what is happening with the News Release. Sorry, blame it on the UN.

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Women - 8 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 161/26

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

South Korea - 8 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 32/94

Jordan - 22 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 37/94

South Africa (Bophuthatswana) - 11 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94

Turkey - 6 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 26/94

Hong Kong - 21 April - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

****Colombia - 15 March**** - **PLEASE NOTE:** The embargo time of the Colombia campaign launch is 1700 hrs GMT, Tuesday 15 March 1994. All materials are embargoed until then. SEE NEWS SERVICES 40/94 AND 123/93 + UAs AMR 23/56+57/93

South Africa - 31 March - POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

Saudi Arabia - 10 May - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - more details to follow Burundi - 16 May - SEE NEWS SERVICE 36/94

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TURKEY: FURTHER ARRESTS OF KURDISH MPs

Following the arrests on 2 March of Hatip Dicle, parliamentary deputy and president of the Democracy Party (DEP), and DEP parliamentary deputy Orhan Do_an, the four remaining Kurdish deputies today surrendered to security forces and are also being held at Ankara Police Headquarters.

All six had their parliamentary immunity from prosecution lifted on 2 March by a vote in parliament, so that they can be tried on charges of separatism.

Hatip Dicle, S_rr_Sak_k (DEP), Ahmet Türk (DEP), Leyla Zana (DEP), Selim Sadak (DEP), Mahmut Al_nak (Independent), are to be prosecuted under Article 125 of the Turkish Penal Code with attempting to separate part of the territory of the Republic of Turkey. Orhan Do_an is charged both under Article 125 and also with sheltering a member of the Kurdish Workers' Party and illegal discharge of a firearm.

Also being held in detention is Hasan Mezar_c_ who recently resigned from the Welfare Party (RP) and is charged with insulting Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of modern Turkey.

Hatip Dicle and Orhan Do_an were permitted access to their lawyers and reported that they had not been ill-treated in police custody. The Ankara State Security Court Prosecutor has registered all the detentions, and has stated that he will personally conduct the interrogations. However, no date has yet been given for the detainees to be brought before a judge.

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CHINA: PROMINENT DISSIDENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNERS DETAINED

Several well-known Chinese dissidents, including former prisoner of conscience Wei Jingsheng, have been detained by police in Beijing and other cities during the past few days. According to press reports, the arrests are connected to the forthcoming visit to China next week of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Those held in Beijing include Wei Jingsheng, one of China's most famous dissidents who was released on parole in September 1993 after fourteen and a half years in prison; Wang Jiaqi, a legal worker; and Zhou Guoqiang, a lawyer and signatory of a "Peace Charter" calling for democratic reforms which was issued by a group of people in Beijing in November 1993. Zhou Guoqiang, who has been detained several times before, is said to have been taken into police custody on 3 March 1994. Wei Jingsheng was held since 4 March. According to a Reuter report from Beijing on 4 March, Wei Jingsheng telephoned an associate from a police station on that day to say he was being held.

Others detained reportedly include two other signatories of the "Peace Charter", Qian Yumin and Yang Zhou; and Yuan Hongbing, a lawyer who is said to have been detained by police in Guizhou province.

Yang Zhou, a human rights campaigner from Shanghai, has been detained several times previously, most recently from mid-November to the end of December 1993, following the publication of the "Peace Charter". He was reportedly taken into police custody in Shanghai on 3 March 1994, together with two other dissidents.

Yuan Hongbing, a lawyer from Beijing who has promoted reforms, had recently sponsored a petition signed by 350 people, including prominent writers and dissidents, to the National People's Congress and judicial bodies in Beijing to seek justice in a case of alleged police brutality.

Official Chinese sources have apparently confirmed the detention of three of those held. On 4 March a Foreign Ministry spokesman was reported to have said that Zhou Guoqiang and Wang Jiaqi "had violated China's criminal laws", and that Yuan Hongbing was "involved in a criminal case and he was detained and interrogated by the judicial organs in Guizhou province". No official confirmation has yet been issued concerning the detention of the others.

According to press reports, the recent arrests are believed to be connected to the visit to China next week of the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. Wang Dan, a former student leader and prisoner of conscience released in early 1993, was reportedly detained by police for 24 hours earlier this week and told he should leave Beijing during the US Secretary of State's visit.

Wei Jingsheng is thought to be detained because of comments on human rights issues he made recently to John Shattuck, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, which were reported in the international press. Since his release last September, Wei has been warned several times by police not to make his views public.

Amnesty International contacted Premier Li Peng on 4 March, expressing its concern at these arrests and urging the government to disclose, without delay, the names and whereabouts of all those detained, as well as details of any charges against them. Amnesty International is also calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the detainees, unless they have been charged with criminal offences recognized by and in accordance with international standards.

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