

---

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 85/93

---

TO: PRESS OFFICERS  
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE  
DATE: 23 JULY 1993

AI INDEX: NWS 11/85/93  
DISTR: SC/PO  
NO OF WORDS: 1817

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: External - China. Plus Good News stories from China and South Korea, which may be useful for publicity or campaign work.

## NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 79

### TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Laos - 8 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 84

Georgia - 10 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 83

### FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Saudi Arabia - 14 September

Togo - 22 September

Sudan - 29 September

Myanmar - 6 October

EJEs and "Disappearances" - 20 October

### SECTION INITIATIVES

British Section - Refugees

The British Section has prepared a report highlighting the cases of asylum-seekers sent back from the UK to other countries under the so-called "safe third country rule". The report, and its associated news release, are embargoed for Monday 26 July.

With the current high level of media interest in refugees, it is possible that some AI sections may receive press or other inquiries about it. The IS refugee team has faxed the news release to all refugee coordinators in sections with fax machines, asking them to liaise with their section's press officer about it. The British Section has also mailed the full report to refugee coordinators, although since this mailing was done on 21 July, not all refugee coordinators will have received it by Monday.

You will probably be able to answer any routine inquiries about this, but if you receive any inquiries which require a more detailed or substantive response, please refer them to the British Section Press Office.

AI INDEX: ASA 17/WU 08/93  
23 JULY 1993

**CHINA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL APPEALS FOR RELEASE OF DISSIDENTS**

Amnesty International appealed to the Mayor of Shanghai and Minister of Justice in Beijing on 16 July for the release of several pro-democracy campaigners recently detained in Shanghai. The organization also appealed for the release of a student held since last September in Wuhan, central China, who is facing an unfair trial on "counter-revolutionary" charges.

The latest arrest concerned Fu Shenqi, a 39-year-old veteran pro-democracy campaigner, imprisoned twice before for publishing independent magazines and his association with other pro-democracy activists. He was last released from jail in February 1993, having spent a total of seven and a half years in prison since his first arrest in 1981.

Fu Shenqi was re-arrested in Shanghai on 26 June 1993 and reportedly sentenced by police on 4 July to three years of "re-education through labour", a form of administrative detention imposed without charge or trial. His wife was apparently informed of the sentence by police on 10 July, but was not told where her husband was being detained and was denied permission to visit him. Fu Shenqi was reportedly accused of "inciting trouble" for allegedly encouraging political activists to write letters to the government and stage a hunger-strike in protest against the detention of other dissidents in Shanghai earlier this year. His wife, however, denies he was involved in these activities.

Fu Shenqi's arrest is the latest in a chain of arbitrary arrests carried out in Shanghai in the past few months. Since March, over a dozen people are said to have been arbitrarily detained by police in Shanghai, in many cases after they protested or made enquiries about the detention of others previously taken into police custody. Some were released without being charged. Those reported to be still held include:

- Sun Lin, a 36 year-old former painter and cameraman at Shanghai television, who was arrested on 1 March 1993 together with Ms Fu Jiqing, an engineer. This was reportedly because of their contacts with Chinese nationals living overseas, notably Wang Ruowang, a well-known writer from Shanghai, who left China last August for the USA. While Ms Fu was released after a few weeks, Sun Lin was reportedly charged in April with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement". The date of his trial and his whereabouts have not been disclosed by the authorities. According to unofficial sources, his family has not been allowed to visit him in prison.
- Gao Xianliang and Yao Tiansheng, both factory workers in their mid-20s, and Han Lifa, a mechanic aged about 30, were reportedly arrested by police in Shanghai on 26 May. According to unofficial sources, they may have been accused of planning "anti-government activities" for the 4 June anniversary of the crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement. In March 1993, they had signed a petition calling for the release of Sun Lin and Fu Jiqing. They are reported to be held at Shanghai No 1 Detention Centre, but the authorities have not disclosed any information about them and it is not known whether they have been charged.
- Wang Miaogen, 41, a former member of an independent labour union founded in 1989 who was jailed for three years after the June 1989 crackdown, was reportedly arrested by police and committed to a mental hospital in early May 1993 shortly before the East Asian Games opened in Shanghai. According to unofficial sources, the authorities have not disclosed what has happened to Wang Miaogen, despite enquiries made by his friends. He is believed to be still detained or confined to a mental asylum.
- Zhang Xianliang, 48, a veteran pro-democracy campaigner and member of the Preparatory Committee of the Shanghai Human Rights Association, which has been seeking legal registration with the authorities since spring last year. He was arrested by police on 5 June 1993, reportedly for planning to host a gathering commemorating the 4 June 1989 massacre. He had also appealed for the release of several dissidents detained earlier, including Wang Miaogen. Released "on bail pending trial" on 6 June 1993, Zhang Xianliang was detained again on 7 June and police said he was placed under "home surveillance". However, he did not return home. According to unofficial sources, the police have since refused to tell his wife where he is being held, but asked her for clothes and books for her husband.

**Amnesty International called on the authorities to disclose information about the legal status and whereabouts of these prisoners and to ensure that they are released without delay if, as reported, they have not been charged with recognizably criminal offences in accordance with international human rights standards.**

**Amnesty International also appealed for the release of Yu Zhuo, a 24 year-old computer science student detained since last September in Wuhan, Hubei province. According to reports, he was about to be hastily tried in July for putting up posters on the campus of his college in 1992 to commemorate the 4 June 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.**

**Yu Zhuo was arrested by police in September 1992 and detained without charge for nine months for "shelter and investigation" (sheoung jiancha), in violation of the provisions against arbitrary arrest and detention in the Chinese Constitution and Criminal Procedure Law. He is reported to have been charged on 27 May 1993 with carrying out "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation" and indicted on 5 July 1993. According to unofficial sources, he was due to be tried around 20 July and a sentence of four years' imprisonment had already been decided upon by the authorities before the trial took place. His family was neither formally notified of the charges against him nor allowed access to him since his arrest.**

**ENDS/**

AI INDEX: ASA 17/WU 09/83 GOODNEWS  
23 JULY 1983

**CHINA: LETTER FROM RELEASED PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE**

Following is an extract of a letter from a released prisoner of conscience in China on whose behalf Amnesty International campaigned. It was received by the Asia Department of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, dated 27 June. For her own protection, her name is not given.

"Dear Amnesty International, London HQ, Asia Pacific Area, China Team:

"First of all permit me to express my extreme gratitude to you for your magnificent benevolence and kind deed, a life-saving deed. Thank you for "supplying coal in the snowy weather" (Chinese saying: helping out in one's moments of need), sending me a considerable sum of money after my release from prison on amnesty grounds, which enabled me to seek medical treatment for my broken body. I really don't know how I am to repay you for this deed of great kindness. I earnestly pray that your organization will survive for ever and that all you Amnesty workers enjoy a long and safe life. You are engaged in this world's greatest peaceful undertaking, and you have people's respect and admiration. You ensure the release of innocent victims of persecution, enabling them to have fresh hope and a new life, and for this the entire world's righteous people will cheer and support you. With you around, I firmly believe that darkness will be overcome by light and evil by justice ..."

AI INDEX: ASA 25/WU 01/93 GOODNEWS  
23 JULY 1993

**SOUTH KOREA: LETTER FROM PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE**

Hwang Tae-kwon, aged 37, is a prisoner of conscience, held since 1985 in South Korea solely for the non-violent exercise of his rights of freedom of expression and association. He is serving a 20-year prison sentence under the National Security Law South Korea, found guilty of passing state secrets to North Korean agents. Amnesty International is campaigning for his release.

On 17 January, Hwang Tae-kwon wrote to an Amnesty International member in Arendal, Norway, who had written to him in prison. He wrote:

"Arendal! It has been a dream town in my memory. Three years ago I received a photo book titled 'Arendal', but I never knew who sent it to me. They just showed me the book for a second and didn't allow me to keep it. The scenery of Arendal, though it was seen through photos, was so fantastic that I thought it might be a part of a movie film. Since then Arendal has remained in my imagination as a place appeared in fairy tale. Maybe this beautiful imagination was exaggerated by the contrast between my grey concrete cell and the colorful landscape of your home town. Anyway the photo book gave me a fresh stimular upon my monotonous prison life.

"Now I come to know who sent the book, you can imagine how I am delighted at your letter which was sent to me after the lapse of three years. Thank you very much for your warm concern and efforts for my release. I am not lonely as long as there are people like you. The fact that there are friends who worry about me in the opposite side of the globe inspires me with redoubled courage and hope."

---

**SOUTH KOREA: LETTER FROM RELEASED PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE**

Koh Chang-pyo was arrested on 1 December 1983 and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, charged with meeting pro-North Koreans in Japan. Amnesty International adopted him as a prisoner of conscience and campaigned for his release. He was released on 27 May 1993.

Following is an extract from a letter he wrote to an Amnesty International member who worked on his behalf:

"I have no adequate words to express my deep gratitude to you for working for my freedom. I released in 27.5.1993. I will never forget your kindness and friendship. Thank you many, many times."