

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/016/2003

28 February 2003

Further Information on UA 104/02 (ASA 17/019/2002, 26 February 2003) and follow-ups (ASA 17/021/2002, 24 May 2002 and ASA 17/001/2003, 7 January 2003) - Fear of Torture/Arbitrary Arrest/Possible "disappearance"/Unfair trial New concern: Fear for safety

CHINA	Wang Dawei (m),]	
	Yao Fuxin (m), aged 54]	
	Xiao Yunliang (m), aged 57]	workers' representatives
	Gu Baoshu (m), aged 37]	
	Pang Qingxiang, (m), aged 58]	
	Wang Zhaoming (m), aged 39,]	

Amnesty International is concerned at the continuing harassment of workers' leaders. Wang Dawei, a labour protest leader in the city of Liaoyang in Liaoning Province, northeastern China was reportedly detained by police on 24 February, before being released four hours later. He had previously been detained following the workers' protest in March 2002. Amnesty International remains concerned for his safety as he is still at risk of detention by the police.

Wang Dawei was among a group of workers' leaders who planned to meet with Liaoyang municipal officials on 20 February 2003 to urge the release of Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang and to press for a resolution to the ongoing disputes over corruption and lack of pay at many of Liaoyang's factories. Wang Dawei had intended to organize further protests in the city if negotiations between workers and officials broke down. He was reportedly going through the correct administrative procedures of applying to stage a protest when he was detained.

Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang were tried on 15 January 2003 on charges of "subversion" but no verdict has yet been announced. They remain in custody and their families have not been able to visit them since the trial. Yao Fuxin is reported to be in poor health. The families of Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang have reportedly been harassed by the police and told not to participate in any public protest, and not to petition Beijing on the matter, or to communicate with the news media.

Wang Zhaoming and Pang Qingxiang, who were originally arrested with Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang in March 2002 and later released, remain under constant surveillance by the Public Security Bureau.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In March 2002, around 30,000 workers from 20 factories in Liaoyang demonstrated against layoffs, alleged corruption by management and delayed welfare payments. Government and factory officials have reportedly met some of the protesters' demands on back-pay and medical expenses, but a number of the protest leaders have been arrested and face long-term imprisonment or a life sentence if they are convicted on the charges against them.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese or your own language:

- expressing concern that Wang Dawei was detained for exercising his legitimate right to organize a peaceful protest through officially sanctioned channels;
- urging the authorities to give a commitment that Wang Dawei and other workers' representatives or their families shall not in future be detained or otherwise harassed for any attempt to legally and peacefully exercise their right to freedom of expression and association;

- urging the authorities to make public any verdict and sentence against Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Yao Fuxin, Xiao Yunliang and all workers held in Liaoyang on charges originating from their peaceful protests;
- expressing concern that Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang were charged with “subversion” solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association, and expressing concern that subversion charges continue to be used widely to imprison and detain rights activists.

APPEALS TO: [Please note that fax numbers are difficult to obtain, and email addresses may be temporarily disabled. Please keep trying]

Governor of the Liaoning Provincial People's Government,

BO Xilai Shengzhang,
Liaoning Sheng Renmin Zhengfu,
45 Huangguqu, Beiling Dajie,
Shenyang Shi 110032
Liaoning Sheng,
People's Republic of China.

Telegram: Governor, Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China.

Fax: +86 24 8689 2112

Email: zmln@sina.com

Salutation: Dear Governor

Director of the Liaoning Provincial Department of Justice

LI Chengyi Tingzhang
Sifating
45 Beilinglu
Huangguqu, Shenyangshi 110032
Liaoningsheng
People's Republic of China

Telegram: Justice Bureau Director, Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China

Fax: + 86 24 8690 6792

Salutation: Dear Director

Director of the Liaoning Provincial Department of Public Security,

WANG Enfu Ting Zhang,
Gong'an Ting,
2 Qishan Zhonglu, Beiling Dajie,
Huangguqu,
Shenyang Shi 110032,
Liaoning Sheng,
People's Republic of China.

Telegram: Public Security Director, Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China.

Email: wxqz@dps.ln.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

ZHANG Fusen Buzhang
Sifabu
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie, Chaoyangqu
Beijingshi 100020
People's Republic of China

Telegram: Minister of Justice, Beijing, China

Fax: + 86 10 65 292345

Salutation: Your Excellency

Vice-Chairman of All China Federation of Trade Unions,

XU Xicheng Fu Zhuren
10 Fuxingmen Wai Street,
Beijing 100865,
People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 10 6856 2031
Email: webmaster@acftu.org.cn
Salutation: Dear Vice- Chairman

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and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 April 2003.