

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 262/91 (ASA 17/46/91, 26 July 1991) - and follow-up(s) :  
ASA 17/49/91, 6 August 1991, ASA 17/51/91, 19 August 1991, ASA 17/55/91, 9  
September 1991, ASA 17/57/91, 17 September 1991 and ASA 17/65/91, 30 October  
1991 - Solitary Confinement/Health Concern/Ill-treatment

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Wang Juntao

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Wang Juntao, adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience, has been released on bail for medical treatment after serving four years and five months of his 13-year sentence for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations.

Wang Juntao was released on 23 April 1994 and with the consent of the Chinese authorities, flew immediately to the USA for medical treatment. He was reunited in New York with his wife, Hou Xiaotian, who left China in September 1993 to appeal to Western governments to help secure her husband's release.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice said that Wang Juntao was "released on bail according to law on account of the conditions of his illness". Wang Juntao's family have been petitioning for his release on medical parole since his health began to seriously deteriorate when he was sent to Qincheng Prison in 1989. In 1990 he contracted hepatitis B for which he received no medical treatment for over a year. He was then moved to another prison and put in solitary confinement in a cell two by two metres square for six months.

The authorities finally moved him in 1991 to Yanqing Prison hospital where one doctor reportedly told Wang Juntao that he would not have accepted him into the prison hospital had he known the seriousness of his physical condition.

According to Hou Xiaotian, the only medicine her husband received at the prison hospital was that which she was able to send him, and as well as chronic hepatitis, Wang Juntao had developed heart disease. At the time of his release Wang Juntao was at the Beijing Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases where he had been transferred in June 1993 after continued family and international pressure.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wang Juntao, a 35-year-old former economist at the Beijing Research Institute of Social and Economic Sciences and former editor of the now banned *Economics Weekly*, was castigated by the Chinese official media as one of the "masterminds" of the 1989 pro-democracy protests. He was found guilty of "bringing together illegal organizations and conducting a series of activities to subvert the government" and sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment. During the 1989 protests, he was close to student leaders and played a leading role in the formation of a coalition of various groups in late May 1989 after martial law was imposed in Beijing. Wang Juntao had taken part in pro-democracy movements since 1976 and had openly advocated democratic reforms for many years.

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

- welcoming Wang Juntao's release on bail for medical treatment;

- urging that any conditions attached to Wang Juntao's release be lifted as he was held for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of association and expression.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

**XIAO Yang** Buzhang

Sifabu

Xiaguangli

Beijingshi 100016

People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN**

**(Please forward to Xiao Yang Buzhang)**

**Faxes: + 861 467 7351**

**Telegram: Minister of Justice, Xiao Yang, Beijing, China**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) Beijing Municipal Procurator

**HE Fangba** Jianchazhang

Beijingshi Renmin Jianchayuan

39 Dongjiaominxiang

Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100006

People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 210217 FAOGB CN or 22476 BJGVT CN**

**Faxes: + 861 512 1158**

**Telegrams: Beijing Municipal Procurator, He Fangba, Beijing, China**

**Salutation: Dear Municipal Proucrator**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 June 1994.