

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/018/2003

24 March 2003

Further Information on UA 104/02 (ASA 17/019/2002, 26 February 2003) and follow-ups (ASA 17/021/2002, 24 May 2002; ASA 17/001/2003, 7 January 2003; ASA 17/016/2003, 28 February 2003) - Fear of Torture/Arbitrary Arrest/Possible "disappearance"/Unfair trial New Concern: Serious health concern

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

Xiao Yunliang is reportedly suffering deteriorating health in custody and has begun spitting blood. His family and fellow activists have petitioned the authorities on his behalf but so far this has had no effect. Amnesty International is gravely concerned for his safety and wellbeing.

Xiao Yunliang has reportedly been in poor health since the early stages of his detention in March 2002. The reasons for this recent deterioration in his health remain unclear, but it is feared that it may be a result of tuberculosis, which can be life-threatening if left untreated. Xiao Yunliang is believed to have been moved to an isolation cell, but it is not known whether he is receiving appropriate medical treatment.

Along with fellow activist and detainee Yao Fuxin, Xiao Yunliang was tried on 15 January 2003 on charges of "subversion" but a verdict has yet to be announced. The two men remain in custody in Liaoyang Municipal Detention Centre and their families have not been allowed to visit them since the trial.

Guo Xiuqing and Su Anhua, the wives of Xiao Yunliang and Yao Fuxin respectively, visited the Liaoyang Municipal Government Offices on 20 March along with over 20 other retired or laid-off workers. In an hour-long meeting, they called on the authorities to make public the results of the trial. They also appealed once again for the release of the two men and have asked for permission to visit the men while they remain in custody. They have vowed to petition the central government in Beijing if they do not receive an answer within a reasonable amount of time. The families of Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang had previously been harassed by the police and told not to participate in any public protest, nor to petition Beijing on the matter or to communicate with the news media.

Wang Dawei, Gu Baoshu, Wang Zhaoming and Pang Qingxiang, all originally detained in March 2002 and since released on bail, continue to suffer harassment and constant surveillance due to their persistence in protesting on behalf of Xiao Yunliang and Yao Fuxin. They were reportedly prevented by large numbers of police officers from leaving their homes to take part in the collective visit to the city authorities on 20 March.

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

- expressing concern at the recent deterioration in Xiao Yunliang's state of health and calling for him to be given all necessary medical treatment;
- 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;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that they have immediate access to members of their families, lawyers of their choice, and medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to make public any verdict and sentence against Yao Fuxin and Xiao Yunliang;
- calling on the authorities to ensure Wang Dawei, Wang Zhaoming, Gu Baoshu and Ping Qingxiang and other supporters are permitted to exercise their legitimate right to organise peaceful protests through officially sanctioned channels;
- 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: wxgz@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 5 May 2003.