

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 65/92 Medical Concern / Prisoner of Conscience

21 February 1992

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Li Guiren

Li Guiren, a prisoner of conscience, is reportedly seriously ill in prison in Shaanxi province. Li Guiren was reportedly sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a court in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province in March 1991 for activities relating to the pro-democracy protests in June 1989. In August 1991 Li Guiren was transferred from a detention centre in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province, to the No 1 Fuping County Prison in Shaanxi.

Li Guiren first complained of severe stomach pain in November 1991 and since then his health has deteriorated rapidly. He had been denied access to visitor in October and most of November 1991. Family and friends have requested that he be sent to hospital for treatment for liver ailments, possibly hepatitis, and periodontal disease. These requests were turned down by the governor of Shaanxi Province and there has reportedly been no proper medical diagnosis of Li Guiren's illness by prison medical personnel.

Amnesty International is concerned that at the time of his arrest Li Guiren was already suffering from chronic back and liver ailments and reports suggest that the conditions in some prisons in China have led to ill-health amongst prisoners. Li Guiren is said to need special food because of his periodontal disease.

Li Guiren, aged 49, was editor-in-chief of the Hua Yue Literature and Art Publishing House in Shaanxi Province. He was arrested from his home on 26 June 1989 by plainclothes officers of the Xi'an Public Security Bureau.

Li Guiren was charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" and his trial was held on 1 March 1990 at the Xi'an Intermediate People's Court. Li Guiren was given access to a state-appointed lawyer and his wife was allowed to attend the trial. At his trial, Li maintained his innocence against all charges. He argued that his activities were within his rights as established under the Constitution and therefore were completely legal.

A year later in March 1991 the sentence was announced.

According to reliable sources, Li's arrest was linked to a number of activities he undertook in 1989. In early 1989, Li Guiren wrote and published a preface to a collection of essays by the Chinese dissident writer Liu Binyan who is now in exile. On 18 and 19 May 1989, Li participated in large demonstrations in support of students and workers in Xi'an. Immediately after martial law was declared in Beijing on 20 May, Li sent a telegram to

the former Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang urging Zhao that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) should not be used against demonstrators. Li posted a copy of this telegram on a wall of the Hua Yue building. He also reportedly urged employees of the Hua Yue Literature and Art Publishing House to sign a petition and to strike in protest against the crackdown by the authorities in June 1989.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at recent reports about Li Guiren's ill-health. Urging that a proper and independent diagnosis be made and that he be offered all necessary medical care appropriate to his state of health as provided for in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

- expressing concern that Li Guiren is being held for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of association and expression and urge that he be released quickly and unconditionally.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Governor of Shaanxi Province:

BAI Qingcai Shengzhang
Shaanxisheng Renmin Zhengfu
Xixin Jie, 710004
Xi'an
Shaanxisheng
People's Republic of China
**Telegrams: Governor Bai Shaanxi Province,
Xi'an, China**
Salutation: Dear Governor

2) Premier of the People's Republic of China:

LI Peng Zongli
Guowuyuan
9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie
Beijingshi 100032
People's Republic of China
**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT
CN**
Faxes: + 86 1 512 5810
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) Procurator General of the People's
Republic of China:

LIU Fuzhi Jianchazhang
Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan
Beijingshi
People's Republic of China
**Telegrams: Procurator General Liu,
Beijing, China**
Faxes: + 86 1 512 1158
**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT
CN**
**(Please forward to LIU Fuzhi
Jianchazhang)**
Salutation: Dear Procurator

4) Minister of Justice:

CAI Cheng Buzhang
Sifabu
Xiaguangli
Beijingshi 100016
People's Republic of China
**Telegrams: Minister of Justice Cai,
Beijing, China**
**Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT
CN**
**(Please forward to Cai Cheng
Buzhang)**
Faxes: + 86 1 408 1046
Salutation: Your Excellency

5) Governor of Fuping Number One Prison:

Jianyuzhang
Fuping Xi'an Di Yi Jianyu
Fuping Xi'an
Shaanxisheng
People's Republic of China
**Telegrams: Governor, Fuping Number One
Prison, Fuping Xi'an, China**
Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Editor, Shaanxi Daily
Zhang Guang Zhongbianji
Shaanxi Ribao
1 Dongduan Huangchengnanlu
Hepingmenwai
Xi'an
Shaanxisheng
People's Republic of China

and to the diplomatic representatives of China in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 February 1992.