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£PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

@Update on dissidents detained in Beijing and Shanghai since March 1994

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Amnesty International has recently received reports that three more dissidents have been detained for their pro-democracy and labour-rights advocacy activities.

Liu Nianchun, 46, one of the founders of a preparatory committee for an independent labour rights group, the League for the Protection of the Rights of the Working People (LPRWP), has been missing since May 1994. According to an eyewitness he was arrested by plain clothes police on 28 May in Beijing, but public security departments in the city have told his wife that they have no information on him.

Liu Nianchun is a veteran pro-democracy activist. He participated in the Democracy Wall movement in the early 1980s and was imprisoned for three years for his activities. During the 1989 pro-democracy protests he took part in demonstrations, but was not arrested. He was one of the original signatories of the October 1993 Peace Charter which called on the Chinese Communist Party to respect human rights and introduce political reforms, and was among several members of the Peace Charter group to be detained by police for questioning. Liu had been under virtual house arrest since his application for legal registration of the LPRWP was refused by the authorities in March 1994.

According to Chinese sources, **Liu Huanwen**, 32, a member of an official protestant church in Beijing, was arrested on 10 July 1994. He was reportedly detained for his association with dissidents involved in unofficial labour activities. Police in Beijing have denied any knowledge of Liu Huanwen's whereabouts. Liu Huanwen was first arrested in June 1989 for carrying a cross during the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, and was sentenced to two years "re-education through labour".

In Shanghai, **Zhu Fuming**, was reportedly detained in early March 1994 for his links with the Shanghai-based Association for Human Rights and has not been heard of since. Zhu, who is in his early 30s, had been taken in for questioning on two occasions before his

arrest in March. One of those was at a Shanghai disco after Zhu shouted slogans from the dance floor calling for the government to overturn the official verdict on the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

Since March 1994 the Chinese authorities have intensified their crackdown on dissident activity with the result that 16 activists in Beijing and Shanghai are currently in detention, the majority of them reportedly held without charge or trial.

Among those that reportedly remain in detention are six human rights activists arrested in May and June in Shanghai. Their arrests have not been confirmed by the authorities and they have still not been charged. They include: **Bao Ge**¹, **Li Guotao**, **Dai Xuezhong**, **Yang Zhou**, **Wang Fuchen** and **Yang Qingheng**. **Lin Muchen**, detained on 6 May, was released on 24 June and allowed to fly to the USA.²

Wang Zhongqiu, co-founder of the Beijing-based LPRWP and **Zhang Lin**, who is reported to be a member of the LPRWP in Anhui Province, are believed to be still imprisoned, but their detention has not been confirmed by the authorities.³ **Jiang Qisheng**, arrested on 28 May in Beijing, was released on 11 July.⁴

Xiao Biguang⁵, another co-founder of the LPRWP, and, like Liu Huanwen, a member of an official Chinese protestant church, is reported to be still administratively detained under a "shelter and investigation" order, and has not been permitted family visits. According to his wife he was weak and in poor health before his arrest, suffering from various ailments including a serious eye problem.

Yuan Hongbing and **Zhou Guoqiang**, both principal sponsors of the LPRWP, as well as **Wei Jingsheng**, one of China's best known dissidents, and his assistant, **Tong Yi**⁶ are the only dissidents whose detention has been confirmed by the Chinese authorities, although the charges against them have not been made public. They were arrested in March and April 1994.

¹Bao Ge's arrest was described in Amnesty International's report dated 16 June 1994 *More dissidents arrested in the run up to Tiananmen anniversary*, Index: ASA 17/23/94.

²The arrests of Li Guotao, Dai Xuezhong, Yang Zhou, Wang Fuchen, Yang Qingheng and Lin Muchen were described in Amnesty International's report dated 25 May 1994 *Appeal for Human Rights Activists Detained in Shanghai*, Index: ASA 17/21/94.

³Wang Zhongqiu and Zhang Lin's arrests were described in Amnesty International report dated 16 June 1994 *More dissidents arrested in the run up to Tiananmen anniversary*, Index: ASA 17/23/94.

⁴Jiang Qisheng's arrest was also described in the report cited in footnote 3. The news of his release was reported in Amnesty International News Service 164/94, dated 26 July 1994, *Tiananmen dissident released*, Index ASA 17/WU 11/94.

⁵Xiao Biguang's arrest is described in Amnesty International's report dated 27 April 1994, *Appeal for dissidents detained in March and April 1994*, Index: ASA 17/17/94.

⁶Yuan Hongbing, Zhou Guoqiang, Wei Jingsheng and Tong Yi's arrests were all described in the Amnesty International report cited in footnote 5

One of the possible reasons for Chinese government's tougher approach on dissent is the fear of social unrest due to various political and economic factors. In the past few months Chinese government leaders have made it clear that maintaining political stability is a major concern and that the "leading role" of the Communist Party is essential to ensure stability. The official media have stressed the need to intensify the struggle against any threats to stability and unity and the authorities have acted swiftly to repress all potential sources of dissent. In addition new legislation passed in the last few months appears to confirm the trend in the recent crackdown on dissent.

Amnesty International is very concerned by the recent spate of arbitrary arrests in China. The organization opposes the arbitrary detention without charge or trial of all political detainees. It considers that such detainees should not continue to be held in detention unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence in accordance with international standards and given a fair trial within a reasonable time, in accordance with the specific internationally-recognized requirements for a fair trial.

The 16 detainees mentioned above: Liu Nianchun, Liu Huanwen, Zhu Fuming, Bao Ge, Li Guotao, Dai Xuezhong, Yang Zhou, Wang Fuchen, Yang Qingheng, Wang Zhongqiu, Zhang Lin, Yuan Hongbing, Zhou Guoqiang, Xiao Biguang, Wei Jingsheng and Tong Yi are believed to be held solely for the non-violent exercise of the right to freedom of conscience and expression. Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience and calls for their immediate and unconditional release.

Amnesty International's continuing concerns about human rights violations related to the 4 June 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy protests in China are described in detail in the document: *Human Rights Violations Five Years After Tiananmen*, published in June 1994 (AI Index: ASA 17/20/94).

Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language,

◆ *urging the Chinese authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all 16 prisoners mentioned in this report;*

Please send appeals to:

Minister of Public Security

Tao Siju

Gong'anbu

14 Dongchang'an lu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN

Faxes: + 861 524 1596

Telegram: Minister of Public Security Tao Siju, Beijing, China

(Salutation: Dear Minister)

Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate

Zhang Siqing

Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan

147 Beiheyuan Dajie

Donganmen, Dongchengqu

Beijingshi 100726

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Faxes: + 861 512 6655

(Please forward to Procurator-General Zhang Siqing)

Telegram: Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate Zhang Siqing, Beijing, China

(Salutation: Dear Procurator-General)

KEYWORDS: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE / DISAPPEARANCES / ARBITRARY ARREST / DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL / INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION / ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION / ILL-HEALTH / POLITICAL ACTIVISTS / TRADE UNIONISTS / RELIGIOUS GROUPS - PROTESTANT / POLICE /

This document is being sent to China and CHIRAN Coordinators for action by groups. It is being sent to Sections for information only. Check with the China Research Team at the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 11 September 1994.

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