

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Medical Concern/Fear of Ill-treatment

2 July 1993

~~PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA:~~ Li Guoheng
Liang Weimin
Wu Songfa

Li Guoheng, one of three men from Shunde in Guangdong province arrested by police on 6 April 1993 for allegedly trying to distribute handbills calling for greater democracy in China, is believed to be in very poor health after reportedly being beaten by prison guards.

According to unofficial sources, other prisoners at the detention centre where Li Guoheng is held had heard him groaning in his cell at night after being beaten. It is believed he had been denied medical treatment. In a letter written to his wife in the beginning of June and censored by the authorities, Li Guoheng says: "If I die, you must not be sad....My old diseases have recurred and I have a very bad headache. Sometimes, it is killing me". He goes on to ask for two specific types of medicine for headaches along with painkillers and a traditional Chinese medicinal lotion. According to Li Guoheng's wife he was healthy and suffered no diseases before his detention.

Li Guoheng, a 31 year-old trader who reportedly took part in the pro-democracy movement in June 1989, together with Wu Songfa, also a trader, and Liang Weimin, a worker, were arrested at Guangzhou airport as they were trying to board a plane to Shanghai. They were reportedly carrying with them a few hundred copies of a "letter to the Citizens of Shanghai" which called for a "democratic, open society". The three reportedly were members of a small and informal dissident group in Shunde.

The Chinese authorities have so far not provided any information on the arrests of the three men, and have still not officially charged them. According to press reports, a police notice about Li Guoheng handed over to his family after his arrest said he was detained for "a legal case" but did not specify any offence. The letter Li Guoheng wrote to his wife recently was the first and only piece of news received by the family since he was detained in early April. All three men have been denied visits by their relatives, who are only allowed to send them food and medicine. Friends of the three men report they are being detained in Shunde Detention Centre Prison No. 14, south of Guangzhou City.

Amnesty International is concerned that Li Guoheng, Liang Weimin and Wu Songfa are reported to be held for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and may have been ill-treated in detention.

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

either in English or in your own language:

- expressing deep concern at reports that Li Guoheng, one of three men reportedly detained on political grounds in Shunde, Guangdong province, is in poor health due to ill-treatment;

- urging the authorities to take immediate measures to ensure the safety of Li Guoheng, Liang Weimin and Wu Songfa, including granting them access to relatives, lawyers and doctors of their choice;

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- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Li Guoheng, Liang Weimin and Wu Songfa, if they are not charged promptly with recognizably criminal offences and given a fair trial in accordance with international human rights standards.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of the Guangdong Provincial People's Government:

ZHU Senlin Shengzhang
Guangdongsheng Renmin Zhengfu
305 Dongfeng Zhong Lu
Guangzhoushi 510031
Guangdongsheng
People's Republic of China

Telexes: 44563 OFAGDCN

Faxes: + 86 20 861569

Telegrams: Governor Zhu Senlin, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Salutation: Dear Governor

Chief Procurator of the Guangdong Provincial People's Procuratorate:

WANG Jun Jianchazhang
Guangdongsheng Renmin Jianchayuan
26 Cangbian Lu
Guangzhoushi 510090
Guangdongsheng
People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Chief Procurator of the Provincial People's Procuratorate Wang Jun, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Salutation: Dear Sir

Director of the Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Public Security:

CHEN Shaoji Juzhang
Gong'anju
200 Qiyilu
Guangzhoushi 510036
Guangdongsheng
People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Director of the Provincial Bureau of Public Security Chen Shaoji, Gaungzhou, Guangdong Province, China

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Editor of the Guangzhou Daily newspaper:

Zongbianji

Guangzhou Ribao

10 Dongle Lu

Renmin Zhonglu

Guangzhoushi

Guangdongsheng

People's Republic of China

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 13 August 1993.