

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 17/29/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 317/94

Ill-treatment / Medical concern

30 August 1994

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Qin Yongmin, aged 41

Amnesty International is gravely concerned about the health of prisoner of conscience Qin Yongmin who is reported to have twice been severely beaten in recent weeks. The beatings are reported to have caused him enormous pain and bleeding, and irreparable damage to his testicles. Qin Yongmin is currently serving a two-year administrative sentence at Hewan Re-education-through-Labour Camp in Wuhan City, Hubei province.

On 8 June 1994, Qin Yongmin was reportedly very badly beaten by prison wardens and a fellow inmate, allegedly at the instigation of higher officials after he had taken legal action against the police in Wuhan for his illegal detention.

During a visit in mid-July, Qin Yongmin's family learned of his injuries and his mother made a request to the authorities that he receive medical treatment.

A few days later, however, Qin Yongmin was reportedly again beaten until he became unconscious. In a letter sent to the foreign press dated 22 August, his wife, Li Jinfang, stated: *"My husband has been viciously struck on the penis and testicles and has been in enormous pain since then,"* and claimed he had been beaten because he was too slow to act on the prison guard's orders.

Qin Yongmin did not see a doctor until late July. The doctor reportedly testified that Qin Yongmin's testicles were severely beaten, with permanent damage as a result, and that he had also suffered "internal bleeding". After seeing the doctor, he was reportedly taken straight back to the labour camp, held in an upstairs room and forbidden to talk with anyone except guards. Family members, on their once-a-month visits in July and August, report that his body is swollen and covered with bruises, and that he is too weak to stand. Li Jinfang has made an appeal to the National People's Congress asking it to intervene to allow her husband to undergo medical treatment, investigate Qin Yongmin's ill-treatment and to punish those who instigated the beatings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Qin Yongmin, a 41-year-old democracy-wall activist, was sentenced in January 1994 to two-years of "re-education through labour", an administrative punishment, for "seriously disturbing social order". He was taken into custody on 14 November 1993 after taking part in a meeting in Beijing to discuss a "Peace Charter" which called on the Chinese Communist Party to respect human rights and introduce political reform. All the signatories to the "Peace Charter" have been arrested.

Qin Yongmin had been in and out of prison for most of 1993 on account of his dissident activities. On 11 August 1993, he was detained and held incommunicado for six weeks after publicly opposing Beijing's bid for the 2000 Olympics.

Qin Yongmin, a former worker in the Wuhan Steel Mill, was actively involved in the Democracy Wall movement in the late 1970s. He edited and wrote articles for the unofficial journal *Sound of the Bell (Zhong Sheng)* and was a chief organiser of the dissident *April fifth Study Society (Si-Wu Xueshe)*. Qin was arrested in November 1979 for selling unofficial pro-democracy magazines but released some time later. He was then re-arrested in April 1981 and detained

for several years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters in Mandarin, English, or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Qin Yongmin has twice been severely beaten in detention and urging that he be given immediate medical treatment for any injuries he has sustained;
- calling for an investigation into these allegations of ill-treatment, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that Qin Yongmin will not be subjected to any further ill-treatment in detention;
- calling on the authorities to release Qin Yongmin immediately and unconditionally as a prisoner of conscience, arbitrarily detained for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression and opinion.

APPEALS TO

Premier of the People's Republic of China

LI Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPRC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Faxes: + 86 1 512 5810 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Telegram: Premier Li Peng, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Governor of the Hubei Provincial People's Government

JIA Zhijie DaiShengzhang

Hubeisheng Renmin Zhengfu

1 Beihuan Lu, Shuiguohu

Wuchang, Wuhanshi

Hubeisheng

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 40155 WFAOECN

Telegram: Governor Jia Zhijie, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China

Salutation: Dear Governor

Director of the Hubei Department of Public Security

TIAN Qiyu Juzhang

Gong'anting

Fujiapo, Wuchang

Wuhanshi 430070

Hubeisheng

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Director of the Department of Public Security Tian Qiyu, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China

Salutation: Dear Director

and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 October 1994.

