URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution) Al Index: ASA 17/33/89

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UA 181/89 Arrests 15 June 1989

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Arrests in Shanghai including:

ZHMIG Qiwang (four out of nine

CHEN Shangfu (detained members of the WANG Miaogen (Autonomous Union of WANG Hong (Shanghai Workers

SHEN Zhigao LI Zhiguo

The people listed above are officially reported to have been arrested in the past few days for involvement in 'counter-revolutionary' activities. On the basis of the stated accusations and other information, it appears probable that the six are prisoners of conscience who are detained for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights.

Zhang Qiwang, officially described as a "key member" of the Autonomous Union of Shanghai Workers, was arrested on 9 June together with nine other members of the union accused of "spreading rumours, putting together an organization and inciting people to overthrow the government".

Chen Shangfu, Wang Kiaogen and Wang Hong are among nine of the banned Autonomous Union of Shanghai Workers who are officially reported to have been arrested on 9 June. They are accused of "spreading rumours, distributing leaflets, inciting strikes and advocating the overthrow of the government".

Shen Zhigao, a Shanghai toy factory warehouse worker, was officially reported to have been arrested outside Tongji. University on 11 June on charges of "spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda".

Li Zhiguo, officially described as the 'ringleader of a counter revolutionary clique' called the Freedom Society, was arrested on 10 June. The group is accused of advocating the overthrow of the government.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern about continuing reports of arbitrary arrests and urging the authorities to release immediately all those detained for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental human rights;

- urging the authorities to make public the names, reasons for arrest and places of detention of all those detained in connection with recent protests, to insure that they are safeguarded against possible torture or ill-treatment in custody, and that they are brought to trial on recognizably criminal charges or released;
- asking the authorities specifically for information about the circumstances and whereabouts of those reported detained who are mentioned above.

APPEALS TO:

ZHU Rongji Shizhang (Mayor ZHU Rongji Shanghaishi Renznin Zhengfu Shanghai Municipality)

Shanghaishi

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Zhu Rongji Shizhang, Shanghaishi, China

Telexes: 085 33289 SHFAO CM (Please forward to Mayor Zhu)

SHI Zhusan Jianchazhang (Chief Procurator Sill Zhusan Shanghaishi Reninin Jianchayuan Shanghai Municipality)

Shanghaishi

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Shi Zhusan Jianchazhanq, Shanghaishi, China

Telexes: 085 33289 SHFAO CN (Please forward to Chief Procurator Shi)

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China and to the office of the New China News Agency (Xinhua) in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 July 1989.