

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 200/04 (ASA 17/027/2004, 15 June 2004) and follow-up (ASA 17/030/2004, 17 June 2004) - Arbitrary detention/ Fear of torture or ill-treatment

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Dr Jiang Yanyong (m), age 72

Dr Jiang Yanyong was released on 20 July. He had been in custody for almost seven weeks, since he and his wife, Hua Zhongwei, were arbitrarily detained on 1 June.

He had been detained three days before the 15th anniversary of the 4 June 1989 massacre in Tiananmen Square. In February this year, he had written an open letter highly critical of the government for failing to acknowledge or investigate the military crackdown.

Dr Jiang's family have reportedly said he is healthy, but he has been warned not to speak to foreign journalists. He and his family are thought to remain under close surveillance by Chinese military and police authorities.

Dr Jiang was one of dozens of people throughout China who were arbitrarily detained by the Chinese authorities in the days and weeks surrounding the 15th anniversary of the 1989 crackdown. Hopes that he would be released soon after the anniversary proved unfounded.

Dr Jiang is himself a senior member of the ruling Chinese Communist Party. An eminent surgeon, he came to national acclaim last year when he exposed government secrecy surrounding the outbreak of SARS.

Dr Jiang reportedly underwent "study sessions" to "correct his thinking" in an attempt to persuade him to accept the official explanation that the military intervention against unarmed students on the night of 3-4 June was targeting "counter-revolutionaries".

Although his detention was not reported in the Chinese media, attention by campaign groups and the international media is thought to have led directly to an online petition for his release being circulated within China.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.