

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 267/91 (ASA 17/48/91, 5 August 1991) - Re-Arrest of Former Prisoner of Conscience

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC): ZHANG Weiguo, 35-year-old journalist

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Zhang Weiguo was released from custody on 21 August 1991, according to Beijing-based journalists who have spoken to him. Zhang Weiguo, aged 35, was the Beijing bureau chief of the World Economic Herald, a Shanghai-based weekly newspaper noted for its reformist views which was closed by the Chinese authorities in April 1989. He had been detained as a prisoner of conscience, without charge or trial, from June 1989 to 12 February 1991, for his alleged participation in the 1989 pro-democracy movement. He went into hiding in June 1991 after giving an interview to BBC TV journalists. He was detained again on 30 July 1991 at the home of relatives in Zhejiang province.

He was reportedly held in a military camp near Shanghai where he was extensively interrogated on his alleged contacts with the foreign press and foreign personalities. He was reportedly released after his mother signed a document guaranteeing on his behalf that he would not leave Shanghai; he was told that he could be re-arrested at any time.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes and airmail letters:**

- welcoming the release of Zhang Weiguo, but expressing concern at the arbitrariness of his three-week-long detention solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression and freedom of movement;
- expressing concern that Zhang Weiguo's mother was reportedly requested to act as a guarantor as a condition of his release;
- urging the authorities to lift any conditions they have set on Zhang Weiguo's release and which may impair his freedom of expression and movement.

**APPEALS TO:**

**1. (Shanghai Mayor):**

**HUANG Ju** Shizhang  
Shanghaishi Renmin Zhengfu  
Shanghaishi  
People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 33407 SCB CN**  
**(Please forward to Shanghai Mayor HUANG Ju)**  
**Faxes: + 86 21 3290087**

**2. (Chief Procurator, Shanghai):**

**SHI Zhusan** Jianchazhang  
Shanghaishi Renmin Jianchayuan  
Shanghaishi  
People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 33407 SCB CN**  
**(Please forward to Chief Procurator SHI Zhusan)**  
**Faxes: + 86 21 3290087**

**COPIES TO:**

(Chairman, Shanghai People's Congress Standing Committee):

**YE Gongqi** Zhuren  
Shanghaishi Renda  
Changwu Weiyuanhui  
Shanghaishi  
People's Republic of China

(Editor-in-Chief, Wen Hui Bao daily):

**MA Da** Zongbianji  
Wen Hui Bao  
149 Yuanmingyuan lu  
Shanghaishi  
People's Republic of China

(Editor-in-Chief, Liberation Daily):

Zongbianji  
Jiefang Ribao  
274 Hankou Lu  
Shanghaishi Municipality  
People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of the PRC in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 October 1991.