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Legal Concern

3 December 1990

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: LU Jiamin
WANG Dan

Two more prominent political detainees are reported to have been charged with "counter-revolutionary" offences for their role in last year's pro-democracy protests and are expected to go on trial soon in Beijing. At least eight others were reported last week to have been charged or to already be on trial (see UA 485/90, ASA 17/71/90, 30 November).

The two recently charged are Lu Jiamin, a 45-year-old professor, and Wang Dan, aged 25, a student leader. Both are held at Qincheng, a maximum security prison for political prisoners located north of Beijing. They are reported to have been charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation", which carries a minimum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment in the case of "ringleaders".

Lu Jiamin, a researcher and professor at the Chinese Workers Movement Institute, a training college of the official All-China Federation of Trade Unions, has been detained since 11 July 1989. He is said to have participated in two meetings during the student demonstrations in May 1989 in Beijing, but as far as is known, he was not actively involved in the protests. He was previously imprisoned for three years between 1969 and 1971, and took part in a previous democracy movement during a brief period of liberalisation in the late 1970s. He contributed at that period to the unofficial journal Beijing Spring, which like other such journals advocated democratic reforms.

Wang Dan, a history student at Beijing University, has been detained since 6 July 1989. One of the main leaders of the Beijing Students Autonomous Federation formed during the protests last year, he was number one on a government list of 21 "most wanted" student leaders issued after the 4 June massacre in Beijing. Since his arrest, he is said to have been subjected to constant interrogations and put under strong pressure to provide incriminating information about himself and others involved in the protests.

Amnesty International is concerned that Lu Jiamin, Wang Dan, and others who are due to be tried soon, are arbitrarily detained for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights and that they are unlikely to receive fair and open trials, in accordance with international human rights standards.

Amnesty International is calling on the government to make public the identities of all people now facing trial in relation to the protests, full details of the charges against them, and the dates and places of the hearings.

It is also urging the government to ensure that the trials are open to the public and conducted in accordance with international standards for fair trial, and to allow international observers to the trials.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that Lu Jiamin, Wang Dan and several others have been charged with "counter-revolutionary" offences;
- urging the government to make public the identities of all political detainees now facing trial, full details of the charges against them, scheduled trial dates and the courts which will be conducting the proceedings;
- urging the government to ensure that the trials are open to the public and conducted in accordance with international standards for fair trial, and to allow international observers to attend the trials.

APPEALS TO**Prime Minister LI Peng:**

LI Peng Zongli
 Guowoyuan
 Beijingshi
 Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
 People's Republic of China

Telexes: 2100070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Minister of Justice CAI Cheng:

CAI Cheng Buzhang
 Sifabu
 Sanlihe
 Beijingshi
 Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
 People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN
 (Please forward to Cai Cheng Buzhang)

Procurator General Liu Fuzhi:

LIU Fuzhi Jianchazhang
 Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan
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COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 January 1991.