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CHINA: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS  
SUMMARY OF RECENT INCIDENTS

1) At least 10 relatives of prisoners of conscience and dissidents are known to have been detained, restricted or harassed by police in Beijing and other places in China in the past three weeks, apparently to prevent contacts between them and foreign visitors or journalists during the Fourth World Conference on Women which started in Beijing in late August. They include:

- Wang Zhihong, the wife of prominent dissident and prisoner of conscience Chen Ziming. On 29 August 1995, she was summoned by the authorities to move to the prison where her husband is held and to "live" there until further notice. She is reportedly still "living" in the prison. Her husband Chen Ziming was arrested in 1989 and branded one of the "black hands" of the 1989 protests. He was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment and remained in jail until April 1994, when he was released on bail for medical treatment. In June 1995, he was taken away from his home by police and sent back to jail to serve the rest of his 13 years' sentence. He had signed a petition made public in May, which called on the authorities to introduce legal reforms and human rights improvements. His re-arrest followed large-scale arbitrary arrests of people who issued several such petitions in spring 1995. Chen Ziming is reported to be in poor health. Amnesty International has recently issued an appeal to the authorities, expressing concern about his health and calling for his release (see attached document for further details.)

- Wang Lingyun, the mother of former student leader and prisoner of conscience Wang Dan, has been under constant police surveillance since 26 August 1995, apparently to prevent any contact between her and foreigners. Since then, she has apparently been constantly followed by security officers everywhere, including at her place of work. Her son, Wang Dan, who had spent several years in prison after the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, was re-arrested in May 1995 after signing a petition calling on the authorities to respect human rights. He is still being held, but he is not known to have been formally charged with any offence. Amnesty International has called on the authorities to release him.

- Zhu Hainan, the wife of labour activist and prisoner of conscience Liu Nianchun, has also been put under 24-hour police surveillance and told to report all her telephone conversations to the police. Liu Nianchun, who had been detained by police in Beijing on several occasions previously, was arrested again in late May 1995 after signing one of the human rights petitions issued by various groups at that period. Amnesty International has also appealed for his release.

- Some relatives of prisoners of conscience held in places other than Beijing were also reportedly told to leave their homes. In Shanghai, Yan Huili, the wife of prisoner of conscience Zhang Xianliang who has been held in a labour camp since 1993, was reportedly told by police to leave Shanghai and had to move to the labour camp where her husband is being held because she had no other place to stay. Zhang Xianliang is serving a three-year term of "re-education through labour" imposed in 1993 without charge or trial. Amnesty International has called on numerous occasions for the authorities to release him.

2) Other specific cases have been reported in which dissidents were either restricted, threatened, placed under surveillance, told by police to leave Beijing, or prevented from leaving other cities to return to Beijing, apparently in connection with the holding of the conference.

Some, like Ding Zilin and her husband Jiang Peikun, were also detained or restricted in August before the conference started. Ding Zilin, a professor at the People's University in Beijing whose son was killed during the 4 June 1989 massacre in Beijing, was arrested on 18 August 1995 together with her husband, in Wuxi, Jiangsu province. According to unofficial sources, she was held for investigation of alleged "economic irregularities", but the authorities have not disclosed why she is being held and she is not known to have been formally charged with any offence. Ding Zilin had campaigned on behalf of the families of people killed or injured during the 1989 massacre, and sponsored a petition signed by 26 relatives of the victims in May 1995. It is believed that she too was detained in order to prevent her from making possible public statements or making contacts with foreigners during the Women's Conference. She was last reported to be still held or restricted in Wuxi last week and her current situation is not known. Amnesty International members in various countries have sent thousands of appeals for her release to the authorities since late August (see attached document).

3) Amnesty International members in various countries have also continued to campaign on other human rights issues in China during the Women's Conference. This included an appeal for the release of Liu Gang, a former student leader and prisoner of conscience, who was detained again on 1 September 1995 and subjected to 15 days' administrative detention in his home city in Jilin province.

His detention was brought about by his refusal to "report his thoughts" to the police every week after he was released from jail in June 1995. The requirement to report his thoughts was one of 13 "parole" conditions imposed on him upon release, even though he had fully served a six-year prison sentence imposed on him following his arrest in June 1989. While in prison, Liu Gang had complained that he had been tortured and had smuggled out an appeal from prison in early 1993 describing in detail the ill-treatment to which he was subjected.

Following his release in June this year, he was subjected to constant police surveillance and tried to sue the police for harassment and to challenge in court the 13-point conditions imposed on him, but he lost the court case in late August (see attached document for further information).

Two people in Beijing appear to have been detained in August in connection with Liu Gang's case. Gao Feng and Liu Fenggang, both Christian activists, are reported to have been detained by police in Beijing on 7 August 1995. A draft appeal on behalf of Liu Gang was reportedly found by police at Gao Feng's home and confiscated, but few other details are available about their detention and their current whereabouts are not known.

Other human rights violations which have occurred during the period of the Women's conference include dozens of death sentences and executions in various places in China of people accused of committing criminal offences ranging from murder to economic offences.

One man in Shenzhen was still waiting to hear in early September whether the death sentence imposed on him by a court in Shenzhen earlier this year would be carried out. Wang Jianye, 42, the former director of the Financial and Trade Division under the Shenzhen Municipal Planning Bureau, was sentenced to death in April 1995 on charges of corruption. He has been detained

since September 1993, shortly after an anti-corruption campaign was launched by the authorities. His family claims that he was made a scapegoat of this campaign, that he did not have a fair trial and that he has always denied the accusations (for further details, see attached document). He has exhausted all the judicial appeals procedures, and as of early September 1995 his case was still pending before the Supreme People's Court, which has the authority to review and approve or quash death sentences in cases of corruption.

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