

# amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ  
United Kingdom

# URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 17/13/80  
Dist: UA/SC

UA 103/90

Death Penalty

15 March 1990

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: Thirteen sentenced to death in Anhui Province  
OF CHINA: Sixty-five executed in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province

Thirteen people accused of selling women and children into slavery have been sentenced to death with a two-year stay of execution in Anhui province, Beijing's official Renmin Ribao newspaper reported on 7 February. Sixty-five others were executed on 7 February in Guangzhou on similar charges. These death sentences and executions are part of an on-going campaign being carried out in the People's Republic of China (PRC) against the so-called "six vices" (corruption, slavery, prostitution, pornography, superstition and drugs). Particularly severe sentences, including death sentences, have been meted out since the start of the campaign in September 1989 against people accused of offences falling into one of the "six vices" categories. It is the first time, however, that such a massive number of death sentences and executions has been announced.

Articles 140 and 141 of the Chinese Criminal Law deal respectively with "forcing women into prostitution" and "abducting and selling people". Offences covered by Article 140 are normally punishable with a term of imprisonment of between three and 10 years. Article 141 provides for imprisonment of up to five years, or "no less than five years" when "circumstances are serious". These and other articles dealing with similar offences do not normally provide for the death penalty. However, a "Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Regarding the Severe Punishment of Criminal Elements who seriously Endanger Public Security", passed in September 1983, provides for "punishment above the maximum punishment stipulated under the Criminal Law, up to and including the death penalty". This may be imposed on "ringleaders of groups who abduct and sell people, or people who abduct and sell people, when circumstances are especially serious", and on people who "lure, shelter, or force women into prostitution, when circumstances are especially serious".

In September 1983, an amendment to the Criminal Procedure Law allowed the PRC's Supreme People's Court to grant the right of final adjudication in some death penalty cases to provincial courts, thereby depriving prisoners of the right to appeal a death sentence before the country's highest court.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- expressing concern that the enlarged scope of offences punishable by the death penalty under the 1983 Decision contradicts the spirit of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that a sentence of death may be imposed only for "the most serious crimes" and that restrictions to appeals against death sentences announced in 1983 may increase the likelihood that innocent people or people not guilty of the most serious crimes may be killed;

- urging that all death sentences be commuted without delay and expressing regret over executions already carried out.

**APPEALS TO:**

**On cases in Anhui Province:**

FENG Jianhua Jianchazhang  
Anhuisheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
Hefeishi  
Anhuisheng  
People's Republic of China

LU Rongjing Shuji  
Zhonggong Anhuisheng Weiyuanhui  
Hefeishi  
Anhuisheng  
People's Republic of China

Telexes: 90018 APGFO CN (Please forward to Anhui Chief Procurator FENG Jianhua)

Telexes: 90018 APGFO CN (Please forward to Anhui Party Secretary LU Rongjing)

**On cases in Guangdong Province:**

XIAO Yang Jianchazhang  
Guangdongsheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
Guangzhoushi  
Guangdongsheng  
People's Republic of China

LIN Ruo Shuji  
Zhonggong Guangdongsheng Weiyuanhui  
Guangzhoushi  
Guangdongsheng  
People's Republic of China

Telexes: 085 44563 OFAGD CN (Please forward to Guangdong Chief Procurator XIAO Yang)

Telexes: 085 44563 OFAGD CN (Please forward to Guangdong Party Secretary LIN Ruo)

**COPIES TO:**

(It is especially important to send copies of letters to XI Zhongxun and MA Wenrui as both the NPC and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) are scheduled to open their three-week annual session on 20 March.)

XI Zhongxun Zhuren  
Renda Neiwu Sifa Weiyuanhui  
Renda Bangong Ting  
Renmin Dahui Tang, Beijingshi  
People's Republic of China

MA Wenrui Zhuren  
Quanguo Zhengxie Fazhi Weiyuanhui  
Zhengxie Bangong Ting  
Beijingshi  
People's Republic of China

(XI Zhongxun, Chairman of the NPC Internal and Judicial Affairs Committee)

(MA Wenrui, Chairman of the Law Committee of the CPPCC)

LIU Fuzhi Jianchazhang  
Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan  
Beijingshi  
People's Republic of China

(Procurator General LIU Fuzhi)

and 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 26 April 1990.



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Correction to:  
AI Index: ASA 17/13/90  
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16 March 1990

Correction to UA 108/90 (ASA 17/13/90, 15 March 1990 - Death Penalty)

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: Thirteen sentenced to death, and sixty-five  
OF CHINA: executed in Anhui Province

Information in UA 108/90 was based on an English-language report suggesting that 65 executions had taken place in Guangzhou, Guangdong province. After checking the original Chinese-language article in Renmin Ribao, the official newspaper in Beijing, it appears that the 65 executions took place in Anhui Province, where the 13 suspended death sentences were also handed down.

Therefore no appeals should be sent to Guangdong province. All appeals should be sent to Anhui province, as follows:

APPEALS TO:

FENG Jianhua Jianchazhang  
Anhuisheng Renmin Jianchayuan  
Hefeishi  
Anhuisheng  
People's Republic of China

LU Rongjing Shuji  
Zhonggong Anhuisheng Weiyuanhui  
Hefeishi  
Anhuisheng  
People's Republic of China

Telexes: 90018 APGFO CN (Please  
forward to Anhui Chief Procurator  
FENG Jianhua)

Telexes: 90018 APGFO CN (Please  
forward to Anhui Party Secretary  
LU Rongjing)

The International Secretariat apologizes sincerely for this error. Please amend your records accordingly.