

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety/Fear of Torture 29 November 2002
or ill-treatment/Medical concern/
Incommunicado detention

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Luo Rong (aka Yoko Kaneko) (f), aged 38
Luo Zhen (f)

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of sisters Luo Rong (also known as Yoko Kaneko), and Luo Zhen, who are at serious risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Luo Rong, a Chinese Falun Gong member with permanent residency in Japan, is currently serving one-and-a-half years' "re-education through labour" in a Beijing labour camp. She was detained in the capital while handing out Falun Gong leaflets on 24 May 2002 during a visit to China. She is reportedly seriously ill and has been hospitalized for high blood pressure. However there are serious concerns that she may not receive adequate hospital care. According to reports, Luo Rong has bruising around her wrists and has lost a lot of weight indicating that she may have been tortured or ill-treated whilst in the labour camp.

Luo Rong's elder sister, Luo Zhen, a resident in China, was reportedly detained on 5 November by the Public Security Bureau in Mudanjiang City, Heilongjiang province, northeastern China, following her involvement in publicizing her sister's case. She is reportedly held in incommunicado detention, and the family has not yet been informed of her whereabouts. According to unofficial sources, she may have been assigned to two years' re-education through labour.

Luo Zhen is reportedly not believed to be a Falun Gong practitioner, but she and her family had been visited and harassed by the police following Luo Rong's detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Falun Gong spiritual movement has been banned in China since July 1999 along with other so-called 'heretical organizations', and it has recently become one of the main targets of the 'strike hard' campaign against crime in China.

Tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners continue to be detained in China where they are at serious risk of torture or ill-treatment, particularly if they refuse to renounce their spiritual beliefs. The vast majority of them are believed to be held in labour through re-education centres, a form of administrative detention imposed without charge or trial. Those accused of being Falun Gong leaders or organizers have been sentenced to prison terms, while others have been held in psychiatric hospitals. Amnesty International continues to receive regular reports of Falun Gong members being tortured or ill-treated in custody. According to Falun Gong sources, over 500 Falun Gong practitioners have died in custody (or shortly after their release), apparently as a result of torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to the Chinese authorities to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Luo Rong has been arbitrarily detained for peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of expression and belief, and urging the authorities to release her immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing concern that Luo Rong is in poor health; that her medical problems appear to have been acquired in detention; and urging the authorities to ensure that while she is in detention she has full access to a competent and independent doctor of her choosing;
- urging the Chinese authorities to clarify the current whereabouts of Luo Zhen, and to release her immediately and unconditionally, unless she is charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure that while Luo Zhen is in custody she is given access to a lawyer, to her family and to a doctor of her choosing.

APPEALS on behalf of Luo Rong TO (Note, fax numbers may be difficult to obtain, but please keep trying):

Mayor of Beijing Municipal People's Government
LIU Qi Shizhang

Beijingshi Renmin Zhengfu
 2 Zhengyilu
 Dongchengqu
 Beijingshi 100744
 People's Republic of China
Telegram: Mayor, Beijing, China
Internet E-mail:

http://www.beijing.gov.cn/chinese_new/beijing_government/mailbox/mailbox.asp

Salutation: Dear Mayor

Director of the Reeducation-Through-Labour Administration, Ministry of Justice
 MENG Qingchen Sizhang

Sifabu
 Laodong Jiaoyang Gongzuo Guanliju
 14 Dongchanganjie
 Beijingshi 100741
 People's Republic of China

Telegram: Reeducation-Through-Labour Director, Justice Ministry, Beijing, China

fax: +86 10 6 529 2345
email: minister@legalinfo.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Director

APPEALS on behalf of Luo Zhen TO:

Governor of the Heilongjiang Provincial People's Government
 SONG Fatang Shengzhang

Heilongjiangsheng Renmin Zhengfu
 202 Zhongshanlu
 Haerbinshi 150001
 Heilongjiangsheng
 People's Republic of China

Telegram: Provincial Government, Haerbin, Heilongjiang, China

Salutation: Dear Governor

E-mail: info@haerbindaily.com.cn (c/o Haerbin Daily)

Director of the Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Public Security
 Tingzhang

Gong'anting
 95 Zhongshanlu
 Haerbinshi 150001
 Heilongjiangsheng
 People's Republic of China

Telegram: Provincial Public Security Director, Haerbin, Heilongjiang, China

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

TANG Jiaxuan Buzhang

Waijiaobu

2 Chaoyangmen Nandajie

Beijingshi 100701

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Fax: +86 10 6596 3374

Ms KAWAGUCHI Yoriko
 Minister of Foreign Affairs
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 Tokyo 105-8519
 Japan

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and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 January 2003.