

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 167/91 (ASA 38/07/91, 14 May 1991) - Arrests

TAIWAN: Chen Cheng-ran
 Liao Wei-cheng
 Wang Hsiu-hui (f)
 Lin Yin-fu

The four persons name above, arrested on 9 May 1991 on charges of violating the Statute for the Punishment of Sedition by their alleged membership of the banned Tokyo-based Association for an Independent Taiwan, were released on bail on 17 May. They may, however, still face possible charges of sedition.

Their arrests sparked large scale demonstrations by students and professors and on 14 May the deputy director of the Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice resigned. He is reported as having said "*I am willing to resign not because I think what I have done was wrong, but because I want to pacify the voice of protest*".

Two hours after the four were released on bail the Legislative Yuan (parliament) abolished the Statute for the Punishment of Sedition under which the four had been arrested. When the four were released, court officials said they could still face charges of sedition under the Criminal Code.

No further action is required through the Urgent Action network. The cases of these four people will be allocated to AI adoption groups for further work. Thank you to all participants who sent appeals.