

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Further information on UA 16/91 (ASA 17/03/91, 16 January, and follow-ups ASA 17/05/91, 18 January and ASA 17/12/91, 29 January 1990) - Legal Concern**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA : Liu Zihou  
Wang Haidong**

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Chinese official sources announced on 26 January the sentences passed against five dissidents who were among people tried recently in Beijing. However, the verdicts against two of those tried, Liu Zihou and Wang Haidong, have not been announced, though at least one of them is believed to have been sentenced.

Wang Haidong, whose trial began on 15 January, is believed to have been charged with "counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation". Liu Zihou was charged with "gathering crowds and inciting armed rebellion" and was reportedly sentenced on 26 January. However, according to foreign press correspondents in Beijing, on 28 January court officials refused to disclose Liu Zihou's sentence, saying "It is not an external matter. We have no need to tell you about these things". It is feared that he may have received a harsh sentence as, according to the Chinese Criminal Law, "ringleaders" in "armed mass rebellion" and others involved "whose crimes are monstrous" may receive sentences ranging from 10 years' imprisonment to death, and those simply regarded as "active participants" may be sentenced from three to 10 years' imprisonment.

Trial procedures in China fall far short of international standards for fairness. The defendants tried recently were reportedly unable to designate lawyers of their choice. In trials of other dissidents held earlier this month, defendants reportedly had to submit their defence statements to the court in advance for approval. It is also a common practice in China for the verdict to be decided before the trial. Amnesty International is concerned that Wang Haidong and Liu Zihou may have been denied fair trials in accordance with international standards.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- urging the authorities to make public the sentences passed against Wang Haidong and Liu Zihou and the evidence on which the charges against them are based;
- expressing concern that the recent trials fail to meet international standards for fair trials and urging the authorities to make public a full transcript of all the trials.

**APPEALS TO:**

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**Please forward to Cai Cheng Buzhang**

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**Please forward to Liu Fuzhi Jianchazhang**

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and to diplomatic representatives of the PRC in your country.

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