

News Roundup

August–October 2006

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CENSORSHIP

APPROVAL NEEDED BEFORE SPEAKING TO MEDIA

Guangzhou health authorities issued an internal notice in June requiring hospitals to seek approval before accepting media interviews. They explained in early August that the requirement applied “only” to large-scale incidents. (LD)

TIBETAN WRITER'S SITE CLOSED

A well-known Tibetan writer, whose blogs on www.daqi.com were closed down by Chinese authorities, vowed on August 1 to continue to speak out and raise awareness of Tibetan culture in China. Woesser, who lives in Beijing, thinks that her blog was closed because she posted a picture of the Dalai Lama and carried out frank discussions on sensitive issues. Her blog at woesser.bokee.com was removed by censors in late September. (RFA)

ONLINE ACTIVITY BANNED

Online spoofs and satirical films of Chinese Communist icons and approved films and celebrities will soon be banned. The State Administration for Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) is drafting rules to block Internet broadcasts of short films that satirize officially approved cultural products, it was reported in mid-August. (The Guardian)

ADVERTISEMENTS BANNED

A ban on advertisements for weight loss, breast enlargement and other beauty products and treatments that became effective from August 1 is expected to cause a 60 percent decline in advertising revenue for Chinese television stations. The ban was introduced by the SARFT and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) because of fears that these commercials could violate consumers' rights and endanger their health. (XH)

REGULATIONS ON TELEVISION PROGRAMS

The Chinese Communist Party has banned foreign cartoons from prime-time television out of concern for the potential influence of foreign culture on Chinese children. The move is also intended to protect the Chinese animation industry. The ban on screening foreign animations between 5 P.M. and 8 P.M. will come into effect on September 1. (BBC)

ANTI-PIRACY CAMPAIGN

China's copyright authorities have announced plans to prepare an Internet system to fight online piracy. According to the National Copyright Administration, the system would be able to identify pirated software, movies, music and other copyrighted works. (PD)

During August, the initial month of a 100-day intensive crackdown on piracy in China, officials announced that 3,014 shops selling pirated materials were closed. About 8.371 million illegal items, mainly pirated CDs, DVDs and computer software, were confiscated, according to the State Press and Publication Administration (SPPA), which oversees the country's anti-piracy efforts. Police and copyright officials have raided more than 89,000 shops and street vendors nationwide, with 9,508 penalized for selling pirated products. (XH)

TIBET'S PRINCESS CENSORED

According to industry sources, China is censoring media reports about Princess Yabshi Pan Rinzinwangmo, the daughter of Tibet's 10th Panchen Lama, apparently worried that her popularity would surpass that of the current Beijing-installed successor. (AN)

PROMISED ACCESS

British Minister for Culture, Media and Sport Tessa Jowell announced on September 5 that she had been promised by the President of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, Liu Qi, that foreign media would be allowed to move around without restrictions during the Olympic Games in 2008. (Reuters)

WIKIPEDIA UNBLOCKED

Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, announced on September 5 that it would not filter content to appease Beijing. Access to the Web site had been blocked

by mainland authorities since last October, while a cloned version from Chinese Web portal Baidu was allowed to replace the site in China's Web space. On October 10, Wikipedia announced that its Web site was now available in China. At press time, the English language version was available but the Chinese language version was not. Additionally, access to “sensitive” articles (such as anything relating to Tiananmen Square) remained blocked. (China Knowledge, Editor and Publisher, NYT, The Globe and Mail)

DIRECTOR BANNED

Chinese director **Lou Ye** announced on September 6 that he would continue making films in spite of a ban by the Beijing government. The ban was imposed after Lou screened his film *Summer Palace*, which touches on June 4th, at the Cannes Film Festival without first submitting it to the Chinese censors. (BBC)

BAIXING WEB SITE CLOSED

The Web site of a Chinese news monthly magazine, *Baixing*, appears to have been closed since September 7 for posting accounts of the beating death of a villager involved in a dispute with developers in eastern China. (IHT)

NEW FOREIGN MEDIA REGULATIONS

The official Chinese Communist Party news agency, Xinhua, issued a statement on September 10 regarding new measures for foreign media operating in China. According to the new regulations, foreign news agencies are barred from directly soliciting subscribers in China and must use agents designated by Xinhua. The rules give Xinhua the right to select the information released by foreign agencies and to delete any materials that could potentially undermine China's social stability, endanger national security or disrupt the country's economic order, among other prohibitions. The new media regulations have received harsh criticism from many governments and a number of journalism and human rights organizations. (Bloomberg)

ZOU TAO'S SITE CLOSED

The Web site of **Zou Tao** (<http://www.zoutao.com/>), a 32-year-old blogger based in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, was closed on September 11 following his suc-

successful Internet campaign calling on people to avoid buying apartments for three years in order to cool down an overheated real estate market. The closure of his site was likely to have been caused by his announcement in August that he was going to run as a candidate for Luohu district representative in the People's Congress of Shenzhen in the September 28 elections. Zou's candidacy was not backed by the CCP. He has been forbidden to leave the region and has been threatened by the Shenzhen Public Security Bureau. (RSF)

JUDGES NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO PRESS

In an announcement on September 13, the Chinese government has decided to bar judges from speaking with the press, in line with the trend of allowing only spokespersons of state agencies to speak with reporters. Xinhua reported that judges would be subject to "severe sanctions" if they do not follow these rules. A court spokesperson will speak for judges and will have the power to bar other judicial officials from answering journalists' questions. This follows a similar ban for lawyers announced in May this year. (RSF)

MASS WEB SITE CLOSURES

From September 6 to 8, more than 320 Web sites and Internet columns were shut down by police, who also deleted 15,000 pieces of "hazardous information." A Ministry of Public Security official stated that this was in response to the appearance of a large number of Web sites selling guns, explosives and narcotics, and offering gambling information, which threatened the "purity" of the Internet atmosphere. On September 15, the Ministry publicized a site where citizens can go to report information on such Web sites. (XH)

ONLINE SURVEY GETS SENIOR EDITORS FIRED

Two senior editors of the Guangzhou-based NetEase (163.com), news editor **Tang Yan** and opinion editor **Liu Xianghui**, were fired in September. The reason for their sudden dismissal was unclear, but there was speculation that they were being punished for conducting an online survey on whether Chinese readers would choose to be a Chinese national in their next life. Boxun.com, an overseas Chinese Web site, reported

that 64 percent of the 10,234 respondents said "no" as of September 10. The survey was originally scheduled to run from September 4 through October 11, but was removed by September 15. Of those who responded "no," 39 percent said that "being Chinese [makes me] feel that I lack human dignity," while 17 percent said, "a happy life is unreachable because I cannot afford an apartment." Eighteen percent said "yes," because "I love my country and have no specific reason." The Web site staff could not be reached for comment. (SCMP)

JOURNALISTS BEATEN

Eight journalists were stopped by security guards and at least one township-level government official while attempting to report on a fatal car accident on a Guangzhou bridge. Reports say that the eight, who were from three local newspapers and a TV station, were taken away and beaten on September 25. Their equipment was damaged, and three of the journalists were injured. They were then questioned by police, who are currently investigating the incident. Township officials were not available for comment, but the director of the general affairs office of the township people's congress expressed regret for the incident and blamed it on poor communication. (PD)

SOAP OPERAS REGULATED

In early October, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television announced plans to reduce the number of soap operas that include storylines focusing on extramarital affairs, on the basis that such programs could have a negative influence on young people. (XH)

"UNCENSORED" INTERNET DURING OLYMPIC GAMES

On October 4 it was reported that **Li Jingbo**, the media services chief of the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games, announced in early October that access to the Internet would be uncensored during the 2008 Olympic Games. He then went on to deny that the Internet is currently censored in China, a publicly documented fact. (The Australian)

ANNIVERSARY OF ARREST OF GANG OF FOUR IGNORED

Chinese media ran no articles regarding the 30-year anniversary of the arrest of the Gang of Four, which fell on October 6 this year. It is believed that the Chinese government wishes to avoid "sensitive anniversaries" that could lead to a closer examination of recent history. (SCMP)

AUTHOR YAN LIANKE CENSORED

It was reported on October 9 that the latest book by award-winning author **Yan Lianke** was not published, despite extensive self-censorship carried out by the author. The story is a satirical account of a blood-selling scandal that occurred in Henan province. Two of Yan Lianke's other books have been banned in the past. (The Guardian)

RAPPER JAY-Z'S TOUR CANCELED

Jay-Z was scheduled to perform in Shanghai on October 23, but his show was canceled halfway through the month after China's Ministry of Culture deemed his music "too vulgar." (Virgin)

ONLINE DEFAMATION BANNED IN CHONGQING

Anyone who spreads rumors about another person or attacks their character will now be warned or fined up to 5,000 *yuan* under new measures passed by the Standing Committee of the Chongqing People's Congress and reported on October 16 by Xinhua. (XH)

CHINA YOUTH DAILY EDITORS PURGED

On October 13, **Li Erliang**, the editor-in-chief of *China Youth Daily*, was demoted to the position of editor-in-chief of *Children of the Fatherland*, while **Wang Hongyou** lost his position as director and secretary-general of *China Youth Daily's* Communist Party cell. It is believed that they were being punished for being too liberal. (RSF)

MAN ARRESTED FOR SATIRICAL POEM

Qin Zhongfei, a low-level government official, was formally arrested for making fun of officials in a poem disseminated through text messages and email, according to *People's Daily* on October 20. He was arrested in August but was not charged until October. (PD)

REAL NAME REQUIREMENTS FOR BLOGS

State media announced on October 23 that the Internet Society of China has told the government that bloggers should register under their own names. This would make it easier for the government to regulate and control Internet content. It was further reported on October 26 that the Ministry of Information Industry has asked the Internet Society of China to form a team tasked with studying the administration of blogs. This team has already held discussions about the registration of real names and telephone numbers when a person applies to open a new blog account (Reuters, RSF)

MEDIA CHIEFS TOLD TO STICK CLOSE TO PARTY

On October 24, 450 media chiefs were called to Beijing, where President Hu Jintao and propaganda head Li Changchun reminded them to follow the Party line. This move is seen as an unobvious warning to the Chinese press that dissent in their ranks will not be tolerated. (IHT)

LABOR

DISASTERS

Eighteen miners were killed in a coal mine gas leak in Ningwu County in Shanxi Province on August 4. (SD)

A fire in a workshop in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, left 10 dead and injured two on August 10. The victims included eight workers and two children, police said. (XH)

Thirteen miners were killed and one injured in the collapse of a coal mine shaft in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on August 13. The accident occurred at 3:10 P.M. in the privately-owned Guangyuan coal mine in Fukang while 14 miners were working underground. (Eastday.com)

Three people were killed and two seriously injured in an explosion at a chemical plant in Daqing, Heilongjiang Province on August 14. (XH)

Seven people were trapped underground by a gas blast at a coal mine in Jiangxi Province at around 4:30 P.M. on August 16. Two of the miners were rescued, but the other five died. A further 12 miners were trapped in the collapse of a coal mine in Guizhou on the afternoon of

August 17. All were rescued by noon on August 18. (XH)

Some 2,900 workers were killed in mine accidents from January through August this year, down 26 percent from the same period last year. The State Administration of Work Safety reported that 1,824 accidents were recorded during the first eight months of this year, and that China will invest three billion *yuan* worth of state bonds to improve coal mine safety through the end of 2006. Additionally, the Ministry of Supervision announced that 315 government officials and heads of state-owned enterprises have been disciplined this year for owning shares in coal mines. (SD)

Six miners were killed in a flood at the Zhengxing Coal Mine in Hubei Province on September 3. Three others escaped, and a fourth was rescued by the emergency team. (AP)

Seven miners were trapped in a flood at the privately-owned Xiren Mine in Tonghua City, Jilin Province on September 13. Another four miners escaped, and eight others were rescued early on September 14, according to the deputy director of the Jilin Provincial Coal Mining Bureau. (AP)

Also on September 13, a gas leak at a mine in Shanxi Province killed at least one person, according to the Xinhua News Agency. Rescuers lifted 45 miners from the gas-filled pit at the Danangou Coal Mine in Datong, but one died later in the hospital. (AFP)

A landslide killed two and injured two others at an iron ore mine in Laiyuan County, Hebei Province on September 22. The mine, formerly a state-owned enterprise, is currently owned by the Laiyuan Iron and Steel Plant, and does not have a work safety permit. (XH)

Also on September 22, two miners were killed in a morning gas explosion at the Songzhu Coal Mine in Huaping County, Yunnan Province. Another 27 workers were rescued and were reported to be in stable condition.

Six workers were killed in Qitaihe City, Heilongjiang Province, when a coal mine collapsed on the night of September 25. Only one miner was rescued after the collapse of a pit in the Taoshan Coal Mine, which is under the management of the Heilongjiang Longmei Coal Mine Group Ltd. An explosion at another mine under the same

management resulted the death of 171 miners in 2005. (XH)

Flooding trapped nine miners in the Wangda Graphite Mine in Heye Township on October 4. All nine were rescued on October 7, after a 74-hour rescue operation that involved nearly 100 people. (XH)

Another nine miners were trapped on October 5, when a gas explosion flooded a coalmine in Heilongjiang Province during a routine maintenance operation. Attempts to rescue the trapped miners failed. Nineteen others escaped unharmed. This is the second fatal gas explosion to occur at the Baoxing Coal Mine and the owners were arrested on October 6. (XH)

Thirteen people were killed and seven injured in a gas explosion in the state-owned Furong Coal Mine in Yibin, Sichuan Province on October 6. This is the second fatal accident to occur at this coal mine. It was later reported that the 13 victims were prisoners in China's "re-education through labor" system. (Playfuls.com)

Seven miners were trapped and one escaped after a coal mine flooded in Yuxian County in Shanxi Province on October 8. (XH)

Twenty-six people died in Hebei Province in various accidents over a period of four days from October 13 to October 17. Thirteen people died and 22 were treated in the hospital after a coal mine accident at the Longxin Coal Mine in Hecun Town, Handan City on October 16. Another 52 people were rescued from the fire, which was blamed on a faulty electric cable. It was reported that the mine had continued to operate even after it was ordered to stop for safety reasons in December 2005. In addition, three workers died in a collapsed mine in Qinhuangdao City, four miners in Xuandong Coal Mine, and a total of six construction workers in the collapse of buildings in Canzhou and Langfang. (XH)

A coal mine blast in Xingwei Coal Mine of Hegang City in Heilongjiang Province left eight miners missing on October 15. (XH)

The Fengfeng Coal Fields in Handan City caught fire on October 16, trapping 28 of the sixty miners working there. (XH)

Also on October 16, six people suffocated after a fire broke out in an underwear workshop in Gurao town, Shantou city, Guangdong. The victims were three relatives of the workshop owner and three female employees. (XH)

Eight people died in a garment factory



An iPod advertisement in Beijing. Photo: Associated Press

fire in Zhili Town, Huzhou on October 21. Twenty-four people were rescued. The owner of the factory, Yu Mujun, was later arrested for failing to provide a safe working environment for his employees and operating a clothing factory without the required safety controls. (XH)

A collapsed quarry on October 23 in Nanwang Village in Henan Province left three people dead, three missing, and seven injured. (XH)

A gas explosion in Xinyu Coal Mine in Baishan City, Jilin Province, left 11 miners dead on October 26. (XH)

Fourteen miners were killed and six injured in a coal mine blast in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region on October 28. (Forbes)

Also in Xinjiang on October 28, 12 workers were killed in an oil tank explosion. The explosion occurred during antiseptic treatment on the tank, which was under construction in Karamay. In addition to the 12 dead, 12 were injured and hospitalized, with six released after treatment. (China Labor Bulletin)

A coal mine gas explosion left 29 dead

and 19 injured at the Weijiadi Mine in Baiyin City, Gansu, on October 31. (XH)

DISPUTES

Workers at a Wal-Mart store in the southeastern city of Quanzhou voted to form the company's first union in China on July 29 following pressure from the Chinese government to allow unions in Wal-Mart's Chinese stores. Wal-Mart, which employs 30,000 people in China, has consistently fought efforts to form unions elsewhere in its worldwide operations, but ultimately agreed to work with China's state-sanctioned labor federation. In the following weeks, at least 16 of Wal-Mart's 60 stores in China formed unions, according to the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU). (Mercury News)

Following moves by Wal-Mart to allow unions in its stores across China, a survey published by *China's Youth Daily* revealed that 71.6 percent of the respondents believe China's trade unions have not fully carried out their responsibilities. Com-

plaints reported concerned compulsory overtime and unreasonably low pay in companies all over the country. (PD)

Apple Computer Inc. acknowledged on August 18 that its main supplier of iPod music players allowed employees in a China plant to work longer hours than permitted under Apple's corporate code of conduct. Allegations of labor abuses at the iPod plant had been circulating in the media, but the company maintained that the excessive working hours were voluntary on the part of the workers. The company has now moved to enforce work weeks of 60 hours, with measures put in place to track compliance. (Reuters)

iPod manufacturer Hong Fu Jin Precision Industry (Foxconn), the Shenzhen branch of Taiwan-based Hong Hai Precision Industry, has been ordered to set up a union for its workers by the end of 2006, according to the *Beijing News*. Last year, the company sued two journalists from the *China Business News* for defamation when they reported that Foxconn had violated labor rights by forcing overtime on its workers at low pay. Apple had announced earlier this

year that the manufacturer's practices violated Apple's code of conduct, and that it would take steps to address the issue. (Reuters)

The Guangdong Labor and Social Security Department (LSSD) announced new minimum wage standards, effective September 1, that are adjusted according to the economic development in different parts of the province. Shenzhen is exempt from the standard, which ranges from 450 *yuan* to 780 *yuan* a month. Chinese law stipulates that employers can be fined 5,000 *yuan* to 500,000 *yuan* if they break labor laws. *China Daily* reports that this is the largest increase since Guangdong introduced a minimum wage in 1994. (CD)

Seventy-seven sanitation workers went on strike on October 16 because they had not received all of their pay. They resumed work again on October 19. (XH)

PETITIONS AND PROTESTS

CORRUPTION-RELATED RIOT IN LIAONING

A riot by 2,000 villagers in Liaoning Province on July 13 reportedly resulted in the injury of 40 farmers and 10 police officers. The protest was aimed at local officials, whom the villagers accused of siphoning off compensation funds from a locally-built iron mine. The incident was not immediately reported because the China State Council has forbidden the reporting of "mass incidents." In the first week of August, the township Communist Party secretary and the township director were detained for investigation into allegations of corruption. (Khaleej Times)

THUG ATTACKS

Thugs reportedly employed by eviction companies in Chengdu, Sichuan Province attacked police officers and people being forcibly removed from their homes for redevelopment on August 1. The thugs were released soon after being arrested. (RSF)

CATHOLICS DETAINED

On August 2, police detained 90 protesters who were demanding the release of two clergymen in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province. At least two of the protestors were "seriously injured," and a woman suffered a miscarriage. Seventy of those detained were

later released, while 20 were still being held by police at last report. The demonstrators were protesting the detention of bishop **Yao Liang** and priest **Li Huisheng** of China's underground Catholic church. (AP)

TAXI DRIVERS PROTEST

One hundred taxi drivers protested outside the Suizhou Government Building in Hubei Province on August 7 over the prevalence of unlicensed taxis. Two representatives of the drivers were arrested. (MP)

PROPERTY CLASH

Six hundred property owners gathered outside the Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court on August 8 to protest the non-enforcement of a court decision. They clashed with police who prevented them from entering the court building, but no one was injured or arrested. (MP)

EVICITION PROTEST

In an eviction action conducted in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province on August 9, dissatisfied villager **Wu Guangde** crashed a car into the government eviction team, killing three and injuring others. Wu was subsequently arrested. (MP)

VILLAGE VIOLENCE

Local government officials in Hunan Province announced on August 9 that a riot between two villages in July resulted in the injury of 19 people. They emphasized that the violence was between villagers only, and that there was no conflict between the villagers and police. (PD)

DISPUTE OVER WATER CHARGES

Villagers in Maoming, Guangdong Province on August 16 detained several officials whom they suspected of overcharging them for water use. Some 160 police officers were called in, with a dozen injuries reported on each side. (RSF)

DEMONSTRATING AGAINST PRIVATIZATION

Hundreds of employees protested the privatization of their previously state-owned shopping mall in Nanling, Guangxi Province on August 17. Eight hundred police officers were called in to disperse the crowd and a dozen workers were injured. (RSF)

PARENTS PROTEST BAD VACCINES

A group of peasants from Jiangmen, Guangdong Province went to Hong Kong in August to appeal for help for their children, who they said contracted acute toxic encephalitis after taking a meningitis vaccine distributed by the mainland authorities last year. Some of the children reportedly lost their ability to talk, walk or even sit up after the injections. The local authorities refused to take any responsibility for the matter, saying that the children had "bad luck." The parents protested in Tiananmen Square on August 17. The Chinese Health Ministry claimed that officials had found no problem with the vaccines. (NYT)

REDEVELOPMENT PETITION

A group of Shanghai residents displaced in a redevelopment project controlled by Shanghai tycoon Zhou Zhengyi filed a formal complaint with the Supreme People's Procuratorate on August 25, alleging that well-connected local officials are implicated in Zhou's fraudulent leasing of the redeveloped property. The complaint, filed by Zhou Daye and other former residents of the neighborhood known as Dongbakuai, provides the first detailed allegations that local officials may have assisted Zhou Zhengyi in his fraudulent procurement of a land lease and massive bank loans for a piece of prime urban land valued at several billion *yuan*. (HRIC)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTESTS

Protests, riots and disputes related to the environment increased by 30 percent in 2005 to more than 50,000. Protests are occurring across the country, with local residents demanding answers and remedies to the proliferation of pollutants. They claim that the pollution is causing birth defects, making water unusable and killing crops. In mid-July, a study was released that found 81 percent of China's chemical plants located too close to population centers and water sources. (Greenclippings.co.za)

PROTEST TEACHER'S DEATH

Thousands of protesters gathered in early September to protest the investigation into the death of high school teacher Dai Haijing, 30. Officials claimed that Dai had committed suicide by jumping from her fifth-floor residence in August, but many believe that officials are colluding with Dai's

husband, a prominent businessman sur-named Xie, in covering up his involvement. The protest reportedly turned into a riot when police tried to disperse the demonstrators; police fired tear gas into the crowd and arrested at least 12 people. On September 7, the protest started up again in front of the local government office, with hundreds of riot police called to the scene. There was also reported damage at Xie's factory. (Kyodo News)

VILLAGERS PROTEST TO VOTE

Hundreds of villagers clashed with police in Shadui, Guangdong Province on September 12. The villagers said that in retaliation for a land dispute, local officials refused to issue them certificates allowing them to vote in a village election that day, according to Hong Kong's Cable TV station. Several hundred protesters gathered at local government offices on September 13 demanding compensation for those injured in Tuesday's protest. An unidentified Shadui village official told Cable TV that the village election had run into "just a few kinks. It's not really anything." Officials at the Shadui local CPC offices and the local police station declined to comment. (AP)

MIGRANTS' RIOT

A dispute between migrants and security inspectors checking residence permits escalated into a riot in Foshan, Guangdong Province, on September 15, with at least 10 migrants reportedly attacking police booths and setting fire to official vehicles. No one was injured, but one man was arrested after riot police were sent in. A local newspaper reported that the police had defined the riot as "an incident led by some individual lawbreakers inciting disorder by the masses who do not know the facts." (SCMP)

LAID-OFF WORKERS BEATEN AND DETAINED

More than 40 workers laid off from Suining's Suizhou Guesthouse went to the office of the Suining Municipal Party committee to deliver a petition on the morning of September 20. No officials responded until after 4 p.m., when Wang Yanwen, the deputy director of the Suining Municipal PSB, and Li Nianguang, the director of the city's Letters and Petitions Office, arrived with several dozen police officers to remove

the petitioning workers. Police officers reportedly pushed two female workers, **Zhang Xiaohua** and **Liu Xiaohong**, to the ground, and Zhang was badly beaten, suffering serious head injuries and nausea as a result. The Party Committee head reportedly instructed the hospital not to treat the women, but they were admitted nevertheless. Police also forcibly detained two other female petitioners, **Wang Jun** and **Xu Haiyan**, as they were returning home after the petitioning attempt. In addition, a male worker, **Huang Zhu**, was detained by local police after he returned home that evening. (HRIC)

PETITIONERS ARRESTED AHEAD OF THE NATIONAL DAY

More than 200 petitioners were arrested in Beijing on September 20 as police tightened control of petitioning activities around China's October 1 National Day. One petitioner reported being told that anyone petitioning on behalf of human rights lawyer **Gao Zhisheng** would be treated as a Falun Gong practitioner. Eight other people protesting the beating to death of an elderly petitioner outside the U.S. Embassy in Beijing were arrested on September 18. (RSF)

PROTEST ON POLICE POWER ABUSE

More than 400 students protested what they considered excessive force used by police in arresting a student for illegal gambling in Jingzhou, Hubei Province on September 21. The students demanded an explanation, blocked highways and damaged police vehicles. Police denied allegations of police brutality. (RSF)

LAND PROTEST

Some 10,000 villagers on motorcycles protested near the Foshan City government building on September 25 over unreasonable compensation they had received for land acquisitions. Thousands more protested at the government building again on September 28. In related news, on September 17 over 90 percent of voters in Sanzhou Village, Guangdong Province impeached a government cadre that they believed was corrupt. (RSF)

CRACKDOWN ON SHANGHAI PETITIONERS

Twenty petitioners from Shanghai applied

on September 27 to assemble at Tiananmen Square to demonstrate their support for the recent corruption investigation into Shanghai Party Secretary Chen Liangyu. Their application, however, was rejected, and several were sent back to Shanghai. In mid-August, a group of petitioners from Shanghai tried to meet members of the Central Discipline Inspection Committee who went there for an inspection visit. They wanted to express their concerns over forced relocation, corruption and other issues. The committee agreed to meet with petitioners, but instructed them to select five representatives instead of coming in a large group. However, after the petitioners left the building to choose their representatives, police prevented them from returning to the hostel to meet the committee. Local authorities subsequently undertook a series of repressive actions against petitioners who had attempted to meet with the committee. The petitioners wrote an open letter to the committee appealing for help. Petitioners targeted in recent months include Chen Xiaoming, Tian Baocheng, Zhang Cuiping, Wang Shuizhen, Zheng Enchong, Du Yangming, and Mao Hengfeng. **Qiu Meili** was arrested on September 12. (MR, HRIC)

HONG KONG PROTESTERS ON NATIONAL DAY

A dozen protesters mourning the victims of the official crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen protests carried a wreath to the vicinity of a National Day celebration on October 1. They carried a banner that read "The verdict on June 4 hasn't been reversed, how can there be a national day celebration? There can only be national sorrow," while chanting, "Reverse the verdict on June 4." There was a confrontation with police, but no one was arrested. (IHT)

PETITIONERS ARRESTED DURING NATIONAL DAY WEEKEND

Officials from around China traveled to Beijing to arrest petitioners from their regions during National Day weekend. Police also blocked the entrances to the appeal offices of the State Bureau for Letters and Calls, the National People's Congress, the Ministry of Public Security, the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Construction. Additionally, there were reports of petitioners being beaten by hired thugs. (ET)

PROTEST AGAINST POLICE NEGLIGENCE

Nearly 1,000 villagers raided a police sub-station and protested at the town government building in Danzhou, Hainan Province, from October 2 to October 4. The villagers were protesting the death of a young person from their village who they believed died due to police negligence. Two police officers were reportedly injured, and the substation was damaged. The death is under investigation. (RSF)

WORKERS PROTEST FOR HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE IN HONG KONG

The Hong Kong-based People's Alliance for a Minimum Wage reported that 800 workers marched to Hong Kong's Government House on October 3, demanding legislation that would set the minimum wage at HK\$30 an hour. Official reports put the number of protesters at 600. The protesters submitted a petition containing 10,000 signatures supporting the proposed legislation, which has met with objections from employers in Hong Kong. (The Standard)

ORGANIZER OF "KNEELING PROTEST" ARRESTED

Zhou Zirong was reported arrested on October 6 after organizing the "Kneeling Petition on Tiananmen Square," in which farmers protested the fact that they have not received compensation for seizure of their land by local authorities. Zhou's fellow organizer, **Hong Yunzhou** was also reported arrested, and the whereabouts of both were unknown at latest report. (ET)

LAI-D-OFF WORKERS PROTEST IN NANYANG

Workers from forcibly-closed cement plants, lime kilns and quarries in Nanyang City staged a sit-in protest on October 9. Three workers were injured when 100 police officers were called in to break up the protest. Another 400 workers have been staying around the clock at the Huafeng cement factory to press for compensation. (ET)

VILLAGERS PROTEST IN GUANGZHOU
Approximately 900 villagers staged a protest outside government offices in Guangzhou on October 15 over official seizure of their land. When police were sent in to break up the protest, dozens of pro-

testers were beaten, two were hospitalized and some were detained. The police ordered the protesters onto buses back to their hometowns, but they returned later to continue their protest, and some continued on to petition the central government in Beijing. (AsiaNews)

ELDERLY PROTESTERS BEATEN IN BEIJING

It was reported on October 24 that 100 retired scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences were beaten by police after protesting the construction of a power transformer that will supply power to the Olympic Park. The transformer has undermined the foundations of buildings in the neighborhood, causing water pipes and gas lines to burst. The pensioners were reported to have sung the old Communist resistance song "The Internationale" while being attacked (Channel 4 News)

THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS PROTEST DIPLOMAS

Thousands of students from the privately-run Clothing Vocational College in Jiangxi took to the streets after learning that their college was not allowed to award diplomas under the name of a more reputable university. There were no reported injuries or arrests as of October 25, but President Hu Jintao was reportedly so alarmed by the protests that he called an emergency meeting with Public Security Minister Zhou Yongkang. (Times Online)

LARGE-SCALE ROUNDUP OF PETITIONERS IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai police carried out a large-scale roundup of petitioners in late September and early October to prevent them from going to Beijing during the sixth plenary session of the 16th Communist Party Congress. HRIC learned of more than 30 people detained or placed under other forms of restriction since September, but sources said these represented only a portion of the people harassed under orders from deputy Party secretary Liu Yungeng and others. Detainees included: **Zhu Libin**, along with his wife and two children aged 10 and 8, **Guo Rong**, who was prevented from attending the funeral of a sister who died while he was in detention, **Sun Xicheng**, **Wei Qin**, **Liang Faxiang**, **Chen Enjuan**, **Zhou Jinmei**, **Lü Longzhen**, **Li Shujia**,

Ma Zhishen, **Duan Muyun**, **Wang Linzhen**, **Wang Feiyue**, **Ou Chunfang**, **Wu Yuping**, **Chen Zonglai**, **Shen Yonghai**, **Ma Changfa**, **Zhang Xinzhen**, **Zheng Shumei**, **Shao Zhegen**, **Deng Weixiu**, **Liu Pingying**, **Yang Chunhua**, **Lu Shanming**, **Wang Hong**, **Li Caidi** and **Zhu Donghui**. (HRIC)

HIV+ ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Three HIV-positive hemophiliacs were arrested after a routine check-up at a hospital in Shanghai in October. They have publicly accused the government of selling them HIV-tainted blood. After their arrest, almost 30 hemophiliacs gathered outside the municipal building to demand their release, citing health concerns. (AsiaNews)

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

HARASSED

Shanghai Petitioner **Liu Hualin** was beaten by three Shanghai policemen in Tiananmen Square on August 2 while Beijing police officers stood by. She was then sent back to Shanghai. **Feng Liangxi**, the son of Shanghai petitioner **Liu Xinjuan**, was dismissed from his work unit because of his mother's petitioning activities. (RSF, HRIC)

On August 9, rights defender **Guo Feixiong**, also known as **Yang Maodong**, was beaten by train police on his way to Beijing and then taken to Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, where he was detained overnight. On August 10, he was forcibly sent back to his home in Guangzhou. Police falsely accused Guo of holding a fake train ticket; no other reason was given for the beating or detention. Guo had provided legal assistance to Taishi villagers attempting to impeach their village head in August 2005, and since then he has been detained or harassed at least four times. Guo was officially detained in Guangzhou on September 14 and formally arrested on September 28, and charged with setting up a fake publishing house, selling 20,000 books, and using an ISBN without permission. (RSF, AsiaNews)

In late August, it was revealed that a Buddhist temple administered by a 1989 democracy activist, **Master Shengguan** (formerly known as Xu Ziqiang), was being harassed following allegations of corruption made by temple personnel against local officials. Master Shengguan was

forcibly expelled from the temple on August 19 following an incident on June 4 during which he ignored pressure by Yichun's Religious Affairs and United Front departments and joined with another 1989 activist, Li Xiang, in performing rituals of salvation for people killed in the 1989 crackdown. A female temple volunteer was also detained and beaten until she falsely confessed to being involved sexually with Master Shengguan. Several incidents of threats and harassment against the Huacheng Buddhist Temple and its personnel have reportedly been instigated by six top Yichun municipal officials: Party Secretary Song Chenguang, Mayor Yang Xianping, People's Consultative Conference Chairman Zhou Yafu, Religious Affairs Bureau Director Yang Xu, United Front Department Director Xu Jianyuan and Buddhist Association Chairman Miao'an. HRIC also learned that Master Shengguan was ordered to leave Jiangxi Province shortly after his expulsion from the temple. One of Master Shengguan's female supporters, surnamed **Zou**, was forcibly admitted to a hospital for psychiatric treatment on October 21. It is believed that Zou's brother, a government official, collaborated with authorities to orchestrate her arrest. (HRIC)

As a result of intervention by the German media, Three Gorges activist **Fu Xiancai** was admitted to one of China's best rehabilitation hospitals in mid-September. An outspoken advocate for villagers displaced by the Three Gorges Dam, Fu Xiancai was struck in the back of the neck by an unknown assailant on June 8 after local police questioned him over an interview he gave to the German television station Das Erste in May. Fu was hospitalized after the attack and remains paralyzed from the shoulders down. Fu's son, Fu Bing, said that the German media and other concerned individuals saw to it that Fu was transferred to Beijing's China Rehabilitation Research Center, and that he will have adequate funds for his continued medical care. However, local officials continue to harass Fu's family and friends to prevent further discussion of his attack. Some friends have been forced to pay the local PSB 600 yuan per month to cover the cost of surveillance teams that prevent them from leaving the area or talking to the media. The roads in and out of Yanggudian Village are reportedly patrolled by more than a dozen police officers, and any journalists

who come to the village are trailed by police surveillance teams. (HRIC)

Sun Buer, a "Pan-blue Alliance" candidate for a local People's Congress election, and his mother were beaten by four unknown men in Hubei Province on September 12. According to Sun, internal security officers advised him to withdraw from the election on September 12 or he risked being beaten. He refused, and was beaten that night. (RSF)

Yuan Weijing, wife of the activist Chen Guangcheng, was detained by the police after trying to visit her parents and three-year old son, whom she had not seen in over a year, during the Mid-Autumn Festival. She was forced into a police car after the police stopped her bus and was then held for nine hours, during which she was threatened and taunted. Since the arrest of her husband, Yuan has been monitored around the clock and continually harassed by the police. (HRIC)

Zheng Enchong, a Shanghai lawyer who has been under house arrest since June, was prevented from attending a church service on October 14. Police officers surrounded Zheng and his wife, then proceeded to knock Zheng to the ground when he tried to continue on to the church. In protest, Zheng sat on the ground and refused to move until he was forcibly relocated to a room in his building. Earlier in the month, on October 4, shortly before the Chinese Moon Festival, sources say that Zheng Enchong's former high school teacher, a 76-year-old man surnamed Zhu, attempted to visit Zheng along with several old classmates, but police prevented them from going to Zheng's home. On the day of the Moon Festival, October 6, police also reportedly prevented Zheng and his family from visiting his 94-year-old mother as is customary during the holiday. A police officer reportedly told Zheng Enchong that Shanghai's deputy Party committee secretary, Liu Yungeng, had specifically ordered that Zheng be kept under the tightest possible restrictions at home. Police officers have also reportedly harassed Zheng's daughter at school. (HRIC)

On October 25 it was reported that **He Wei**, a Shanghai lawyer, was beaten while trying to investigate a work injury case for a 17-year-old migrant worker. The lawyer was reportedly confronted and beaten by the girl's boss and three of his men when he

went to the factory where she had worked. (CD)

DETAINED

As of August 8, Canadian officials had not been able to ascertain the whereabouts of Uyghur activist **Huseyin Celil**. Celil, a native of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region who holds Canadian and Chinese citizenship, was arrested while visiting Uzbekistan in late March, then extradited to China, where he had been sentenced to death in absentia for his political activities. The 37-year-old father of six was arrested in China for his activism in the mid-1990s, but escaped and was granted refugee status in Turkey in 2001, after which he moved to Canada and became a citizen. In China, Celil may face the death penalty. Celil has had no access to consular officials, lawyers or his family. (Uyghur Human Rights Project)

Zeng Jinyan, the wife of AIDS activist **Hu Jia**, who has been under de facto house arrest since July 17, wrote a letter to the mayor of Beijing complaining of police harassment and rights violations on August 1. Police had been following Zheng for the preceding two weeks. On September 7, **Hu Jia** was detained by 20 plainclothes police officers, who gave no reason for his detention. Hu was released after 12 hours, but was warned that he would be brought in for questioning again the next day. (AsiaNews, AFP, RSF)

The wife of Protestant house church member **Wang Weiliang** was informed on August 14 that her husband had been placed under criminal detention. (RSF)

Beijing authorities admitted on August 18 to having detained civil rights attorney **Gao Zhisheng**. He had disappeared three days earlier after being beaten and detained during the previous month. The Beijing Public Security Bureau arrested Gao Zhisheng on suspicion of "involvement in illegal activities." Gao has been one of the country's boldest advocates for a number of controversial causes, including labor rights, rural issues and freedom of religion. He has also sent critical open letters to the Chinese government and recently staged a hunger strike to protest police abuse of lawyers and activists. Gao was officially arrested and charged with inciting subversion on October 13. (ET, IHT)

At least five dissidents have been

arrested since mid-August, apparently because of their support for detained human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng. The wife of Shaanxi dissident **Deng Yongliang** confirmed that her husband has been held in detention since August 18, when he went to Shandong Province to support rights defender Chen Guangcheng. The authorities arrested **Zhao Xin** in Beijing on August 19 and claimed they would bring him back to his home in Yunnan Province, but Zhao's father said he had not yet returned home. Two other dissidents, **Xiao Qiao** and **Ouyang Xiaorong**, were also arrested on August 21 in Qingdao. Xiao was brought back to Shanghai, while Ouyang was reportedly placed under house detention in Kunming. Hangzhou Democratic Party member **Wang Rongqing** was placed under criminal detention on August 24 for inciting subversion, with a friend speculating that the detention might be related to his calls for Gao Zhisheng's release. Wang has been detained and monitored for his political activities several times in the past two years. (RSF)

Six detained Protestant house church leaders have been formally arrested since August 21 for "inciting violence to resist implementation of the law" after their church in Xiaoshan, Zhejiang Province was destroyed in late July. They are **Ni Wenmin**, **Shen Zhuke**, **Shen Chengyi**, **Wang Weiliang**, **Feng Guanglian**, and **Guo Lijun**. The authorities claimed the church was an illegal structure. (China Aid)

It was reported on September 19 that **Lobsang Palden**, a 22-year-old monk at Karze monastery in Sichuan Province, was detained on August 15 after police raided his room and found several incriminating documents, including photos of the Dalai Lama. He was the eighth monk arrested by Chinese policy in the Karze area this year. (RSF)

Zhang Jianhong, the founder of Aegean Sea (Aiqinhai) Web site, which was closed down in March, was detained on allegations of subversion through his political essays on September 6. Writing under the pen name **Li Hong**, Zhang criticized the government's treatment of journalists, dissidents, and other Chinese citizens in the run-up to the Olympics, calling the situation "Olympicgate." He was taken from his home in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province by police, who also seized his computer equip-

ment. His family was later notified by the local PSB that he had been arrested on suspicion of "inciting subversion of state authority." Zhang, 48, was a founder and editor of the popular literary and news Web site until it was closed for unauthorized posting of international and domestic news. He was previously involved with the 1989 democracy movement and spent 18 months in a reeducation camp for "counter-revolutionary propaganda." (CPJ)

Chen Shuiqing, a founder of the China Democracy Party, was detained on September 14 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, when he reported to the local police in response to a summons. Police also confiscated his computer hard drive. Last year, he was denied license to practice law by the Zhejiang Bureau of Justice, despite passing the exam, because he had posted articles online that were said to have violated the Chinese constitution. (RSF)

ARRESTED

Chinese authorities detained journalist **Zan Aizong** on August 11 for posting reports on the Internet about government repression of Christians. Zan had posted a report in early August detailing the arrests of around 50 Protestants demonstrating against the destruction of a church in late July. He posted another report two days later detailing warnings that he had received from authorities to stop posting the material. He was detained soon after, and the police searched his home and seized personal documents. Zan was freed on August 18, but then received a written notice from his employers dismissing him from his position as bureau chief of the Zhejiang office of *China Ocean News*. (Voice of America)

TRIAL DEVELOPMENTS

It was reported on August 7 that Buddhist practitioner **Lei Dayong** was sentenced to four years in prison in October 2005 by the Tongzhou District People's Court in Beijing for engaging in "illegal business activities." Lei appealed, but the court upheld the verdict in February 2006. The "illegal business activities" involved publishing free Buddhist sutras without official approval. (RSF)

Internet activist **Li Jianping** was sentenced to two years in prison on October 25, the first day of French President Jacques Chirac's visit to China. Li was tried on April 12 on charges of "incitement to

subvert state power" on the basis of articles he wrote that were posted on overseas Web sites. He has been almost completely cut off from communication with his family and lawyer since his detention. The delay in announcing the verdict arguably violates China's Criminal Procedure Law. Li was active in the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in 1989 as the founder of the Independent Federation of Shanghai Universities. (HRIC, RFA)

A court in Beijing sentenced *Straits Times* reporter **Ching Cheong** to five years in prison on August 31 on charges of spying for Taiwan. Ching, a Hong Kong permanent resident detained since April 2005, was also deprived of his political rights for a year and had personal property worth 300,000 *yuan* confiscated. Rights groups and journalists expressed concern for Ching, who is 56 and suffers from high blood pressure. Ching was charged with allegedly receiving money from a Taiwan foundation and using it to buy secret information on China's political, economic and military affairs between 2000 and 2005. It was reported on October 30 that Ching was denied an open appeal hearing for his conviction of espionage. (WP, CPJ)

Lu Jianhua, a sociologist, went on trial behind closed doors on August 16 on accusations of leaking state secrets, apparently due to his alleged links to Ching Cheong. His trial, just a day after Ching's, lasted around 90 minutes. His wife was not allowed to attend the trial because the charge involved state secrets. (NYT)

New York Times researcher **Zhao Yan** was sentenced on August 25 to three years in prison. The court dismissed a charge that he had leaked state secrets to *The New York Times*, for which he was facing a 10-year sentence. However, he was convicted of an unrelated fraud charge, stemming from an accusation that, before working for the *Times*, Zhao had promised but then failed to help a man avoid service at a labor camp in exchange for \$2,500. Zhao has appealed the conviction, but it was reported on November 3 that court officials will not grant an open hearing in the appeal. Zhao's lawyer said that the decision defied clear regulations allowing for open proceedings in criminal cases that do not involve state secrets. (NYT, CPJ)

Chinese Internet activist **Guo Qizhen** went to trial in Hebei Province on Septem-



Members of the Hong Kong political group "Frontier" protest against the jailing of journalist Ching Cheong. Photo: Reuters

ber 12. He was charged with subversion for publishing articles on the Internet, although his lawyer believed his participation in the hunger strike called by Gao Zhisheng was the real reason for the charge. Guo was given a four-year sentence on October 16 for "incitement to subvert state power." (Voice of America, RSF)

Protestant house church pastor **Wang Zaiqing** was given a sentence of two years' imprisonment in Anhui on October 9 on charges of "illegal business practices." Wang's crime was printing and then distributing Bibles and other Christian literature to fellow believers free of charge. Wang's lawyer argued that the crime requires the accused to make a profit, which Wang did not do. (Christian Today)

Kabar Abdureyim and **Alim Abdureyim**, sons of Uyghur activist **Rebiya Kadeer**, were put on trial for tax fraud charges, their sister reported on October 29. Only four family members were allowed to attend the closed trial, which lasted four hours. It is believed that the real reason for the men's arrest is their mother's political activism. (CP)

SENTENCED

Chen Guangcheng, the blind human rights activist who exposed family planning abuses in Shandong Province, was sentenced to four years and three months in prison on August 24 on charges of "damaging property and organizing a mob to disturb traffic." Chen was represented by court-appointed lawyers after police detained three members of his defense team the night before his trial. On October 30, the appeals court overturned the guilty verdict and remanded the case to the county court for a retrial. An appeals court judge stated on November 1 that procedural irregularities were the reason for the decision to overturn the initial verdict. According to the judge, "The procedure by the lower court to assign Chen court-appointed defense attorneys was not consistent with the requirement of the law and therefore had an impact on the trial." (RFA, The Daily Standard)

Tan Kai, a founding leader of the banned environmental group "Green Watch," was sentenced to 1.5 years' imprisonment by a local court in Hangzhou on August 11. His lawyer, Li Heping, stated that Tan was originally detained on charges of "providing state secrets abroad," but the

charge for which he was prosecuted was "illegally procuring state secrets." The charge was based on the fact that, while doing computer repair work for a local Party official, Tan backed up the official's computer files on his own computer. Tan's colleagues at Green Watch believe that the charge was fabricated and that the real issue was the group's controversial work. (RFA)

RELEASED

An Shuxin, a bishop in the underground Catholic church, was released on August 24 after being held under house arrest in Hebei Province for more than 10 years. The release resulted from his acknowledging the government's authority over the church, according to an official bishop at a local church in Hebei. The U.S.-based Cardinal Kung Foundation says six more bishops remain in custody. An Shuxin was reportedly arrested in 1996 for operating an underground seminary. (SCMP)

Deng Yongliang was released to his home in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province on September 7, under police escort. He had been

detained without official charge for three weeks since early August. After his release, police searched his home and confiscated several items, including a computer hard disk, a cell phone and other personal belongings. Deng's wife, Zhu Yuling, told *The Epoch Times* that one of the police officials threatened to sabotage Deng's work in Xi'an unless he stopped engaging in political activities. (RSF)

According to a report by the Associated Press, Vatican-appointed Catholic bishop Julius **Jia Zhiguo**, aged 70, was released and returned to his home in Zhengding, Hubei Province in late September after spending more than 10 months in police custody. Jia was taken away by government agents on November 8, 2005. Jia has spent some 20 years of his life in prison and has been detained by police eight times since 2004. (RFA)

Yang Xiaoqing, a reporter who was jailed in January for alleged extortion, was released on October 17, three months before completion of his one-year sentence. Because the Chinese court did not reverse the guilty decision, Yang's family intends to appeal the conviction now that he is free. (RSF)

DEATH PENALTY

VIOLENT CRIMES

Zhang Zhiyuan, 23, convicted of murdering his father in November 2005, was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve by the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court around August 2. (XH)

Li Guo, convicted of murdering a policeman in September 2005, was sentenced to death by the Chongqing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court on August 2. Li said he would appeal. (XH)

Pang Maosheng, 29, a farmer convicted of murdering a university professor in December 2005, was sentenced to death by the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court on August 2. (The Beijing News)

Jiang xxxquan, **Zhou xxxzhong** and **Su Zexxx** (only partial names reported) were executed on August 3 after the Guangdong Province Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty on murder charges handed down by the Chaozhou Intermediate People's Court. (XH)

Li Wei, **Wang Qianjin** and **Li Ya** were exe-

cuted on August 4 after the Anhui Province Higher People's Court sentenced them to death for assault, leading a triad organization and other charges. (XH)

Fang Lei, a courier, was sentenced to death by the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court on August 8 for a murder that he committed in December 2005. (Eastday.com)

He Chonggang and **Zhang Honglin**, convicted on charges of murder and leading a triad organization, were sentenced to death by the Neijiang Intermediate People's Court in Sichuan Province around August 9. (XH)

Yang Shuming, convicted of murdering nine women between 1992 and 2006, was sentenced to death by the Yangquan Intermediate People's Court in Shanxi Province on August 10. (The Beijing News)

Chen Ping, a former prosecutor, was executed on August 12 after the Shaanxi Province Higher People's Court ratified the death penalty on a murder charge handed down by a local court. (Reuters)

Lin Qingqi, 38 and mentally ill, was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve by the Kunming Intermediate People's Court in on August 16 for killing four people in a vehicular manslaughter case in February 2006. (XH)

Xiong Xutong was executed on August 16 after the Guangdong Province Higher People's Court ratified the death penalty on murder charges handed down by the Dongguan Intermediate People's Court. (XH)

Feng Lifa, convicted of murdering two people, was sentenced to death by the Suichuan Intermediate People's Court in Jiangxi Province on August 21. (XH)

Fu Zhulan, a former cadre convicted of instigating murder, was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve on August 21 after the Guangdong Province Higher People's Court ratified the sentence handed down by the Foshan Intermediate People's Court in a re-trial. Peng Zhongxian and Peng Luxiang, the actual murderers, were executed. (LD)

Huang Jianhua, 49, was executed around August 22 after the Shaanxi Province Higher People's Court ratified the death penalty on a murder charge handed down by the Xi'an Intermediate People's Court. (XH)

Liu Zhonghai and **Wan Hewang**, convicted of murdering two people with hammers, were sentenced to death by the

Chaozhou Intermediate People's Court on August 28. (LD)

Li Fengbo was executed on August 29 after the Shaanxi Province Higher People's Court ratified the death penalty on murder and rape charges handed down by the Weinan Intermediate People's Court. (XH)

Xu Lijun was sentenced to death on armed robbery and assault charges by the Guangdong Intermediate People's Court on August 30. His accomplice **Huang Rongning** was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve. They have launched an appeal. (LD)

Wang Wenda was executed after the Zhejiang Province Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty on rape and robbery charges handed down by a lower court. (Voice of America)

Xiong Xinxing was sentenced to death by the Jiujiang Intermediate People's Court on September 26 for heading an underground organization and causing the death of a man. (PD)

Li Fugui, **Li Qingyou** and **Wu Guojian** were sentenced to death for murder and assault by the Benxi Intermediate People's Court in Liaoning Province on September 22. (XH)

Yang Lidang and **Huang Guoping** were executed near September 20 after the Jiangxi Province Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty on murder charges handed down by the Jiujiang Intermediate People's Court. **Li Zhensheng** was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve in the final verdict. (PD)

Two men surnamed **Shao** and **Luo** were executed on September 14 after the Beijing Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty on murder charges handed down by a lower court. (XH)

Wang Zhonghai was executed on September 13 after the Gansu Province Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty on gun smuggling charges handed down by the Lanzhou Railway Intermediate People's Court. (XH)

The death penalty of a former local People's Congress delegate **Hou Jianjun** was reduced to a death sentence with two-year reprieve by the Liaoning Province Higher People's Court in September because he showed regret and compensated the family of the murdered victim. (The Beijing News)

Qin Ding was sentenced to death by the

Guilin Intermediate People's Court in Guangxi Province on September 11 for committing murder during an act of robbery. (LD)

Chen Bo and **Yuan Hao** were sentenced to death for committing murder by the Lanzhou Intermediate People's Court in Gansu Province on September 7. (XH)

Jiang Yan, Chen Hongyu and two others were sentenced to death on September 5 for murdering a cadre and his wife in Shandong Province. Their accomplice **Liu Ying** was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve. (LD)

Chen Danlei was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve by the Shanghai No. 1 Intermediate People's Court on September 4 for murdering her husband in the U.S. (Wen Wei Po)

Tan Yongzheng, convicted of murdering a policeman, was sentenced to death by the Hezhou Intermediate People's Court in Guangxi Province on August 31. (LD)

Zhu Wenming and **Zhu Liangsheng** were executed near October 4 after the Jiangxi Province Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty on murder charges handed down by the Yingtan Intermediate People's Court. (XH)

Pan Yongzhong and **Liu Zhiqiang** were sentenced to death by the Hohhot Intermediate People's Court in Inner Mongolia on October 10 on murder charges. (The Beijing News)

Zhang Bo was sentenced to death by the Changsha Intermediate People's Court around October 11 for murder. (XH)

Jin Wanhai and **Cao Zhanyong** were sentenced to death by the Shenyang Intermediate People's Court on October 11 on murder charges. (XH)

Wang Daofa was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve by the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court around October 11 for murder. (XH)

Qiu Xinghua was sentenced to death by the Ankang Intermediate People's Court in Shaanxi on October 19 on murder charges. (Nanfang City News)

Li Shisheng, Guan Youju, Chen Maokuan and **Wang Xiangwei** were sentenced to death after the Henan Province Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty handed down for damaging oil pipelines. (XH)

Yang Shuguo was sentenced to death for murder by the Mianyang Intermediate

People's Court in Sichuan near October 31. (XH)

SMUGGLING OF DRUGS, GUNS, ETC.

Tang Shangguang was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve by the Nanning Intermediate People's Court in Guangxi on cigarette smuggling charges, as reported on October 9. (LD)

Zhou Guanglong was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve on October 20 after the Guangdong Province Higher People's Court reduced the death penalty handed down by the Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court for leading a triad organization and other charges. (XH)

Li Bin was sentenced to death by the Shanghai Intermediate People's Court on October 24 on charges of leading triad organizations and drug smuggling. (Eastday.com)

Ma Zeying and **Tan Zhenming** were sentenced to death on October 24 after the Qinghai Province Higher People's Court affirmed the death penalty on gun smuggling charges handed down by the Haidong Intermediate People's Court. (XH)

DRUG TRAFFICKING

Po Chunde and **Zheng Chengdou** were sentenced to death for drug trafficking by the Dandong Intermediate People's Court in Liaoning Province on August 3. (The Beijing News)

Liu Liping was sentenced to death by the Fuyang Intermediate People's Court in Anhui Province near September 27 for heading a drug trafficking group. Her accomplice **Liu Kui** was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve. (XH)

In September, the Guangdong Province Higher People's Court upheld the death sentence for **Zeng Jianji** and two others on drug and weapon smuggling charges that was handed down by a lower court. **He Jinshui** and another were sentenced to death with two-year reprieve. (CD)

ECONOMIC CRIMES

Zhang Baojing, a former cadre convicted on corruption charges, was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve by the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court on August 4. (XH)

Yang Xiangyun, a former senior cadre convicted on corruption charges, was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve by

the Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Nationalities Autonomous Prefecture Intermediate People's Court in Hunan Province on August 4. He said he would appeal. (XH)

Shan Jie, a manager convicted of financial fraud, was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve by the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court around August 17. (XH)

Former cadre and businessman **Liu Junqing** was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve by the Xuancheng Intermediate People's Court in Anhui Province on September 6 for corruption and illegal possession of weapons. (XH)

Cadre **Lei Yuan** was sentenced to death with two-year reprieve on corruption charges by the Changsha Intermediate People's Court in Hunan Province on September 5. (LD)

Sang Yuechun was executed on September 29 after the Supreme People's Court affirmed the death penalty on corruption charges handed down by the Jilin Intermediate People's Court. (PD)

Sang Yuechun was executed on September 29 after the Supreme People's Court affirmed the death penalty on corruption charges handed down by the Jilin Intermediate People's Court. (PD)

ESPIONAGE

Tong Daning, a former central government official, was reported in August to have been executed in April on charges of spying for Taiwan. (Reuters)

ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	Agence France Presse
AP	Associated Press
CD	China Daily
CP	The China Post
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
ET	The Epoch Times
HRIC	Human Rights in China
IHT	International Herald Tribune
LD	Legal Daily
MP	Ming Pao
NYT	The New York Times
PD	People's Daily
RFA	Radio Free Asia
RSF	Reporters Without Borders
SCMP	South China Morning Post
SD	Shanghai Daily
WP	Washington Post
XH	Xinhua News Agency