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## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### Falun Gong practitioners: list of sentences, administrative sentences and those detained

117

29 March 2000

SUMMARY

AI INDEX: ASA 17/12/00

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The attached document records nearly 2300 cases of detention, arrest or sentencing of Falun Gong practitioners since June 1999. These figures reflect information available to Amnesty International in mid-March 2000 and differ from earlier figures published in AI document *"The crackdown on Falun Gong and other so-called 'heretical organizations'"*, AI Index: ASA 17/11/00, published on 23 March 2000. Some of the cases are of identified individuals, others refer to unnamed groups of people. The document includes details of

- around 660 cases of people either held without trial in "re-education through labour" camps or sentenced to prison terms under the Criminal Law;
- nearly 900 recent cases of people detained in police custody; and
- around 740 cases of individuals or groups of people reported to have been detained in July 1999, at the time that the group was banned, but about whom no recent information has been available.

Since the Falun Gong was banned by the Chinese government on 22 July 1999, tens of thousands of practitioners have been arbitrarily detained by police, some of them repeatedly for short periods. Many of them are reported to have been tortured or ill-treated in detention. Some practitioners have been detained in psychiatric hospitals. The number of practitioners who remain in detention is believed to be in the thousands. Some of those detained have been charged with crimes and sentenced after unfair trials, while others have been sent to labour camps without trial. New arrests and detentions continue to be reported every day.

Amnesty International is calling on the Chinese government to stop the mass arbitrary detentions, unfair trials and other human rights violations resulting from the crackdown on the Falun Gong and other groups branded by the government as "heretical organizations". All the information available indicates that the crackdown is politically motivated, with legislation being used retroactively to convict people on politically-driven charges, and new regulations introduced to further restrict fundamental freedoms. For further information see AI document *"The crackdown on Falun Gong and other so-called 'heretical organizations'"*, AI Index: ASA 17/11/00, 23 March 2000.

**KEYWORDS:** RELIGIOUS GROUPS - FALUN GONG1 / RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE1 / FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION1 / TRIALS / DETENTION FOR RE-EDUCATION / UNLAWFUL DETENTION / ARBITRARY ARREST / MASS ARREST / ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION / PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE / TORTURE ILL-TREATMENT

This page summarizes a 60-page document: AI Index: ASA 17/12/00, issued by Amnesty International on 29 March 2000. Anyone wishing further details or to take action on this issue should consult the full document. An extensive range of our materials on this and other subjects is available at <http://www.amnesty.org> and Amnesty International news releases can be received by email: <http://www.amnesty.org/news/emailnws.htm>  
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