

## China Arrests Another Student Leader

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES JUNE 21, 1989

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The authorities today announced the arrest of one of China's most-wanted student leaders, along with another student who was accused of passing on "rumors" to an American reporter.

The student leader was Liu Gang, a 28-year-old graduate student in physics who was a key figure in the pro-democracy movement that began in mid-April and was crushed early this month by army troops in the capital.

Mr. Liu was not one of the best-known leaders, but he was older than most and was generally believed to play an important role advising other members of the unofficial student association that organized demonstrations and hunger strikes.

Mr. Liu was the sixth student on a most-wanted list of 21 student leaders to be arrested or to turn himself in. None of the students have been tried yet, and so it is not known what punishment they face. All 11 workers to be tried so far have been sentenced to death, for taking part in violent protests. Arrested 90 Miles From Capital

The television announced that Mr. Liu was arrested in the city of Baoding, 90 miles southwest of Beijing, where he was hiding in a park while awaiting a train to a more distant city.

"Local policemen found him, and were suspicious, so they took him to the police

station," the television announcer said. "Liu Gang was in shabby clothes and used the assumed name of Zhang Shun. He said he was a laborer, but the policemen saw that he had no thick callouses on his hands and that he had pale skin and that he didn't have the air of a laborer. So the police questioned him further, and he confessed."

Like most of the other students who have been arrested, Mr. Liu appeared calm and composed during his interrogation. There were no obvious signs that he had been beaten, as many of the workers seem to have been by the time they are shown on television.

The other arrested student is Zhang Weiping, a resident of the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, who was said to have called the Voice of America's Beijing bureau to report that the Zhejiang provincial government had lowered its flag to half-staff to honor pro-democracy demonstrators killed in Beijing in the military crackdown. Where Are the Other 15 Students? People's Daily reported that some students had tried to lower the flag to half-staff, but that they did not succeed and that the flag was torn. The newspaper said Mr. Zhang had confessed to spreading the rumor.

It was not clear how Mr. Zhang was caught, but it appeared possible that he identified himself by name in a telephone call to the Voice of America, and that the line was tapped by security agencies.

Most of the 15 students remaining on the most-wanted list are believed to be in hiding around the country, and it is possible that some have found refuge in foreign embassies or have slipped out of the country.

Most of the other students who took part in demonstrations have returned to their homes, because major Beijing area universities have closed for this academic year, and many students have also gone into hiding for fear of being arrested.

The official television and radio also continued to broadcast criticisms of the United States and of Voice of America, which has a major influence in China as a source of unofficial news. The television and radio news programs quoted from a letter that they said was written by an unidentified university professor, asserting that the pro-democracy movement had been "supported, encouraged and plotted by reactionary forces abroad." U.S. Accused of 'Inglorious Role'

The letter specifically mentioned groups in the United States, Hong Kong and Macao, and added that America had no right to criticize China because Americans constantly supported suppression of students in South Korea, of Palestinians in

Israel and of blacks in South Africa.

"The United States, which claimed during the period of this movement to be a friend of China, played an inglorious role," the announcer declared.

Such attacks, almost always in the form of an anonymous letter read aloud by announcers, have become common in the last two weeks and are a sign of the strained relations between the United States and China. A major source of the strain is the United States decision to give refuge in its embassy in Beijing to the dissidents Fang Lizhi and his wife, Li Shuxian.

There have been long lines of people in front of the American Embassy in recent days trying to get visas to travel to the United States. Today, however, hardly any visa applications could be processed because of a new Chinese regulation requiring another layer of permission before people can get visas, on top of an already cumbersome process.

The purpose of the new regulations, which also require an exit permit before someone who has a visa can leave the country, seems to be to prevent students or dissidents from fleeing. It is not yet clear whether the new approvals will be difficult to obtain for those who are not wanted by the police.

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