

More grief and despair for Chinese students

- US protest groups form
- Academic exchanges end

Washington, Boston and San Francisco

Almost one month after unarmed Chinese students and workers were shot down by the People's Liberation Army in Tiananmen Square, the "round-up of counter-revolutionaries" continues. Last week a list of seven wanted intellectuals was circulated by the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Police raided campuses of Beijing College, seizing 15 students and teachers. More than 2,000 people are known to have been arrested and 27 executed.

The names of those killed in Beijing on June 3 and 4 or arrested afterwards are slowly being compiled by human rights organizations. Among those reported dead are Hao Zi Jing, a research assistant in the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Sun Hun, a student in the chemistry department of Beijing University; Xiao Bo, a lecturer in the chemistry department of Beijing University; Yan Wen, a student of statistics at Beijing University; Wang Weiping of Beijing Medical University; Zhong Qing, of the optical instrument department at Qinghua University; Wu Xiandong, a student at Beijing Electronic Instrument Work College.

Those accused of "spreading rumours", "shouting reactionary slogans" or of carrying out acts of "vandalism" are being arrested. Arrests reported by the Asia Watch human rights group include Liu Gang, a physics graduate from Beijing University, one of the "21 Most Wanted" student leaders; Zhou Fengsuo, a physics student at Qinghua University; Ma Hongliang, a student of the Xian Institute of Metallurgy; and Guo Haifeng, secretary-general of the United Association of Beijing Universities.

Chinese students in the United States are still stunned by events, their grief intensified by eye-witness accounts of the killings from a few fellow students who have managed to return to the United States and by gruesome pictures of the Tiananmen Square carnage. As the initial feelings of horror and outrage disappear they are being replaced by frustration, disillusionment and despair. "All our dreams were broken by the massacre," said one student. "All of us who had come here to study, to try and build a better country — now everything has changed. Now you have to separate your feelings: you love your country, but the government is criminal. Chinese intellectuals are now in a very dangerous situation." The first reaction was to try to help those in China.

Students at the University of California at Berkeley, for example, raised \$7,500 to help the injured and the families of those killed. But as yet they have found no means to send the money to China.

Hundreds of students have tried to hit back at the Chinese government campaign of misinformation by joining in a campaign to jam the phone lines of a special police switchboard set up for informers in

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The Tiananmen Square "Goddess of Democracy" (above) was destroyed by the tanks of the People's Liberation Army, but a replica now stands in a small park outside the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC.

Beijing. When the students did get through and were asked to identify a criminal, they responded: "Deng Xiaoping". Individual actions are now gradually giving way to a more organized response. At Berkeley, where there are more than 400 Chinese students, a coordination committee has been set up to try to lobby Congressmen and to try to get the truth through to China. A spokesman said that they knew some fax messages were still being received in China.

In Boston, students at the many local universities have set up a China Information Center. Yuan Liu, a Brandeis University student said the centre's aims were three fold: "to use communication as a weapon; to break Chinese news control by whatever means we can; and to compile names of those arrested and killed as a tool to pressure the government".

Yuan explained that Chinese students are in a dangerous position. "If you're

involved in the movement in any way you are taking a risk. It is certain that you would be arrested if you returned to China. Even if you were not really politically involved here, that doesn't matter." Simply by being in the West, Chinese students and academics may be considered suspect.

Many Chinese students and academics are reluctant to join organized protest groups, fearing that they are being observed constantly. Demonstrations outside the Chinese Embassy are said to have been taped. And while students have welcomed the US government's offer to extend their visas, many fear that they will face extra difficulties when they do decide to return home. At present, it is necessary to declare oneself unwilling to return to China in order to obtain the extension.

Nationwide organizations of Chinese students look set to emerge in the near future. John Cwapisz, an attorney at the Washington-based Center for Peace and Freedom said that 60 groups have come together under the China Democracy Coalition with a range of ideas for action, including organizing a benefit concert with top pop stars to raise money, and a plan to raise a monument to those who died in Beijing. The first official memorial is likely to be the naming of the park in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington as the Tiananmen Square Memorial Park. A bill has already passed the Senate and will go before the House this week.

All cultural and academic exchanges between the United States and China are grinding to a halt. The Institute for International Education administers several exchange programmes, most of which have been postponed. Those of the National Academy of Sciences have been postponed. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has suspended all staff travel to China and is advising grantees not to travel there. The intergovernmental Co-operative Agreement on Science and Technology, which is the umbrella for several US-China collaborative programmes, reaches the end of its five-year lifetime in October and is unlikely now to be renewed.

Universities and agencies are trying to find out exactly what the needs are of the 30,000 Chinese students and 10,000 academics in the United States. NSF says it will consider requests for financial support for grantees who opt to extend their visas. Several hundred academics may be eligible to apply but NSF does not know yet exactly where the money will come from.

One plan under discussion is for NSF to transfer money (some \$3-5 million) budgeted for a cooperative programme with China into a fund that could benefit Chinese students here who are afraid to return.

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