

World Journal, September 20, 2002

English translation below

愛滋組織赴中國大陸駐紐約總領館抗議 Act Up 呼籲北京釋放萬延海

【本報紐約訊】80年代帶領全球愛滋激進運動的「Act Up」組織，昨（19）破例前往中國大陸駐紐約總領事館前抗議，呼籲北京釋放38歲的萬延海。

研究公共衛生專業的萬延海博士，是中國大陸「同志研究」和愛滋病防治的先驅，他因為發表了一份由河南省衛生廳傳到北京的資料，而被扣以「洩漏國家機密」的罪名，從8月24日失蹤至今。河南省是中國大陸愛滋病疫情最嚴重的區域，一般相信，這份「機密」資料呈現的官方統計，還遠比實情輕微。

昨天中午參加抗議的群眾，除了「Act Up」的熱心成員外，還有「紐約亞太裔同志組織」（GAPIMNY）派員到場聲援，

來不及趕來紐約的學運領袖王丹，則發表一份簡單的書面聲明。

王丹在信中指出，「中國愛滋病問題，事實上已經嚴重到超乎所有人想像的地步，它將給中國帶來的災難儘管現在還沒充分顯示出來，但一旦爆發，將導致上百萬人，甚至上千萬人的死亡，為了防止這樣的人間慘劇，揭示真相，讓中國人民知道危險所在是最基本的一步，萬延海做的正是這個工作，然而中國政府不但隱瞞真相，反而將積極從民間角度推動愛滋病防治工作的萬延海逮捕」。

王丹說：「我們呼籲全世界的人都來關注萬延海的命運，關注他，就是關注中國的未來」。

抗議群眾也出示了一封公開信的版本，他們將在各地發動一人一信的運動，要北京公安部部長賈春旺「儘速讓萬延海的家人知道他的去向和安危，儘速讓萬延海與他的律師、家人可以會面溝通，給予他所需要的任何醫療協助」為萬延海的被捕而組織示威的「Act Up」，曾經在美國的愛滋病危機最高潮的初期，從事過幾場震驚世人的抗議運動，他們成功的包圍了華爾街，讓證券交易癱瘓，也曾經在雷根主政時的白宮草坪上揮灑愛滋病人的骨灰。比較起來，昨天的抗議已經溫和得多了。「Act Up」現在活躍的成員中，只有一個來自香港的溫寶玲，昨天的活動由她居中擔任主要的協調。

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AIDS Group Pickets Chinese Consulate in New York

ACT UP Calls On Beijing to Release Wan Yanhai

ACT UP, the leader in global AIDS activism in the 1980's, staged an unprecedented protest in front of the Chinese Consulate in New York yesterday, calling on Beijing to release 38-year-old Wan Yanhai.

Dr. Wan Yanhai, a researcher in public health, is a pioneer in gay studies and AIDS prevention in mainland China. He was accused of "leaking state secrets" for releasing a document heading for Beijing from Henan's Department of Health, and has been missing since August 24th. Henan Province has the worst AIDS crisis in mainland China, and it is widely believed that the official statistics revealed in this "secret" are gross underestimates.

Besides the enthusiastic members of ACT UP, members of Gay Asian and Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY) also came in support of yesterday's noon protest. Wang Dan, the pro-democracy leader who could not be present in New York, released a simple statement.

Wang Dan pointed out, "China's AIDS epidemic has already exceeded our worst fears. The disaster that it will bring to China has not yet shown its full force; the looming explosion will cause the deaths of a million, even ten million, people. In order to prevent this human tragedy from happening, the most basic step is to reveal the truth and to let the Chinese people know of this danger. This is exactly the mission of Wan Yanhai. However, not only does the Chinese government conceal the truth, but it also arrests Wan Yanhai, a tireless grassroots activist working for AIDS prevention."

Wang Dan said, "We call upon the whole world to be concerned with the fate of Wan Yanhai. To be concerned with him is to be concerned with the future of China."

The protesters also pledged to start a global letter campaign. They showed a version of an open letter demanding that the head of Beijing's Ministry of State Security "immediately inform Wan Yanhai's family of his condition and safety, and insure that Wan Yanhai receives full access to his family, lawyers, and medical treatment."

ACT UP, who organized the protest against Wan Yanhai's arrest, was responsible for several earth-shattering actions during the early years of the AIDS crisis in the U.S. They successfully surrounded Wall Street, paralyzing the stock exchange; they have also thrown ashes of AIDS victims onto the White House lawn during Reagan's administration. In comparison, yesterday's protest was much milder. Of ACT UP's current active members, only Laurie Wen is from Hong Kong. She was one of the main organizers of yesterday's action.

use back button on browser to return