

World and Nation

More Chinese dissidents arrested, executed

From Associated Press reports

BEIJING — Two prominent dissidents were arrested, and a Hong Kong newspaper reported today that about 20 people have been executed for joining in pro-democracy protests. The Chinese-language newspaper

Ming Pao said the executions took place about 10 days ago, and that most of the group were members of an outlawed independent workers' union set up during the protests.

The Beijing People's High Court refused to comment on the report, as

did police. Several dozen executions are known to have taken place since the protests were crushed June 3-4, but the authorities have linked only 12 to the protests. Many Chinese believe the number is far higher.

A man who identified himself only as the husband of leading journalist Dai Qing said Tuesday that she was arrested last week. He said plainclothes police came to their home during dinner, said they wanted to talk to her, searched the apartment briefly and led her away. He said he had not heard from her since.

The official Xinhua News Agency said a Shanghai man jailed for two years after China's last round of student protests, in 1986-87, was arrested again on the same charge of conducting "demagogical propaganda for counterrevolutionary purposes."

Yang Wei had been released from prison in January. Xinhua accused him of collecting information during the recent protests for a U.S.-based Chinese expatriate group, the Chinese Alliance for Democracy, which seeks political reforms and which China has condemned as reactionary.

During Yang's first jail term, the U.S. Congress urged his release.

Dai's arrest was not reported in the official media. The officially reported arrests total about 2,060 nationwide, but Chinese sources say more than that number have been arrested in Beijing alone, and that more people are taken into custody each day.

The authorities may be withholding information on arrests, especially of leading intellectuals and student

protesters, in order to avoid further international criticism of the crackdown.

The Chinese government has been trying to encourage foreign businessmen and tourists who fled during the army crackdown to return, and has said their safety is guaranteed.

Bo Xicheng, head of Beijing Tourism Administration, told foreign travel agents last week that the government would pay \$100,000 to the family of any tourist "killed irregularly" in Beijing because of martial law. Tourism officials said they did not know what "irregularly" meant.

Also today, one of China's most popular and controversial television programs was condemned on the front page of the People's Daily in an essay that set the tone for the government's new hard line.

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Ethnic riots flame in USSR

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — Authorities declared a state of emergency in the Back Sea resort area of Abkhazia, where warring ethnic groups have begun attacking government troops and stealing their weapons, Tass said today.

The Soviet news agency said at least 18 people have been killed in four days of bloody clashes between armed mobs of rioters in Abkhazia, a region in the southern Soviet republic of Georgia. Several hundred have been wounded.

Tass said the clashes were continuing between ethnic Georgians and

Abkhazians, and that groups of about 100 people in cars have been attacking Interior Ministry troops called in to quell the violence.

The roving mobs are attacking troops and citizens "for the purpose of seizing arms and ammunition," the official news agency said. It said such attacks "have become commonplace."

Tass said the leadership of Abkhazia's legislature declared a state of emergency shortly before midnight Tuesday. It also said troops were trying to disarm the rioters.

An Interior Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity,

said the state of emergency includes an 11 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew. About 3,000 Interior Ministry troops have been sent to the region to try to restore order.

Soviet news reports in recent days have portrayed a region gripped by terror and mob violence, with widespread sniper attacks, kidnappings, beatings, lootings and gunfights.

The death toll on Tuesday was 16 and Tass said it climbed to 18 Wednesday.

Abkhazians are a minority in their homeland, a 3,320-square-mile autonomous region within Georgia. Georgians outnumber Abkhazians 240,000 to 90,000 in the region and both sides claim discrimination by the other.

The wave of violence has closed most of the Sukhumi's factories, caused food and fuel shortages and paralyzed public transportation, Tass said. Local newspapers have not published since Sunday.

The region is about 870 miles south of Moscow.

Deputy Interior Minister Ivan F. Shilov said on the TV news show Vremya Tuesday that 239 people had been wounded, and 188 remained hospitalized.

The region is a popular resort area and Soviet news reports Tuesday said thousands of tourists were being evacuated.

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