

Headline **China AIDS activist goes on trial**
Date **23 Sep 2010**
MediaTitle **New Sabah Times English (KK)**
Section **World**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily**
Circ / Read **23,655 /**

Language **English**
Page No **L-16**
Article Size **59 cm²**
Color **Black/white**
ADValue **114**
PRValue **343**



China AIDS activist goes on trial

BEIJING: A 23-year-old Chinese man who contracted the HIV virus as a boy and campaigns for the rights of AIDS sufferers has stood trial in central China for damaging property, state media said Wednesday.

Tian Xi was arrested in Henan province's Xincui county in August after causing damage at a local hospital where he believed he got the virus from a tainted blood transfusion, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The Xincui county court is to announce its verdict "another day", the report added.

Tian has lobbied for compensation for thousands of Chinese people who have contracted HIV, the virus that

causes AIDS, through contaminated blood supplies.

Henan was hugely affected by an AIDS scandal in the 1990s that saw entire villages devastated by the condition.

Many people were infected after repeatedly selling their blood to collection stations that pooled it into a tub and then injected it back into them after extracting the plasma.

Tian learned recently that local officials had urged police to detain him to curtail his activism, according to the Chinese AIDS campaign group Aizhixing.

Tian's father has written a letter to the head of UNAIDS China asking for help, saying his son was diagnosed with

AIDS, hepatitis B and C when he was 17, according to the group.

"This was a serious blow for my family. My wife suffered from mental illness," he wrote in the letter published on the group's website.

Tian then ran out of medicine and went to see the director of a hospital, who did nothing.

"In the end, Tian Xi could not bear it. In a moment of anger, he dropped a teacup and some office supplies," the letter read.

At least 740,000 people are living with HIV in China, according to official figures, but campaigners say the actual figure could be far higher. - AFP