

## Provisional Regulations on Punishing Illegal Landlords in East China

October 21, 1950

Issuing Authority: East China Military and Political Committee

The East China Military and Political Committee adopted the resolution at its 28th Administrative Meeting on September 19, 1950, and was approved by the GAC of the Central People's Government for promulgation and implementation.

Article 1: These Regulations are formulated in accordance with Articles 32 and 33 of the Land Reform Law of the People's Republic of China in order to ensure that land reform is carried out in an orderly manner, protect the people's wealth, and strictly prohibit all acts by illegal landlords that undermine land reform.

Article 2: Any landlord who disobeys and undermines land reform laws, harms the interests of farmers and disrupts production shall be punished in accordance with these regulations, unless otherwise provided by law.

Article 3: Anyone who attempts to defy or sabotage land reform and commits any of the following acts shall be punished with public repentance, forced labor, or imprisonment of not more than one year, depending on the severity of the offense:

1. Those who disperse, transfer or conceal the land by selling, pledging, giving away, false selling, false pledging or false division of the family;
2. During the rent reduction period, those who illegally seize the land or take away the houses, causing losses to the farmers;
3. Those who sell their houses at a discount;
4. Those who cut down trees;
5. Killing or intentionally starving to death farm animals;
6. Damaging farm tools or crops;
7. Those who intentionally abandon land.

Article 4: Anyone who attempts to defy and undermine land reform and commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than five years, depending on the severity of the circumstances, if there is substantiated evidence:

1. Spreading rumors to confuse the public and sow discord between farmers and the people's government, causing serious consequences;
2. Using illegal means to distribute land in the name of farmers' associations, or usurp and manipulate rural political power;
3. Those who sow discord among peasants, create internal disputes, cause sectarian struggles, and cause property losses or physical harm to the people;
4. Bribing or inducing others to provide cover for him/her by using money or other improper means;

5. Those who use threats, inducements, deception and other means to seize the land and property that farmers have already distributed.

Article 5: Anyone who attempts to defy and undermine land reform and commits any of the following acts shall be sentenced to death or imprisonment of not less than ten years if there is substantiated evidence:

1. Leading the organization of bandit armed forces or colluding with bandit and special forces to resist the people's government, kill farmers, or otherwise seriously endanger the interests of farmers;

2. Leading or organizing feudal superstitious groups to launch riots, kill peasants, or otherwise seriously harm the interests of peasants;

3. Sniping or assassinating farmers and workers, causing serious injuries or death;

4. Burning houses, food, damaging forests or water conservancy projects by means of explosions and arson, thereby causing serious losses of life and property;

5. Those who lead a crowd and use violence or coercion to interfere with the peasant movement, resulting in the death of others or serious acts of sabotage.

Article 6: A minor offender who commits any of the crimes in the preceding article shall be sentenced to imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than ten years. A person who commits any of the crimes in the preceding article under duress or deception may be sentenced to imprisonment of not more than one year or be subjected to labor education, depending on the severity of the circumstances and the degree of repentance.

Article 7: Anyone who commits the crime set forth in the first paragraph of Article 3 shall, in addition to being punished according to law, be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Land Reform Act.

Anyone who commits the crime prescribed in Article 3, Paragraph 2, or Article 4, Paragraph 5, shall, in addition to being punished according to law, return all land, houses, and property and compensate the losses suffered by the farmers.

Anyone who commits any of the crimes listed in Article 3, Paragraphs 3 to 7 shall, in addition to being punished according to law, be required to recover in full the property damaged.

Article 8: The attempted crimes mentioned in the clauses of Article 4 and Article 5 may be exempted from the penalty for the completed crimes or be subject to labor education, depending on the actual circumstances, social impact and the reasons for the attempt.

Article 9: Anyone who commits a crime as provided for in Articles 3 and 4 but confesses and repents to the People's Government without exposing or reporting the crime may be given a reduced sentence or exempted from punishment according to the severity of the circumstances.

Article 10: Anyone who commits the crime specified in Article 5 but confesses all circumstances to the People's Government without exposing or reporting the crime, surrenders his weapons, and truly repents and reforms may be given a reduction in sentence or exempted from punishment according to the severity of the crime and the degree of his repentance.

Article 11: Those who repent and reform according to the preceding two articles shall have their sentences commuted or exempted; if they commit the same offense again, their sentences shall be increased.

Article 12: Anyone has the right to expose, report, and secretly inform the people's government and the people's court about the criminal acts of landlords. Those who expose, report, and secretly inform are untrue and not motivated by malicious intent will not be investigated; those who deliberately make false accusations or frame others will be punished.

Article 13: The executing agency of this Act is the county people's court and its branch courts. Death penalty and sentences of imprisonment of more than five years must be submitted to the provincial (regional) people's government or the commissioner's office designated by the provincial (regional) people's government for approval before they can be executed. Decisions of imprisonment of less than five years and commutation of sentence must be approved by the county people's government.

Article 14: These Regulations shall enter into force on the date of promulgation. The right of interpretation shall belong to the East China Military and Political Committee. The same shall apply to any amendments.