

## **Regulations on the Procedures for Arresting Illegal Landlords in Cities during Land Reform**

December 1, 1950

Central South Military and Political Committee

Our Central and Southern regions are about to launch a large-scale land reform movement. In order to prevent illegal landlords from fleeing to cities to defy and sabotage land reform, to support the development of the peasant movement and completely defeat the landlords' resistance and rule in the countryside, and to prevent peasants from entering cities at will to capture illegal landlords and cause chaos, our association has specially formulated the "Regulations on the Procedures for Arresting Illegal Landlords in Cities during Land Reform". They will be promulgated herewith and will take effect on December 1, 1950. All levels of government, mass organizations and the entire people are requested to comply with them!

### Provisions on the procedures for arresting illegal landlords in cities during land reform

Our Central and Southern Region is about to launch a large-scale land reform movement. In order to prevent illegal landlords from fleeing to cities to defy and sabotage the land reform, to support the defeat of the landlords' reactionary rule over the countryside, and to avoid causing chaos by farmers from all over the country going into cities to arrest the bully landlords, the following procedures are stipulated for arresting illegal landlords in cities during the land reform:

(1) Any illegal landlord who, in order to defy and sabotage land reform, flees to cities or towns outside the province and fails to comply with the legal procedures for returning to his hometown to declare land clearance may be handled in accordance with the following procedures after the original farmers or farmers' associations file a complaint with the county people's government or the people's court, and after review by the county people's government and approval by the people's government at or above the county level:

(1) Any illegal landlord who flees to the county seat or other towns within the county shall, with the approval of the county people's government, be arrested by the county public security bureau and handed over to the farmers' association or the people's court for handling in accordance with the law.

(2) Any illegal landlord who flees to a city or town outside the county but within the province shall, after examination and approval by the county people's government, go directly to the city or county people's government with a letter of introduction from the county people's government (if it is a provincial capital, it should go through the provincial government and hold a letter of introduction from the provincial government) and, with the consent of the local city or county people's government, the city or county public security organ shall arrest the person who has been sent and bring him back.

(3) Any illegal landlord who has fled to any major city or other county town in the Central and Southern regions outside the province should be reported to the special administrative agency and the provincial people's government for approval after being examined by the county people's government. He should then go directly to the city or county people's government with a letter of introduction from the provincial people's government. With the consent of the city or county people's government, the city or county public security organ shall arrest him and hand him over to

the dispatched personnel to be brought back. If he is from a neighboring county, he may be dealt with in accordance with the second paragraph of the neighboring county regulations.

(4) Any illegal landlord who has fled to a city in another major administrative region (such as East China, North China, or Northwest China) outside this region and must return should obtain approval from the provincial people's government to which he belongs and then go to the neighboring province with a letter from the provincial people's government. The matter may be handled in accordance with the second paragraph.

(2) When peasants come with letters of introduction to arrest illegal and evil landlords, the municipal and county people's governments to which illegal landlords have fled should, from the standpoint of supporting the peasant movement, actively help and warmly entertain them. They should appoint special personnel to investigate. If the materials are true, they should designate the public security organs to handle the case promptly and properly. They should not be perfunctory. If they encounter different opinions, they should promptly reflect their opinions to the original agency that sent the personnel for consultation and handle the case only after reaching a consensus.

(3) The local people's government or people's court shall handle the arrested criminals brought back to the countryside in public according to law and announce the results of the handling. If the criminals are arrested from big cities, their crimes and the results of the handling shall be notified to the people's government of the city where they originally fled and lived, and announced in newspapers or notices in the city to avoid only seeing the arrest of the person but not the results of the handling, which would arouse doubts from all walks of life.