

## **Mao Zedong's Letter to Huang Yanpei Regarding Materials on the Suppression of Counterrevolutionaries in Guangdong and Guangxi**

**17-02-1951**

Just now, I sent you a report on the rectification of excessive leniency in Guangdong. Now, I am sending another one from Guangxi for your reference.

These two places are the most **typical examples**—although conditions in other regions are not as severe, they are generally **not far off**, and **widespread public dissatisfaction** has resulted.

If **ringleaders of bandits** and **habitual criminals** are not executed, the bandits cannot be completely eradicated, and the more we try to suppress them, the more they multiply.

If **local tyrants** are not executed, **peasant associations cannot be formed**, and **peasants dare not divide the land**.

If **important secret agents** are not executed, acts of **sabotage and assassination** will continue to emerge one after another.

In short, when it comes to **bandit leaders, tyrants, and important secret agents**, a **firm policy of suppression** must be adopted—only then can the masses be liberated, and the people's government be consolidated.

Of course, for those **whose execution is debatable**, they should be sentenced to **prison**, or handed over to the **masses for surveillance**, and **reformed through labor**—they should **not be executed**.

Just as **leniency must have boundaries**, **suppression must also have boundaries**. Boundless actions are **incorrect**.

In areas where the **problem has already been resolved** and the **masses are already satisfied**, **no further executions** should take place.