

110 executed on UN anti-drug day

By Wu Zhong

CHINESE authorities executed at least 110 drug offenders in mass rallies across the country yesterday to mark the United Nations-sponsored International Anti-Drug Day.

Among those executed were two people from Hong Kong, one from Macau and one from Taiwan.

Judges sentenced 769 convicted drug criminals to the death penalty or life imprisonment at 62 mass rallies nationwide, Xinhua News Agency reported.

About 1.75 million people attended public sentencing rallies held at the same time yesterday morning in 27 provinces and municipalities.

Trafficking in more than 50 grams of any drug is punishable by death in China.

Yesterday, sentences were passed on 1,725 drug traffickers in 939 cases, while a large quantity of confiscated drugs was publicly destroyed.

Beijing authorities executed five convicted drug traffickers and another 13 sentenced to death were given time to appeal.

Authorities in Guangdong province executed 29 people, with 20 executed in Guangzhou and three each in Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Zhaoqing.

The three executed in Zhaoqing



END OF THE LINE: Five drug offenders are taken away for execution after a public sentencing rally in Beijing.

ing included two Hong Kong residents and one person from Macau who were convicted under organised-crime statutes.

In the southwestern province of Yunnan, 32 drug offenders, including a Taiwanese man convicted of trying to bring 800 grams of an unspecified drug to Hong Kong, were executed in the provincial capital of Kunming.

The largest mass execution in the past two days occurred in Sichuan province, which borders Yunnan, known for its active drug industry.

Thirty-five people were ex-

ecuted in three cities in Sichuan.

A court in Chengdu, Sichuan's provincial capital, executed 21 drug smugglers and dealers on Tuesday.

In Fujian province, four drug offenders were executed yesterday. Three others were executed in Inner Mongolia.

Police seized 575 kg of heroin and 234 kg of opium in the first quarter of this year, up 73 per cent and 10 per cent respectively over the same period in 1995.