

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 164/93 (ASA 17/20/93, 19 May 1993) and follow-ups (ASA 17/21/93, 25 May, ASA 17/24/93, 17 June, ASA 17/35/93, 13 August, and ASA 17/43/93, 10 December) - Mass arrest / Fear of ill-treatment

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Gendun Rinchen
(TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION): Lobsang Yonten

Damchoe Pemo
Lobsang Gyaltzen
Tashi Topgyal
and an unknown number of other Tibetans

Gendun Rinchen and Lobsang Yonten, two Tibetan human rights monitors arrested in May 1993 in Lhasa and charged with "stealing state secrets" and engaging in "separatist activities", have been unexpectedly released, according to unofficial sources in Lhasa. Lobsang Yonten is believed to have been released on 10 January and Gendun Rinchen on 11 January though little is known as yet about the circumstances of their release.

The Chinese authorities so far have not issued any public statement confirming the releases and it is not known if the two men have been released on bail pending a trial or whether all charges against them have been dropped.

The men, who have been held for the last eight months in solitary confinement in Seitru Detention Centre, in the north-eastern suburbs of Lhasa, were apparently not ill-treated or subjected to torture as was feared. They are reported to be in reasonable health, although Gendun Rinchen is said to have noticeably lost weight.

International appeals from human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, pressure from European Community Governments and unprecedented pressure by Tibetans in Tibet are believed to have played a vital role in securing the releases of Gendun Rinchen and Lobsang Yonten.

There has been no further information about Lobsang Gyaltzen and Tashi Topgyal. Damchoe Pemo was released in 1993 (see ASA 17/43/93, 10 December).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gendun Rinchen, a 46-year-old tour guide was arrested from his home in Lhasa on the night of 13 May 1993 by the State Security Bureau, apparently because police had found out he was preparing to hand some letters describing the state of human rights in Tibet to a group of visiting European Community diplomats. Lobsang Yonten, a former monk aged 64, was arrested two days earlier, when

drafts of Gendun Rinchen's appeal letters were found in his house. The letters were addressed to the delegation of European Ambassadors who were due to arrive in Lhasa on 16 May 1993 on a fact finding mission focusing on human rights. According to unofficial sources in Lhasa the names of Tibetans arrested for their political beliefs and descriptions of prison conditions were also found with the letters.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- welcoming the release from prison of Gendun Rinchen and Lobsang Yonten;
- calling on the Chinese authorities to make public the conditions of their release and whether all charges against them have been dropped;
- urging the Chinese authorities to ensure that they are allowed full freedom of movement;
- urging the authorities to release unconditionally any Tibetans, including Lobsang Gyaltzen and Tashi Topgyal, held for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights and to account for all those detained in connection with recent demonstrations and disclose the charges against them.

APPEALS TO:

1) Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate:

ZHANG Siqi Jianchazhang
Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan
147 Beiheyuan Dajie

Donganmen, Dongchengqu
Beijingshi 100726, People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Zhang Siqi, Jianchayuanzhang, Beijing, P.R. China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

(please forward to Zhang Siqi Jianchayuanzhang)

Faxes: + 861 512 6655 ext. 1053

Salutation: Dear Procurator-General

2) President of the Xizang Autonomous Regional People's Government:

GYALTSEN Norbu Zhuxi
Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu
1 Kang'andonglu

Lasashi 850000

Xizang Zizhiqu, People's Republic of China

Telegrams: President Gyaltzen Norbu, Lasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, China

Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGMVT CN

Salutation: Dear President

3) Director of the Xizang Autonomous Regional Department of Public Security:

BAIMA Doji Tingzhang
Gong'anting

Linkuodonglu

Lasashi 850000

Xizang Zizhiqu, People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Baima Doji, Gong'antingzhang, Lasa, Xizang Zizhiqu, P.R. China

Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Secretary of the Xizang Autonomous Regional Party Committee:

CHEN Kuiyuan Shuji

Zhonggong Xizang Zizhiqu Weiyuanhui

Lasashi
Xizang Zizhiqu, People's Republic of China

2) Chairman of the Xizang Autonomous Regional People's Congress Standing Committee:

RAIDI Zhuren
Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Daibiao Dahui
Changwu Weiyuanhui
Lasashi
Xizang Zizhiqu, People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office if sending appeals after 25 February 1994.