

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/26/98

28 July 1998

**Further information on UA 314/97 (ASA 17/41/97, 3 October 1997) -
Torture/Medical Concern/Prisoner of conscience**

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Jampel Tendar, aged 20, Buddhist monk

According to information from an official Chinese source, Jampel Tendar, a monk from Gongkar Choede monastery in the Tibet Autonomous Region, was sentenced on 1 September 1997 at the Shannan Prefecture Intermediate People's Court to four years imprisonment plus two years deprivation of his political rights.

He was charged with "engaging in separatist activities", a political charge thought to relate to reports that he put up handwritten posters around the monastery declaring support for the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, and for Tibetan independence. The posters reportedly included a drawing of the Tibetan flag, which is illegal in Tibet.

Jampel Tendar was initially reported to be detained in Gutsa Detention Centre, but is now said to be in prison - it is not known which one. Despite official assurances that he has been treated humanely, reports that he has been beaten and tortured have raised serious concern for his health and safety. It is not known whether he has been given any medical attention.

The information states that Jampel Tendar was detained by police on 13 June 1997, conflicting with earlier information of his date of detention as 16 June 1997.

Amnesty International has for many years documented the frequent torture of political detainees throughout China. Most of those tortured in Tibet are people detained for activities in favour of Tibetan independence.

Eye-witnesses and former victims report that detainees have been beaten, given electric shocks and tied with ropes in extremely painful positions.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Jampel Tendar who is a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern that Jampel Tendar has been sentenced to four years imprisonment on charges which do not constitute a crime recognisable under international standards;
- expressing concern that Jampel Tendar has reportedly been tortured and ill-treated during his detention;
- urging the authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure Jampel Tendar's physical safety and to provide medical treatment as needed;
- expressing concern that monks at Gongkar Choede continue to suffer harassment, and seeking assurances that no other monks will be detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression and opinion.

APPEALS TO:

President of the People's Republic of China
Jiang Zemin Guojia Zhuxi
Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telegram: President Jiang Zemin, Beijing, China

Salutation: Your Excellency

Chairman of the Xizang Autonomous Regional People's Government
Legchog Zhuren (formerly Gyaltzen Norbu)
Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Zhenguf
1 Kang'angdonglu
Lasashi 850000
Xizang Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China
Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or PGVMT CN
Telegrams: Chairman, Xizang Government, Xizang, China
Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 September 1998.