

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/27/98

UA 212/98

Fear of torture and
ill-treatment / Medical concern 29 July 1998

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Lodroe Gyatso, aged 35, professional dancer and
champion weight lifter
Ngawang Jungne, aged 29, monk, from Damshung
county

There are serious physical and mental health concerns for Lodroe Gyatso and Ngawang Jungne. Both men have reportedly been severely tortured during their detention in Tibet's Drapchi prison and are believed to be at continued risk.

Unofficial sources say that Lodroe Gyatso, who was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for murder in 1993, has been in solitary confinement for an unspecified amount of time. He reportedly has damaged kidneys and incontinence as a result of being tortured. He also has psychological problems, including partial loss of memory, following his long term of solitary confinement. His sentence was extended by six years in 1995 for his involvement in pro-independence activities while in Drapchi prison.

Ngawang Jungne also reportedly has mental health problems after being tortured and held in solitary confinement for over six months. He has apparently lost his memory and is not eating or wearing clothes. He was detained in January 1993 on his return from India where he had worked as a Tibetan language teacher. He is serving a nine year sentence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

An Urgent Action was recently issued following the violent suppression of demonstrations inside Drapchi prison on 1 and 4 May leading to severe beatings and ill-treatment of many prisoners, particularly those detained for political reasons. Some were reportedly so severely beaten they required hospitalization and one person may subsequently have died.

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

- expressing concern at reports of the torture and ill-treatment, including long periods in solitary confinement of Lodroe Gyatso and Ngawang Jungne and other prisoners detained at Tibet's Drapchi prison;
- expressing concern at reports that Lodroe Gyatso and Ngawang Jungne are both reported to be suffering from psychiatric problems as a result of being ill-treated at Drapchi prison;
- requesting that Lodroe Gyatso and Ngawang Jungne receive immediate medical attention;
- continuing to urge that all prisoners in solitary confinement be released and that all prisoners held at Drapchi prison solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

President of the People's Republic of China

JIANG Zemin Guojia Zhuxi

Beijingshi

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: 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 Zhengfu

1 Kang'angdonglu

Lasashi 850000, Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Chairman, Regional People's Government, Lasa, Xizang Autonomous Region, China

Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN

Salutation: Dear Chairman

COPIES TO:

Prison Governor, Drapchi Prison/Tibet Autonomous Regional Prison No.1

Jianyuzhang

Xizang Zizhiqu Di Yi Jianyu

Lasashi 850003

Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of the 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 9 September 1998.