

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: 17/01/93

Distr: UA/SC

5 January 1993

Further information on UA 425/91 (ASA 17/72/91, 5 December 1991) - and follow-up (ASA 17/06/92, 13 January 1992) - Health Concern/Fear of Ill-treatment

**People's Republic of China: Sonam Wangdu
and new name: Lhundrup Gaden**

New photographic evidence showing Sonam Wangdu in a wheelchair and an accompanying report smuggled out of Tibet indicate that the 38-year Tibetan trader, serving a life sentence in Drapchi Prison, Lhasa, for the alleged murder of a policeman during a demonstration in March 1988, has become paralysed below the waist.

According to the report the lower part of his body is now "senseless". The photograph shows a plastic tube used to drain his urine suggesting that he is unable to control his bladder and confirms earlier reports that he had suffered a serious kidney and bladder injury.

Sonam Wangdu was reportedly badly beaten when he took part in protests following the death in December 1990 of a political prisoner also held in Drapchi Prison. Recent information suggests that he was initially beaten and tortured during interrogation in Gutsa Detention Centre, prior to his trial in January 1989. According to Tibetan sources he has been repeatedly transferred from prison to hospitals in the area and back.

A second photograph shows Lhundrup Gaden (whose lay name is Tashi Gyatso), a 22-year-old prisoner of conscience and former monk at Ganden Monastery, who is now reported to be paralysed from the neck down and said to be "fighting for his life".

At the time of his arrest in March 1988 Lhundrup Gaden was allegedly beaten unconscious and sustained injuries to his head. He was sentenced to three years for demonstrating and despite his physical injuries was reportedly forced to work in prison greenhouses where his condition deteriorated. His sentence was increased by an additional nine years for allegedly shouting slogans while in prison and providing money to an inmate preparing an escape.

Both Sonam Wangdu and Lhundrup Gaden were in good health at the time of their arrests in 1988. Amnesty International is very concerned about the present critical state of their health.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telexes and airmail letters:

- expressing grave concern about Sonam Wangdu and Lhundrup Gaden's health and urging the authorities to ensure that they receive immediate, sustained and adequate medical attention, and that their ongoing state of health is made public;

- expressing concern again at reports that ill-treatment reportedly takes place at Gutsa Detention Centre and Drapchi Prison in Lhasa and urging that these reports be impartially investigated.

APPEALS TO:

1) Tibet Autonomous Region President:

Gyaincain Norbu Zhuxi
Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu
Lasashi
Xizang Zangzu Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China
Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN

Salutation: Dear President

2) Regional Chief Procurator:

YANG Youcai Jianchazhang
Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Jianchayuan
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Xizang Zangzu Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China
Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN

Salutation: Dear Procurator

3) Supreme People's Procuratorate President:

LIU Fuzhi Jianchazhang
Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan
Beijing
People's Republic of China
Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Salutation: Dear Chief Procurator

COPIES TO:

The Editor of Tibet Daily (newspaper):

JIA Rui Zongbianji
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Xizang Zangzu Zizhiqu
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Secretary, Chinese Communist Party Regional Committee:

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and to the office of the Xinhua news agency and 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 16 February 1993.