

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 14/92**

**Solitary Confinement/Health Concern**

**10 January 1992**

**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC)**

**(TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION)**

**Jigme Sangpo**

**Three other unnamed Drapchi prisoners**

Amnesty International has received reports that four prisoners, including at least one possible prisoner of conscience named Jigme Sangpo, were put into solitary confinement on 6 December 1991 because one of them reportedly shouted slogans supporting Tibetan independence. The reported incident occurred in Drapchi, a prison and reform-through-labour camp in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of the PRC.

On 6 December 1991 a delegation of Swiss diplomats and legal experts visited Drapchi prison. During their visit one of the prisoners held in Cell Block No 1, a young man, reportedly shouted slogans expressing support for the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan leader in exile, and for Tibetan independence. The young man and three other prisoners from Block No 1 were then reportedly taken into solitary confinement.

The present whereabouts of the four detainees are unknown. Amnesty International is concerned that they may be held in solitary confinement in conditions which may amount to torture or cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment. Amnesty International is also concerned about the state of health of the four prisoners, one of whom, Jigme Sangpo, has spent a total of over 25 years in detention and was reported in 1985 to have become mentally unstable.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The name of the young man said to have shouted the slogans is not known, but unofficial sources report that Jigme Sangpo was among the co-detainees taken into solitary confinement. Jigme Sangpo is aged about 58; he was first detained in 1960 while teaching at a Lhasa primary school and reportedly accused of "corrupting the minds of children with counter-revolutionary ideas". He was reportedly transferred from prison to a Labour Brigade in 1979, but he was reportedly redetained in early September 1983. He is now reportedly serving a 19-year sentence of "reform through labour", on unknown charges.

The 6 December 1991 incident is the second one reported in 1991 in which detainees in Drapchi prison were allegedly put into solitary confinement and ill-treated in connection with disturbances related to visits to the prison by a foreign delegation. In March 1991, two political prisoners were reportedly beaten and put in incommunicado detention after they approached a delegation of diplomats from the United States of America and handed them a petition reportedly containing allegations of "atrocities" carried out by PRC authorities in Tibet, torture and ill-treatment of political prisoners and of "secret executions".

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern that prisoners were punished as a result of the reported 6 December 1991 incident in Drapchi prison and urging that they be released from solitary confinement;

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- urging that the names and sentences of the prisoners involved in the incident and their present whereabouts and state of health be made public.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Regional Chief Procurator:

Yang Youcai Jianchazhang

Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Jianchayuan

Lasashi 850000

Xizang Zangzu Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN**

**(Please forward to Chief Procurator Yang Youcai)**

**Dear Procurator**

2. Secretary, Chinese Communist Party Regional Committee:

Hu Jintao Shuji

Zhonggong Xizang Weiyuanhui

Lasashi 850000

Xizang Zangzu Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN**

**(Please forward to Secretary Hu Jintao)**

**Dear Secretary**

3. Supreme People's Procurator:

Liu Fuzhi Jianchazhang

Zuigao Renmin Jianchayuan

Beijing

People's Republic of China

**Telexes: 210070 FMPRC**

**(Please forward to Chief Procurator Liu Fuzhi)**

**Faxes: + 86 1 512 1158**

**Dear Procurator**

4. Director, Tibet Regional Public Security Department:

Baima Duoji Tingzhang

Xizang Zizhiqu Gong'an Ting

Linkuodonglu

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Xizang Zangzu Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

**Dear Director**

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People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 February 1992