

PUBLIC

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15 October 2004

UA 290/04      Fear of execution

CHINA      Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche (m), religious leader

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Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, the former abbot of Wutuo temple, was sentenced to death, suspended for two years, in December 2002. The period of suspension will expire on 2 December: either he will be executed, or his sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment, depending on a report on his behaviour in prison, submitted to provincial prosecutors by the prison authorities.

Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, a religious leader from a traditionally Tibetan area of Sichuan Province, was detained on 7 April 2002 on suspicion of unspecified involvement in an explosion that had taken place in the main square of the provincial capital, Chengdu, a few days earlier. Another man, Lobsang Dhondup, had been detained on 3 April 2002 on suspicion of planting the bomb. Both men were also charged with producing and distributing "splittist" leaflets advocating independence for Tibet.

They were reportedly tortured for several months before their trial in November 2002. Official documents claim that they both "confessed" to their crimes, but at his sentencing on 2 December 2002 Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche reportedly shouted his innocence in court. Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche was sentenced to death suspended for two years for "causing explosions" and "inciting separatism". Lobsang Dhondup was sentenced to death on the same charges, and on an additional charge of possessing explosives.

Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche's appeal against his sentence was rejected on 26 January 2003. It remains unclear if Lobsang Dhondup appealed against his sentence, but he was executed immediately after the appeal hearing.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International believes the detention of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and the execution of Lobsang Dhondup are serious miscarriages of justice which again indicate that the criminal justice system in China is so deeply flawed it cannot provide a fair trial in capital cases. Amnesty International therefore believes that an immediate moratorium on the death penalty must be imposed. (For further information, see *Executed "according to law"? – the death penalty in China*, AI Index: ASA 17/003/2004, *Miscarriages of justice – selected cases*, AI Index: ASA 17/002/2004, and *Miscarriage of justice? – the trial of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and related arrests*, AI Index: ASA 17/029/2003.)

Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances, as the ultimate cruel and inhuman punishment.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Chinese or your own language:**

- calling on the authorities to stay the execution of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche;
- calling on the authorities to review his trial and demanding that, if inadequacies are found, he is either released immediately or retried in full accordance with international fair trial standards;
- calling for an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty in China.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Chief Procurator of the Sichuan Provincial People's Procuratorate

**CHEN Wenqing** Jianchazhang

Sichuansheng Renmin Jianchayuan

51 Renminzhonglu Erduan, Qingyangqu  
Chengdushi  
Sichuansheng 61001  
People's Republic of China  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Governor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Government

**ZHANG Zhongwei** Shengzhang  
Sichuansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
Duyuanjie, Jinjiangqu,  
Chengdushi  
Sichuansheng 610016  
People's Republic of China  
**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**Fax: +86 28 435 6784/435 6789 (Mark: "For the attention of Governor Zhang Zhongwei")**

**COPIES TO:**

Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China

**WEN Jiabao** Zongtong

Guowuyuan  
9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie  
Beijing 100032  
People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**E-mail: [webmaster@china.org.cn](mailto:webmaster@china.org.cn) (Subject: "For the attention of his Excellency Prime Minister Wen Jiabao")**

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 26 November 2004.