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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

August arrests in Tibet

27 AUGUST 1993

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According to unofficial reports from Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, a Tibetan academic Tenpa Kelsang, a group of four nuns and two or three other Tibetans have been detained in a series of arrests of pro-independence activists in Lhasa during August 1993.

On 6 August 1993 30-year old Tenpa Kelsang is reported to have been arrested in his rooms at the University of Tibet in Lhasa and has allegedly been accused of a "political offence". According to the reports received from Lhasa, police officers searched Tenpa Kelsang's rooms on 7 August looking for political documents. Tenpa Kelsang graduated from the University in 1985 and was a member of a committee supervising the use of Tibetan language in education.

On 17 August 1993 a foreign tourist reported seeing a group of four nuns arrested by plainclothes police after they had run round the Jokhang Temple shouting pro-independence slogans. There have also been unconfirmed reports that two or three Tibetans were arrested on 18 August 1993 at the Norbulingka, a former residence of the Dalai Lama. The arrested Tibetans are alleged to have staged a brief protest during an opera at the Norbulingka being performed as part of the annual Shoton Festival. These demonstrations coincide with the visit to Lhasa of several US Congressmen.

Over 100 Tibetans have reportedly been arbitrarily arrested since April 1993 either for their involvement in activities in support of dissidents in Tibet or for taking part in independence protests. Amnesty International is concerned that many of those detained are prisoners of conscience held solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language,

- urging the authorities to disclose the whereabouts of Tenpa Kelsang and the other Tibetans arrested in August and to disclose the charges made against them, and call for their immediate and unconditional release if the charges are not based on recognizably criminal offences in accordance with international standards;

- call for the immediate and unconditional release of any Tibetans held for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights and urge the authorities to account for all those detained in connection with recent demonstrations.

KEYWORDS:

President of the Xizang Autonomous Regional People's Government

Gyaltzen Norbu Zhuxi

Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu

1 Kang'angdonglu

Lasashi 850000

Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN

Salutation: Dear President

Telegram: President Gyaltzen Norbu, Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, China

Director of the Xizang Autonomous Regional Department of Public Security

BAIMA Doji Tingzhang

Gong'anting

Linkuodonglu

Lasashi

Xizang Zizhiqu 850000

People's Republic of China

Telegram: Baima Doji, Gong'antingzhang, Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, China

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SECRETARIAT, 1
EASTON STREET,
LONDON WC1X 8DJ,
UNITED KINGDOM**