

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/009/2003

29 January 2003

Further information on EXTRA 89/02 (ASA 17/059/2002, 6 December 2002) and follow-ups (ASA 17/002/2003, 9 January 2003, and ASA 17/006/2003, 22 January 2003) – Fear of imminent execution/death penalty/unfair trial/torture or ill-treatment/incommunicado detention/possible "disappearance"

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	Lobsang Dhondup (also known as Luo Rang Deng Zhu) (m)
	Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche (also known as Ngawang Tashi or A An Zha Xi) (m)
	Tsultrim Dargye (m), aged 36
	Tamdring Tsering (m), aged 33
	Ashar (or Aka) Dhargye (m), aged 40
	Tashi Phuntsok (m), aged 39
	Tserang Dondrup (also known as Jortse or Jotse) (m), aged approximately 65

	Choetsom (m), aged 19
	Pasang (m), aged approximately 19

Amnesty International has received reports that Lobsang Dhondup was executed on 26 January 2003, after his conviction was upheld for alleged involvement in a series of bombings in Sichuan province, southwest China.

There are serious concerns that Lobsang Dhondup's trial was unfair. He appears to have been held for several months incommunicado, he was not given full and adequate legal representation and his trial was held in secret. According to official sources, this was because the case involved "state secrets", but the authorities have not explained how this related to the charges the defendants faced, which included "inciting separatism", "causing explosions" and "illegal possession of guns and ammunition". Lobsang Dhondup's co-defendant, the Tibetan religious leader, Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, had been given a death sentence with a two-year suspension of execution in connection with the same case. His appeal was also rejected by the Sichuan High People's Court on 26 January 2003.

Amnesty International has also learnt that Tserang Dondrup, arrested in connection with the monks' detention, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, and not to eight as previously stated. Some six others arrested in connection with the case are believed to remain in detention. The whereabouts of two young monks who were reportedly interrogated and beaten in connection with the case remain unknown and there are serious concerns for their safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to media reports, Lobsang Dhondup's execution was confirmed by a local court official at the Kardze (Ganzi) Intermediate People's Court, in the Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province. If this is true, it would be the first known case of the execution of a Tibetan for alleged political offences in many years. Until now, the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR), home to the mainly Muslim Uighur minority, was the only place where Amnesty International has recorded executions of political prisoners in recent years. There are serious concerns that this case could signal a move by the Chinese authorities to extend the use of the death penalty to those branded as political opponents, 'separatists' or 'terrorists' beyond the XUAR.

In China the death penalty is used extensively, arbitrarily and frequently as a result of political interference. There is often an increase in executions and death sentences on or around major events or before public

holidays, such as on National Day (1 October) or the Chinese New Year, which this year falls between 1-3 February. Execution is by shooting or lethal injection.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese or your own language: (*Luo Rang Deng Zhu and A An Zha Xi are the Chinese names of Lobsang Dhondup and Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche. Please use these Chinese names in letters to the authorities*).

- expressing dismay at the reported execution of Luo Rang Deng Zhou (Lobsang Dhondup) on 26 January 2003;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty as the ultimate form of cruel and inhumane punishment, and a violation of the right to life, as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- calling on the Chinese government to end its extensive and arbitrary use of the death penalty and not to carry out further executions prior to the upcoming Chinese New Year (1-3 February 2003);
- expressing grave concern that the trials of both Luo Rang Deng Zhu (Lobsang Dhondup) and A An Zha Xi (Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche) were unfair, and calling on the authorities to conduct an immediate and impartial review of the case against A An Zha Xi (Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche);
- if the charges are well-founded, calling on the authorities to conduct a re-trial in an open court in line with international fair trial standards; if the charges are not well-founded, calling for A An Zha Xi (Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche) to be released unconditionally;
- calling on the authorities to reveal the names and whereabouts of all those believed to be detained in connection with this case and to clarify the charges against them;
- urging the authorities to release them unless they are charged or convicted of a recognizable criminal offence;
- calling on the authorities to launch a full, immediate and impartial investigation into all allegations of torture or ill-treatment with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

APPEALS TO: (NOTE: Fax numbers may be difficult to obtain, but please keep trying)

Acting Governor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Government

ZHANG Zhongwei Daishengzhang

Sichuansheng Renmin Zhengfu

Duyuanjie, Chengdushi

Sichuansheng, People's Republic of China

Telegram: Provincial Governor, Chengdu, China

Fax: +86 28 8435 6784 / 8435 6789 (c/o Foreign Affairs office of Sichuan Government)

E-mail: sichuan@sc.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Governor

Director of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Justice

ZENG Xianzhang Tingzhang

Sifating

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Sichuansheng People's Republic of China

Telegram: Director, Sichuan Justice Department, Chengdu, China

Fax: +86 2 8435 6784 / 8435 6789 (c/o Foreign Affairs office of Sichuan Government)

Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Justice

Zhang Fusen

Sifabu (Ministry of Justice)

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Telegram: Justice Minister, Beijing, China

Fax: +86 10 65 292345 (c/o Ministry of Communications)

E-mail: minister@legalinfo.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear Minister

President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China

XIAO Yang Yuanzhang
Zuigao Renmin Fayuan
27 Dongjiao Min Xiang
Beijingshi 100726 , People's Republic of China
Telegram: President of Supreme People's Court, Beijing, China
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Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.