

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 17/20/93

Distr: UA/SC

UA 164/93

Mass arrest/Fear of Ill-treatment

19 May 1993

**People's Republic of China
(Tibet Autonomous Region):**

**Over 100 Tibetans, including:
Lobsang Yonten
Gendun Rinchen**

The Chinese authorities in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, have reportedly detained a large number of Tibetans in the days preceding the 16 May 1993 arrival in Lhasa of a delegation of European Community (EC) diplomats. The number of detainees is not known, but has been reported to be over 100. The detainees appear to be held in incommunicado detention and are believed to be at risk of ill-treatment.

Among those reportedly detained are an elderly man, Lobsang Yonten, and a travel agency employee, Gendun Rinchen, in his mid-forties. Both were reportedly detained from their homes in the Ramoche area of Lhasa on 13 or 14 May. Tibetan sources reported that some of those detained had been gathering information on human rights violations in Tibet and that they were planning to provide this information to the EC delegation.

Amnesty International believes that Lobsang Yonten, Gendun Rinchen and the other Tibetans detained just prior to the EC delegation's visit may be prisoners of conscience held solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression. Lobsang Yonten and Gendun Rinchen appear to be in incommunicado detention. This heightens the risk that they may be ill-treated during interrogation by police.

An unknown number of other Tibetans were reportedly at risk of being detained on suspicion of involvement in activities in support of dissidents in Tibet.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 16 May 1993, a delegation of EC diplomats started a six-day visit to Lhasa. The delegation was scheduled to visit Drapchi prison on 18 May and is due to discuss the human rights situation and other issues with officials in Tibet. There are indications that the Chinese authorities carried out the mass detention of Tibetans in Lhasa in order to prevent contacts between Tibetan activists and EC diplomats and to avoid demonstrations being staged by Tibetans supporting independence from China.

Several delegations of foreign experts and diplomats have visited Tibet in recent years to observe, among other things, the human rights situation and raise human rights concerns with officials in Lhasa. Tibetans whom the Chinese authorities have accused of possessing information on human rights violations in Tibet have been ill-treated in detention and sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment following unfair trials.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest of over 100 Tibetans in Lhasa just prior to the EC delegation's visit on 16 May 1993;

- urging the authorities to ensure that all those detained, including Lobsang Yonten and Gendun Rinchen, are protected from all forms of torture and ill-treatment and are granted prompt access to relatives and to a lawyer of their choice;

Page 2 of UA 164/93

- urging the authorities to make public the names of these detainees, the place of their detention and any charges made against them;

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Lobsang Yonten, Gendun Rinchen and others, if they are not charged promptly with recognizably criminal offences and given a fair trial in accordance with international standards.

APPEALS TO

1) Premier of the People's Republic of China:

LI Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Faxes: + 86 1 513 0606 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Minister of Public Security:

TAO Siju Buzhang

Gong'anbu

14 Dongchang'anlu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN

Faxes: + 861 512 1176

Salutation: Your Excellency

3) 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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Secretary of the Xizang Autonomous
Regional Party Committee:

CHEN Kuiyuan Shuji

Zhonggong Xizang Zizhiqu Weiyuanhui

Lasashi

Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

2) Chairman of the Xizang Autonomous
Regional People's Congress Standing
Committee:

Raidi Zhuren

Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Daibiao Dahui

Changwu Weiyuanhui

Lasashi, Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 June 1993.