

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 164/93 (ASA 17/20/93, 19 May 1993) - and follow-up: ASA 17/21/93, 25 May 1993 - Mass arrest/Fear of Ill-treatment

People's Republic of China Lobsang Yonten
(Tibet Autonomous Region): Gendun Rinchen

and new name: Damchoe Pemo
and an unknown number of Tibetans

According to recent unconfirmed reports from Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, a Tibetan woman named Damchoe Pemo was arrested on 20 May 1993 in connection with the arrests of the two human rights monitors, Lobsang Yonten and Gendun Rinchen.

Lobsang Yonten, a former monk in his sixties, was arrested on 11 May (not 13 May as previously reported) and Gendun Rinchen, a 46 year old travel agency employee, was arrested on 13 May a few days before the arrival in Lhasa of a delegation of European Community (EC) diplomats on a fact finding tour to Tibet focusing on human rights. Both men are known to have been planning to contact the EC delegation during its week-long visit and hand them a statement on human rights abuses in Tibet. This is believed to be the reason for their arrest, though they have been officially accused of "stealing state secrets" and engaging in "separatist activities".

In a joint statement issued on 1 June, the 12 countries in the European Community strongly criticised China's human rights policy in Tibet and expressed concern at the reports of police action against demonstrations in Lhasa. They requested the release of all those detained, including Gendun Rinchen and Lobsang Yonten. The Chinese authorities, however, have still not disclosed the whereabouts of the two men. They and Damchoe Pemo are all believed to be in the custody of the Ministry of State Security and according to unconfirmed reports, may be held in Seitru Detention Centre, part of the Sangyip prison complex, north of Lhasa.

This increases fears that they may be tortured during interrogation. In an earlier similar case of secret detention at the Seitru Detention Centre, Sonam Dolkar, a Tibetan woman suspected of links with pro-independence activists, was reportedly subjected to constant brutal torture over a six-month period in 1990-91, and nearly died as a result (see Amnesty International's report *Torture in China*, ASA 17/55/92, December 1992). Amnesty International is very concerned that Gendun Rinchen, Lobsang Yonten and Damchoe Pemo may face similar ill-treatment and torture, and is particularly concerned about the health of Lobsang Yonten, who suffers from tuberculosis and requires regular medication.

Meanwhile further arbitrary arrests have reportedly been carried out in Lhasa, following a series of demonstrations in the city which began on 24 May 1993. On 28 May up to nine people, including three monks, were reportedly detained by police after demonstrating in the Barkor, the Tibetan quarter of Lhasa, and on 1 June between seven and thirteen Tibetans were reportedly arrested in pro-independence protests. According to foreign eyewitnesses,

on 4 June six men were beaten with sticks by the police and taken away a few minutes after they appeared in the Barkor square carrying Tibetan flags. A similar incident took place on 6 June when three monks were reportedly arrested soon after they appeared carrying a white banner apparently calling for independence, and shouting slogans.

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

- expressing concern that Lobsang Yonten, Gendun Rinchen and Damchoe Pemo are held in secret detention and may be subjected to ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to disclose their whereabouts and take immediate measures to ensure their safety, including granting access to relatives, lawyers and doctors of their choice;
- expressing concern at the reported arrests of over two dozen Tibetans in late May and early June;
- urging the authorities to release immediately any Tibetans held for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights and to account for all those detained in connection with recent demonstrations and disclose the charges against them.

APPEALS TO

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

LI Peng Zongli

Guowuyuan

9 Xihuangchenggenbeijie

Beijingshi 100032

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Premier Li Peng, Beijing, China

Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN or 22478 MFERT CN

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Minister of State Security:

JIA Chunwang Anquanbuzhang

Anquanbu

14 Dongchang'anlu

Beijingshi 100741

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: Minister Jia Chunwang, Beijing, 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'andonglu

Lasashi 850000

Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

Telegrams: President Gyaltzen Norbu, Lasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, China

Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

and to diplomatic representatives of China accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of China in Austria during June at the following address:

EMBASSY OF CHINA:

The Ambassador
Botschaft der Volksrepublik China
Metternichgasse 4, 1030 Wien
Austria

Faxes: + 43 1 713 68 16

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 July 1993.