

**PUBLIC**

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**EXTRA 89/02**

**Fear of imminent execution/death penalty/  
Unfair trial**

**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)**

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A senior Tibetan religious teacher, Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche (also known as Ngawang Tashi or A An Zha Xi) and his attendant, Lobsang Dhondup (also known as Luo Rang Deng Zhu) have been sentenced to death in an apparently unfair trial. Amnesty International is seriously concerned that Lobsang Dhondup could face imminent execution.

On 2 December, the Kardze (Ganzi) Intermediate People's Court in the Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province sentenced Lobsang Dhondup to death for "inciting separatism", "causing explosions" and "illegal possession of guns and ammunition". Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche received a death sentence with a two year suspension for "causing explosions" and "inciting separatism".

The two men were found guilty of being involved in a series of bomb explosions in Kardze Prefecture in which one person was killed. The two men had been arrested on 7 April 2002 following a bombing incident in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, which took place on 3 April 2002. According to official reports, "separatist" leaflets calling for the independence of Tibet from China were found at the scene of the blast. The circumstances of Lobsang Dhondup's detention remain unclear. Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche was reportedly held incommunicado for eight months from the time of his arrest until the time of the trial. There are concerns that he may have been tortured or ill-treated in detention and that the trial was unfair.

Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche had come under suspicion from the local authorities for several years prior to his arrest. The authorities reportedly tried to arrest him in 1998 when he tried to establish monasteries without official approval. He also attracted the attention of the authorities for leading a popular local protest against deforestation in the area by a local timber company. In this context, there are serious concerns that he may have been targeted by the authorities for his peaceful religious and community activities rather than any violent offences.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In China the death penalty is used extensively, arbitrarily and frequently as a result of political interference. Execution is by shooting or lethal injection. Its use increased dramatically after the launch of the "Strike Hard" campaign against crime in April 2001, with a record number of people sentenced to death and executed. Many of those executed were apparently convicted in summary trials for crimes including tax fraud, drug trafficking and pimping.

While the campaign was initially targeted at organized violent crime, national and provincial authorities have greatly expanded its scope, including the expansion of the campaign in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) to "deal a decisive blow to separatist forces, eliminating separatism and illegal religious activities".

Until now, the XUAR remained the only place in China where Amnesty International had monitored reports of executions of political prisoners in recent years. This is the first reported case for many years of death sentences being passed against Tibetans for alleged political offences. There are serious concerns that this case could signal a move by the authorities to extend the use of the death penalty against those branded as political opponents, "separatists" or "terrorists" in ethnic Tibetan areas.

**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).*

- urging the authorities to immediately stop the execution of Luo Rang Deng Zhu (Lobsang Dhondup) and to commute the sentences passed against both Luo Rang Deng Zhu (Lobsang Dhondup) and A An Zha Xi (Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche);
- expressing concern that the two men may have been falsely accused because of their political, religious or community activities;
- urging the authorities to guarantee that the two men will not be ill-treated in detention;
- calling on the authorities to conduct an immediate review of the case and, if charges are well-founded, to conduct a re-trial in an open court ensuring that the defendants are given full facilities to prepare and present their defence in line with international fair trial standards;
- expressing concern that the "Strike Hard" campaign against crime appears to have led to an increase in summary trials and miscarriages of justice;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment and as a violation of the right to life as guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**APPEALS TO: (Please note fax numbers may be difficult to obtain; please keep trying)**

Acting Governor of the Sichuan Provincial  
People's Government

ZHANG Zhongwei Daishengzhang  
Sichuansheng Renmin Zhengfu  
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**Fax: +86 28 435 6784 / 435 6789 (c/o Foreign  
Affairs office of Sichuan Provincial People's  
Government)**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Director of the Sichuan Provincial Department of  
Justice

ZENG Xianzhang Tingzhang  
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Chengdushi 610015, Sichuansheng  
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**Telegram: Director, Sichuan Justice  
Department, Chengdu, China  
Salutation: Dear Director**

Minister of Justice

Zhang Fusen  
Sifaju (Ministry of Justice)  
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie  
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**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of  
People's Republic of China accredited to your  
country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**