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## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### @Crackdown on Tibetan dissent continues

**29 September 1995**

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Two Tibetan monks who were recently detained in separate incidents in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and Gansu province, are reported to have been severely beaten while being held in police custody. One monk was released when his parents paid the police a substantial amount of money and was then refused admission to hospital.

Many monks, nuns and lay people have been detained in the last few months in the TAR and Gansu province after allegedly being involved in activities promoting Tibetan independence, some of which were prior to events organized by the authorities to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the TAR on 1 September 1995. Nearly 50 others are in detention as part of the continued dispute over the discovery of the 11th Panchen Lama<sup>1</sup>. One monk reportedly committed suicide in July this year after publicly refusing to condemn the Dalai Lama's announcement of the discovery.

A heavy police presence was reported in Lhasa during official events organized to mark the anniversary, with some police carrying semi-automatic weapons. Authorities are reported to have attempted to keep dissidents and "troublemakers" away from Lhasa during the anniversary and according to one report<sup>2</sup> a buddhist monk, **Bado Lobsang Legstog**, was arrested for chanting independence slogans in front of the Jokhang.

Independence activists in Lhasa were accused of exploding at least one bomb at the site of a Chinese memorial plaque in July 1995. **Lobsang Choedrag**, a 41-year-old trader, was arrested from his home during the night of 6/7 July 1995. He is reportedly suspected of being involved

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<sup>1</sup> See *People's Republic of China: Three detained in Panchen Lama controversy*, ASA 17/40/95, 20 June 1995

<sup>2</sup> *South China Morning Post*, 1 September 1995

with a bomb which exploded in early July 1995. However, his home was thoroughly searched by the police after his detention and reports indicate that nothing was found that could implicate him in the bombing. Local sources do not believe that Lobsang Choedrag was involved. He has been detained on several previous occasions for peaceful dissident activities.

Other people are believed to have been detained for being involved in peaceful demonstrations in protest at the anniversary, including **Dawa**, aged 54, (also known as Shol Dawa), who is from Shol village in front of the Potala Palace. He was detained on, or about, 12 August from a house in Tsomonling and accused of planning to raise a Tibetan flag in Shol. He has previously been imprisoned for pro-independence activities. **Tra Sil**, (f) aged in her 50s, was reportedly detained from Dawa's house and reports indicate that eight others were also arrested.

In Gansu province four people are known to have been arrested for their alleged involvement in pro-independence activities. The arrests are believed to be connected with a police crackdown in the southern part of Gansu province which, according to an official newspaper is intended to expose "organizations [and] to strongly overthrow cases of underground activity". **Drolkar Gyap** (m), a 26-year old layman, was arrested in June 1995 and has since been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for alleged connections to the Tibet independence movement. Three monks from Labrang monastery in Gansu province, **Konchog Jigme**, **Konchog Choephel** and **Jigme Gyatso** were detained by local police in Xiahe county on 19 May 1995, on suspicion of supporting the Tibetan independence movement and in connection with pro-independence posters which were put up in the monastery.

Jigme Gyatso is said to have been deprived of sleep when first taken into custody and then to have been severely beaten by a policeman. The beating reportedly left him unable to move his arms and legs and may have caused brain damage. The policeman who beat Jigme Gyatso was reportedly drunk. According to a source, the police feared that he would die following the beating, and so told Jigme Gyatso's parents that they would release him on payment of 5000yuan (*approximately US\$625*). After bargaining with the police the source believes that the family paid 1000yuan and Jigme Gyatso was released. After his family had secured his release they took him to the local hospital for a check-up as he was still unable to move his arms and legs. However, a doctor at the local Xiahe County Hospital said he was not allowed to give treatment to a "counter-revolutionary". He was then taken to the Tibetan Medical Hospital where he received treatment. It is not known what treatment he received, nor is there further news about his health or whereabouts.

There have also been reports of increased surveillance at Labrang monastery and of a number of local people being beaten or briefly detained by the police.

**Benza Trinley** (m) age 26, is currently believed to be held somewhere in Tibet after being detained while travelling from Lhasa to Amdo in November 1994. His family and friends have not had any news of him since then and reasons for his suspected detention are unclear. He

was previously detained for two months after being accused of "counter-revolutionary activity" in July 1993 when independence posters were put up in Labrang monastery.

In Shigatse, more people have been detained in connection with the dispute over the successor to the 10th Panchen Lama<sup>3</sup>. According to unofficial sources, **Wangdu**, a monk from Tashilhunpo monastery, committed suicide in July, after refusing to condemn the Dalai Lama's choice of the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama.

**Chadrel Rimpoche** former abbot of Tashilhunpo monastery, remains in detention. He was detained around 17 May 1995 and may be in poor health. In August 1995, a Chinese official told Western journalists in Beijing that Chadrel Rimpoche had been ill since the National People's Congress in May and is in hospital. However, the official would not say what illness Chadrel Rimpoche is suffering from nor where he is. Also in August, another Chinese official told Western diplomats that Chadrel Rimpoche had "completed his education".

### **Chadrel Rimpoche (c) TIN**

Assistant monk to Chadrel Rimpoche, **Champa Chung** (previously identified as Jing-lag), who was also detained on or around 17 May 1995, is still believed to be in custody in Shigatse.

Also still in detention is **Samdrup** (previously identified as Gyara Tsering Samdrup) a businessman from Shigatse, who was detained on 30 May 1995 at a police checkpoint in Tingri, allegedly for carrying papers between Chadrel Rimpoche and the Dalai Lama.

Following these detentions in May 1995, the TAR authorities are reported to have appointed new leaders to run Tashilhunpo monastery, to have begun a crackdown on dissent within the monastery and to have attempted to force monks to publicly denounce Chadrel Rimpoche. On

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<sup>3</sup> See *People's Republic of China: Three detained in Panchen Lama controversy*, ASA 17/40/95, 20 June 1995

11 July 1995 TAR officials went to a meeting at the monastery during which a long report was read to the monks condemning Chadrel Rimpoche for his links with the Dalai Lama. The meeting was disrupted by over a hundred monks which resulted in the arrival of three police trucks carrying about 60 armed police. The police were reportedly told by Raidi, Executive Deputy Secretary of the TAR, not to carry out arrests while officials were present. However, after further protests on the following day the monastery was sealed off by the police. Monks are reported to have shouted to Tibetans outside to try to get into the courtyard of the monastery and **five young lay women** who tried to do so are reported to have been arrested.

During the protests on 11 July 1995 **Gyatrul Rimpoche**, a lama at Tashilhunpo, had protested against the denunciations made of Chadrel Rimpoche. He was arrested at midnight on 12 July 1995 from the monastery and on 14 July he and Chadrel Rimpoche were dismissed from the monastery management.

About 30 other monks were detained on the night of 12 July 1995 during a police raid. In addition to Gyatrul Rimpoche, three other senior monks, who are aged over 50, have been identified as being among those detained. They are **Shepa Kelsang, Lhakpa Tsering** and **Ringkar Ngawang**. Two other monks were detained during a demonstration in Lhasa a couple of days later.

The majority of those detained on the night of 12 July were junior monks aged 30 or younger. They are all accused of supporting the Dalai Lama in the Panchen Lama succession dispute and of boycotting a religious ceremony during the day of 12 July 1995. The names of eight of those detained are not known, but others have been named as **Ngodrup, Tenzin, Tendor, Sherab, Tashi Dondrup, Tsering Phuntsog, Chungdag, Pema, Penpa Tsering, Buchung, Sonam Phuntsok, Tenzin, Gendun, Lobsang Tseten, Wangchuk, Pema Dorje, Lhakpa Tsering<sup>4</sup>, Lobsang Dawa, Tsering Gonpo** and **Dorje Gyaltzen**.

Shortly after the police arrests on 12 July **Dorje Gyaltzen** was taken to hospital as he was reportedly coughing up blood. He was thought to be suffering from internal bleeding due to severe injuries suffered either while he was apprehended or in custody, though the circumstances in which he may have been injured are not known. His present health condition is not known but he is still reportedly under some form of police custody while in hospital.

Three further arrests are reported to have been made at Tashilhunpo on 22 July, but the names of those detained are not known. **Sil Zhi**, (f), aged in her 50s, is reported to have been detained on or about 12 August in Lhasa. Her arrest is thought to be connected to the Panchen Lama dispute.

Two former prisoners of conscience, **Thubten Tsering** and **Tsewang Palden** who were returned to Tibet after escaping to Nepal. They are believed to have been detained but their

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<sup>4</sup>

Please note that there are two detained monks in this group named Lhakpa Tsering.

whereabouts are unknown; Tsewang Palden, who was on conditional parole may have been returned to prison and Thubten Tsering may be in a detention centre in Lhasa.

*Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in English, Chinese or in your own language, urging the authorities*

- ◆ *to disclose the charges against Konchog Jigme and Konchog Choephel who are currently detained in Gansu province in connection with alleged pro-independence activities, and to release them immediately and unconditionally unless they have been charged with recognisably criminal offences; and*
- expressing grave concern at reports that Jigme Gyatso was severely beaten while in police custody in Gansu province and urging the authorities urgently to investigate the alleged beating and to bring to justice any perpetrators;*
- ◆ *to disclose the charges against Drolkar Gyab who has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in Gansu province for alleged pro-independence activities and to release him immediately and unconditionally unless he is charged with a recognisably criminal offence.*

*Please send appeals to:*

*Governor of the Gansu Provincial People's Government*

*ZHANG Wule Shengzhang*

*Gansusheng Renmin Zhengfu*

*1 Zhongyang, Guangchangqu*

*Lanzhoushi 730030*

*Gansusheng*

*People's Republic of China*

*Telegram: Governor Yan Haiwang, Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China*

*(Salutation: Dear Governor)*

*Director of the Gansu Provincial Department of Public Security*

*WANG Tingzhang Tingzhang*

*Gong'anting*

*38 Qingyanglu, Chengguanqu*

*Lanzhoushi 730030*

*Gansusheng*

*People's Republic of China*

*Telegram: Director of the Provincial Department of Public Security Tian Peisen,*

*Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China*

*(Salutation: Dear Director)*

*Please send telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters in English, Chinese or in your own language, urging the authorities*

- ◆to release immediately and unconditionally **all those detained from Tashilhunpo monastery and others detained** in connection with the continued dispute over the discovery of the 11th Panchen Lama [please use individual names in your appeals]; *and* express grave concern at reports that **Dorje Gyaltzen**, a monk from Tashilhunpo monastery, was severely beaten while in police custody in Gansu province and urging the authorities urgently to investigate the alleged beating and to bring to justice any perpetrators;
- ◆to clarify the whereabouts and legal status of **Benza Trinley**, who is reported to have been in detention since November 1994, and to release him immediately and unconditionally unless he is charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- ◆to release immediately and unconditionally **all those recently detained for the non-violent expression of their beliefs** prior to the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the TAR;
- ◆to clarify the legal status and whereabouts of **Thubten Tsering** and **Tsewang Palden** who were detained after being returned to Tibet from Nepal and to release them immediately and unconditionally unless they are charged with recognisably criminal offences

*Please send appeals to:*

Chairman, Tibet Autonomous Regional People's Congress Standing Committee

**Raidi Zhuren**

Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Daibiao Dahui

Changwu Weiyuanhui

Lhasashi

Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

**Telegram: Chairman of the Regional People's Congress Standing Committee Raidi, Lhasa,**

**Xizang Autonomous Region, China**

*(Salutation: Dear Chairman)*

Director of the Department of Public Security

**ZHOU Qishun** Tingzhang

Gong'anting

Linkuodonglu

Lhasashi

Xizang Zizhiqu 850000

People's Republic of China

**Telegram: Director of the Department of Public Security Zhou Qishun, Lhasa, Xizang**

**Autonomous Region, China**

*(Salutation: Dear Director)*

This document is sent to China and CHIRAN Coordinators for action by groups. It is sent to Sections for information only. Check with the East Asia Sub-Regional Team if sending appeals after 3 November 1995.

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