

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 41/96

Arbitrary detention / Ill-treatment

18 March 1996

NEPAL 15 Tibetans, names unknown

unknown number of Amnesty International members

Fifteen Tibetan refugees and an unknown number of Amnesty International (AI) members remain in detention in Kathmandu after taking part in peaceful activities in connection with AI's worldwide campaign against human rights violations in the People's Republic of China. Several Tibetans who were held for a few hours report having been beaten and ill-treated in detention.

Three AI members were detained on 17 March 1996 while they were sitting at a table collecting signatures and distributing materials on human rights in China. Police officers confiscated banners and other materials. A fourth AI member was held by police on the morning of 18 March when he visited the police station at which the members were being detained.

At around 1pm on 18 March, scores of people, possibly over 100, including Tibetans and AI members, were detained after assembling in Kathmandu to take part in a peaceful march to the Chinese Embassy. Seven police buses were seen arriving just as the demonstration was about to start. Each police bus took nearly 30 demonstrators to the Mahendra police club. Most of the detainees were released after a few hours but 15 Tibetans are reported to have been re-detained for further questioning. Some AI members also remain detained.

The police have said that the 15 Tibetans will not be released on the night of 18 March and a crowd is reported to be gathering at the police station calling for their release.

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

- demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all those currently detained in relation to peaceful campaigning activities in Kathmandu on 17 and 18 March 1996;
- seeking assurances that all those held are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- seeking assurances that no Tibetans will be returned to the People's Republic of China where they may be at risk of further human rights violations;
- urging that non-governmental organizations, including Amnesty International, be allowed to continue their peaceful campaigning activities without further harassment.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister
Sher Bahadur Deuba
Office of the Prime Minister
Singha Durbar
Kathmandu
Nepal

Faxes: +9771 419 680; 9771 227 286

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Minister of Home Affairs
Khum Bahadur Khadka
Ministry of Home Affairs

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Singha Durbar
Kathmandu
Nepal

Faxes: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs +9771 220 684

Telegrams: Home Affairs Minister, Kathmandu, Nepal

Salutation: Dear Minister

Inspector General of Police

Motilal Bohara

Police Headquarters

Kathmandu

Nepal

Telegrams: Inspector General of Police Bohara, Kathmandu, Nepal

Faxes: +9771 415 594

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

and to diplomatic representatives of Nepal accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 April 1996.