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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 171/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - AFGHANISTAN, TIBET

**PLEASE NOTE:** See news service item on Tadjikistan sent out in News Service 169/94. **Please do not do any media work with this item, we have just heard that 30 of the soldiers who were captured have reappeared -- apparently they had defected to the other side. We don't know if the reports of the deaths are true or not.**

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Colombia - 5 August - FINAL ITEM SENT OUT IN NEWS SERVICE 167/94

Kosovo - 20 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Algeria - first week of October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

France - \*\* 12 October\*\* - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

## TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Bhutan/Nepal - 25 August - See news service 168/94

Brazil - 14 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Togo - 15 September - See news service 168/94

Indonesia - 28 September - LAUNCH OF CAMPAIGN

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**AFGHANISTAN: ONE JOURNALIST KILLED, OTHERS AT RISK**

Amnesty International is calling for an investigation into the killing of a BBC World Service correspondent by unidentified gunmen near Kabul last Friday.

Mir Wais Jalil, a 25 year old Afghan, had apparently just interviewed the leader of Hezb-e Islami, but his dead body was reportedly found in an area controlled by the rival Jamiat-e Islami party.

Both parties have been waging war against each other almost continuously since mid-1992.

"There is no civil structure in Afghanistan to look into this latest killing, only the international community can take action to ensure that there is an impartial investigation to bring those responsible to justice", Amnesty International said today.

The organization is urging the leaders of Hezb-e Islami and Jamiat-e Islami to cooperate in any investigation.

It is thought that Mir Wais Jalil may have angered Afghan warlords responsible for continued fighting in Afghanistan. He had received numerous death threats from different Mujahideen parties, including Hezb-e Islami and Jamiat-e Islami.

Journalists covering the conflict in Afghanistan for the international media have become the target of serious human rights abuses by various armed groups. They have been warned not to report on armed groups' involvement in weapons transfer or drug trafficking and many have had to leave the country. Over a dozen journalists have been captured and ill-treated at the hands of various Mujahideen groups.

"It's time the international community stopped ignoring the conflict in Afghanistan and took action to put an end to the deliberate and arbitrary killing of Afghan civilians, and to maintain the safety of the people reporting these atrocities", Amnesty International said.

ENDS/

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**CHINA: FIVE TIBETANS SENTENCED TO UP TO 15 YEARS FOR "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" ACTIVITIES**

The authorities in Tibet are cracking down heavily on dissent and appear to be taking more restrictive action than last year -- in line with the current trend throughout China, Amnesty International said today.

This follows the sentencing last week of five Tibetans in eastern Tibet to 12 and 15 years' imprisonment for "counter-revolutionary sabotage"-- sentences which Amnesty International believes to be totally disproportionate to the crime they allegedly committed.

The five were sentenced under China's Criminal Law for committing crimes of "counter-revolutionary sabotage" and "counter-revolutionary propaganda and incitement" after allegedly smashing a government building's name plate and pasting up pro-independence slogans in March.

Their sentences were announced on 26 July by a court in Pakshoe county, Chamdo Prefecture, at a public meeting attended by several thousand local inhabitants and broadcast by Tibet Television. This is thought to be the first such case to be heard in Pakshoe county.

As the ringleaders Jigme Dorje, Lobsang Dargye\* and Pema Tsering were each sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment followed by five years' deprivation of political rights. Lobsang Palden\* and Jampa Tashi were each sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment with four years' deprivation of political rights.

Government officials in the region have issued numerous calls for the circulation of pro-independence literature to be stopped, and for "splittist elements" to be dealt with severely. This was reiterated by a senior court official after the sentence was announced.

Amnesty International is concerned that trial procedures in Tibet, as elsewhere in the People's Republic of China, fall far short of international standards for fairness.

In political cases such as these, the likelihood that defendants will receive a fair hearing is even more remote than in ordinary criminal cases, the outcome usually being a foregone conclusion.

**The human rights organization is urging the Chinese authorities to review the heaving sentences imposed upon the five men. It is also urging them to make public full details about the trial including a full record of the proceedings, the facilities provided to the defence and details of the verdicts. ENDS\**

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**\* Lobsang Dargye and Lobsang Palden's names were transcribed from a radio broadcast and may be inaccurate.**