

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 14/08/97

18 November 1997

Further information on UA 338/97 (ASA 14/05/97, 29 October 1997) - Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment / Health concern

BHUTANKinzang Chozom (f), aged 25

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Amnesty International has been informed that Kinzang Chozom was released from detention at the beginning of November 1997.

Kinzang Chozom was reportedly arrested on 17 October and held in incommunicado detention at Samdrup Jonkhar jail despite being nine months pregnant. She has since given birth though it is unknown whether the birth took place during her detention or subsequent to her release.

Karma Dorji, the husband of Kinzang Chozom, is suspected by the Bhutanese authorities of involvement with two political organizations set up in exile in Nepal, the Druk National Congress (DNC) and the United Front for Democracy (UFD). Karma Dorji was in hiding at the time of his wife's arrest in order to escape arrest himself. Amnesty International suspects that Kinzang Chozom was arrested in reprisal for her husband's suspected political activities.

No further action by the UA network is requested. MANY THANKS to all of you who sent appeals on her behalf.