

PUBLIC

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26 January 2005

Further Information on UA 290/04 (ASA 17/054/2004, 15 October 2004), and follow-up (ASA 17/060/2004, 07 December 2004) – Fear of execution

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche (m), religious leader

The suspended death sentence passed against Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche has been commuted to life imprisonment, according to reports by China's state news agency, *Xinhua*. However, Amnesty International remains concerned that his conviction is a serious miscarriage of justice.

Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, a religious leader from a traditionally Tibetan area of Sichuan Province, was sentenced to death suspended for two years on 2 December 2002, charged in connection with a bomb explosion in Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan in April 2002. Lobsang Dhondup was sentenced to death at the same trial on similar charges. Following a failed appeal hearing on 26 January 2003, Lobsang Dhondup was executed immediately, even though senior Chinese officials assured US and EU diplomats that the case would receive a "lengthy review". There had been serious concerns that Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche could have been executed on or soon after 26 January 2005, when the two-year period of suspension on his death sentence expired.

Amnesty International believes that trial of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and Lobsang Dhondup fell far short of international fair trial standards. For example, both men were reportedly tortured for several months before their trial in November 2002, and were not given access to their lawyers or families for eight months. Official documents claim that both men "confessed" to the crimes, but at his sentencing on 2 December 2002 Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche reportedly shouted his innocence in court.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals on behalf of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche. Amnesty International will continue to monitor his case and use longer-term campaigning methods on his behalf. If possible, please send a final round of appeals, in English or your own language:

- welcoming the news that Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche has not been executed;
- pointing out there are still serious concerns that Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche's detention, trial and sentencing are possibly serious miscarriages of justice;
- urging the Chinese authorities to conduct a full and open review of the evidence and legal procedures used to convict and sentence Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, and Lobsang Dhondup;
- based on the outcome of that review, urge the Chinese authorities to either retry Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche in full accordance with international fair trial standards, or release him immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Government

ZHANG Zhongwei Shengzhang

Sichuansheng Renmin Zhengfu

Duyuanjie, Chengdushi

Sichuansheng

People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Governor

Director of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Justice

ZENG Xianzhang Tingzhang

Sifating

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People's Republic of China
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Salutation: **Dear Director**

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Salutation: **Your Excellency**

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.