

---

# *amnesty international*

---

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### New wave of arrests reported in Tibet

26 March 1993

AI INDEX: ASA 17/15/93

DISTR: REL CO/GR/SC

At least 26 Tibetans involved in seven separate pro-independence demonstrations in Lhasa city, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, have been arrested during the past four weeks according to unofficial sources.

The resurgence of protests coincides with the 33rd anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising in 1959 against Chinese rule in Tibet. The demonstrations which apparently took place to mark this event are the first known to have occurred in the Tibetan capital since last October.

**Tenzin Dekyong** a 15 year-old novice at the Michungri Nunnery, originally from Meldro county, was arrested on 13 March during a demonstration in the centre of Lhasa. Two other nuns from the Michungri Nunnery: **Ngawang Drolma**, aged 18 from Toelung county and **Champa Dedroen**, aged 21 from Meldro county were also arrested in the same incident. The three nuns were reported to have been taken to Gutsa Detention Centre, in Lhasa.

Two protests are believed to have taken place on 9 March. In one incident eight monks from Ganden Monastery were arrested while demonstrating. Six of the monks, originally from Meldro county, have been identified as: **Tsunpa Jowa**, aged 20; **Tenzin Choephel**, aged 18; **Topjor**, aged 20; **Champa Gyatso** aged 20; **Kelsang Yonten**, aged 18 and **Dundrup Yugyal**, aged 23. Two other monks, **Penpa** and **Norbu**, are both aged 20 and originally from Taktse county. All the monks were reported to have been taken to Gutsa Detention Centre. During one of the two incidents on 9 March a monk carrying a Tibetan flag was reportedly beaten by police while being arrested. His identity and condition are not known.

Other demonstrations were said to have taken place on 25 February and 10, 11 and 13 March. The identities of the Tibetans arrested at these protests is not known.

Amnesty International is concerned that all those arrested may be prisoners of conscience held solely because of their non-violent exercise of the right to freedom of conscience and expression.

Amnesty International is also concerned that **Tenzin Dekyong**, a juvenile detainee, is held in a detention centre where adults are also imprisoned. It is unclear whether juveniles are housed in the same premises as adult detainees at Gutsa Detention Centre and whether they are subjected to the same regime of work. If this is the case the conditions of her detention are in violation of

fundamental international standards and in particular do not accord with the provisions of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* to which China is a signatory.

In a report published in May 1992 - *People's Republic of China: Repression in Tibet 1987 - 1992* (AI Index ASA 17/19/92) - Amnesty International criticised a pattern of human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests and killings, which have developed as the authorities have sought to suppress public demonstrations and other peaceful expressions of political views.

*Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:*

*urging the authorities to release those named immediately and unconditionally if they are held solely for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights; otherwise, to ensure that they are either brought to trial promptly and fairly on recognizably criminal charges according to international standards, or released;*

*Please send appeals to:*

**Tibet Autonomous Region President:**

**Gyaincain Norbu Zhuxi**

Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu

Lasashi

Xizang Zangzu Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

*Telexes: 68014 FAOLT CN or 68007 PGVMT CN*

*(Salutation: Dear President)*

**Minister of Public Security**

**Tao Siju Buzhang**

Gong'anbu

14 Dong Chang'anlu

Beijing 100741

People's Republic of China

*Telexes: 210070 FMPC CN*

*Faxes: + 86 1 512 1176*

*(Salutation: Your Excellency)*

**Please send appeals immediately. Check with the China Research Team at the International Secretariat if sending appeals after 23 April 1993.**

**KEYWORDS:** JUVENILES / WOMEN / RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS - BUDDHIST / DEMONSTRATIONS / TORTURE/ILL-TREATMENT / MASS ARREST / ANNIVERSARIES /

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED KINGDOM**