

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 17/017/2003

UA 71/03

Incommunicado detention/Fear of torture or ill-treatment

12 March 2003

PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC
OF CHINA

Tabo (in Chinese Dapei or Dabei) (m), aged 37, businessman
Didi (in Chinese unknown, but probably the same) (m), aged 43, businessman

Amnesty International has recently learned that Tibetan businessmen Tabo and Didi were detained on 12 and 14 February respectively. They are being held incommunicado at an unknown location and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. It is not known whether any charges have been brought against them.

Tabo and Didi are both from Lithang in the Kardze (Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan province. It is not known exactly why they were detained, but they may have been suspected of talking to foreign journalists about the case of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, a senior religious teacher, and his attendant Lobsang Dhondup. (See EXTRA 89/02 ASA 17/059/2002, 6 December 2002 and follow-ups ASA 17/002/2003, 9 January 2003; ASA 17/006/2003, 22 January 2003; ASA 17/009/2003, 29 January 2003; ASA 17/012/2003, 7 February 2003).

Didi is a cousin or close relative of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and had represented the family at Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche's first trial. The local authorities have reportedly banned members of the family and other local people from speaking about the case to journalists. Several foreign journalists are known to have contacted people from the area, but it is unclear whether Didi and Tabo were among those who were interviewed.

Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and Lobsang Dhondup were arrested in April 2002. Lobsang Dhondup was executed on 26 January 2003, after his conviction was upheld for his alleged involvement in a series of bombings in Sichuan province. Tenzin Deleg was given a death sentence, suspended for two years, in connection with the same case. There are serious concerns that their trials were unfair. Several others have also been detained in connection with this case.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Chinese or your own language: (Note: please include both the Tibetan and Chinese names of the individuals concerned in your letters to the authorities)

- urging the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of Tabo (in Chinese, Dapei or Dabei) and Didi and provide immediate guarantees for their safety;
- calling on the authorities to ensure they have full access to their relatives, lawyers of their choice and any medical treatment they may require;
- urging the authorities to release them immediately if they are not charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- expressing concern that the two men appear to have been detained on suspicion of passing information to journalists about the case of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche/Lobsang Dhondup (in Chinese A An Zha Xi/Luo Rang Deng Zhu) in violation of their fundamental human right to freedom of expression.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that fax numbers may be difficult to obtain, but please keep trying)

Acting Governor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Government

ZHANG Zhongwei Daishengzhang
Sichuansheng Renmin Zhengfu
Duyuanjie, Chengdushi
Sichuansheng, People's Republic of China
Telegram: Provincial Governor, Chengdu, China
Fax: +86 28 8435 6784 / 8435 6789 (c/o Foreign Affairs office of Sichuan Government)
E-mail: sichuan@sc.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Governor

Director of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Public Security

LU Zhuo Tingzhang
Gong'anting
40 Wenmeiaohoujie
Chengdushi 610041
Sichuansheng
People's Republic of China
Telegram: Director of Public Security, Chengdu, China
Email: info@scga.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Director

Minister of Justice

Zhang Fusen
Sifabu (Ministry of Justice)
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie, Chaoyangqu
Beijingshi 100020, People's Republic of China
Telegram: Justice Minister, Beijing, China
Fax: +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of Communications)
E-mail: minister@legalinfo.gov.cn
Salutation: Dear Minister

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 April 2003.