

EXTERNAL

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*MEDICAL CONCERN*

Dr Jampa Ngodrup  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: TIBET

In May 1992 Amnesty International published a report on human rights violations against members of the Tibetan minority in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The report focuses on events in the past five years and describes the historical and legal context within which human rights violations have occurred. Arbitrary arrest, the widespread use of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, the long-term detention of prisoners of conscience and a record of killings of unarmed demonstrators are among Amnesty International's major concerns in Tibet.<sup>1</sup>

In late 1987, a series of demonstrations advocating Tibetan independence from China began and the authorities responded with mass arrests from March 1988 onwards. In early 1989, violent riots led to more arrests and killings and the eventual imposition of martial law in March 1989. In mid-1990, martial law was formally lifted but a security clampdown (roadblocks, etc) remains in force. Many of those detained were released after a number of weeks, but others remain in administrative detention without trial serving terms of "re-education through labour". As of early 1992, some 200 administrative detainees were known to be held. In addition, dozens of prisoners of conscience were brought to trial and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment after trials falling far short of international standards of fairness.

The authorities in the People's Republic of China maintain that there are no political prisoners in China and that "ideas alone, in the absence of action which violated the Criminal Law, do not constitute a crime". They have repeatedly stated that all prisoners in Tibet are "criminals" who have broken the law and the constitution. They deny allegations that torture and ill-treatment are widespread, although Amnesty International's information indicates that both are prevalent.

Prisoners of conscience in Tibet include Buddhist monks and nuns held for peacefully advocating independence, lay Tibetans found in possession of banned writings, and people accused of instigating demonstrations, distributing clandestinely-produced leaflets or gathering information about political detainees. Dr Jampa Ngodrup is one such prisoner of conscience.

**Dr Jampa Ngodrup**

Jampa Ngodrup is a doctor of medicine who worked at the Lhasa City Barkor Clinic in Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region. He is serving a 15-year sentence of imprisonment as a prisoner of conscience. He was accused at his trial in 1990 of having, "with counter-revolutionary aims, collected lists of people detained in the disturbances and passed them on to others, thus undermining the law and violating the [laws of] secrecy".

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<sup>1</sup> See *People's Republic of China: Repression in Tibet, 1987-1992, Amnesty International, AI Index: ASA 17/19/92, May 1992*

According to the court verdict on his case, Dr Ngodrup was detained on 20 October 1989 and formally arrested on 13 August 1990. He was tried and sentenced on 24 December 1990. The following are excerpts from the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate Court verdict on his case, obtained by unofficial Tibetan sources in Lhasa:

"Towards the end of 1988 defendant Jampa Ngodrup asked a young monk from Ratoe Monastery named Chunjor, who was working as a urine analyst at the hospital where Jampa Ngodrup worked, to compile a list of people detained as a result of the 5 March 1988 incident [pro-independence demonstration and riot] in Lhasa and afterwards passed on that list to foreign resident Lhamo Yangchen.

"Towards the end of 1988 Lhamo Yangchen, who had come from abroad, brought a list of people injured and detained in the 10 December [1988] disturbance and made defendant Jampa Ngodrup copy it and return the original to her (...)

"The above has been determined as facts which the witnesses have confirmed; the defendant has also confessed without withholding anything. In the opinion of this court, defendant Jampa Ngodrup, harbouring counter-revolutionary intent, compiled a list of people detained in the disturbances and passed them on to others, thus undermining the law and violating the [laws of] secrecy.

"In order to strengthen the unity of the Motherland, to strengthen and protect the Motherland and to enforce the democratic rights of the people (...) the sentence is as follows:

"Defendant Jampa Ngodrup has committed the crime of being a spy and is sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment (...) [Jampa Ngodrup shall also be deprived of his] political rights for [a further period of] four years."

Dr Jampa Ngodrup is reported to be detained in Drapehi prison in Lhasa. Amnesty International considers that he is imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freely receive and impart information and is calling for his immediate and unconditional release.

### **Tibetans in the Peoples' Republic of China**

According to an official preliminary census carried out in 1990, there are about 4.59 million Tibetans in the People's Republic of China (PRC), including 2.096 million living in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and 2.494 million living in other regions of the PRC, mainly in the Tibetan autonomous prefectures neighbouring the TAR. The Tibetans are one of the 55 officially recognized "national minorities" in the PRC.

The Dalai Lama, the highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism, was the nominal head of the government in Tibet until his departure into exile in 1959. Prior to this the relationship between the central government of the PRC and the "local government" of Tibet was regulated by a convention signed in Beijing in May 1951. The PRC, established on 1 October 1949, declared its sovereignty over Tibet, as its predecessor the Republic of China had previously done. The Tibet Autonomous Region was formally established in September 1965 as one of the five autonomous regions of the Peoples' Republic of China.

Advocates of Tibetan independence have denied that Tibet was part of China, a view which the PRC authorities have stated is contrary to the constitution.

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To: Medical professionals  
 From: Medical Office / Research Department - Asia & Pacific Region  
 Date: 26 May 1992

### *MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

DR JAMPA NGODRUP  
 PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA : TIBET

#### Keywords

Theme: Prisoner of conscience/ unfair trial

Profession/association: Doctor

#### Summary

Dr Jampa Ngodrup is a prisoner of conscience serving a sentence of 15 years' imprisonment to be followed by four years' deprivation of his political rights. He is one of hundreds arrested in Tibet over the last few years as demonstrations calling for Tibet's independence from the Peoples' Republic of China gathered momentum and protests grew. Full details are given on the attached. Amnesty International has recently published a 60-page report entitled *Peoples' Republic of China: Repression in Tibet, 1987-1992* which gives further details on the history of the Tibet Autonomous Region and the current human rights situation.

#### Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below:

- expressing concern at the imprisonment of Dr Jampa Ngodrup, who is currently held in Drapehi prison, solely for having collected and shared information on individuals arrested in 1988
- further expressing concern at his sentence of 15 years' imprisonment to be followed by four years' privation of political rights
- urging that he be released from prison on the grounds that he has committed no violent crime and is a prisoner of conscience deprived of his liberty solely for exercising the right to receive and impart information

**Addresses**

**Gyaltsen Norbu** Zhuxi  
 Xizang Zizhiqu Renmin Zhengfu  
 1 Kang'andonglu  
 Lasashi 850000  
 Xizang Zizhiqu  
 People's Republic of China  
**Telex: 68014 F10LT CN** or  
**68007 PGVMT CN**  
 (Chairperson of the Government of  
 the Tibet Autonomous Region)

**Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme** Zhuren  
 Xizang Zizhiqu Renda Changwu Weiguanhui  
 Lasashi 850000  
 People's Republic of China  
 (Chairperson of the Standing Committee  
 of the Regional People's Congress of  
 the Tibet Autonomous Region)

**Li Peng** Zongli  
 Guowuyuan  
 9 Xihuangchenggen Beijing  
 Beijing 100032  
 People's Republic of China  
**Telex: 210070 FMPRC CN**  
**Fax: +86.1.512.5810**  
 (Premier of the State Council of  
 the People's Republic of China)

**Tao Siju** Buzhang  
 Gong'anbu  
 14 Dongchang'an Jie  
 Beijingshi 100741  
 People's Republic of China  
**Telex: 2100070 FMPRC CN**  
**Fax: +86.1.412.4222** or

**512 1365**  
 (Minister of Public Security)

**Copies**

Some copies may be sent to:

Chinese Medical Association  
 42 Dongsi Xidajie  
 Beijing 100710  
 People's Republic of China