

3 November 2001

**Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy
Special Rapporteur
Elimination of violence against women
Commission on Human Rights**

Dear Madam,

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy would like to bring to your attention a case of violence perpetrated against a Tibetan woman in Tibet.

We would like to request your office to seek intervention into the matter with the Chinese government.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and express our sincere appreciation for your continued effort in raising the issues of violence perpetrated against women around the world.

With best wishes

Sincerely

**Tenzin Chokey
Personnel for UN Affairs**

Information concerning the victim

Name: Ngawang Lochoe
Age: 28 years old
Sex: Female
Occupation: Nun
Affiliation: Nyen Nunnery
Nationality: Tibetan

The Incident

Ngawang Lochoe died in Drapchi Prison on 5 February 2001, just one year prior to completion of her 10-year prison sentence. Two weeks prior to her death in January 2001, prison officials prevented a family member from seeing Lochoe during a prison visit. Lochoe died immediately after prison officials transferred her to the police hospital near Drapchi Prison on 5 February. Lochoe's relatives were informed the same day that she was not well and had been admitted to hospital. Upon reaching the hospital, the relatives were shown the dead body of Lochoe. They were not informed of the cause of death.

Fellow nun political prisoners, who made their journey to exile last year, said that, "Unless Lochoe met with some misfortune, it is not likely that she would die a sudden death. She was a healthy woman with no history of prolonged illness while in Prison."

Additional information on the history of the victim

Ngawang Lochoe was a Tibetan nun from Nyen Nunnery in Toelung Dechen County in Lhasa Municipality. Ngawang Lochoe was arrested along with five other nuns, all from Nyen Nunnery, for taking part in a peaceful demonstration in Lhasa on 14 May 1992. They were charged with "instigating counter-revolutionary activities and propaganda" and Lochoe was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the age of 19. For seven months before her sentencing, Lochoe and the nuns suffered brutal interrogations and inhumane treatment at the Gutsa Detention Centre. Three of the nuns are still incarcerated in Drapchi Prison while two were presumably released in 1998.

In Drapchi Prison, Lochoe and 13 other nuns were involved in recording songs and messages to their families and friends on a smuggled tape recorder in June 1993. When prison authorities discovered their clandestine activity, the nuns were given additional prison sentences. Lochoe's sentence was extended by five years, bringing her total sentence to 10 years.

Information concerning the author of the present report

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and based in Dharamsala, India is a non-governmental organisation. The main objective of the Centre is to monitor and research human rights situation

in Tibet. Information is primarily obtained from people who have recently arrived from Tibet and sources within Tibet.

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