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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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RE: Urgent Action Appeal cases

No. of pages: 3 (Three)

URGENT ACTION APPEAL CASES

Three Tibetans who recently escaped from Tibet after remaining in hiding in and around Lhasa for a number of days following Chinese police attempt to arrest them for their role in the 24 May 1993 demonstration in Lhasa and involvement in poster and leaflet campaigns state that a campaign of large scale arrests is underway in Lhasa and that they are almost all conducted at night.

According to information given by them, the following Tibetans known to them have been arrested by the Chinese authorities for suspected involvement in poster campaigns and demonstrations and remain in incommunicado detention:

1. **Mrs. Penpa Tsamchoe**, 31 years of age, resident at Kyirey, Lhasa. Previously an unskilled construction worker, she has recently been unemployed and staying at home, looking after her child. Her husband, Mr. Dawa, is a driver. She maintains a fragile health. During the demonstration of 24th May in Lhasa this year, involving at its later stage well over 10,000 Tibetans, she had stood up on a bicycle and for some length of time lectured to the crowd of demonstrators when they assembled at a ground somewhere behind the Potala Palace. Her lecture had been intermingled with slogan shouting. She was arrested sometime in the beginning of July this year and her whereabouts remain unknown. Two Japanese tourists to Tibet had in an interview with us spoken about her, but the fact remained uncorroborated and unclarified until now. The Japanese tourists had the reels in their camera containing picture of her giving the lecture confiscated and expressed fear that the picture would be used to make arrests. This fear seems to have materialised.

2. **Tseten Dorje Segshing**, aged about 50, was, at the time of his arrest, residing with his parents who are both members of "TAR Political Consultative Committee" at Jamyang Tara in Lhasa. He had earlier been imprisoned from 1959 to 1980. He was arrested sometime on 8-9 June 1993. By occupation he was a small time trader.
3. **Mr. Sonam Tashi**, aged above 40, born in Lhasa, was a carpenter before. He is now a draughtsman at sector III of Lhasa town. He resides at Phunkhang Gora in Lhasa. He was arrested on 27 May 1993 at about 9.00 pm. He is married with grown up children.
4. **Mr. Lhakpa**, aged about 28, was born in Toelung Kyawo and residing in Sector I of Lhasa town. By occupation he was a mason. He was arrested on 20 June at about 7.00 pm from Phari Tsenkhang where his wife's family once resided and where he had been residing with his family at the time of his arrest. It is located at a remote area to the north-west of Lhasa, near Drepung Monastery. He is married with three children.
5. **Inchung** (real name not available, this was the name by which he was known to every body), aged about 36, was a carpenter before becoming a trader. He was born in Phenpo and residing in Ramoché within the jurisdiction of Tsomonling Uyon Lhenkhang. He was arrested sometime on 11-12 June 1993. He is married with two children.
6. **Ngawang Dorje Dodrang**, aged about 41, was arrested on about 15 June from Lhasa City Political Consultative Committee's quarters where he was staying with his mother who had been given a title and a stipend in the Committee. It is located in eastern Lhasa. The original structure which stood on it was the Trimon House which after demolition was replaced by the Lhasa City People's Political Consultative Committee building. By occupation he is a mason.
7. **Palden Choedak**, aged about 42, born in Lhasa and residing at Garu Shar in the town, used to be a carpenter but is now a labourer, taking small housing repair contracts. He was arrested on 6 June in late evening from his home. His whereabouts remain unknown but is suspected to be held at Seitru (Si-Chu) in Sangyip complex. He is married with three children. He was arrested with three others. However, our sources knew the names of only two of them, namely, Rabgyal and Tenpa (both described below).
8. **Mr. Rabgyal**, aged about 45, mason by occupation, was born in Lhasa and resident in eastern Bharkor of the town. He is married with three children. (Arrested same date as Palden Chodak above).
9. **Mr. Tenpa**, aged about 35, was a shopkeeper in a government shop but is now a road construction labourer. He was born in Lhasa and resident in sector III of the town. He had been arrested once before in 1978-79 for trying to escape to India for which he was imprisoned for three years. (Arrested on same date as Palden Choedak already mentioned).
10. **Mr. Pasang**, aged about 24, resident at Shakabpa House at the home of a relative. He was born in Lhokha and by occupation driver-on-hire in Lhasa. He was arrested sometime in the beginning of June this year and is probably held at Seitru (Si-Chu). He is unmarried.

11. **Mr. Pe-ngoe**, aged about 45, was born in Lhasa and at the time of his arrest resident at Kashali House in eastern Lhasa. A carpenter by occupation he was arrested from his home in the night (between 10.00 and 11.00 pm) of 25 May 1993. He is married with three children.

12. **Miss Tse-nyi**, aged about 22, was born in Lhasa and residing with her elder sister **Penpa Tsamchoe** (who was arrested sometime in the beginning of July for delivering a lecture at the demonstration in Lhasa on 24 May this year) in Kyirey, lane 4. She had worked for 4-5 months at a newspaper printing press in Lhasa before coming to India where she had studied for three years. She returned to Lhasa sometime in February this year (just before the celebration of Tibetan new year). She was arrested on 18 June 1993 and is presently detained at Seitru (Si-Chu). She was arrested from TAR Third Motor Vehicles Division where her brother-in-law had been employed.

13. **Phuntsok Wangdu**, a monk aged about 25, born in Tagtse Xian (county) had also come to India with Tse-nyi mentioned above. He had returned to Lhasa probably with her and was arrested along with her from the same place. He had earlier been a monk of Gaden Monastery but had been expelled from it by the Chinese authorities for taking part in a 1988 demonstration in Lhasa.

14. **Mr. Lobsang Choedak**, aged about 43, had earlier been hit in the leg by bullet fired by Chinese police during violent crackdown on 10 December 1988 (the Universal Human Rights Day during which a 26 year old Dutch woman tourist Christa Meindersma was also hit in the shoulder by bullet fired by Chinese police) demonstration in front of the Jhokhang temple in Lhasa. He was born in Lhasa and resident at Kyedung Khangsar in the town. A trader by occupation he was arrested on 17 June 1993. He had come to India to receive the Kalachakra initiation given by His Holiness the Dalai Lama this year in Sikkim. He is detained at Seitru (Si-Chu).

Mr. Lobsang Choedak is the eldest son of Choed Tenpa Choephel who died in prison under torture by Chinese police a few years ago. His mother, Tsering Dolma (popularly known as Rangzen Ama following her shouting of slogans for Tibetan independence during visit by one of the Dalai Lama's fact-finding delegations to Tibet in early 1980s), who has been in exile for some years now expresses grave concern for the safety of her son and beseeches earnest intervention on behalf of her son.

Action Requested:

Call on the Chinese authorities both in Beijing and Lhasa to account for the whereabouts of the above detainees and their conditions in terms of PRC's international commitment, among others, to the UN Convention against Torture which it has signed and ratified and in respect of which it has made a number of claims regarding rights of detainees, detention conditions and access to detainees before successive UN human rights bodies in recent years.

Human Rights Desk

9 September 1993