

1. *Information regarding the alleged victim*

Name: Tsering Wangdrak

Age: 45

Sex: Male

Informant: Victim's wife

Circumstances surrounding torture: Pasang Dolma reached Dharamsala, India, in February 2001. She was married to the victim, Tsering Wangdrak for 15 years and has three children.

While Tsering was still in Xinhua Re-education Through Labour Centre (Chinese: Xinhua Laojiaosuo) in Mianyang municipality (Chinese: shi), northern Sichuan, on 6 June 2000, a cell mate contacted Pasang and told her that Tsering was in a grave state. While she was on the way to meet him, another call came in the afternoon saying he had already passed away. It was four days later that she finally received a telegram from the prison, stating that Tsering was sick.

The people in her town were afraid of assisting her to collect the body, so as to be able to perform the last rites, for fear of antagonising the Chinese officials. Also, the prison was located some considerable distance from the town. No official death certificate was issued. Pasang claims, "My husband was physically fit. I believe that his death was a direct result of torture he suffered in prison coupled with forced labour with insufficient food."

This is corroborated by the news update of 10 July 2001 by Tibet Information Network (TIN), based in London, UK. According to TIN two Tibetans died at a "re-education through labour camp" in Mianyang municipality and one of them is reportedly likely to be Tsering Wangdrak while the identity of the other is unknown. Apparently Tsering collapsed while being forced to work in hot weather in summer without adequate water and food and died two hours later. Reports TIN also indicate that he was beaten unconscious at least once during his initial period of detention in the Karze County Public Security Bureau Detention Centre, and he continued to suffer from beatings at Mianyang thereby severing his health condition.

Additional information on the history of the victim: Tsering was one of the protestors in the Karze demonstration on 26 October 1999 in which approximately 3000 people participated. The people were protesting for the release of Geshe Sonam Phuntsok, who had been detained the night before by six officials from Karze County. The Chinese officers filmed the protestors while simultaneously clamping down on them. Eventually police officers began to take the people from their homes who had escaped detention that day. This included Tsering, who had been in the forefront of the protest. At 10 am on 29 October, in a mass arrest in Goloe township around eight minibuses and 40-45 police vehicles filled with policemen and People's Armed Police forces surrounded the area. The officers started ransacking each house. When they came to Tsering's, they took down the photos of the Dalai Lama and Geshe Sonam Phuntsok and smashed them on the floor. They then handcuffed Tsering's hands behind his back and started kicking and hitting him with electric batons. Tsering and a few others were taken to Karze police station where they were brutally beaten during interrogation. Tsering, in particular, was reportedly smashed face down on the ground and kicked on the head. Then the officers slashed his back with a bamboo stick and poured hot boiling water over it. They then whipped him with wire strings while simultaneously questioning him with, "Does Dalai Lama give you food? Does Geshe Sonam Phuntsok give you food? Are you happy now?" This went on for over a month. After two months,

Tsering was sentenced to three years and eight months for his political activism and transferred to Ngapa Prison in Karze Prefecture, Sichuan Province.

Twenty eight days after her husband was sentenced, Pasang met her husband for the first time. She had to go through an arduous process in order to obtain permission, and even ended up having to pay a bribe of 1000 yuan to meet Tsering. Over two days she was allowed to see him twice very briefly through a mesh. Both the meetings did not last more than 10 minutes and that was the last she saw of her husband.

A recent report by TIN indicates that Tibetans are at a greater risk than Chinese at the Xinhua facility due to their lack of acclimatisation to the heat and humidity of Sichuan summers, combined with hard labour and poor conditions. Prisoners at Mianyang mainly involve in construction work. Conditions are harsh in these detention centres where prisoners who fail to meet required quotas are accused of attempting to avoid work and therefore face punishments such as beatings or solitary confinement.

Remedial action: None

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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