

## *1. Information regarding the alleged victim*

**Name:** Saru Dawa

**Age:** 27 years old

**Affiliation:** Kirti Monastery

**Sex:** Male

**Circumstances surrounding torture:** In mid February, a Tibetan exile returnee's body was recovered by his relatives from near the Nyari Detention Centre in Shigatse. 27-year-old Saru Dawa, a monk of Kirti Monastery, had been arrested at the Chinese border in Dram on 20 November 2000, while returning to Tibet to see his ailing mother.

Immediately upon receiving information regarding the arrest of Saru Dawa, his relatives made numerous enquiries at various places and police stations near the border. Since all those arrested at the border are detained in Nyari Detention Centre in Shigatse, the relatives approached the prison authorities there. The authorities initially denied holding any person by the name of Dawa. However, after obtaining money from the relatives, a prison official acknowledged that Dawa had been detained at this Detention Centre but had subsequently committed suicide.

On February 15, the relatives were taken to the location near the prison complex where Dawa's body was buried. The officials exhumed the body, without letting the relatives touch it. The corpse did not smell foul, and, by their request, it was cremated the same day in front of the relatives.

Dawa's relatives were informed that he had committed a serious crime. They were shown a picture of Dawa with the Dalai Lama, and some books published in the exile community. One prison official was reportedly quoted as saying that Dawa was physically not well when he first came to the Detention Centre, and despite medical care his health failed to improve. His poor health, coupled with the serious crime he had committed, was supposedly too much for Dawa to endure, and he finally committed suicide on 9 January 2001.

**Additional information on the history of the victim:** Dawa was born in Saru Township, Dzoge County, Ngaba Prefecture, Sichuan Province in 1974. At the age of 13 he joined Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery in Tibet. In 1992, he escaped to India and joined Kirti Monastery in Dharamsala. After studying in the monastery for eight years, he started his journey to Tibet in November 2000, after receiving the news of his mother's ill health.

**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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