

URGENT ACTION

Human Rights Desk
Department of Information
& International Relations
Central Tibetan Administration
of H. H. the Dalai Lama
Dharamsala-176215 (HP) INDIA

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TIBET
(Prisoner of Conscience)

Brief description of the case: Three Tibetan men were arrested between 17 and 19 March, 1992 from Gyama Trigang village in Maldro Gungkar district of Lhasa. A recent traveller to Lhasa quoting sources in Lhasa said that these Tibetans were arrested in connection with the appearance of some wall-posters in the district. The wall-posters demanded Tibetan independence and asked the people of the district to protect their land from diamond and gold explorations by the Chinese authorities.

Karma, 40, husband of Pasang and father of three children hails from a poor peasant family in Gyama Trigang village, about 80 kms east of Lhasa. According to this reliable source who cannot be named, he was arrested after his neighbours tipped the Chinese authorities on his involvement in wall-posters. He was detained on 14th day of the First Tibetan month, i.e. 17 March, 1992.

Two days later on 19 March, Monlam, 20 and Gyatso 22, natives of the same village were arrested as other Tibetans allegedly involved in the case. As of 19 May, 1992 all three are being detained at the Maldro Gungkar District prison which is known to have poor and squalid conditions. It is not being known whether their families members have been allowed to meet them or whether they have been officially charged or otherwise sentenced.

It is clear from these unknown detention that Tibetans activists are facing secret persecution from the Chinese authorities in the villages. For the past two months these three Tibetans have been detained without the knowledge of the outside world. The Central Tibetan Administration of H. H. the Dalai Lama is gravely concerned about the fate of Karma, Monlam and Gyatso. We are further worried that these prisoners of conscience have been beaten and tortured during their secret detention. We, therefore, call the Chinese authorities to immediately release detailed information about their detention to the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva.