



Free Tibet Campaign's *Stop the Torture in Tibet* initiative will highlight persistent torture and maltreatment in Tibet's prisons, detention centres and labour camps. Since 2002 China has released at least 14 political prisoners early as a result of pressure from governments and individuals worldwide, thereby demonstrating sensitivity to international criticism of its human rights record. By highlighting individual political prisoners who have experienced torture, we aim to both contribute to their early release from prison and to bring to an end the practice of torture in Tibet.

Kunchok Tenpa and Tsundue Gyamtso

Kunchok Tenpa, 24, and Tsundue Gyamtso, 23, two monks from Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery, were both sentenced in 2004 to 3 years' imprisonment for allegedly pasting pro-independence posters. The two studied Buddhist Dialectics in Kirti monastery.

Between 2002 and 2003 protest posters were pasted in the vicinity of the monastery, in Dzoge County, Ngaba, Sichuan Province in eastern Tibet (Tibet Autonomous Prefecture "TAP"). The first poster advocated pro-independence; the second was critical of the corrupt practices prevalent among the higher Chinese officials; and the third and final poster called for Tibetans to boycott shops and restaurants owned by Hui Chinese Muslims.

According to witnesses, early one morning in January 2003, 20 Public Security Bureau Officers (PSB) from Dzoge County, raided Kirti Monastery to search for incriminating political materials. They found drafts related to new poster designs in Kunchok Tenpa's room. He was immediately arrested at gunpoint and taken to Dzogey Police Station, a two hours journey from the monastery.

Meanwhile, Tsundue Gyamtso secretly escaped to Lhasa following Tenpa's arrest. He planned to flee to India but was unable to secure the resources. After a month, he went underground in Meru-Nyin-Sip Village, Junan County, Kansu Province for several months and later escaped to Dokday, a nomadic area, near Dzogey

County. In mid-2004, nearly a year after his escape from Kirti monastery he was caught by Dzogey PSB and arrested.

Latest reports indicate that the monks are incarcerated in a prison located in Mong County, Sichuan. There is a grave concern for their well-being and health condition. The Chinese authorities continue to deny visiting rights to their families.

In recent years, Kirti Monastery was under heavy surveillance and control by the Chinese authorities. In 2002, it faced closure following local appeal to allow the exiled Kirti Rinpoche, based in Dharamsala, India to visit his hometown in Tibet. The appeal was rejected and Kirti Rinpoche was labelled as a "reactionary". On 29 July 2003,

the Chinese authorities closed down Kirti Monastic School, a branch of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery and its benefactor Soepa Nagur, disappeared on 3 July 2003.

Source: Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy



Name:	Kunchok Tenpa, Tsundue Gyamtso
Age:	24, 23
Arrested:	January 2003 and Mid 2004
Reason:	pasting pro-independence posters.
Sentence:	3 yrs
Expected release:	2007
Prison:	Mong County Sichuan

ActionActionActionActionAction

Write to the Chinese authorities listed, requesting:

- The immediate release of Kunchok Tenpa and Tsundue Gyamtso
- A commitment that the torture and maltreatment of all prisoners arrested for offences of freedom of expression and belief will cease. (China does not recognise the expression "political prisoners".)
- An independent investigation into prison conditions in Mong County Sichuan with the investigation's findings to be made public.
- Unconditional access for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to all prisons run by the Chinese authorities.

Addresses

1. Governor of Sicuan Province

Name: Zhang Zhongwei

Address: Sichuan Provincial People's Government

c/o Foreign Affairs Office of Sichuan Provincial People's Government

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1st Ring Road Chengdu 610021

Sichuan Province People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Governor

2. Minister of Justice

Name: Zhang Fusen Buzhang

Address: Sifabu 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie, Chaoyang Qu

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(c/o Ministry of Communications)

Salutation: Dear Minister