



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.

## Lobsang Tenphen

**Lobsang Tenphen**, 39, was arrested on 12 February 2003, and has since disappeared. Tenphen was one of 13 known Tibetans arrested in the second wave of detentions in connection to the case of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche. The 13 arrests followed Rinpoche's and Lobsang Dhondup's failed appeal against their death sentences (in Rinpoche's case suspended) in January 2003, and Dhondup's execution. The other 12 detainees were released after being held in Yakra-pukh Prison in Dartsedo County, Kardze, Sichuan Province and it is possible that Tenphen may be held there incommunicado. It is believed that he was arrested on suspicion of providing information about the appeals of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and Lobsang Dhondup to the media and to the outside world.

Originally from Lithang Zampa Township, Tenphen is a businessman who is married to Sonam Dolma, Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche's niece. On 12 February, six police officers reportedly came to arrest Tenphen at his house. Tenphen's wife and her father protested and enquired about the reasons for the arrest. The officers assured the family that they had "some questions to ask and nothing would happen to him" and that "he will return very soon". Since his arrest, no one from his family has been allowed to see him and his whereabouts remain unknown.

Tenphen's family have approached Lithang County Security Department, Kardze Prefecture National Security Department and other offices, inquiring about Tenphen's health and whereabouts, to no avail.

The family is anxious to learn whether Tenphen has endured beatings and tortures, which are routine in detention centres and

prisons in Tibet. The repeated refusals by the authorities to provide any information regarding his whereabouts to Tenphen's family further exacerbates their fears for his life.

A Case Sheet on Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche is also available from Free Tibet Campaign.

(Sources: *Tibet Information Network, Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch.*)



<b>Name:</b>	Lobsang Tenphen (also known as Tabo, Tapher)
<b>Age:</b>	39
<b>Arrested:</b>	12 February 2003
<b>Reason:</b>	Suspected of providing information on Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche to journalists and the outside world.
<b>Sentence:</b>	Unknown
<b>Expected release:</b>	Unknown
<b>Prison:</b>	Unknown (presumed to be imprisoned somewhere in Sichuan)

### ActionActionActionActionAction

Write to the Chinese authorities listed, requesting:

- Calling on the authorities to publicly clarify the current whereabouts of Lobsang Tenphen and provide immediate guarantees for his safety.
- Urging the authorities to ensure that he has access to his family, a lawyer and medical treatment while he remains in detention.
- Demanding the authorities to release of Lobsang Tenphen unless they are charged or convicted of a recognizable criminal offence.

#### Addresses

**1. Director of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Justice**

**Name:** Zeng Xianzhang Tingzhang

**Address:** Sifating 24 Shangxianglu Chengdushi 610015

Sichuansheng People's Republic of China

**Fax:** +86 2 8435 6784 / 8435 6789

(c/o Foreign Affairs Office)

**Salutation:** Dear Director

**2. Governor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Government**

**Name:** Zhang Zhongwei Shengzhang

Sichuansheng Renmin Zhengfu Duyuanjie, Jinjiangqu Chengdushi

Sichuansheng 610016 People's Republic of China

**Salutation:** Dear Governor

**Fax:** +86 28 435 6784/435 6789 (Mark: "For attention of Governor Zhang Zhongwei")

**3. Minister of Justice**

**Name:** Zhang Fusen Buzhang

**Address:** Sifabu 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie

Chaoyang Qu Beijingshi 100020

People's Republic of China

**Email:** minister@legalinfo.gov.cn

**Fax:** + 86 10 6520 5236 or +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of

Communications)

**Salutation:** Dear Minister