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# A Briefing Paper to the Committee Against Torture

to List of issues to be considered during the examination of the fourth periodic report of CHINA (CAT/C/CHN/4)

#### Submitted by Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy 29 October 2008, Dharamsala, India

Beginning from 10 March 2008, mass popular protests spontaneously broke out in the socalled "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") and the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR"; Sichuan, Gansu, Qinghai and Yunan. The pan-Tibet political uprising this spring is an eruption of popular resentment against the Chinese authorities' five decades of misrule in Tibet which saw systematic gross violations of human rights in every sphere of life. The Tibetan people spontaneously protested against the grave repression being enacted on the Tibetan plateau by the Chinese authorities.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) based in Dharamsala, north India, meticulously followed the people's popular protests in Tibet. Altogether the Centre registered over 200 separate events of protests covering 75 counties in the "TAR" and the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR". Tens of thousands of Tibetans from all walks of life peacefully participated in the protests. Except for a couple of isolated cases, the protests have been by and large been very peaceful conforming to non-violent standards. However, the authorities in a show of might brutally cracked down on the peaceful Tibetans. TCHRD registered atleast 120 death of known Tibetans as a direct result of armed retaliations by the law enforcement agencies during peaceful protest by the Tibetans. The Chinese state media has confirmed the arrest of 6,500 Tibetans while the actual number of arrestees can be manifold. Thousands remain under enforced and involuntary disappearance enacted by the state agencies.

People's Republic of China (PRC) as a ratifying state party to the United Nation's Convention against Torture (CAT) and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment has blatantly violated the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people. The TCHRD submits this briefing paper in light of the written replies issued by the government of People's Republic of China to the list of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the fourth and fifth periodic reports of China. This paper is written in the background of popular protests in spring 2008.

# **DEATH DUE TO TORTURE**

One of the crucial tactics employed by the Chinese authorities in order to suppress Tibetan protests is the systematic use of torture in police stations, detention centres and prisons.

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Torture is used to break the nationalistic sentiments of the Tibetans and in order to spread a message of intimidation to those who dare to question the state and its officials. Many Tibetans have been tortured severely as an exemplary case to the others from active participation in protests. In some areas Tibetans have died as a direct result of torture whilst in the custody of law enforcement agencies. Following are some case examples that TCHRD has documented.

#### Dawa

On 1 April 2008, Dawa, a 31 year old farmer died after being subject to brutal torture by the Chinese prison guards. He was a resident of Dedrong Village, Jangkha Township, Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa City, "TAR". He was arrested while participating in a peaceful protest in Phenpo County on 15 March 2008. During two weeks of detention in prison, he was subjected to torture by the prison guards. When it became evident that his health was failing, the prison authorities quickly released him on 27 March 2008 under the pretext of medical treatment in order to shun responsibility for his death. At the time of the release, his health was already in a very critical condition. After spending four days in hospital, he died on 1April 2008. Adding insult to the injury, the authorities charged the deceased's family with a fine of 1000 yuan (US \$ 125) for causing destruction to public property and bringing damages to economy.

#### Nechung

A 38 year-old Nechung, mother of four children died days after being subjected to brutal torture in the Chinese prison. She hailed from Charu Hu Village in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province. After participating in peaceful protests on 16 and 17 March 2008 in Ngaba County, she was arrested on 18 March for allegedly being the first person to pull down the door plate of the Township office. On 26 March 2008, she was released from the prison. She spent nine days in prison undergoing brutal torture in the hands of prison guards. At the time of her release from the prison, her health was in an extremely critical condition. There were many bruise marks on her body, she was unable to speak and eat food, constantly vomiting and could hardly breathe properly. After the release, her relatives immediately took her to the County government hospital for treatment. However, the County government hospital refused to admit her to the hospital to receive timely medical treatment, apparently under influence and intimidation of the local authorities. She was completely denied from accessing timely medical treatment in the hospital. After remaining in critical condition for 22 days without medical treatment she died on 17 April 2008 in abject state of neglect, pity and apathy of local authorities. Even after her death, the authorities issued terse warning to Tibetan monks for offering prayers and ritual rites for her deceased soul. Nechung is survived by her four children, all minors.

#### **Tsewang Dakpa**

Three monks from Drango County in Kardze "TAP" were brutally crushed by the security

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forces for staging a peaceful protest in front of the County government headquarters that they were seriously injured from use of brute force by security forces. One of them, Tsewang Dakpa, a 22 year old from Jangtha Township, Drango County, in particular sustained multiple and severe injury that eyewitness recounted slight chances of his survival.

## SUICIDES DUE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA

As a direct result of relentless oppression by the Chinese security forces to combat the peaceful protests, many anguished Tibetans have taken the ultimate drastic decision of committing suicide to be free from the authorities' constant physical and psychological torture. According to Tibetan Buddhist doctrine, suicide is one of the gravest forms of sins violating the cardinal precepts of the doctrine. Buddhist monks of Tibet were known for their patience and resilience in the face of adversity. The cases of suicides point to an indication of Tibetan monks being pushed to the extreme limits of endurance and helplessness in the face of oppression and repression by the Chinese authorities in Tibet.

For instance, two monks in Ngaba County committed suicides in late March 2008 as a direct result of the authorities' constant oppression in the aftermath of massive protests in the area which saw tens of thousands participating in the protest eventually leading to the death of atleast 11 known Tibetans after the authorities opened indiscriminate firing into the crowd.

### Lobsang Jinpa

Lobsang Jinpa of Ngaba Kirti Monastery in his signed suicide note on 27 March 2008 clearly states "I do not want to live under the Chinese oppression even for a minute, leave aside living for a day." Lobsang committed suicide unable to bear the brutality and shame that was being inflicted upon the monks, including him, of the Kirti Monastery by the authorities in their crack down on the monastery to arrest participants and leaders of the protests in the area.

## Legtsok

A 75-year-old Legtsok of Ngaba Gomang Monastery committed suicide on 30 March 2008. Days before committing suicide, Legtsok accompanied by two other monks while on their way to perform prayer rituals at a house of a Tibetan family encountered a large contingent of Chinese security forces heading towards Ngaba Gomang Monastery to quell the protesting peaceful monks at the monastery. The forces brutally beat Legtsok and detained him for a few days. Later he was released and sent back to the monastery. He repeatedly told his two disciples that "he can't bear the oppression anymore".

## Page 4 of 12 PROTESTERS DISAPPEAR OR RESURFACES IN UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITIONS

In the aftermath of mass arrest of Tibetans, there have been numerous complaints of disappearance of the loved ones by the family members. Enforced and involuntary disappearance has been a characteristic reprisal by the authorities. Family members anxiously wait for their arrested near and dear ones to return home yet in hundreds of cases the Tibetans do not dare to inquire from the local authorities for fear of further reprisal or picking up of other members in the family. In several cases arrested Tibetans have resurfaced in either near death conditions or in unstable mental conditions. It is a regular practice by the authorities in Tibet to release detainees/prisoners in unstable mental or near death conditions in an apparent move to shun responsibility. Following instances shed light on the situation.

#### Lobsang Thabkhey

On 1 April 2008, seven monks were arrested from Labrang Monastery in Sangchu (Ch: Xiahe) County, Kanlho "TAP", Gansu. The arrestees were 1) Gendun Gyatso, 30 yrs, 2) Gyurmey, 40 yrs, 3) Gelek Gyurmey, 30 yrs, 4) Sangay, 30 yrs, 5) Samten, 32 yrs, 6) Yonten, 34yrs, and 7) Thabkhey, 30 yrs. After several days' detention, 30-year-old Thabkhey was released in mentally unstable condition due to torture. Use of torture was evidenced by bruise marks from severe beatings all over his body. It also implied that the other monks were also brutally tortured in police custody.

#### Ven. Jampa Lhamo and Ven. Rinzin Wangdon

On 23 May 2008, two nuns of Dargay Hardu Nunnery; Ven. Jampa Lhamo, a 30-years-old from Sadul Village and, Ven. Rinzin Wangdon, a 23-years-old from Lharinyan Village, Kardze County, Kardze, "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest at the Kardze County Government headquarters and chanted slogans calling for the "Swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "Freedom for Tibet" and "Immediate release of all political prisoners". Long before the two nuns could further carry on their peaceful protest in front of the county government headquarters, a group of Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials detained the nuns. The two nuns were severely beaten and manhandled by the PSB officials at the site of the demonstration before being taken off to Kardze County PSB Detention Centre for further questioning. There is no information on the current condition of two arrestees.

## DEATH DUE TO INDISCRIMINATE FIRING

One of the key components of the authorities' crackdown upon the Tibetan protesters has been minimal tolerance and to strike deadly in order to quell the mass protests. On several occasions the authorities have indiscriminately opened fire into peacefully protesting

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Tibetans which have resulted in the deaths of many innocent Tibetans. Following are two events which were drastic in the nature of the retaliation by the armed forces and the actual figures of casualty in one single event.

## **Kardze County**

On 3 April 2008, at least 14 Tibetans were shot dead when armed security forces fired live ammunition indiscriminately into a protesting crowd near Tongkhor Monastery in Kardze County. The protest broke out when monks of Tongkor Monastery (Ch: Donggu) in Zithang Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, called for the release of two monks arrested for objecting to the Chinese 'Patriotic Education' campaign in the monastery. The official statemedia, Xinhua, admitted the incident took place but described it as 'riot' mentioning only the injury of one government official and did not mention about deaths, arrests and injuries among the Tibetan protesters. The bodies of the dead were not returned to the families.

S N	Name	Sex	Age	Affiliation	Origin
01	Bhu Bhu Delek	М	30	Unknown	Sothok Da Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
02	Druklo Tso	Μ	34	Unknown	Gugra Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
03	Khechok Pawo	Μ	20	Unknown	Tharthok Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
04	Tsering Dhondup(Younger)	Μ		Unknown	Druyak Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
05	Lhego (Pet Name)	Μ	35	Unknown	Walanda Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
06	Kunchok Sherab	М	30	Unknown	Khasung Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
07	Tseyang Kyi	F	23	Unknown	Tsar Ngoe Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
08	Lobsang Rinchen	Μ	25	Unknown	Nyatri Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
09	Sonam Tsultrim	Μ	22	Unknown	Nyatri Village,

List of known deaths during 3 April 2008 shooting

					Kardze County, Sichuan
10	Thubten Sangden	М	27	Tongkor Monastery	Tsukra Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
11	Tsewang Rigzin	Μ	38	Tongkor Monastery	Juruda Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
12	Tsering Dhondup(Elder)	Μ	43	Unknown	Khasung Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
13	Tenlo	Μ	32	Unknown	Gugra Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan
14	Kelsang Choedon	F	35	Unknown	Mokrin Village,
					Kardze County,
					Sichuan

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In separate incident, on 18 March 2008, between 2:30 - 3:00 PM (Beijing Standard Time) when around 300 Tibetans from all walks of life staged a peaceful protest demonstration in the main market square of Kardze County, Sichuan Province more and more Tibetans in the market joined the protest demonstration shouting pro-independence slogans. According to eyewitnesses account from the scene of demonstration, the Chinese paramilitary troops started firing live ammunition indiscriminately into the demonstrators from a rooftop of one building. Protestors started dispersing in all directions for cover. After a short while, three dead bodies were found lying on the road. According to sources, two of them were identified as Gonpo Nadul, Nyiga and the name of the third victim is still unidentified at the moment. At least 15 protestors were also injured during the indiscriminate firing by the Chinese security forces. Out of 15 injured Tibetans, identities of the five, two females and three males were known. They are Pema Dechen, Chemi Gonpo, Lobsang, Tseten Phuntsok and Shao Mimi.

## Ngaba County

At around 11.30 AM (Beijing Time) on 16 March 2008, thousands of Tibetan monks of Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Sichuan Province, gathered for a prayer session. Shortly after the end of morning prayer session, thousands of monks erupted into spontaneous protest which was later joined by lay people and monks of the neighbouring area.

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The Chinese security forces made a bloody armed retaliation which resulted in the death of at least eight known Tibetan who died after sustaining bullet injuries. The actual number of death can be much higher as people have seen at least "30 Tibetans felled" by the armed troops. The dead bodies were later brought into Kirti Monastery from the protest scene for prayers. The youngest among the dead was 16-year-old girl Lhundup Tso.

List of known deaths during shooting on 16 March 2008 in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan

Name	Sex	Age	Origin	Affiliation
Lobsang Tashi	М	Mid 20	Ngaba County, Sichuan Province	Kirti Monastery
Lhundup Tso	F	16	Ngaba County, Sichuan	Ngaba County Tibetan
Tashi Wangchuk	М		Province Ngaba County, Sichuan	School Unknown
Ghegyam	М		Province Ngaba County, "TAP" Sichuan Province	Unknown
Norbu	М		Ngaba County, "TAP" Sichuan Province	Unknown
Lotse	М		Ngaba County, "TAP" Sichuan Province	Unknown
Ghepan Thalo	М			Unknown
Ngudrup Tso			Ngaba County, "TAP" Sichuan Province	Unknown
Atisha	М		Ngaba County, "TAP" Sichuan Province	Unknown
Sangye	М		Ngaba County,"TAP" Sichuan Province	Unknown
Tsezin	М		Ngaba County "TAP" Sichuan Province	Unknown

## **Patriotic Education**

In the aftermath of massive pan-Tibet protests, the authorities unleashed the vicious "patriotic education" campaign in order to suppress the Tibetans after the immediate measure of direct brutal crackdown. The authorities' implementation of "patriotic education" acted as rubbing salt against the fresh wounds already sustained by the Tibetans many of whom have either lost their near and dear ones in the protest or some one from the family got arrested or disappeared. The "patriotic education" campaign brought further psychological trauma amongst the Tibetan community especially in the monastic institutions. The campaign acts as

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a political tool to humiliate the Tibetans and break down their nationalistic sentiments.

- On 3 April, at least 14 Tibetans including monks were shot dead and dozens left injured after monks of Tongkor Monastery in Kardze County, staged a peaceful demonstration calling for the release of two monks arrested earlier on 2 April for objecting "Patriotic Education" campaign in the monastery.
- On 12 April 2008 when "work team" on "Legal and Information Education" arrived in Drepung Monastery to conduct "patriotic education" campaign in the monastery, the monks in unison protested against the campaign. Security forces immediately detained and took away a number of monks to an unknown location. There is no information on the condition and whereabouts those detainees.
- According to the state run newspaper, Tibet Daily, dated 18 April, a two-month 'patriotic education' campaign was launched in Zangri County in Lhoka Prefecture, "TAR", for government employees, peasants, retired government employees and party members across all townships under Zangri County, pledged and reaffirmed the work ethics for the party cadres. The Zangri County People's Armed Police (PAP) and security forces were told that it was a right time to struggle and protest against the 'splittist' forces. The heads of townships and PAP under those townships were 'educated' about securing stability and further improving the national security. In various educational institutions, students were indoctrinated with communist
- On 12 April, a special meeting was convened among the representatives of the various monastic institutions under all eighteen counties of Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") at Dartsedo and instructed to commence the "patriotic education" campaign immediately across all religious institutions in Kardze.
- On 3 April, monks of Wara Monastery in Jomda County, Chamdo Prefecture "TAR" confronted and challenged the "work team" from carrying 'patriotic education' campaign by saying 'even at the cost of our lives we will never defame and denounce our religious leader, the Dalai Lama".
- On 18 April 2008, the "TAR" Communist Party chief Zhang Qingli visited Sera Monastery giving assurance to the monks that "the Communist Party committee and government of Tibet would protect the legal rights and interests of patriotic and devout monks and nuns". The Xinhua reported that the Buddhist service have resumed after being suspended due to Lhasa 'riot' but the official mouthpiece completely skipped the report of the detention of around four hundreds monks of the monastery in the early morning raid in Sera Monastery.
- On 21 April, Dorjee Tsering, Lhasa City Mayor, has told that the "Patriotic education" campaign will be a standard litmus test for the party cadres.
- The Chinese authorities have been conducting intense "Patriotic re-education"

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campaign in Woeser and Khenpa Lungpa Monasteries since the beginning of April 2008. On 10 May 2008, the Chinese "work team" entered the monasteries to conduct intense and rigorous "Patriotic re-education" campaign which resulted in a bitter and heated arguments between the annoyed monks and the Chinese authorities. However, none of the monks signed off the official documents and nor did they write essays denouncing the Dalai Lama. In response to the monks' adamant refusal, the Chinese authorities arrested them. On 12 May 2008, 10 monks of Khenpa Lungpa Monastery were arrested. Similarly on 13 May 2008, 6 monks of Woeser Monastery were also arrested. Two lay Tibetans were later arrested on 14 May 2008.

The identities of the 18 Tibetan arrestees are:

- 1 Ngawang Tenzin, age 40, Woeser Monastery (Administrator)
- 2 Tenphel, age 19, Woeser Monastery
- 3 Rigyang , age 21, Woeser Monastery
- 4 Choegyal, age 23, Woeser Monastery
- 5 Lobsang Gyatso, age 19, Woeser Monastery
- 6 Tsangpa, age 17, Woeser Monastery
- 7 Lodoe, age 15, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 8 Namgyal, age 18, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 9 Butuk, age 13, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 10 Jamyang Lodoe, age 15, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 11 Tsepak Namgyal, age 15, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 12 Kalsang Tashi, age 17, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 13 Jangdrup, age 21, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 14 Wangchuk, age 22, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 15 Tenpa Gyaltsen, age 26, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 16 Passang Tashi, age 30, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
- 17 Dhargye Garwatsang, age 19 (lay)
- 18 Kunchok Tenzin, age 21 (lay)
  - The Chinese security forces arrested twelve monks of Dingri Shelkar Choedhe Monastery during a night raid for opposing the "patriotic re-education" campaign on 19 May 2008. The identities of the monks are as follows:
- 1 Ven. Khenrab Tharchin, 32 years old, Drushe Village, Shelkar Township,
- 2 Ven. Tsewang Tenzin, Phelbar Village, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
- 3 Ven Tenzin Gayphel, Lingshar Village, Gaymar Townsip, Dingri County
- 4 Ven, Khenrab Tashi, Mashak Village, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
- 5 Ven. Topgyal, Drushe Village, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
- 6 Ven. Tenzin Tsering, Bichu Village, Gyatso Township, Dingri County
- 7 Ven. Lobsang Jigme, Norgay nomadic area, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
- 8 Ven. Khenrab Nyima, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
- 9 Ven. Dhondup, Che Village, Tsakhor Township, Dingri County
- 10 Ven. Tenpa, Lolo Langga, Shelkar Township, Dingri County

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- 11 Ven. Samten, Shollingshar, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
- 12 Ven. Choedhen, Shollingshar, Shelkar Township, Dingri County

### **Summary Execution of Judiciary**

In the aftermath of protests, the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") Communist Party and Government officials have called for a swift and quick judicial process to strike back at the "separatists" and the "Dalai clique". On 4 April 2008, Lhasa City Deputy Party Secretary said that amongst the protesters arrested in Lhasa, 800 Tibetans would be brought before the court. During a conference of "TAR" court officials in the evening of 2 April 2008, "TAR" government Vice-Chairman, Pema Thinley, urged "the usage of law as a tool to strike back at the enemies". He called for a "swift and quick judicial proceedings" for those involved in March protest. Jampa Phuntsok, during his briefing at the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China on 9 April told reporters "953 have been arrested out of which 328 have been released where as 403 will be carried forward for sentencing by the court."

Thousands of peaceful Tibetan protesters in the "TAR" and other Tibetan areas outside the "TAR" have been arrested by the law enforcement agencies. Although the fate of those arrested is not widely known, however, few cases have emerged in the state media where they have been convicted by the local courts. These cases have been marked with substandard legal proceedings which were absolutely summary and arbitrary in nature.

For instance, the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court handed down harsh sentences to a group of 30 Tibetans on 29 April 2008. The state media, Xinhua, in its latest report "Judges and lawyers: Rioters in Lhasa unrest receive fair trial" released on 1 May claims "They [the Tibetans] were convicted of arson, robbery, creating disturbance, assembling to assault state organs, preventing state personnel from carrying out their functions and theft." The nature of the court proceedings and the official interpretation of the Tibetans' activities obviously bring forward the questions of competency of the court and the official downplaying of the nature of the Tibetan activities. The Lhasa fast-track court, in a record one and half month's time, handed down life imprisonment terms to three Tibetans (Pasang, Sonam Tsering and Tsering), between 15-20 years prison term to seven others, and the rest received terms ranging from three to 15 years. The sentencing is a clear mockery of law and due process. In light of the fact that due process involves filing of documents, engaging independent lawyers, case verification, consultations from both the parties, non-extraction of confession through torture, etc., in a state with rule of law, the purpose and nature of the court in Lhasa obviously is only to provide a legal rubber stamp on pre concluded convictions without the concept of innocent until proven guilty.

The fact that one of the Tibetans is seen sitting on a chair during the court session indicated torture and inhumane treatment in detention, which is blindly denied by the Chinese authorities. Tibetans arrested for political crimes are subjected to the worst torture and ill treatment by the police in detention centres in order to extract confessions and break down

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their nationalist sentiments. In light of the usual inhumane practices by the police in Chineseadministered detention centres and prisons, and the fact that in the officially-released picture one Tibetan is sitting on a chair in the court, brings forward the high probability of use of torture and inhumane treatment met out to the defendants. In further details provided in the Chinese language report of the same court hearing, Migmar Dolma the lawyer for Lobsang Samten is quoted as saying "On 17 April, I went to see my client. Upon entering the detention centre, two doctors were attending the prisoners. At that time around 10 prisoners were being treated and two of the prisoners were on IV drip." This statement by the lawyer corroborates the high probability of severe beatings on the Tibetans in the detention centre.

While it is widely known that the Tibetans were sentenced for showing their political dissent, the state media has downplayed the whole nature of their activities as petty criminal offenses by projecting the cases as that of looting, arson, theft, rioting etc., rather than acts of \_\_expression\_ of political dissidence. However, Article 293 of China's Criminal Law stipulates a "fixed- term imprisonment of not more than five years, criminal detention or public surveillance" for acts "creating disturbances, thus disrupting public disorder". But the state media states that three Tibetans were sentenced to life imprisonment, seven were given 15-20 years prison sentences, while the remaining Tibetans were sentenced to prison terms of 3-14 years. Clearly the harshness of sentences handed down indicates that it is not a case of petty criminal activity only, but involves the larger issue of political dissidence -- which the state media deliberately failed to mention.

In light of the above instance and other instances of court proceedings, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is of the view that judicial process is being misused as an official reprisal by the Chinese authorities instead of protection of fundamental human rights of the Tibetans.

## CONCLUSION

In order to end the culture of impunity in the "TAR" and the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR", the TCHRD appeals the Committee Against Torture to take a hard look at torture and other cruel and inhuman degrading treatment being freely practiced on the Tibetan plateau. As evidenced clearly by the series of protests this spring, the Tibetan people are desperately fighting for the restoration of their fundamental human rights.

The Centre appeals to the Committee Against Torture

- 1) To urgently seek a fact finding mission to Tibet to assess the situation first hand.
- 2) To urge China to immediately put an end to the use of torture to extract confession or break the Tibetan nationalist feelings.
- 3) To immediately end the "patriotic education" campaign which inflicts fatal psychological trauma epecially in the monastic community.

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- 4) To urge China to inform the family members about the whereabouts of the arrestees.
- 5) To urge China to give detail accounts of the inhuman mass extrajudicial killings on 16 March 2008 in Ngaba County and on 3 April 2008 in Kardze County.