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Intervention against imminent possibility of execution of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

Honourable Ambassador

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and Lobsang Dhondup were arrested in April 2002. On December 2, 2002, they were found guilty "inciting separatism, committing crimes of explosions, and illegal possession of guns and ammunition" for alleged involvement in a series of bombings. These charges were upheld at their January 26, 2003, appeal hearing before the Sichuan Higher People's Court. It is a great and tragic shame that Lobsang Dhondup was executed that same day. Tenzin Delek's execution was suspended for 2 years.

It is clear that both men were denied a representation by independent lawyers, and it was widely believed their 'confessions,' later retracted, were obtained through torture.

China has flouted international political and public opinion in its treatment of these individuals, and has violated its own criminal laws and constitution. The International Community has expressed strong concern about their case. The resulting assurances provided by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), including the claim that this case would reach the Supreme People's Court, have proven completely unreliable. We are also gravely concerned about the health of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and all other persons remaining detained in connection with his case.

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which China is a signatory nation, individuals have the right to a fair and impartial trial, open to the public, with all guarantees necessary for their defence. They are not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. They have the right to freedom of speech and to practice their religion of choice. None of these rights have been upheld in this case.

We therefore call on you:

- No execution of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. Instead, he has to receive a fair trial at court with the admission of international observers.

- Immediate and unconditional release of Tenzin Delek, if the charges against him cannot be upheld, and compensation for the time of his arrest.
- Immediate investigation of the torture charges, and, if confirmed, a trial against those who ordered or executed the mistreatments.
- Investigation of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's health status by a physician of his choice, and immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to medical treatment if needed.

Your Excellency, we ask for forwarding this entreaty to the Chinese Government, the Governor of the Sichuan Province and the Chief Prosecutor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Procuratorate.

Yours sincerely