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Folder Title: 506315
Memo to the Record

To: LP-GWB Archivists

From: David R. Sabo

Date: 04/20/2016

Collection: White House Office of Records Management (ORM)

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Notes:

This case file was printed from EOP ERA – White House Office of Records Management RMS because it could not be located in the textual files.
NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. WILLIAM F. SCHULZ

SUBJECT: URGE THE PRESIDENT TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WITH THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS, PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION

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COMMENT: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN ORM MAR 5 02

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 0

MEDIA: FAX

REPORT CODES: 

USER CODE: 

ACTION CODES:
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION
D - DRAFT RESPONSE
F - FURNISH FACT SHEET
I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY
R - DIRECT REPLY W/COPY
S - FOR SIGNATURE
X - INTERIM REPLY

DISPOSITION CODES:
A - ANSWERED
B - NON-SEPC-REFERRAL
C - COMPLETED
S - SUSPENDED

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
TYPE RESP = INITIALS OF SIGNER
CODE = A
COMPLETED = DATE OF OUTGOING

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (ROOM 72, OEOB) EXT-62590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.
February 12, 2002

George W Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of Amnesty International USA, I want to thank you for your efforts to secure the release of prisoners of conscience Ngawang Choephel, Gao Zhan, and Li Shaomin. Their release demonstrates that pressure from the United States can produce tangible results. As you prepare to travel to China on February 21 and 22, 2002, I urge you to raise human rights issues with the Chinese leadership, and in particular the following cases and issues:

International Human Rights Standards

- Implement international human rights measures: Urge the Chinese to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and to implement its measures to protect human rights.

- Reverse the trend of executions: During the "Strike Hard Campaign" launched in April 2001, China executed more individuals in the first three months than the rest of the world over the past three years. Many individuals were sentenced to death after unfair trials and were convicted largely by confessions that were extracted under torture.

- Eliminate torture: Torture and ill treatment of detainees and prisoners remains widespread and systemic in China. Amnesty International has documented torture in a full range of Chinese state institutions, including police stations, detention centers, prisons, administrative camps for "reeducation through labor," and internal migrant "custody and repatriation" centers.

- End death in custody: China's rate of deaths in custody is the highest in the world. Deaths in custody are the ultimate failure of government to protect detainees against torture and ill treatment. In February 2001, Ngawang Lochoe, a Tibetan nun, died from heart failure. Prison officials transferred Ngawang Lochoe to the police hospital near Drapchi Prison on 5 February, where she died under highly questionable conditions.

Prisoners of Conscience

- Rebiya Kadeer, a Uighur businesswoman, was arrested while on her way to meet with staff from the US Congressional Research Service. She was sentenced to eight years in prison for
"providing secret information to foreigners," information later found to be readily available in public newspapers. Ms. Kadeer is suffering from numerous ailments and should be released on medical parole.

- Xu Wenli, a pro-democracy leader, was tried on December 12, 1998. He was charged with secretly organizing and planning the China Democratic Party and "subverting state power," and was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment. Xu Wenli is reportedly suffering from Hepatitis B and should be released on medical parole.

- Jigme Sangpo, a 74 year-old former primary school teacher, has been in prison for over 20 years for composing a nationalist lyric. He is reported to have been placed in solitary confinement, interrogated and beaten after the May 1998 protests in Drapchi prison, Lhasa, Tibet. Jigme Sangpo is a prisoner of conscience and should be released immediately.

- There are at least 200 individuals imprisoned for their activities at Tiananman Square in 1989. They were arrested in the aftermath of the massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators and have been imprisoned for twelve years.

Restrictions on Freedom of Religion

- Appeal to Chinese authorities to uphold the right to freedom of religion and expression and to halt the recent trend of increased arrests, torture, and death in custody of those seeking to freely express their freedom of religion and association. Religious and ethnic minorities including many Christians, Tibetans, Uighurs, and Falun Gong practitioners face staggering levels of repression, including arbitrary detention, torture, and lengthy prison sentences. Thousands of Buddhist monks and nuns remain in detention in Tibet, while ethnic Uighurs many of them Muslims, are accused of being "separatists" or "terrorists" many have been executed after secret trials. Evangelical Protestants and Roman Catholics who worship outside the official "patriotic" churches are victims of a continuing pattern of arrests, fines, and harassment. Several have been tortured and sentenced to lengthy prison terms. Falun Gong members have suffered severe repression, detention, and death in custody.

- Gedun Choekyi Nyima, the child chosen as the 11th Panchen Lama by the Dalai Lama was detained in 1995 along with his family and has not been seen since. Please urge that the whereabouts and condition of the child be made public and any restrictions on his freedom of movement and that of his family be removed.

Mr. President, your leadership is critical to secure meaningful and immediate action by the Government of China to improve their respect for and protection of basic human rights. I hope you will take this opportunity to set in motion an agenda to improve human rights in China. We look forward to supporting your efforts on these issues and thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

William F. Schulz
Executive Director
Amnesty International USA