

བོད་ཀྱི་བྱེད་ཆོག་མ་རྟོག་པོ་ལྷན་ཁག་གི་འཕྲེང་བ་



THE TIBET BUREAU

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

Registered Letter

18 July, 1995

Ms. Imma Guerras
Working Group in Involuntary or Enforced Disappearance
Centre for Human Rights - D 213
United Nations
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA 10

Ref: Disappearance of the new Panchen Lama and others

Dear Ms. Guerras,

Thanks for calling me about Mrs. Chungla. I have already informed our offices in India and Nepal to provide me with more details, if possible. However, I must warn you the chances of getting more information are extremely dim due to the nature of political situation in Tibet. As far as legal procedures are concerned, it is out of question because Tibetans would generally avoid speaking with the authorities for fear of reprisals. If the connections of a political detainee is detected, everyone will be prosecuted without fail.

I am again forwarding you a case of disappearance in Tibet. This is the case of the new Panchen Lama, 6-year old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who was recognized as the reincarnation of the 11th Panchen Lama by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in India on 14 May, 1995. I have enclosed the full text of this announcement and other relevant information on the case for your perusal. His Holiness the named the boy as "Tenzin Gedhun Yeshe Thrinley Phuntsog Pal Sangpo" and composed a long-life prayer titled "Spontaneous Fulfillment of the Wishes." I am also forwarding to you a photocopy photograph of the young Panchen Lama. The Panchen Lama is Tibet's second-highest Tibetan spiritual leader whose seat is Tashi Lhunpo monastery in Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze), 266 kms to the west of Lhasa. The 10th Panchen Lama passed away on 28 January 1989 at Shigatse, although under misterious circumstances.

According to various information coming out of Tibet and China, the new Panchen Lama and his parents, Mr. Konchok Phuntsog and Mrs. Dechen Chodon, were secretly taken away from their village by the Chinese authorities, immediately after the announcement was made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in India. Lhari is one of the ten district under Nagchu which is 326 kms north of Lhasa, the Tibetan capital. It is now being widely believed that the Panchen Lama and his parents are under some form of house arrest somewhere in China, some unconfirmed sources say Beijing. For the last two months, the Chinese government had refused to give any information about the whereabouts and well-being of the Panchen Lama.

The Office of Tibet
241 East 32nd Street
New York, NY 10016 U.S.A.
Telephone 212 213 5010
Telefax 212 779 9245

The Tibet Bureau
rue de l'Ancien Port 13/3
1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Telephone 022 738 79 40
Telefax 022 738 49 41

Around the same time, Chadrel (pronounced Ja-drel) Rinpoche, the abbot of Tashi Lhunpo monastery, together with his business manager Gyara Tsering Samdup, and his assistant Jampa were detained by the authorities, reportedly on suspicion of sending information about the new Panchen Lama to the Dalai Lama in India. No information about their well-being is coming out from the Chinese authorities who are reportedly holding these three Tibetans somewhere in Beijing. Chadrel Rinpoche was appointed to lead the "search committee" that was formed by the Chinese government to find the new reincarnation of Panchen Lama.

Tibet Bureau is deeply concerned about the disappearance of the Panchen Lama and others. We would highly appreciate if the Working Group can intervene immediately with the Chinese government on this case. The Chinese authorities must make public all information about the well-being and whereabouts of the new Panchen Lama, his parents and others. At the same time, we urge the Working Group to ensure on behalf of the Tibetan people that the Panchen Lama and others are released unconditionally so that he can begin his traditional and religious education at Tashi Lhunpo monastery in Shigatse.

Thanking you for your attention to this letter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ngawang C. Drakmargyapon
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER

encls

བོད་ཀྱི་བླ་མ་ཆོག་མ་དོན་གཅོད་ཁང་



THE TIBET BUREAU

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: SEC. TEMPA TSERING
SEC. NGODUP DONGCHUNG
FM: NGAWANG C. DRAKMARGYAPON
DT: 21 NOVEMBER, 1995

**RE: Panchen Rinpoche-Chinese Response to UN Working Group
on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance**

Please find herewith copy of a 7-page communication which we received from the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance for your information. This communication concerns our submission to the Working Group on the disappearance of Panchen Rinpoche and His family-members.

You will note that the Chinese government response has been categorised as "negative" by the Working Group. I have not idea about the procedure after this conclusion but will definitely seek clarifications from the UN. Tibet Bureau will definitely do more follow-up work on this.

The Chinese response has failed to address the central issue of our submission to the Working Group, i.e., whereabouts of Panchen Rinpoche and family-members. Beijing has concluded that "the whereabouts of the person concerned remain unknown" which is really serious from our point of view. Their response dealt more with accusing us than addressing the real issue when they say: "The issue concerns neither religion nor human rights, nor disappearance; it is purely and simply politics."

Please give us further updates so that we can prepare our reaction to the Working Group. Specific reports on the whereabouts of Panchen Rinpoche would most appropriate in this case.

Please do not publish the details of the documents as the UN has not officially the released the contents in any report. This will only be done in the Working Group's report to the 52nd UN Commission on Human Rights, next year.

Tashi delegs.



CENTRE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENÈVE

Télex : 41 29 62

Téléphone : 917 1234 -907 1234

Téléfax : (22) 917 0123

Réf. N° : G/SO 217/1 CHIN

(à rappeler dans la réponse)

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Genève 10



16 November 1995

pu/m/m

Dear Sirs,

At the request of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, I should like to refer to the report you submitted on the disappearance in China of Gedhun Nyima, Dechen Chodon and Konchok Phuntsog.

... These cases were subsequently transmitted by the Working Group to the Government of China, and the latter has now provided the attached replies giving the results of its investigations.

The Working Group would be grateful if you could inform the families concerned of the respective replies by the Government and communicate to the Group, as soon as possible, any observation or comment, or any queries on specific elements of the Government's investigations that you or the relatives might wish to make thereon.

I wish to emphasize that, in view of the purely humanitarian character of the Working Group's action, and in accordance with the terms of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/38 which reminds the Group of the obligation to discharge its mandate with discretion, any information given to you on this matter is exclusively destined for the relatives of the missing person.

Should you learn about any additional details which may be relevant to the report on the disappearance you submitted, please do not hesitate to communicate them to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, care of Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH-1211 Genève 10 (cable address UNATIONS GENEVA, telex 412962, telefax 9170123).

Kathryn Hinkle-Babul

Secretary

Working Group on Enforced or
Involuntary Disappearances

Messrs.

Tibet Bureau for United Nations Affairs

13, rue de l'Ancien Port

1201 Geneva

CASE NO.: 022868

DATE OF TRANSMISSION: 26/07/95

1) IDENTITY OF MISSING PERSON

FAMILY NAME: NYIMA
FIRST NAME(S): GEDHUN
ALIAS/NICKNAME: NEW PANCHEN LAMA
SON OF: KONCHOK PHUNTSGO

SEX: M AGE: 06
NATIONALITY: CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP OF
PROFESSION: MONK
ADDRESS: LHARI
NAGCHU
TIBET

2) DATE AND 3) PLACE OF ARREST/ABDUCTION/DETENTION OR/AND
WHERE LAST SEEN

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	
ARRESTED:	00/05/95	:	DEPARTMENT/PROVINCE	: NAGCHU
			CITY	: LHARI
			LOCATION	: HIS HOME

4) FORCES ALLEGED RESPONSIBLE:

NAME(S) OF FORCE(S) : POLICE

5) STEPS TAKEN:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PLACE/AUTHORITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESULTS/ REASONS</u>
APPEALS TO	BEIJING	/ /	NEGATIVE

6) SOURCE :

THE TIBET BUREAU

OTHER ELEMENTS OF REPORT:

20/07/95 SOURCE REPORTS THAT SUBJET WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE REINCARNATION OF THE 11TH PANCHEN LAMA BY H.H. THE DALAI LAMA IN INDIA ON 14.05.95. SOURCE FURTHER REPORTS THAT SOON AFTER THAT DATE, SUBJECT AND HIS PARENTS "WERE SECRETLY TAKEN AWAY FROM THEIR VILLAGE BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES." THE PANCHEN LAMA IS TIBET'S SECOND-HIGHEST SPIRITUAL LEADER BASED AT TASHI LHUNDO MONASTERY IN SHIGATSE, 266 KM. TO THE WEST OF LHASA, TIBET'S CAPITAL.

BY COMMUNICATION(S) DATED:

.9/08/95 G THE GOVERNMENT REPORTS THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY CASE OF "KIDNAPPING AND DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FAMILY OF THE REINCARNATED CHILD OF PANCHEN". FURTHERMORE, IT STATES THAT WHAT "HAS BEEN CALLED THE REINCARNATED CHILD OF PANCHEN AS CONFIRMED BY DALAI (LAMA) AND THE CHILD'S DISAPPEARANCE, ARE MERE FABRICATIONS BY THE DALAI GROUP. THE ISSUE CONCERNS NEITHER RELIGION NOR HUMAN RIGHTS, NOR DISAPPEARANCE; IT IS PURELY AND SIMPLY POLITICS. THE DALAI GROUP, AFTER FAILING IN ITS MANY ATTEMPTS TO BREAK UP CHINA, IS USING THE REINCARNATION OF PANCHEN AS A NEW POLITICAL PARTY PLOY TO DISINTEGRATE OUR COUNTRY, SOW DISPERSION AMONG OUR PEOPLE AND DESTABILIZE OUR SOCIETY." THE GOVERNMENT ADDS THAT THE "DALAI (LAMA) HAS NO RIGHT WHATEVER TO CONFIRM THE

CASE NO.: 022868

REINCARNATED CHILD OF PANCHEN. THE FINAL CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL OF THE REINCARNATED CHILD OF PANCHEN IS THE PREROGATIVE OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF CHINA. HOWEVER, THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE PERSON CONCERNED REMAIN UNKNOWN. THIS INFORMATION WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE SOURCE BY LETTER DATED 16.11.95.

CASE NO.: 022869

DATE OF TRANSMISSION: 26/07/95

1) IDENTITY OF MISSING PERSON

FAMILY NAME: CHODON
FIRST NAME(S): DECHEN
MOTHER OF: GEDHUN CHOEKYI NYIMA

SEX: F AGE: 49
NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 01
NATIONALITY: CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP OF
PROFESSION: NURSE
ADDRESS: LHARI
 NAGCHU
 TIBET

2) DATE AND 3) PLACE OF ARREST/ABDUCTION/DETENTION OR/AND
WHERE LAST SEEN

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	
ARRESTED:	00/05/95	:	DEPARTMENT/PROVINCE	: NAGCHU
			CITY	: LHARI
			LOCATION	: HIS HOME

4) FORCES ALLEGED RESPONSIBLE:

NAME(S) OF FORCE(S) : POLICE

5) STEPS TAKEN:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PLACE/AUTHORITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESULTS/ REASONS</u>
APPEALS TO	BEIJING	/ /	NEGATIVE

6) SOURCE :

THE TIBET BUREAU

OTHER ELEMENTS OF REPORT:

20/07/95 SOURCE REPORTS THAT SUBJET WAS ARRESTED TOGETHER WITH HER HUSBAND AND SON,
GEDHUN CHOEKYI NYIMA, THE NEW PANCHEN LAMA OF TIBET.

BY COMUNICATION(S) DATED:

29/08/95 G THE GOVERNMENT REPORTS THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY CASE OF
"KIDNAPPING AND DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FAMILY OF THE REINCARNATED
CHILD OF PANCHEN". FURTHERMORE, IT STATES THAT WHAT "HAS BEEN
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THE PERSON CONCERNED REMAIN UNKNOWN. THIS INFORMATION WAS

W.G.E.I.D.

REPORTS ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES
IN CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP OF

CASE NO.: 022869

TRANSMITTED TO THE SOURCE BY LETTER DATED 16.11.95.

CASE NO.: 022870

DATE OF TRANSMISSION: 26/07/95

1) IDENTITY OF MISSING PERSON

FAMILY NAME: PHUNTSOG
FIRST NAME(S): KONCHOK
FATHER OF: GEDHUN CHOEKYI NYIMA

SEX: M AGE: 49
NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 01
NATIONALITY: CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP OF
PROFESSION: NURSE
ADDRESS: LHARI
 NAGCHU
 TIBET

2) DATE AND 3) PLACE OF ARREST/ABDUCTION/DETENTION OR/AND
WHERE LAST SEEN

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	
ARRESTED:	00/05/95	:	DEPARTMENT/PROVINCE	: NAGCHU
			CITY	: LHARI
			LOCATION	: HIS HOME

4) FORCES ALLEGED RESPONSIBLE:

NAME(S) OF FORCE(S) : POLICE

5) STEPS TAKEN:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PLACE/AUTHORITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESULTS/ REASONS</u>
APPEALS TO	BEIJING	/ /	NEGATIVE

6) SOURCE :

THE TIBET BUREAU

OTHER ELEMENTS OF REPORT:

20/07/95 SOURCE REPORTS THAT SUBJET WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE REINCARNATION OF THE 11TH PANCHEN LAMA BY H.H. THE DALAI LAMA IN INDIA ON 14.05.95. SOURCE FURTHER REPORTS THAT SOON AFTER THAT DATE, SUBJECT AND HIS PARENTS "WERE SECRETLY TAKEN AWAY FROM THEIR VILLAGE BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES." THE PANCHEN LAMA IS TIBET'S SECOND-HIGHEST SPIRITUAL LEADER BASED AT TASHI LHUNDO MONASTERY IN SHIGATSE, 266 KM. TO THE WEST OF LHASA, TIBET'S CAPITAL.

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THE TIBET BUREAU

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

Registered Letter

15 December, 1995

Ms. Kathryn Hinkle-Babul
Secretary
UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance ✓
Centre for Human Rights - D 314
United Nations
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA 10

Ref: G/SO 217/1 CHIN

Dear Ms. Hinkle-Babul

I would like to thank you and the Members of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance for the speedy action that was taken to ascertain the whereabouts and well-being of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Eleventh Panchen Lama of Tibet. However, we were really disappointed with the Chinese response because it failed to address the issue involved.

As you may have known, the Chinese authorities held a "so-called enthronement" ceremony for another Tibetan boy, Gyaltzen Norbu as the so-called "reincarnation" of the Tenth Panchen Lama, at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery on 8 December. A few days earlier, the Chinese authorities issued a statement charging Gedhun Choekyi Nyima of having "drowned a dog" and his parents for being "deceitful and notorious for speculation."

These developments have increased our concern for the safety of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as stated in His Holiness the Dalai Lama's statement on 29 November: "At this moment the safety of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima has his proper religious training is of particular concern to me. He has not been seen in the public for some months and is reported to be detained somewhere in Beijing. I, therefore, appeal to all governments, religious and human rights organisations for their intervention in ensuring the safety and freedom of the young Panchen Lama."

Concerning the Chinese response of 29 August to the Working Group regarding the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents, we have the following comments:

Contd...2

1. The Chinese response totally fails to identify the issue involved in our submission, which is the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi and his parents. Furthermore, our submission did not raise any political question. Therefore, it is the Chinese authorities who are making this religious issue into a political one, attempting to re-write the ancient philosophy and traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. For us Tibetans, the issue concerns human rights because Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents are missing from their village.

2. The Chinese government's response to the Working Group remains contradictory when we consider other official Chinese statements mentioned below on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's whereabouts, none of which was mentioned in their response to the Working Group:

- a) On 21 August, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima "remains in Tibet" refusing to elaborate further when pressed by foreign journalists.
- b) On the same day, Deutsche Presse Agentur quoted a high ranking Chinese foreign affairs officer as saying: "Both [Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and Chadrel Rinpoche] are well and they are by no means under house arrest or anything like it."
- c) On 30 November, another Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima "should be where he was born".
- d) Around the same time, a spokesman for the Chinese Buddhist Association ominously and simply said that the boy [Gedhun Choekyi Nyima] "was living".
- e) Then the Chinese authorities charged Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as having "drowned a dog."
- f) On 8 December, Associated Press quoted, Chen Jian, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying: "To know the address of every average Chinese and introduce them to you is not the job of the Foreign Ministry spokesman. To China, the boy you mentioned is just one of the 1.2 billion Chinese people."

4. Of course, the question which now arises is why the Chinese government did not cooperate with the Working Group and submit a truthful accounts on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's whereabouts. Why did their communication refused to make any comments on the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima when the Foreign Ministry spokesmen were coming up with the above statements. This attitude was most unfortunate and shows the unwillingness of China to fully cooperate with the Working Group.

5. The concern and anxiety of the Tibetan Government in Exile will remain as long as we are unable to locate the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi and his parents and ensure their release from incommunicado detention. Tibetan concerns for the fate of

Contd...3

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima is not allayed by the contradictory reports that are being issued by the Chinese leadership about the whereabouts of the boy and the strident denunciation he and his immediate family members are subjected to by the Chinese official establishment.

6. Let me also inform you that since the Chinese authorities recognised a Fake Panchen Lama, various NGOs and parliaments around the world are expressing their concern about the safety and disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. In fact, 200 Deputies from the French Senate have recognised Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the world's youngest political prisoner in a statement released on 1 December. On 13 December, the US Congress adopted a resolution urging that the United States Government should "work to ensure the safety of the new Panchen Lama as selected by the Dalai Lama."

7. Under these circumstances, we appeal to you and the Members of the Working Group to once again intervene with the Chinese government so that full explanation is given as to the whereabouts and well-being of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents. I would also be grateful if you can give me a procedural explanation on the term "negative" under results in section 5 of your report on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima.

In conclusion, we believe, the Chinese Government as a responsible Member of the United Nations should respect the mandates of human rights bodies it is responsible for creating and provide truthful accounts. In the final analysis the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents remain unknown and it is only the Chinese authorities who fully know where they have been detained.

I thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Ngawang C. Drakmargyapon
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER

enclosures:

1. Statement of H. H. the Dalai Lama on 29 November, 1995.
2. Press Statement of Tibetan Government in Exile on 8 December, 1995.
3. Statement of French Senate on 1 December, 1995.
4. US Congress Resolution S.J. 43 of 13 December, 1995.

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THE TIBET BUREAU

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

STATEMENT OF H. H. THE DALAI LAMA

The search and recognition of Panchen Lama's reincarnation is a religious matter. Because of the unique historical and traditional relationship between the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lamas I conducted all the necessary religious procedures with great care and then determined Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the reincarnation of the late Panchen Lama. Therefore, my recognition of the Panchen Lama's reincarnation cannot be changed.

On several occasions in the past years I have approached the Chinese government in this matter without success. Last month again I appealed directly to the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, to extend his government's recognition to the young Panchen Lama. I had hoped that a personal appeal from my side might facilitate a gesture of good-will from the Chinese government.

It is unfortunate that the Chinese government has chosen to politicise this issue and to appoint a rival Panchen Lama. In order to lend a veil of religious legitimacy they have coerced senior Tibetan Lamas and monks to participate in a conference held in Beijing under tight security and strict secrecy. It saddens me that once again the religious sentiments of my people have been deeply hurt and offended.

At this moment the safety of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his proper religious training is of particular concern to me. He has not been seen in the public for some months and is reported to be detained somewhere in Beijing. I, therefore, appeal to all governments, religious and human rights organisations for their intervention in ensuring the safety and freedom of the young Panchen Lama.

Released at Dharamsala, India

29 November, 1995

- end -

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THE TIBET BUREAU

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

DHARAMSALA CONDEMNS PRETENDER PANCHEN LAMA'S ENTHRONEMENT TODAY

**Expresses Concern Over the Safety of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima &
Appeals to Human Rights Organisations worldwide**

DHARAMSALA, 8 December - The Tibetan Government in Exile condemned China's enthronement of a pretender Panchen Lama today as "invalid and illegal."

"The pretender Panchen Lama's enthronement goes against the wishes of the Tibetan people, and the Tibetan people will never accept this," said Kalon Sonam Tobgyal, the chairman of the Kashag (Cabinet) of the Dharamsala-based Tibetan Government.

Gyaltzen Norbu, the fake Panchen Lama selected by the Chinese leadership over the choice of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been formally enthroned today by the Chinese communist authorities in Tibet at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, the traditional spiritual seat of the Panchen Lamas of Tibet, according to reports coming from Tibet.

The enthronement ceremonies began at 10.30 AM today, Beijing time, amid unprecedented security measures. Those selected audience invited to the enthronement ceremony by the Chinese authorities have been issued with identity cards, and members of the Public Security Bureau (Police) manned the main entrance to the monastery's sprawling courtyard to check the ID cards of those entering the monastery. Those without ID cards, even if they are monks of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, were refused permission.

More than 500 soldiers of the China's People's Liberation Army were spread throughout the monastery compound to overcome any potential disturbance.

Kalon Sonam Tobgyal said, "the so-called enthronement of the so-called Panchen Lama goes against the beliefs, traditions and religious practices of the Tibetan people."

Kalon Sonam Tobgyal expressed concern about the personal safety of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the boy recognised by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the authentic Panchen Lama on 14 May. "We are appealing to human rights organisations throughout the world to impress upon the Chinese leadership of the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of the true Panchen Lama," the Kalon added.

- end -

Groupe d'études parlementaire
sur les problèmes du Tibet

Association des amitiés
parlementaires pour le Tibet

0 1 DEC. 1995

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

**200 PARRAINS POUR
UN ENFANT PRISONNIER POLITIQUE**

Au nom du droit des peuples à disposer d'eux mêmes, y compris dans le libre exercice de leur culture et de leur religion, le **Groupe d'Études parlementaire sur les problèmes du Tibet** de l'Assemblée nationale et l'**Association des Amitiés parlementaires pour le Tibet** du Sénat qui représentent environ **200 députés et sénateurs**, souhaitent élever une protestation indignée contre la brutalité politico-religieuse de la désignation, organisée par les autorités chinoises, d'un nouveau successeur au **Xème Panchen Lama**.

Au terme des rituels religieux traditionnels du bouddhisme tibétain, Sa Sainteté le **Dalai Lama** avait reconnu en mai dernier **Gendhun Choekyi Nyima**, un jeune enfant de six ans, comme étant le successeur du **Xème Panchen Lama**, seconde autorité religieuse du Tibet, décédé en 1989.

Le jeune enfant et sa famille avaient alors aussitôt "disparu" tandis que, refusant ce choix, les autorités de la République Populaire de Chine mettaient en œuvre une procédure de désignation d'un autre candidat.

Aujourd'hui, un deuxième enfant de six ans vient d'être désigné par tirage au sort comme le successeur officiellement reconnu par les Chinois du **Xème Panchen Lama**. On peut penser que la communauté tibétaine dans son entier ne pourra jamais accepter sincèrement le candidat des Chinois. Ainsi, au delà de l'intervention de l'Etat chinois dans une procédure purement spirituelle, c'est tout l'avenir politique du Tibet qui est en jeu.

Conscients des graves conséquences qu'emportent, pour la survie même d'une nation, d'un peuple et d'une culture, les atteintes incessantes à la liberté religieuse et aux droits fondamentaux de l'homme au Tibet, les **200 députés et sénateurs** du **Groupe d'Études Tibet** et de l'**Association des Amitiés parlementaires pour le Tibet** dénoncent à nouveau solennellement la mainmise de la République Populaire de Chine sur ce pays.

Par ailleurs, considérant que **l'enfant Gendhun Choekyi Nyima est devenu de facto le plus jeune prisonnier politique du monde**, les parlementaires annoncent l'organisation, sous leur égide, le 6 mars prochain, d'un colloque sur les enfants tibétains. Mais d'ores et déjà, de la même manière qu'une centaine de villes de France parraine des prisonniers d'opinion tibétains, les **200 PARLEMENTAIRES DÉCIDENT DE PARRAINER L'ENFANT GENDHUN CHOEKYI NYIMA** et enverront, à cet effet, un courrier aux plus hautes autorités de la République Populaire de Chine.

Louis de BROISSIA
Député de la Côte d'Or
Président du Groupe d'Études
sur les problèmes du Tibet
de l'Assemblée nationale

Claude HURIET
Sénateur de Meurthe-et-Moselle
Président de l'Association des Amitiés
parlementaires pour le Tibet
du Sénat

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104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S.J. Res. 43

7941

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

December 13, 1995

Helms for himself, Thomas, Mack, Pell, Feingold,
Moynihan, and Simon.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding Wei Jingsheng; Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the next Panchen Lama of Tibet; and the human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Whereas on November 21, 1995, the Government of the People's Republic of China formally arrested Wei Jingsheng, who is known internationally as the father of the democracy movement in China;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has held Wei Jingsheng incommunicado and without charge since April 1994 and has rebuffed international calls to release him;

Whereas Wei Jingsheng has spent all but 6 months of the last 16 years in detention because of his unwavering support for freedom of speech and the development of democracy in China;

Whereas at an October 1995 meeting in New York between President Clinton and President Jiang Zemin of China, the Administration urged the Government of the People's Republic of China to release political prisoners and specifically included Wei Jingsheng and others among such prisoners;

Whereas the treatment of Wei Jingsheng by the Government of the People's Republic of China raises concern over the future of other jailed dissidents in China, including Wang Dan, a student leader in the 1989 pro-democracy movement in China;

Whereas on May 14, 1995, His Holiness the Dalai Lama announced recognition of 6-year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the next Panchen Lama;

Whereas recognition of the successor to the Panchen Lama in Tibet has always been within the authority of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas for the first time in Tibetan history, the Government of the People's Republic of China has imposed on Tibet its own candidate for a new Panchen Lama and has rejected the new Panchen Lama selected by the Dalai Lama;

Whereas Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family have been missing for 6 months and are reportedly being held by authorities of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas Chatrel Rinpoche, who is the head of the original search committee for the new Panchen Lama and who refused to denounce the Dalai Lama's selection of the new Panchen Lama, is also missing and believed to be held by authorities of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Panchen Lama is one of the highest-ranking religious official of Tibetan Buddhism;

Whereas the rejection of the Dalai Lama's selection of Panchen Lama by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the selection of its own candidate for Panchen Lama, is seen by many Tibetans as politicizing a purely religious affair and as a violation of fundamental Tibetan human rights;

Whereas since the invasion of Tibet in 1949, the Government of the People's Republic of China has taken any expression by the Tibetan people of their distinct religious or cultural identity as a direct challenge to that government's political control of Tibet;

Whereas Chinese official have repeatedly maintained that the Tibet Autonomous Region is entitled to manage its own cultural and religious affairs, and

the intervention of Chinese government authorities in the selection of the next Panchen Lama is a clear violation of the principle:

Whereas for 3 consecutive years, the United States has been a primary sponsor of resolutions criticizing the human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China in China and Tibet at the annual meetings of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva;

Whereas these resolutions call upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to take measures to ensure the observance of all human rights, invite that government to cooperate with all special rapporteurs and working groups, and request the Secretary General of the United Nations to prepare a report for the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the human rights situation in China and Tibet;

Whereas at the March 1995 meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, the resolution lost by only 1 vote;

Whereas it is important to maintain international pressure on the Government of the People's Republic of China in order to induce that government to respect internationally-recognized standards of human rights; and

Whereas in May 1994, the President of the United States pledged strong support for efforts at international forums to criticize the human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the United States Government should --

(1) press for the immediate and unconditional release of Wei Jingsheng and other political

prisoners by the Government of the People's Republic of China;

(2) urge the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the wishes of the Tibetan people by supporting the selection of the new Panchen Lama by His Holiness the Dalai Lama;

(3) work to ensure the safety of the new Panchen Lama as selected by the Dalai Lama; and

(4) sponsor and aggressively push for the passage of a resolution regarding the human rights situation in China at the annual meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva scheduled for March 1996.

##

བོད་ཀྱི་བྱེད་ཆོག་ས་ཤིན་གཅོད་ཁང་



THE TIBET BUREAU

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

Registered Letter

23 January, 1996

Mr. Osama Rajkhan
UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance
Centre for Human Rights - A 826-1
United Nations
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA 10

Dear Mr. Rajkhan,

Happy New Year!

Thank you very much for giving me all the assurances to locate the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents so that their unconditional released can materialise. I would also like to thank you for giving me the explanation for the term "negative".

As discussed over the phone, I am forwarding for your attention the case of Chadrel Rinpoche and others. Tibet Bureau would be most grateful if the Working Group can intervene immediately to locate the whereabouts of Chadrel Rinpoche and others. I am enclosing herewith the latest urgent appeal launched by Amnesty International on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima for your information.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ngawang C. Drakmargyapon
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER

encls

**REPORT ON
THE ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE OF A PERSON (S)**

I. Identity of the person subjected to enforced or involuntary disappearance

1. Family Name: **RINPOCHE**
2. First Name: **Chadrel (aka Jampa Tinley)**
3. Sex: Male
4. Birth date or age (at time of disappearance): **55**
5. Nationality: **Tibetan**
6. Civil status (single, married, etc.): **Single-monk**
7. Identity document: **Not known**
Nr. Note known
8. Profession: **Monk**
9. Address of usual residence: **Tashi Lhunpo Monastery
Shigatse
TIBET**
10. Activities: (trade union, political, religious, humanitarian/solidarity, press, etc.)

Chadrel Rinpoche was the acting-abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, the seat of the Panchen Lamas of Tibet in Shigatse (Ch: Xigaze). He was also the chairman of the "Democratic Management Committee" of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. He was also appointed to head the "Search Committee" to locate the reincarnation of the Tenth Panchen Lama by the Chinese authorities. On 17 May 1995, three days after His Holiness the Dalai Lama proclaimed Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the Eleventh Panchen Lama, Chadrel Rinpoche and his assistant Jampa Chung were detained by the Chinese authorities in Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

II. Date of disappearance

11. Year, month, day and hour when missing person was arrested or abducted:

17 May, 1995

12. Year, month, day and hour when missing person was last seen:

17 May 1995

13. Other indications relating to date of disappearance:

On 11 July 1995, top leaders of the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region" called a meeting at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery where an official 15-page condemned Chadrel Rinpoche for his links with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

On 14 July, the local Religious Affairs Bureau in Shigatse, issued an order removing Chadrel Rinpoche as the acting abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. The abbot was also deposed from his position as head of the "Search Committee" for the Panchen Lama's reincarnation, and from his membership of the "National Political Consultative Committee".

After a long silence on the whereabouts of Chadrel Rinpoche, UPI quoted Chen Jian, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on 21 August 1995 as saying that Chadrel Rinpoche is "ill and in a hospital" and is not in custody.

III. Place of disappearance

14. Place where missing person was arrested or abducted:

Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, China

15. Place where missing person was last seen:

Lhasa-Chengdu

16. No

17. Other indications concerning the place of disappearance:

Same as mentioned under point 13.

IV. Forces believed to be responsible for the disappearance

18. **Chinese authorities in Chengdu, most probably Public Security Bureau (Police)**

19. x
20. x
21. None. However, the Chinese authorities openly denounced Chadrel Rinpoche at a meeting which took place at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery on 11 July 1995. The Chinese authorities said he must be dealt by law.
22. Chadrel Rinpoche was in transit in Chengdu, reportedly on his way to Beijing.
23. x

V. National action on behalf of the missing person

A. Habeas corpus, amparo or similar

24. Nation of action: x
25. Date: x
26. Tribunal: x
27. Result: x
28. If a judicial decision exists please indicate its contents, if possible: x

B. Criminal complaints

29. Nature of action: x
30. Date: x
31. Tribunal: x
32. Result: x
33. If a judicial decision exists please indicate its contents, if possible: x

C. Other measures taken at the national level

34. On 11 July 1995, the monks of Tashi Lhunpo monastery demonstrated briefly asking for the release of Chadrel Rinpoche during a meeting called by the Chinese authorities at the monastery.

VI. Measures taken at the international level on behalf of the missing person:

34. Organisations addressed: International organisations, governments, parliaments, human rights organisation and United Nations. Appeals were forwarded to United States of America, European Union, US Congress, European Parliament, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention etc.,
35. Date: May to December, 1995
36. Result: Concerned have been expressed on the whereabouts of Chadrel Rinpoche. However, from the Chinese authorities side, it was negative. For example, when the UN Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/95) send one Urgent Appeal on behalf of Chadrel Rinpoche, the Chinese authorities failed to respond.

VII. Related cases of arrest or disappearance, in particular missing relatives or children

37. Jampa Chung (aged 50), aka Chung-la, assistant to Chadrel Rinpoche was detained along with Rinpoche. He is reportedly in custody in Shigatse since June 1995.

Other Tibetans detained for supporting Chadrel Rinpoche who remain missing are:

Samdup, Gonpo, Tobgyal, all male, staff of Tibet Gang-gyen Corporation.

Gyaltrul Rinpoche, Shepa Kelsang, Lhakpa Tsering, Ringkar Ngawang, Ngodup, Tenzin, Tendor, Sherab, Tashi Dhondup, Tsering Phuntsok, Chungdag, Penpa, Penpa Tsering, Bhuchung, Sonam Phuntsok, Tenzin, Gedhun (aka Amdo Gedhun), Lobsang Tenzin, Wangchuk, Dorje Gyaltsen, Pema Dorje, Lhakpa Tsering (not to be confused with the older monk of the same name), Lobsang Dawa and Tsering Gonpo. All were monks of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery.

38. None

VIII. Information concerning the author of the present report

39. Surname: Drakmargyapon
40. First Name: Ngawang
41. Nationality: Tibetan

42. Relationship with the missing person: Acting on behalf of the Tibetan Government in Exile, Dharamsala, INDIA

43. Present address: TIBET BUREAU FOR UN AFFAIRS
rue de l'Ancien Port 13/3
1201 GENEVA

Telephone: 738 7940

Fax: 738 7941

IX. Confidentiality

44. No

X. Date: 23 January, 1996

Signature of author:



[Handwritten signature]



CENTRE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENÈVE
Télex : 41 29 62
Téléphone : 917 1234 -907 1234
Téléfax : (22) 917 0123

Réf. N° : G/SO 217/1 CHIN
(à rappeler dans la réponse)

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Genève 10



22 May 1996

Dear Mr. Drakmargyapon,

At the request of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, I should like to refer to the report you submitted on the disappearance in China of Gedhun Nyima, Dechen Chodon and Konchok Phuntsog.

These cases were subsequently transmitted by the Working Group to the Government of China, and the latter has now provided the following reply on the results of its investigations:

"A few unscrupulous souls have tried to smuggle the boy abroad. They even plotted to do him physical harm and then shift the blame to the Chinese government. Fearing for his safety, the boy's parents appealed to the government for protection. The government has responded to their request by taking security measures to protect the boy, his parents and other family members. At present they are leading normal lives and enjoy perfect health. Unfortunately, unless we have their consent, we are not at liberty to reveal their place of refuge."

The Working Group would be grateful if you could inform the families concerned of the respective replies by the Government and communicate to the Group, as soon as possible, any observation or comment, or any queries on specific elements of the Government's investigations that you or the relatives might wish to make thereon.

I wish to emphasize that, in view of the purely humanitarian character of the Working Group's action, and in accordance with the terms of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/30 which reminds the Group of the obligation to discharge its mandate with discretion, any information given to you on this matter is exclusively destined for the relatives of the missing person.

Should you learn about any additional details which may be relevant to the report on the disappearance you submitted, please do not hesitate to communicate them to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, care of Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, CH-1211 Genève 10 (cable address UNATIONS GENEVA, telex 412962, telefax 9170123).

Kathryn Hinkle-Babul
Secretary
Working Group on Enforced or
Involuntary Disappearances

Mr. Ngawang C. Drakmargyapon
Tibet Bureau for United Nations Affairs
13, rue de l'Ancien Port
1201 Geneva

བོད་ཀྱི་རྒྱལ་ཚོགས་རྟོག་པའི་ཁང་



THE TIBET BUREAU

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

Fax: 917 0123

11 November, 1996

Ms. Kathryn Hinkle-Babul

Secretary

UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Centre for Human Rights - D 314

Palais des Nations

1211 GENEVA 10

Ref: G/SO 217/1 CHIN

Dear Ms. Hinkle-Babul,

In view of the second Chinese response on the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents transmitted to the Working Group earlier this year (your letter of 22 May 1996), Tibet Bureau would like to offer the following comments to the Working Group as it meets soon:

1. The Chinese authorities have repeatedly made contradictory statements on the whereabouts and well-beings of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Eleventh Panchen Lama of Tibet and his parents, Konchok Phuntsog and Dechen Chodon. The fact remains that Beijing has failed to declare publicly Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's whereabouts.
2. In the current communication to the Working Group, the Chinese authorities allege that "a few unscrupulous souls have tried to smuggle the boy abroad" and that there was even a "plot" to bring "physical harm" to the boy. Furthermore, the Chinese authorities also claim that the boy's parents "appealed...for protection."
3. The two responses from the Chinese authorities concerning Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's whereabouts raises several questions on the sincerity of the Chinese authorities while responding to the Working Group. Both the communications, as the Working Group will recognise, fail to provide the real answer which we require, i.e., Gedhun Choeyi Nyima's whereabouts.
4. First, why did the Chinese authorities failed to make the current claims and allegations in its first response (August 1995) to the Working Group. Furthermore, the current Chinese claim can hold little water because it offers no convincing or substantiated details. The situation worsen when we have no access to verify these claims. Nobody has access to the boy and his parents except Beijing.

Second, why is the Chinese authorities refusing to declare publicly the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents.

Third, why would the Tibetan people try to "smuggle" the boy abroad. The international community must understand that it is the Chinese Government which opposes Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's recognition as the Eleventh Panchen Lama of Tibet and not the Tibetan people. Therefore, if any harm comes to the boy and his parents, it is the Chinese Government alone in this world which has all the reasons to inflict it. The Tibetan people does not even have access to the boy. It is only the Chinese Government who have full access to and control of him.

Fourth, the Chinese claim that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima's parents "appealed...for protection" cannot be verified unless the Working Group has direct access to the parents. We believe the Chinese authorities are only using his parents to build its claims. We cannot forget that the Chinese authorities once charged his parents of being "deceitful and notorious for speculation."

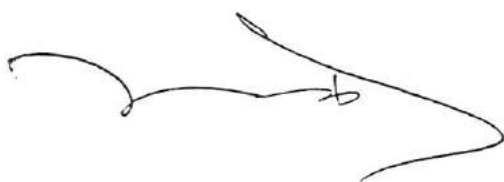
For the information of the Working Group, Tibet Bureau would also like to share that various information has been floating about the exact location where Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents may be detained. At one point, a military guest-house guarded by 60 to 70 policemen in Hairou, the site of the NGO '95 Forum (UN World Conference on Women) was said to be location. Now unconfirmed information suggests that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima is not keeping well and that he and his parents have been moved to a guest-house somewhere in Gaungdong (Canton).

Having offered the above comments on the second Chinese response, Tibet Bureau would like to once again appeal to the Working Group to pursue with and encourage the Chinese Government to give honest and clear information on the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyiam and his parents.

We remain particularly concerned about his health, his education and his incommunicado detention. The Working Group is also requested to pay special attention to the psychological impact this 7-year-old boy may be going through under the present unfortunate circumstances. This situation is making the world's followers of Tibetan Buddhism even more anxious since little information is available about the well-being of their second highest spiritual leader.

Tibet Bureau appeals to the Working Group to ascertain the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima so that his release can be ensured.

Sincerely yours,



Ngawang C. Drakmargyapon
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER



23 MARS '97 17:44



THE TIBET

News Update

Office of the Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama
(United Nations Affairs)

UN Human Rights Investigators Express Concern on Tibet

Working Group on Disappearance Seeks Documented Proof from China on the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima

Geneva, 23 March - Released reports by several UN human rights investigators have expressed concern on the situation of human rights in Tibet in their annual reports to the 53rd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights which concluded its second week of work here yesterday. The reports came from the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance.

Mr. Nigel Rodley, the Special Rapporteur on Torture, in his report said that "he had continued to receive reports according to which the practice of torture was endemic to police stations and detention centres in Tibet...Tibetans who had been forcibly returned to Tibet after seeking asylum in Nepal were alleged to be particularly vulnerable to torture." The Special Rapporteur identified 11 torture cases in Tibet which was reported to him as occurring in 1994 and 1995.

The Special Rapporteur said that forms of torture and ill-treatment in Tibet reported to him include "kicking; beating; application of electric shocks by means of batons or small electrical generators; the use of self-tightening handcuffs; deprivation of food; exposure to alternating extremes of hot and cold temperatures; enforced standing in difficult positions; enforced standing in cold water; prolonged shackling of detainees spread-eagled to a wall; placing of heated objects on the skin; and striking with iron rods on the joints or hands."

On 21 March, the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, Mr. Abdelfattah Amor expressed his concern over the well-being of Ven. Yulo Dawa Tsering while introducing his report at the Commission on Human Rights. Mr. Amor informed the Commission that his office issued an Urgent Appeal on Ven. Yulo Dawa Tsering after reports emerged that he was being detained. In both his statement and the report, the Special Rapporteur indicated that the Chinese authorities had broken their promise that Ven. Yulo Dawa Tsering will not face repercussions for meeting and speaking with Mr. Amor in November 1994 in Lhasa. Mr. Amor is the only UN official human rights investigator ever permitted by the Chinese authorities into Tibet.

The Report informs that China providing a late reply to an Urgent Appeal on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima by the Special Rapporteur on 14 November 1995 said that Beijing "considered illegal the proclamation by the Dalai Lama of a child as reincarnation of

the Panchen Lama, attributed the resignation of Chadrel Rinpoche from the committee looking for the successor of the Panchen Lama to health reasons."

The UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance was appointed in 1986 by the Commission on Human Rights to examine incidents and governmental action in all parts of the world inconsistent with the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and to recommend remedial measures for such situations.

In another report, the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance said that it was "extremely concerned about the recent increase of disappearances in China, particularly in Tibet." The majority of the 73 cases of disappearance complaints against China concerned Tibetans, the Working Group's report said describing one case as involving "four monks who reportedly disappeared in 1996 were allegedly accused of having produced pro-independence posters and leaflets containing prayers for the health and safety of the child reported as disappeared, recognised by the Dalai Lama on 14 May as the reincarnation of the late Panchen Lama."

On the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Eleventh Panchen Lama of Tibet, the Working Group report states that the Chinese authorities produced a second reply stating: "A few unscrupulous souls have tried to smuggle the boy abroad. They even plotted to do him physical harm and then shift the blame to the Government of China. Fearing for his safety, the boy's parents appealed to the Government for protection. The Government has responded to their request by taking security measures to protect the boy, his parents and other family members. At present they are leading normal lives and enjoying perfect health. Unfortunately, unless we have their consent, we are not at liberty to reveal their place of refuge."

This UN Working Group report says that it "remains concerned about the whereabouts of the child, Gedhun Nyima ... In this connection, in accordance with its method of work, the Working Group would appreciate being provided by the Government of China with documents supporting its statement that he and his parents had appealed to the Government for protection and at present are "leading normal lives and enjoying perfect health."

The case of the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents was submitted to the Working Group by Tibet Bureau for UN Affairs in Geneva on 18 July 1995. The Working Group was established by the Commission on Human Rights with five independent Experts to act as a channel of communication between families of disappeared persons and the Governments concerned, with a view to ensuring the sufficiently documented and clearly identified individual cases are investigated and the whereabouts of the disappeared persons clarified. The Working Group's 1997 report to the Commission says that 43,980 cases of disappearances in the world have not yet been clarified while 63 countries had outstanding cases of disappearance in 1996.

The Report of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention contains Decision 40/596 on China which declared that the detention of 24 Tibetans nuns in Tibet

arbitrary "as contrary to article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights regarding the exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

The Report informs the Commission on Human Rights about "preparatory visit" to China undertaken by Mr. Louis Joinet, the Chairman of the Working Group from 14 to 21 July 1996. In this regard, the report says that "in view of the Working Group's projected visit to China in 1997 (July) and the fact that consultations with the Chinese authorities to finalise the modalities of the visit are at an advanced stage, the Working Group believes, pending formal confirmation of the projected visit by Chinese authorities before the end of the fifty-third session of the Commission, that it would be appropriate to defer all deliberations regarding communications received by the Working Group." This decision of the Working Group is responsible for keeping all case submission on Tibet or China pending and as such no action was taken on Tibetan cases by the Group in 1996.

This Working Group was established by the Commission on Human Rights in 1991 with five independent Experts with the task of investigating case of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with the relevant international standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or in the international instruments adopted by the States concerned.

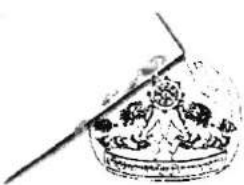
The reports by the Special Rapporteur on Torture; Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance and the Working Group on Disappearance also said that they wish to conduct fact-finding Missions in China. Mr. Nigel Rodley, the Special Rapporteur on Torture in his report said: "The information reaching the Special Rapporteur continues to justify concern at the situation. Recent legal developments could make a positive contribution, the impact of which would be a focus of a visit to the country should he receive an invitation, as requested in 1995."

More UN reports and documents of the Commission on Human Rights are expected to deal with the human rights situation in Tibet when they are released in the next four weeks. On Monday, when the Commission discusses the question of religious freedom all over the world, governments and NGOs are expected to make statements on Tibet.

Non-governmental organisations attending the Commission on Human Rights will host a special briefing on the human rights situation in Eastern Turkestan, Inner Mongolia and Tibet on 24 March at the United Nations. On Tibet's behalf Kaser Dawa Tsering, Representative of H. H. the Dalai Lama for the Americas and Mrs. Chungdak D. Koren, Representative of H. H. the Dalai Lama for UN Affairs will address the briefing. That evening, Allied Committee of the Peoples of Eastern Turkestan, Tibet and Inner Mongolia will host a reception at the United Nations for delegates attending the Commission on Human Rights.

Forwarded by
Tibet Bureau for UN Affairs
Geneva, SWITZERLAND





བོད་ཀྱི་འགྲན་སྡེ་

THE OFFICE OF TIBET

241 EAST 32ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016

June 19, 1998

Working Group on Enforced or
Involuntary Disappearances
Office no. D. 217
High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH - 1211 Genève 10, SWITZERLAND

FAXED

21 June '98 Gnd
22 June '98

POSTED

22 June - Global Priority

Dear Sir or Madam,

In response to your Urgent Communication dated April 27, 1998, I have the honor of submitting the attached cases of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance to the attention of the Working Group.

We are grateful to the Working Group for its efforts over the years to help locate Tibetans who have been made to disappear. In China generally, and particularly in Tibet, there are very few avenues for redress and ordinary people remain powerless in confronting official repression and abuses. Most Chinese legislation in this field is fairly recent, and information about citizen's rights is generally lacking. Memories of the harsh repression and intimidation prevalent in the 1960's and 70's are still fresh. They have been revived by current campaigns such as "Strike Hard", political "re-education" in the monasteries, and the vilification and slander of the Dalai Lama in all official statements since 1994.

Concerning the ongoing disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the nine-year old Panchen Lama, we are grateful to the Working Group for continuing to actively pursue the case. All inquiries have remained fruitless to date, including the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, concerned governments, parliamentarians and individuals. We fear for his health and well-being as well as that of his parents. A future spiritual leader of our people is being deprived of the education and training he requires to be in a position to fulfill his important duties.

May we point out that with respect to paragraph 133 of 1998/43, the reference is to the Ministry of Public Security, not "Services" as in the text. In fact, while formal prisons are

THE OFFICE OF TIBET

under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, many detention centers are operated by local Public Security Bureaus (correctly identified in 1997/34).

We regret that we are sending these cases by fax to meet the reporting deadline. The hard copy has been sent today by express post. We have done our best to prepare the cases to meet the reporting requirements, but it is not always easy, or even possible, to obtain all the data we would like to provide to you. However, we are always ready to reply to any requests for clarification. I would be happy to meet with the members of the Working Group and reply to any questions they may have, during the upcoming 54th Session in New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawa Tsering', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dawa Tsering
Representative of
HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

317174175100



THE TIBET BUREAU
OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF H.H. THE DALAI LAMA

10 July, 1998

Registered Post
& Electronic Mail

Ms. Kathryn Hinkle-Babul
Secretary
UN Working Group on Enforced or
Involuntary Disappearances
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - D 314
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA 10

Ref. No: G/SO 217/1 CHIN

Dear Ms. Hinkle-Babul,

I am approaching the distinguished members of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances today, firstly to thank the Working Group for its repeated expression of concern on the "emerging pattern of disappearances" in Tibet, in its report to the last two sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights. Both the people and the Tibetan Government in Exile remain indebted to the Working Group and its dedicated staff to help us to determine the whereabouts of disappeared Tibetan political prisoners and also to help us prevent cases of this inhuman situation in Tibet.

Through this communication, we wish to draw the attention of the Working Group to paragraphs 107 and 108 of its report E/CN.4/1997/34 which concerns the fate of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Eleventh Panchen Lama of Tibet, and his parents. In paragraph 108, it was stated "the Working Group remains concerned about the whereabouts of the child, Gedhun (Choekyi) Nyima, who is subject of the controversial issues regarding the reincarnation of the late Panchen Lama. In accordance with its method of work, the Working Group would appreciate being provided by the Government of China with documents supporting its statement that he and his parents had appealed to the Government for protection and at present are "leading normal lives and enjoying perfect health."

During the past three years, we had expressed our deep concern on the well-being and whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents in both our initial submission

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The Central Tibetan Administration of H.H. the Dalai Lama with its headquarters in Dharamsala, India has offices in New Delhi, Nepal, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, South Africa, Russia, Hungary, France, United Kingdom and USA.

(of 18 July, 1995) and the subsequent submissions forwarded to the Working Group thereafter. In view of the insincere and contradictory responses from the Chinese authorities to the Working Group, we are now faced with a situation whereby, the most important issue, i.e., the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents remained unknown.

This inhuman reality has created a tremendous sense of anxiety and sadness not only in the minds of the six million Tibetan people but also in the minds of millions of followers of Tibetan Buddhism, from Russia to South Africa and from United States of America to Japan. It was for this reason that world-wide campaigns were launched and are going on to ensure the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and to secure his unconditional release. It was due to this unfortunate situation that Buddhists in the Russian Federation held a three-day hunger strike in April this year to demand the release of one of their spiritual leaders from Chinese custody.

The boy, aged 9, has now spend his last three birthdays in captivity of the Chinese authorities.

In view of the Working Group's decision, mentioned above, the Chinese authorities again failed to respond positively to a UN human rights mechanism under the UN Commission on Human Rights to which the China is a member-country. This lack of sincerity on the part of the Chinese authorities while responding to the Working Group on the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents must once again receive strong scrutiny by the Working Group. This is our appeal.

Since the release of the Working Group's report (E/CN.4/1997/34), the Chinese authorities have again resorted to giving contradictory statements on the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. For example, in February this year, delegation of the Austrian Government (which included Foreign Minister Dr. Schuesselt) on a visit to Tibet was told that the boy was in Lhari (Ch: Jiali), his birth place in Tibet. Thereafter, to three-member US Religious delegation, which visited Tibet at the end of February, the Chinese authorities said that the boy was in Beijing. At one time, Mr. Ngabo Ngawang Jigme, a senior Tibetan official of the Chinese authorities, who lives in Beijing, said that "the boy was in Gansu (province)".

Furthermore, the Chinese authorities have turned down all the request made by foreign delegations visiting either Tibet or China, to be allowed to meet with the boy. The latest case is the May 1998 visit to Tibet by the European Union Trioka's Human Rights Mission. Despite their repeated request on purely humanitarian grounds to

provide independent confirmation of China's assurances that the boy was living a normal life, the request was turned down.

Under these circumstances and in view of the great concern expressed by the Working Group on the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents, Tibet Bureau for UN Affairs, wishes to reiterate our stated position contained in our last submission to the Working Group on this case.

As we remain deeply concerned about the lack of concrete response to the Working Group on the part of the Chinese authorities and also recognising the failure of the Chinese authorities to declare publicly the whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents, we once again, solemnly appeal to the Working Group to pursue with the case and urge the Chinese authorities to give clear and satisfactory response on this case.

In making this appeal, we also remain most grateful to the Working Group's efforts to determine the whereabouts of disappeared peoples on this planet and wish you success in your endeavours.

Thanking you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely yours,

Ngawang C. Drakmargyapon
HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER
Tibet Bureau for UN Affairs
10, place de la Navigation
1201 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND



NB: Kindly note the change of our mailing address.



བོད་ཀྱི་འགོ་བོད་མིའི་སྐོབ་ཐང་དང་
སངས་བཞུགས་པའི་ཆུས་
ཞེ་གནས་ཁང་།

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

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Date: 22 April 2002

The Rapporteur/Chair
Committee on the Rights of the Child
Centre for Human Rights
United Nations
Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sub: Appeal for action on Gendun Choekyi Nyima (the XI Panchen Lama) who turns 13 on April 25 2002.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) would like to thank the Committee on the Rights of the Child for all its efforts on behalf of Tibetans. TCHRD strongly believes that the persistent efforts of the office of the various UN bodies have contributed to the release of few prominent political prisoners of Tibet in recent times, namely Tanak Jigme Sangpo, Chadrel Rinpoche, and Ngawang Choephel. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and other dedicated staff members of United Nation.

The recent release of Tibetan political prisoners is a proof that the authorities of China are taking heed of the opinion of the international community regarding the plight of Tibetans inside Tibet. Encouraged by these recent developments, TCHRD would like to plead for a renewed and resolute action on Panchen Lama, whose 13th birthday falls on 25 April 2002.

On 14 May 1995, the Dalai Lama announced the then six-old Gendun Choekyi Nyima as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, thus becoming the XI Panchen Lama. The Panchen Lama is the second senior-most lama of Tibet after the Dalai Lama. Shortly after the announcement Gendun Choekyi Nyima and his family were taken from their home in Lhari County, Nagchu, to Beijing. Their whereabouts have been unknown ever since.

We are indebted that the Committee on the Rights of the Child raised concern about Gendun Choekyi Nyima to the Chinese authorities in May 1996. To which Wu Jianmin, the Chinese Ambassador to the United Nation, admitted that "he has been put under the protection of the government at the request of his parents". At that time the committee also requested the authorities allow a UN representative to "visit the family and provide reassurance".

Since then, various human rights activists and organisations have expressed grave concern and supported the issue of the Panchen Lama. Denmark, during the 53rd UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva tabled a draft resolution concerning the human rights situation in Tibet and China. This draft, co-sponsored by 14 other nations also raised the issue of the Panchen Lama.

In September 1998 when Mrs. Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights raised concern about Gendun Choekyi Nyima to the Beijing authorities during her ten-day official visit to China, the Chinese President responded that the boy and his parents are in protective custody at an undisclosed location, and that China had selected its own Panchen Lama.

The case was also prominently reported in the Working Group report E/CN.4/1997/34 and E/CN.4/1999/62. The Working Group report E/CN.4/1997/34 quoted Chinese officials responding that "At present they (the eleventh Panchen Lama and his parents) are leading normal lives and enjoying perfect health". However, despite all these efforts the authorities have still not disclosed the whereabouts of the family and nothing has changed since his disappearance in May 1995. Many Tibetans fear that the eleventh Panchen Lama is actually no longer alive.

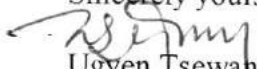
The Panchen Lama's continued status of disappearance is an affront on the religious sentiment of all Tibetan people. Since he is held to be the reincarnation of the tenth Panchen Lama he needs to be educated and instructed in Buddhist line of education, according to the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. This teaching is obviously being denied.

The child reaches the age of thirteen on 25 April 2002. In May 2002 it will be seven years since his disappearance.

We appeal to the Committee on the Rights of the Child to once again to seek information regarding the whereabouts of Gendun Choekyi Nyima. We ask that the Chinese Government permit UN representative to meet with Gendun Choekyi Nyima so that the world may be assured of his health and current status.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely yours


Ugyen Tsewang
Information Officer

**TIBETAN CENTRE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY**
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala - 176 215, L.P., India



བོད་ཀྱི་འགྲོ་བ་མིའི་སྐྱབས་ཁང་དང་
མང་གཙོ་འཕེལ་ཁྱེད་
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Lobsang Nyandak

Date: 26 October 2000

Ms. Tamara Kunanayakam

Secretary

UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance

Office of the UN High commissioner for Human Rights

Palais Wilson

1201 Geneva

Dear Kunanayakam,

Sub: Cases of disappearance occurred in the Chinese administered Tibet

I am approaching the distinguish members of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances today, firstly to thank the working group for its repeated expression of concern on the emerging pattern of disappearances in Tibet. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy remain indebted to the working group and its dedicated staff to help us to determine the whereabouts of disappeared Tibetan political prisoners and help to prevent inhuman treatment of prisoners. We highly appreciate the timely communication to the Chinese authorities and to us which in fact encourages and serves as an added supplement to further our effort to minimise recurring human rights abuses including cases of disappearances in Tibet. In 1999 the centre has received communication concerning cases of Bhu-Khog and Jigme Gyalpo. But still number of disappearance cases continue to occur in Tibet that evidently indicate that human rights of the Tibetan people continue to be tampered.

There are a total of ⁵⁴57 known unresolved cases of disappearance occurred in Chinese administered Tibet since 1996. Of these Chinese authorities acknowledged the captivity of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the eleven Panchen Lama recognized by the Dalai Lama and his parents but their whereabouts are still not known. We have, so far, submitted several cases to the working group for their attention including eleven year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, Bhu-khog, Jigme Gyalpo, Gaye Phuntsok, Tsering Dorjee, Ngawang Samphel. Out of these submissions in the last two years the Centre has received communication from working group on Bhu-Khog and Jigme Gyalpo.

Release *Release*
in Medical
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after 15 days*

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I feel it worthwhile to mention that many of the disappeared cases were prominently reported in the working group report E/CN.4/1997/34. We are thankful for the same. We pray to the working group not to discontinue considering cases where it considers that it can no longer play any useful role in trying to elucidate them, in particular if the source could not provide any follow-up information on the cases. Due to many difficulties in obtaining information in Tibet and the nature of the case (cases which occurred in rural Tibet), the only primary source is the recent Tibetan escapees from Tibet.

In such cases before considering the case clarified, should make every effort to investigate the reasons behind the action or non-action of the source or the family concerned.

I am enclosing herewith the cases that were submitted earlier to the working group as a reminder for immediate action to follow-up the matter with Chinese authorities to locate the disappeared cases and their well-being at the earliest possible.

Thank you for your co-operation and many best wishes in your endeavour.

Sincerely yours

Kalsang Topgyal (Mr.)
Personnel for UN Affairs

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