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TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

**TIBETAN
CENTRE FOR
HUMAN
RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY**

Attn: WGAD
Date: 28 November 2006
To: The Chairperson-Rapporteur :
Of: Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Fax number: 41 22 917 9006

**From: Tibetan Centre for Human Rights
and Democracy**

Number of pages (incl. cover sheet): 10 pages

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To,

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
United Nations Office at Geneva,
8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland

Dear Chairperson-Rapporteur of the WGAD,

With due respect, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) based in India seeks urgent intervention by the WGAD on the imprisonment of a former Tibetan political prisoner, Mr. Sonam Gyalpo, 44, to 12 years prison term.

TCHRD first highlighted the case in September 2005 when he

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was arrested by the Chinese State Security Bureau(SSB) on 28 August 2005 few days ahead of the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) which began on 1 September 2005. During a house ransack by the SSB officers, videotapes containing teachings of the Dalai Lama, political literatures and pictures of the Dalai Lama were discovered in his house. He has been initially detained at Sitru Detention Centre for few months and is currently known to be imprisoned in Chushul (Ch:Qushui) Prison to serve a 12 year imprisonment verdict passed by the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court.

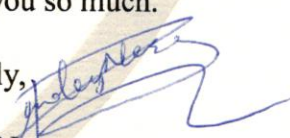
Mr. Sonam was first arrested on 27 September 1987, with 21 monks from Drepung Monastery, during a peaceful demonstration in Lhasa. He was then charged of "Counter-revolutionary" activities and served three years term in the notorious Drapchi Prison in Lhasa. Upon the completion of his term on 20 September 1990, he was released, however, was detained for six months on two occasions on suspicion of political activities.

TCHRD deems the imprisonment of Mr. Sonam Gyalpo to be arbitrary in light of the evidences and charges levied against him. The Centre seeks the kind intervention of the WGAD on his case.

Please find attached a picture, press release by TCHRD on 24 Nov 2006, press release by TCHRD on 9 Sept 2005, a prisoner profile that appeared in the September 2005 issue of the Centre's Human Rights Update Newsletter and a completed questionnaire of the WGAD.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,


Tenzin Norgay
Personnel for U.N Affairs

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD)

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