

**Subject:** Urgent appeal to Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

**From:** Tenzin Norgay <tenzinnorgay@tchrd.org>

**Date:** Wed, 22 Aug 2007 11:10:20 +0530

**To:** urgent-action@ohchr.org, tenzinnorgay@gmail.com, tenzinnorgay@yahoo.com

To,

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention  
c/o Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office at Geneva  
CH-1211, Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Dear WGAD,

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) based in India would like to seek the urgent intervention of the UNWGAD regarding the arbitrary detention of a Tibetan, Ronggye A'drak, 52, on 1 August 2007. As per the latest information received by TCHRD, he is currently being detained at the Lithang County Public Security Bureau Detention Centre located in Lithang County, Karze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", Sichuan Province, China. The Centre is highly fearful that the authorities will use torture on him to break his nationalism. It is an established fact that torture is a regular feature in the Chinese administered prisons, labour camps and detention centres.

Ronggye A'drak, father of 11 children, shouted political slogans during a public gathering on 1 August 2007. Sensing danger when the crowd also joined him in unison in raising the slogans, the local police immediately arrested him. Fearing imminent danger for A'drak, the local Tibetan populace approached the local authorities to ascertain his whereabouts and wellbeing. The authorities made a false promise to the concerned crowd of releasing him the day after but it is now learned that it was a strategy employed by the authorities in fooling the angry crowd and disperse them immediately. In the aftermath of the arrest, huge contingent of People's Armed Police (PAP) have been brought into the area to violently quell any sort of mass demonstration. The PAP is reported to have been ruthless in their actions by severely beating the crowd and also using tear gas to disperse the Tibetan crowd. The situation in Lithang County is highly tense currently.

TCHRD seeks the express attention and urgent intervention by the UNWGAD regarding the detention of Ronggye A'drak and the highly tense atmosphere in Lithang County in Tibet.

Thank you for your anticipated action.

Sincerely,

Tenzin Norgay  
Personnel for UN Affairs  
Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy  
Top Floor, Narthang Building, Gangchen Kyishong  
Distt Kangra, Dharamsala -176215  
India

#### **Note:**

Please find attached the following

- 12 pictures out of which three are that of Ronggye A'drak and the remaining pictures depict the tension in Lithang County.
- Completed model questionnaire found on the web page of WGAD
- 3 pdf files out of which two are press releases by TCHRD and one an appeal from the son and nephew of Ronggye A'drak

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Pasted below is the personal appeal made by the son and nephew of Ronggye A'drak on 11 August 2007.

#### **Rungyal Adrak: the Tibetan who spoke up for Freedom, Truth and Justice**

By e-mail[Saturday, August 11, 2007 12:06]

If he had not spoken up, the news would not have been made, but the suppression would have continued silently, the pain in the heart of every individual would have remained buried deep in the hearts and never spoken about, and everything would have been "normal".

Lithang Rongye Adak, a deeply religious man at 53, broke the silence by speaking the truth, the truth that remained suppressed in the hearts of his fellow countrymen. Rongye Adak is a father who besides running his nomadic family acts as a social worker in his local community in Yunru Kha-shul area in Lithang, eastern Tibet.

Tibet, the country that has been invaded, occupied and colonized by China is today being ruled by a military regime and a set of law that dictates upon the native people the orders of the colonial Government of Han Chinese majority from Beijing. The sophistication of governance and the interpretation of it are such that the country is now being transformed from a land of virgin pastures and untouched fresh water and glaciers into a hugely urbanized and industrial area with rampant mining, damming and deforestation. Networks of roads and bridges built are now crisscrossing the country destroying traditional lives of the Tibetans, and all these are done in the name of "development".

It happened recently on the 1st August, in Lithang where the annual horse racing festival had started and thousands of Tibetans had gathered from all over Kham region to witness the traditional Tibetan festival. As the government officials sat in chairs in a big ceremony, Rongye Adak, a tall sturdy man from Khampa Lithang stepped on to the stage paying his respects to the local Lama, grabbed the mike and gave a surprise speech.

He began by asking fellow Tibetans to stop getting into petty fights among themselves for land and gathering yartsa gunbo, and asked all Tibetans to unite. And when he had the full attention of the crowd he asked whether they want His Holiness the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet. The audience that consisted mostly of nomads responded in unison that they all want their leader to return to Tibet. And everybody cheered, clapping and whistling.

He went on to ask for the release of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the XI Panchen Lama who is in Chinese Government's custody from 1995, ever since he was taken



## Urgent appeal to Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

away at the age of six. The fire of truth raged and there is no stopping. He even demanded the release of Tulku Tenzin Delek who has been sentence for life for an alleged case of bomb blast in Sichuan.

And when the Chinese authorities sitting on the stage slowly realized what Adak was saying, Adak had already made his speech. The police grabbed him and took him away. This provoked the audience who was already agitated and moved by the powerful speech by their new found hero.

A strong crowd of six to seven thousand Tibetans demanded that Adak be released immediately. And when police reached for guns, hundreds of nomads took off their shirts and showing their bare chest challenged the police to shoot them. They said what Adak did was only an expression of dissatisfaction which the Chinese law permits as right to free expression.

The stand-off with the police authorities has been going on ever since the incident of 1st August. As the news of Adak's courageous act of speaking up spread to other villages and towns, more and more people started pouring in to show their support. The police in Lithang are now barring people from traveling in order to control public mobility. Tension is only growing as more and more people are heading towards one destination.

The soft-spoken man, a father of eleven children who lived a simple nomadic life has suddenly become a political prisoner. With his wife taking ill and being hospitalized, his family is suffering. Three of his children are presently studying in different schools and monasteries in India.

This is an appeal to you to spread the message of freedom and justice and also to ask you to appeal to Chinese Government to release Lithang Adak immediately and unconditionally. We also request you to ask your Government and the United Nations to help.

Appeal from:

Rongye Jamyang, son of Rongye Adak  
Atuk Tseten, nephew of Rongye Adak  
Drepung Gomang Monastery,  
Mundgod, South India

<b>A Tibetan arrested in Lithang for political demonstration- 2 August 2007 - TCHRD PRESS RELEASE.pdf</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> application/pdf <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>appeal letter by son and nephew of Ronggye A'drak.pdf</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> application/pdf <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>Rungye Adrak_arbitrary detention.doc</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> application/msword <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>3 August 2007.pdf</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> application/pdf <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>tear gas shells used by the PAP on the crowd.JPG</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> image/jpeg <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>A convoy of PAP vehicles at the Lithang Horse Race Ground. A group of PAP forces can be seen at the background.JPG</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> image/jpeg <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>A convoy of PAP vehicles in one of which Ronggye A'drak is known to have been taken after the protest.JPG</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> image/jpeg <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>A group of PAP forces marching with the full protective armour in the aftermath of Lithang protest.JPG</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> image/jpeg <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>Line up of PAP forces in full gear.JPG</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> image/jpeg <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>PAP force personals stationed in every part of the town.JPG</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> image/jpeg <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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<b>PAP forces camped in Lithang.JPG</b>	<b>Content-Type:</b> image/jpeg <b>Content-Encoding:</b> base64
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PAP forces marching in.JPG	Content-Type: image/jpeg Content-Encoding: base64
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picture1 of Ronggye A'drak.jpg	Content-Type: image/jpeg Content-Encoding: base64
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picture 2 of Ronggye A'drak.jpg	Content-Type: image/jpeg Content-Encoding: base64
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picture 3 of Ronggye A'drak.jpg	Content-Type: image/jpeg Content-Encoding: base64
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police maintaining vigilance.JPG	Content-Type: image/jpeg Content-Encoding: base64
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Annex V

MODEL QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE COMPLETED BY PERSONS ALLEGING  
ARBITRARY ARREST OR DETENTION <sup>7/</sup>

I. IDENTITY

1. Family name: .....Ronggye .....
2. First name: .....A'drak.....
3. Sex: Male
4. Birth date or age (at the time of detention): .....52 years old.....
5. Nationality/Nationalities:.....Tibetan.....
6. (a) Identity document (if any): ...pictures of Ronggye A'drak enclosed.....  
(b) Issued by: .....  
(c) On (date): .....  
(d) No.:  
.....
7. Profession and/or activity (if believed to be relevant to the arrest/detention):  
...Nomad.....  
.....
8. Address of usual residence:

Yonru Village, Ponkar Township, Lithang County, Karze "Tibetan Autonomous  
Prefecture", Sichuan Province

II. Arrest <sup>8/</sup>

1. Date of arrest:... 1 August 2007.....
2. Place of arrest (as detailed as possible):  
.....Lithang County, Karze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", Sichuan Province,  
China.....
3. Forces who carried out the arrest or are believed to have carried it out:  
.....Public Security Bureau of Lithang County.....



4. Did they show a warrant or other decision by a public authority?

(No)

5. Authority who issued the warrant or decision:

No warrant produced

6. Relevant legislation applied (if known):

...Currently under detention, no legislation is known to be applied as of yet.....  
...After the detention period, Ronggay A'drak will be most likely charged with  
"Endangering State Security" as is the usual practice with all political demonstrations.

### III. Detention <sup>8/</sup>

1. Date of detention: .....1 August 2007 .....

2. Duration of detention (if not known, probable duration): .....probably he will be  
detained for six months in accordance with the Chinese law.....

3. Forces holding the detainee under custody:  
.....Public Security Bureau.....

4. Places of detention (indicate any transfer and present place of detention):

.....Lithang County PSB Detention Centre.....

5. Authorities that ordered the detention:  
.....Public Security Bureau.....

6. Reasons for the detention imputed by the authorities:

Ronggye A'drak shouted political slogans on stage in front of a large public gathering

7. Relevant legislation applied (if known):

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

IV. Describe the circumstances of the arrest and/or the detention and indicate precise reasons why you consider the arrest or detention to be arbitrary <sup>9/</sup>



... On 1 August 2007, an official function for the 80th Founding Anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was organized by the Lithang County government. A large number of people from different walks of life from Lithang area converged to witness the official function and the famous annual horse race. Just before the start of the official function at around 11 a.m., when the Chief guest, the officials and the general public were present, Ronggye A'drak, a 52-year-old Tibetan nomad from Yonru Village, Lithang County, Karze Province "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), went up to the stage to offer a traditional Tibetan scarf to Lithang Kyabgyon- the Chief Lama of Lithang Monastery. Ronggye A'drak then seized the microphone and shouted the following slogans in front of the large gathering - "The Dalai Lama should return to Tibet", "Release Panchen Lama", "Tibet wants Independence". He then went to call for the people to stop fighting among themselves on the land, water dispute and on the collection of Yartsa Gunbu caterpillar fungus (Tib: Yartsa Gunbu, Botanical name: *cordyceps sinensis*).

Later Ronggye A'drak climbed down from the stage and went straight to Naglu Tenzin, a monk who was actively involved in the Chinese "Patriotic education campaign" to denounce his double standard in dealing with the religious affairs of the monastery in presence of the chief guest and the general public. He later climbed the stage again and continued shouting slogans which the general public joined in unison before he was arrested by local police and taken away to an unknown place. Sensing fear for the safety of Ronggye A'drak, scores of people from Lithang Yonru Village went to Lithang County Office to call for his immediate release and to ascertain his whereabouts and condition. They even demonstrated inside the compound of the County office calling for his immediate release and respect of Tibetan people's right to freedom of expression and opinion.

According to the UDHR (article 9, 19, 20, and ICCPR (article 19), every individual has the right to publicly express his or her political opinion non violently. Further more , Article 35 of the Constitution of the PRC guarantees "*freedom of expression, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration*". Ronggye A'drak exercised his fundamental human rights and was consequently arbitrarily detained by the Lithang County Public Security Bureau.

V. Indicate internal steps, including domestic remedies, taken especially with the legal and administrative authorities, particularly for the purpose of establishing the detention and, as appropriate, their results or the reasons why such steps or remedies were ineffective or why they were not taken

Sensing fear for the safety of Ronggye A'drak, scores of people from Lithang Yonru Village went to Lithang County Government Office to call for his immediate release and to ascertain his whereabouts and condition. They demonstrated inside the compound of the County office calling for his immediate release and respect of Tibetan people's right to freedom of expression and opinion.

According to a reliable source, a few people even broke into the County Office to demand for his immediate release. Sensing the further escalation of tension, the police officer even threatened the villagers by firing pistol into the air. The Tibetan people unmoved by the threats, weathered incessant rain on that day proceeded forward with their demand. It was learnt that the villagers finally returned to their place only after the officials agreed to release Ronggye A'drak the next day (on 2 August) at 2 p.m. According to another source, "While returning to their place, the villagers called for Tibetans, followers of the Dalai Lama and pro-independence to join them. And they



even told that if the authorities did not release Ronggay A'drak today by 2:00pm they will organize a mass demonstration in front of the detention centre no matter how much restriction officials put on them." The situation in Lithang County is known to be very tense.

Unfortunately, Ronggye A'drak continues to remain in detention till date. And the local authorities have sharply stepped up the vigilance and restrictions in the area.

VI. Full name and address of the person(s) submitting the information (telephone and fax number, if possible) <sup>10/</sup>

Tenzin Norgay

Personnel for UN Affairs

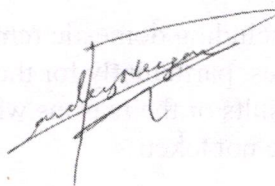
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Date: 22 August 2007      Signature: