

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

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