HUMAN RIGHTS update

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Executive Summary of Annual Report 2007: Human Rights Situation in Tibet

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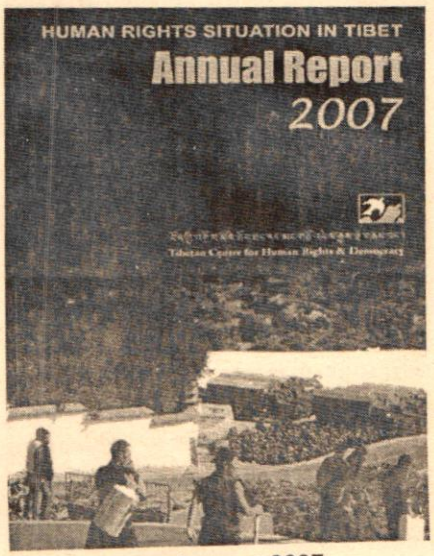

Annual report 2007

The year 2007 saw repression worsen in Tibet signaling the hardening attitude of China despite holding of the sixth round of talks between Envoys of the Dalai Lama and Beijing during the year. Throughout the year, the Chinese authorities in occupied Tibet unleashed spate after spate of policy campaigns, regulations and decrees to subject Tibetans to intensified state control over their human rights and fundamental freedoms. In 2007, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) meticulously monitored the developments and documented violations of human rights taking place in Tibet in every sphere of rights protected under international human rights law.

Cases of arbitrary arrest and detentions (65 known cases)[1] increased almost threefold compared to last year, suggesting a clear indication of the human rights situation worsening in Tibet. While new regulations in placing Tibetan Buddhism under intensified state control were thrust upon the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR"), Kardze region outside of the "TAR" continues to remain the most volatile Tibetan area in terms of political developments, for several successive years now. Around half of the total 65 known cases of arbitrary arrests in 2007 were recorded from Kardze region alone[2]. The Chinese authorities routinely resorted to arbitrary arrest, imprisonment, and torture in dealing with peaceful protests by the Tibetans, which included displaying the banned Tibetan flag, staging non-violent demonstrations, possessing pictures of the Dalai Lama, and posters calling for freedom in Tibet. There are currently 119 known Tibetan political prisoners,[3] of which 43 are serving terms of more than ten years[4] and 80 are monks and nuns.[5]

The saffron revolution in Burma during 2007 gripped worldwide attention which led to the international condemnation of the ruling military junta's bloody crackdown on the peaceful monks' uprising. The developments in Burma which last saw popular protests of such magnitude in the late 1980s, around the same time popular uprisings also took place in Chinese-occupied Tibet, left Tibetans in awe and wishful of such a mass scale protest in Tibet although they would confront a stronger, bigger and a ruthless communist regime.

The monastic community in Tibet has for many years been in the forefront as challengers to the Chinese rule in Tibet. 70% of the total 119 known political prisoners in Tibet are monks and nuns.[6] The authorities have long identified the monasteries and nunneries in Tibet as a "hot bed of dissent"[7] and as a measure towards bringing the monastic community under a tight official grip, the authorities regularly conduct "patriotic re-education" and "love your country, love your religion" political campaigns in the monastic institutions.[8] During 2007, the "patriotic education" campaign was reinvigorated in various Tibetan areas especially in Kardze region, after nomad, Ronggye A'drak's protest in Lithang County.[9] The testimonies provided by monks and nuns fleeing Tibet reveal the dire impact of "patriotic education" upon their lives and

on the study of Tibetan Buddhism. The TCHRD reported a number of such cases in 2007.

During 2007 religious freedom in Tibet took a major setback with the introduction of two sets of regulations in subjecting Tibetan Buddhism and spiritual masters to intensified state control through legal conundrums. The regulations, "Tibet Autonomous Region Implementing Measures for the Regulations on Religious Affairs",[10] and "Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism", received hostile global reactions. Instead of providing protection for religious practices, the regulations are aimed at enforcing compliance of the monastic community and other spiritual Tibetans with the government policies on monastic institutions and religious figures.[11] The new measures on reincarnate lamas described by the Chinese official press as 'an important move to institutionalize the management of reincarnation,' underscores the Communist Party's agenda to undermine and supplant the Tibetan religious hierarchy and weaken the authority of legitimate Tibetan religious leaders including the Dalai Lama. As a consequence of the new regulations and other policy directives, violation of the right to religion or belief escalated intensely in 2007. Tibetan Buddhism entered a dark phase wherein historical, lineage and traditional practices are now put into legal conundrums for the state to legitimize its control and thus destabilize the religion as a long-term mission.

The new laws clearly show that the Chinese leadership is bent on replaying the Cultural Revolution era (1966-1976), during which time devastating acts were committed to eradicate Tibetan Buddhism in the name of purging "old ideas". In much similarity to that era, during 2007 statues of religious importance, especially those of Guru Rinpoche,[12] were destroyed in Samye Monastery,[13] in Ngari Darchen in Purang County and in Rongpatsa Village in Kardze County,[14] citing incompliance with the new religious affairs law. In a parallel development, a religious decree was issued in September 2007 demanding the reincarnate lamas seek permission from the authorities to be reborn. This proves that the Chinese leadership's mentality does not show an iota of change in its frenzy to wipe out Buddhism in Tibet amidst all the modernization, glamour and scientific progress taking place elsewhere in the People's Republic of China. In introducing these regulations, the leadership has struck at the heart of Tibetan identity and cultural heritage, which is heavily influenced by Buddhism.

The TCHRD views these new regulations as domestic legal stepping-stones to transform Tibet into an atheist region where the so-called "communist spiritual civilization" will prevail. There is now no doubt that the current attack on Tibetan Buddhism is another indication of the escalating nature of cultural genocide taking place in Tibet. While China voted in favour when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007,[15] in Tibet, Beijing has been implementing various policies, the new religious laws being the latest evidence, to wipe out Tibetan Buddhism from the land of snows.

There are strong restrictions placed on religious ceremonies in Tibet. During important days of religious significance like Saka Dawa,[16] Gaden Ngamchoe[17], the birthdays of the Dalai Lama and the 11th Panchen Lama, official prohibitions with stern warnings are issued. In one instance the Lhasa City Committee members prohibited children from participating in religious activities at schools during the Buddhist holy month of Saka Dawa.[18] The children were specifically ordered to refrain from visiting monasteries and wearing sacred amulet threads or else to face expulsion from school. In another instance, official orders were placed banning prayer ceremonies during the birth anniversary of the Dalai Lama and also prayer ceremonies coinciding with a grand prayer ceremony for the Dalai Lama being conducted in India.[19] Defying orders, Tibetans from all walks of life held a grand celebration of incense burning on 19 June 2007 to mark the birth anniversary of the Dalai Lama as per the Tibetan lunar calendar, which falls on the fifth day of the fifth Tibetan month.[20]

Despite China's continued defamation campaign against the Dalai Lama and the heightened security measures and control, joyous Tibetans inside Tibet as a mark of celebration of the US Congressional Gold Medal Award to the Dalai Lama on 17 October 2007, held incense burning ceremonies, hoisting prayer flags, bursting fire crackers and giving fresh paint to monasteries. At least eight Tibetans are known to have been arrested in incidents related with the celebrations of the Dalai Lama being granted the US Congressional Gold Medal.[21] In Drepung Monastery, heavily armed troops in truckloads (reportedly around 3000 armed police) were deployed and the monastery sealed off for visiting pilgrims, whilst the monks inside the monastery were banned from going outside.[22] The monks had earlier given fresh white wash to the exterior of a hall assigned as the residence of the Dalai Lama as a mark of their joy over the US medal.

In February 2007, Zhang Qingli, a strong ally of President Hu Jintao, was officially appointed as the Communist Party Secretary in the "TAR". He left no doubt about what to expect under his leadership when he publicly stated that the Communist Party is the 'real Buddha' for Tibetans,[23] having earlier told senior party officials in the region that they were engaged in a "fight to the death" against the Dalai Lama.[24] To observers and analysts, such statements highlight some of the major problems surrounding the Chinese leadership in the Sino-Tibet issue: arrogance, thrusting of official stance, stifling in religious matters, unrealistic, and impractical steps to curb dissidence.

While the patriotic education campaign and Dalai Lama vilification campaigns were stepped up in Tibet under Zhang's leadership, political

leaders of Austria, Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand and the United States of America met with the Dalai Lama. The meeting with the German Chancellor particularly grabbed world-wide media attention when high level meetings and trade delegations were canceled by China as "punishment" for meeting the Dalai Lama.[25] The German Chancellor showed immense moral integrity and strength, in maintaining her government's position of human rights concerns as a top priority, despite heavy criticism and pressure. In the contemporary world where commercial interest heavily overrides human rights concerns, for instance in North Korea, Burma, China, Iraq, Iran, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Belarus, Sudan and Zimbabwe etc, the German Chancellor's meeting with the Dalai Lama and subsequent maintenance of position, provides a remarkably exemplary approach for states that are willing and courageous enough to improve human rights conditions in the world at large and Tibet in particular.

There are virtually no civil and political rights in Tibet and under such circumstances strong reactions by international leaders give hope and aspirations to the Tibetans who remain completely deprived of their freedom and human rights. Freedom of expression and opinion are severely curtailed in Tibet. The authorities exert self-censorship as a primary mechanism of control over the media and publications. All information dissemination has to mandatorily conform to the Chinese Communist Party Propaganda Department guidelines. After successful jamming of radio stations, the authorities have now shifted their focus to blogs, websites and video-sharing sites, in order to control the flow of information.

Several Tibetan sites were ordered to be shut down for noncompliance with official guidelines. Tibetans in Tibet have increasingly started to use the internet to seek information or to vent their frustrations over the authorities in cyber space. On 16 October 2007, a day ahead of the US Congressional Gold Medal Award to the Dalai Lama, popular internet blogs www.tibettl.com/blog and www.tibetcm.com/blog were closed down.[26] Another Tibetan language site "China's Tibetan Residential Education Network" was also closed down around July 2007 for reasons unknown.[27] On the other hand, foreign journalists visiting Tibet were also placed under restrictions, and harassed. Two journalists, Herald Maass, China correspondent of the German daily 'Franfurter Rundschau', and Tim Johnson, the China correspondent of 'McClatchy', were summoned separately for questioning on May 15 by Zhang Lizhong, a division director at the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, regarding their trip to Tibet in April 2007.[28] The duo were accused of mistaken, false and unacceptable reporting. The authorities closed down the travel agency in Lhasa responsible for facilitating the duo's tour in Tibet.

2007 saw a massive form of persecution in the traditional Eastern Tibet region following the protests in Lithang County in August 2007[29] by a Tibetan nomad and the subsequent crackdown on several identified Tibetans and others who were presumed involved. For the simple expression of his opinion in calling for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet and raising concern over the disappeared Panchen Lama and raising other slogans,[30] the Tibetan nomad, Ronggye A'drak, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by the Kardze Intermediate People's Court on 20 November 2007.[31] In a stark irony, two other Tibetans, Adruk Lopoe and Kunkhen, were sentenced to harsher terms by the same court, ten and nine years prison terms respectively.[32] They were sentenced on charges of "colluding with foreign separatist forces to split the country" by sending "state secrets"[33] to the outside world for the alleged crime of reporting information and pictures of unrest in the area. As a clear indication of the high prevalence of arbitrary and politically motivated execution of China's due process of law, the Court sentenced Ronggye A'drak and the others within a record three and half months.

Prior to the sentencing, authorities warned the Tibetans during their solidarity movement in support of A'drak, both verbally and also by written directives, that anyone caught speaking about the political incident in the area to the outside world would be liable to face jail terms of between three to ten years. The swift implementation of such threats was evident when the court sentenced Lopoe and Kunkhen to lengthy prison terms for the alleged crime of reporting incidents in Lithang to the outside world under the charges of leaking "state secrets" and catch-all "subversion to the state". This development reveals the farce nature of the judiciary system of China. When it comes to Tibetans, there is zero tolerance for anyone targeted as challenging the State. The lack of independent judges and due process is seen normal, the denial of the right to defense of choice is the nature since the legal process only is to protect the Communist Party of China. Under such circumstances, the culture of impunity will reign without scrutiny.

Prior to the protest in Lithang, 'anti-terrorist' units of the People's Armed Police (PAP) held drill exercises in the Tibetan region in Gansu Province, Kanlho, in the first week of July 2007.[34] Although the officials claimed that the exercise was carried out to counter terrorist plot to disrupt or sabotage the Olympic games in 2008, but there are strong indications that the exercise was aimed at protesting crowds and to threaten Tibetans with force. Such military drills were repeated in other Tibetan areas in Sichuan and Qinghai Provinces sending a clear signal of intimidation to any Tibetans engaging in political activities.

China routinely charges peaceful Tibetan political activists and human rights defenders under the legislation "endangering state security". There has been a dramatic increase in the number

of people charged under the act.[35] With vague and wide-ranging definitions for terms like "state secret" and "endangering state security", it is of high concern that the authorities use the act as a sweeping yardstick to eliminate all individuals engaging in political activism or those deemed as political activists suspects or human rights defenders in Tibet.

In their dealing with political activism, the Chinese authorities in Tibet do not make any exceptions for women, children, the handicapped or the elderly. This was clearly proven on 7 September 2007 when police detained about 40 students alleged to have scribbled graffiti calling for the return of the Dalai Lama and for a free Tibet on the walls of the village police station and other places in the village. Out of the 40 detained, seven students, all from nomadic families and students of Amchok Bora Village Secondary School, in Labrang County (Ch: Xiahe xian), Gannan/Kanlho "TAP" in Gansu Province were kept under continued detention after releasing the rest. Four of the students were reportedly tortured.[36]

In another instance on 20 November 2007, three teenage monks of Pekar Choekorling Monastery in Driru County were brutally beaten by police following a scuffle between the monks and Chinese shopkeepers. One of the monks, Tsering Gyaltsen, was beaten particularly severely after police found him wearing a photo of the Dalai Lama around his neck. China is a State Party to the UN Convention against Torture and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In both these conventions, torture has been absolutely prohibited under any circumstances but in reality it occurs unabated in Tibet with impunity. The Chinese authorities ensure that torture continues to be deeply rooted in the detention centres and prisons in Chinese-occupied Tibet as the official tool to kill human dignity.

On 18 October 2007, the Nangpa Pass shooting incident in September 2006[37], which resulted in the death of a nun, was revisited. This year the target was a group of 46 fleeing Tibetans, nine people were left missing and three arrested.[38] Each year Tibetans flee from Tibet through the Nangpa Pass due to various reasons such as seeking education in exile, pursuing Buddhist studies, political reasons and audience with the Dalai Lama. The fleeing Tibetans knowingly undertake the treacherous journey across the Himalayas to flee from persecution in Tibet. Although a good majority safely crosses the Himalayas into Nepal, many of them perish en route either due to shooting by Chinese border security forces, falling into crevasses, of hunger or by getting lost in the mountain ranges.

Despite worldwide awareness and condemnation over the Nangpa Pass shooting incident last year, the perpetrators of the crime go unaccounted for except for reportedly one early retirement of a top Chinese general, Gen Meng Jinxi.[39] While the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial and Summary Killings called upon China to make public the findings of the shooting incident last year[40], the Chinese authorities have so far ignored this request.

In 2007, 2,338 Tibetans managed to safely reach the Tibetan Refugee Reception Centre in Dharamsala, North India, the seat of the Dalai Lama and the headquarters of the Central Tibetan Administration.[41] As per the usual pattern, minors below 18 years of age once again accounted for around half the total number of refugees this year. With poor education facilities in the rural areas of Tibet where about 75% of the Tibetan population reside, coupled with biased curriculum where schools do exist, and in order to prevent brainwashing of children through the various sinicization designs of China, parents risk sending their children into exile in order to receive broad based modern education, whilst preserving their Tibetan identity and religious and cultural heritage.

Livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Tibetans in rural areas was tremendously affected under the government's relocation of Tibetan herders[42] and the compulsory "comfortable housing program" which orders rural villages to pull down old houses, mostly along the main roads, and compulsorily build new houses designed by the authorities largely at their own expense and without their consent.[43] The programs of these forced evictions were launched as to produce showcase "socialist villages" to the expected influx of tourists during the Olympics in Beijing. However, it has resulted in disastrous impacts on the lives of those Tibetans affected but China refuses to address the consequences.

The marginalization of Tibetans in Tibet is deteriorating each year. Chinese settlers in hundreds and thousands after taking over urban Tibetan areas are rapidly spreading in some rural areas in Tibet as well. The Qinghai-Lhasa railway line which became operational since July 2006 is greatly accelerating the Chinese population transfer into Tibet. With 1.5 million passengers riding the high-tech train in the first anniversary according to the official media, it is disturbingly evident by the sheer number as to the influx of settlers along with tourists.[44] According to Lhasa City household data collected by the Public Security Bureau, there were 250 thousand households in Lhasa prior to May 2006[45]. Within a year, due to the Qinghai-Lhasa train there has been a startling increase in the number of households. It has now become 350 thousand households comprising of 150 thousand Tibetan households while the remaining 200 thousand those of Chinese. About half the Chinese households in Lhasa have originally come from the Chinese areas in neighbouring Sichuan Province.

With increasing number of Chinese settlers into Tibet, the Tibetan areas are rapidly transforming into Chinese towns. Fisheries, slaughterhouses, poultry farms, brothels disguised as beauty saloons or massage parlours, selling live insects on the market, etc which have never been a part of the Tibetan culture are increasingly finding their prominence in Tibetan areas. Younger generation Tibetans prefer to communicate in mandarin Chinese

rather than in their native tongue to find place in a market economy and education system formatted to function predominantly in Chinese language. This proves the urgency of cultural genocide taking place on the Tibetan plateau. If the current trend continues in Tibet then in 15 years time Tibet will cease to exist as the Dalai Lama cautioned during a visit to Australia in June 2007.[46]

In August 2008 the show begins in China. Beijing is all ready to stage the summer Olympics with much pomp, glamour and propaganda. The year is also designated by many as the year of opportunity for scrutiny of China for its human rights record. With consistent failure on human rights in Tibet, East Turkestan (Ch: Xinjiang) and Inner Mongolia, and other wide ranging human rights struggles of the Chinese in mainland and for China's political support to ruthless regimes like Sudan, North Korea, Burma and others, the year is indeed opportune to build up pressure and expose China's human rights farce to the whole world. TCHRD calls for One World, One Dream...let there be Human Rights in Tibet. Let there be dignity and justice for all in present-day China. ■

Endnotes

1 See List of Known Arrests in 2007 in the Appendices at pg.125. Details of the arrestees besides the 32 listed could not be ascertained.

2 Ibid.

3 See List of Known Political Prisoners in the Appendices at pg. 120.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 See List of Known Political Prisoners in the Appendices at pg. 120.

7 "Prisoners of Tibet", Special Report, TCHRD, 2006, pp. 25. Available at http://www.tchrd.org/publications/topical_reports/prisoners_of_tibet_2006/prisoner_report.pdf.

8 "'Strike Hard' Campaign: China's crackdown on political dissidence", Special Report, TCHRD, 2004, pp. 22-38. available at http://tchrd.org/publications/topical_reports/strike_hard-2004/strike_hard-2004.pdf.

9 "China conducts massive Patriotic Education Campaign in Lithang", Press Release, TCHRD, 13 September 2007, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2007/pr20070913.html.

10 See chapter on Freedom of Religion for a detail analysis of the articles in the "Tibet Autonomous Region Implementing Measures for the Regulations on Religious Affairs"

11 "TCHRD deplores China's new religious measures on reincarnation," Press Release, TCHRD, 1 September 2007, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2007/pr20070901.html. Also see "The Communist Party as Living Buddha: The Crisis Facing Tibetan Religion under Chinese Control", International Campaign for Tibet, 2007, available at http://www.savetibet.org/documents/pdfs/2007ReligionReport.pdf.

12 Guru Rinpoche or Guru Padmasambhava (Tib: Lopon Pema Jungne, Wylie: padma 'byung gnas), in Sanskrit meaning "lotus-born", is a highly revered Indian Buddhist master who brought Tantric Buddhism to Tibet in the 8th century.

13 "Colossal Guru Rinpoche's statue demolished in Tibet: China's new religious affairs regulations for "TAR" entered into force," Press Release, TCHRD, 4 June 2007, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2007/ps20070604.html.

14 "A Statue of Guru Rinpoche demolished and construction of another suspended in Tibet," Press Release, TCHRD, 9 October 2007, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2007/pr20071009.html.

15 "GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES", Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York, United Nations, 13 September 2007, available at http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/ga10612.doc.htm.

16 Saka Dawa: the 15th of the 4th month of Tibetan lunar calendar, Buddha Shakyamuni's Birth, Enlightenment and Passing away are commemorated.

17 Gaden Ngamchoe: the 25th day of the 10th month of Tibetan lunar calendar, observed to commemorate the death anniversary of Je Tsongkhapa, the founder of Gelukpa (yellow hat) school of the Tibetan Buddhism. As a mark of devotion and to mourn His death, lamps are lighted in the evening on the house roofs and verandahs of the houses and Monasteries to commemorate the occasion.

18 "China intensifies prohibition of religious activities in Tibet during the holy month of Saka Dawa," Press Release, TCHRD, 19 May 2007, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2007/ps20070519.html.

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20 "Grand Celebration of incense burning rituals in Tibet", Human Rights Update, June 2007, TCHRD, available at http://www.tchrd.org/publications/hr_updates/2007/hr200706.html#incense.

21 "Forcing silence in Tibet as Dalai Lama receives US Congressional Gold Medal," Press Release, TCHRD, 23 October 2007, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2007/pr20071023.html.

22 "Pictures from Tibet depicting strict vigilance in Drepung Monastery by Chinese authorities in light of the US Congressional

Gold Medal Award to the Dalai Lama," Press Release, TCHRD, 12 November 2007, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2007/p000.html

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37 "Illegitimate killing on Nangpa La pass by Chinese police", Press Release, TCHRD, 13 October 2006, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2006/pr20061013.html.
Also see "Press Statement by TCHRD at the Press Club of India, New Delhi", Press Release, TCHRD, 23 October 2007, available at http:// tchrd.org/press/2006/ps20061023.html.

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41 As per the record from 1 January - 31 December 2007 of the Tibetan Refugee Reception Centre in Dharamsala, North India. 1,046 out of the 2,338 new arrivals from Tibet were minors below eighteen years of age.

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TCHRD ACTIVITIES

Bulletin

Mr Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director, and Mr Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director during the press conference for the release of the Centre's 2007 Annual Report: Human Rights Situation in Tibet

Ms. Jude Caris Namgyal, CSPT project co-ordinator and Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director with a group of former political prisoners.

TCHRD releases Annual Report 2007: Human Rights Situation in Tibet

On 21 December 2007, Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) held a press conference at Lhakpa Tsering Hall, Department of Information and International Relation (DIIR), on release of its 2007 Annual Report: Human Rights Situation in Tibet. The Centre's Executive Director briefed the Tibetan media about the human rights situation in Tibet which was followed by questions from the media. ■

FOSS Workshop in Dharamsala

Mr. Tenzin Norgay, UN Affairs Personnel and Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Information Officer, attended the four-day workshop on the implementation of 'Free and Open Source Software' (FOSS) from 22-25 January 2008 in Ganchen Kyishong Dharamsala. The workshop was organised by Mahiti, a Bangalore-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) and co-hosted by Tibetan Computer Resource Centre.

More than 30 participants from various departments of the Central Tibetan Administration, Tibetan NGOs and Indian NGOs from Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir attended the four day long FOSS training. The participants were taught about basics of browser, window security, visual tools, software equivalent to page maker such as scribe, ink scape, CMS-Plone, audio visual tools, audio editing tools, video editing tools, music composing tools, basic concepts of FOSS, fire-fox extension for web developers. ■

Workshop participants during a group photo session

CSPT pay visit to Centre

Ms. Jude Caris Namgyal, a project co-ordinator of the France based NGO, Comite de soutien au people Tibetain (CSPT) paid a visit to the Centre between 12 January - 7 February 2008 and interacted with beneficiaries of the organisation's project for former political prisoners. She looked into the specific needs of former political prisoners such as household and medical facilities along with Centre's Executive Director during her stay. ■

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

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TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

FEBRUARY 2008

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Monk sentenced to three years term for "inciting masses"

Khenpo Jinpa, a monk from Chogtsang Talung Monastery in Serthar County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan, has been sentenced to three years prison term by the Kardze People's Intermediate Court on 16 July 2007, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). He was charged with endangering the state security through "anti-government propaganda and incitement of masses".

On 8 August 2005, political leaflets calling for Tibetan independence and the Dalai Lama's long life were distributed at the Serthar County festival ground. The Public Security Bureau (PSB) upon investigation into the incident suspected Khenpo Jinpa of being responsible for the activity. On 23 August 2006, three PSB officers arrived at Chogtsang Talung monastery and took him away to a detention centre in Dartsedo County. Three days later ten vehicles full of PSB officers arrived at the monastery. The officers broke the lock at Khenpo Jinpa's room and went on a rampage looking for evidence.

In the morning of 4 November 2006, the PSB brought Khenpo Jinpa to the location of the alleged crime in Serthar County and took pictures of him at the scene. Earlier some individuals suspected of working with him were also briefly detained for ten to fifteen days for interrogations. Subsequently on 16 July 2007 Kardze People's Intermediate Court sentenced him to three years' imprisonment term. He was later transferred to a prison (Tib: Ra-nga-kha Prison) in Dartsedo County, Kardze "TAP" and continues to be imprisoned there to this day.

Khenpo Jinpa, 37 years old, was born to a nomadic family in Donchen Village, Dartse Township, Serthar County. He was ordained as a monk at the Chogtsang Talung Monastery at a young age. In 1992 he joined the Serthar Buddhist Institute in Larung Valley where he studied and mastered the Buddhist text. Eight years later he returned to his original monastery and accpeted the position as abbot of the Chogtsang Talung Monastery. The monastery has an enrollment of about a thousand monks.

In the summer and autumn of 2001, hundreds of monks' huts at the Serthar Buddhist Institute were destroyed by the People's Armed Police and a ceiling of thousand monks was imposed against the total enrollment of about ten thousand. The then Chief Abbot of the institute, Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, was held in incommunicado detention for a year. Khenpo died under mysterious circumstances in January 2004. ■

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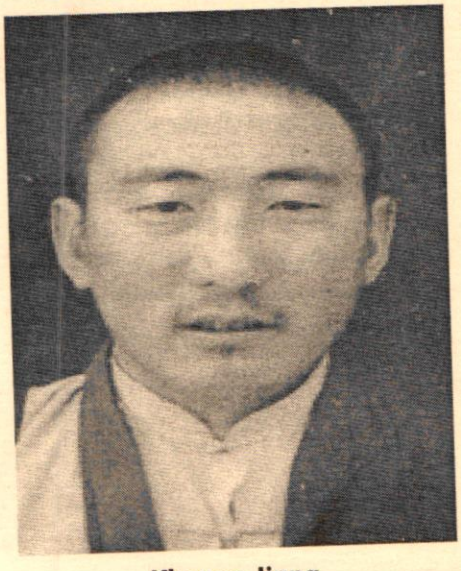

Khenpo Jinpa

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Tibetans arrested in Rebkong during Monlam Chenmo

According to information received by the Centre, on 21 February 2008, some 200 Tibetans, mostly monks were arrested in Amdo Rebkong (Ch: Tongren) County, Malho Prefecture, in China's remote northwestern Qinghai Province, of Tibet after a major clash between Chinese authorities and hundreds of Tibetans gathered for the Great Prayer Festival (Monlam Chenmo). During the clash and protests, Tibetans were said to have raised slogans for the independence of Tibet and prayed for the Long Life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The arrest occured when Chinese authorities in Rebkong ordered the Monlam Chenmo prayer festival to stop and sent in three truckloads of armed police after a clash erupted. Up to 200 armed and unarmed police were sent into the crowd, possibly to prevent anti-Chinese protests.

The local government was, however, forced to release most of those arrested apparently under the pressure of massive demonstrations by the Tibetans. Of those released, many of those were known to have been seriously beaten and tortured during the detention. Two of them who were seriously injured were taken away to Xining, the provincial capital, for medical treatment.

According to one report, a protest erupted when police tried to question one man, other Tibetans gathered around him, and a group of Tibetans outside a restaurant began shouting slogans and attacking police with sticks and stones. As reinforcement to the existing police forces, more police forces were sent and around 200 people-mostly monks- were detained although most have since been released. According to one source, during the clash and protests, many Tibetans raised slogans for the independence of Tibet and prayed for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the demonstration went on until about 10 p.m. The protest gained intensity when police detained some monks and took them away. However, under the pressure of a massive Tibetan demonstration, the local government was forced to release all of those who were arrested.

Chinese authorities in Tibet continue to restrict Tibetan people's freedom of religion, expression and association and as result many are imprisoned for peacefully exercising their basic human rights. The Centre will continue to monitor situation in Rebkong and update as and when information surfaces. ■

A Buddhist shrine under threat of demolition

A Buddhist shrine built by the local Tibetans in Shatoe village, Dingri County, Shigatse Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") was ordered to be removed by the Chinese authorities according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy ("TCHRD").

According to the information, around 54 families in Shatoe village in Dingri County came up with a plan to construct a Buddhist shrine for religious purposes. The construction of a Buddhist shrine was a collective wish of the local Tibetans in the village.

The construction of the shrine started as early as March 2007 by local Tibetan volunteers. It was funded locally through donations and contributions. The local volunteers collected over 18, 000 yuan to start the construction of the shrine and construction was completed in the space of a few months.

In June 2007, the officials of Religious Affairs Bureau (RAB) summoned the Public Security Bureau (PSB) and accused the local Tibetans for constructing the shrine without procuring permission from the government. The PSB also accused the local Tibetan of harboring intentions to convert the small shrine into a major monasteries to house monks and nuns as time passes by. The security officials issued a dire ultimatum to the local Tibetans to either remove the structure by themselves within a period of one month or faces forcible demolition.

The Buddhist shrine is an important centre of faith and occupies prominent space in local people's day to day life. The local Tibetans, particularly the elders come to pray and worship at the shrine every day. Apart from the religious rituals and prayers, the shrine also serves as a place for local Tibetans to gather and discuss their day to day life activities.

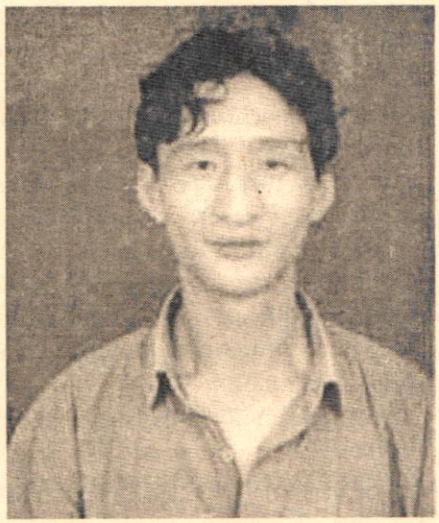
The order to demolish the shrine has stirred deep misery and worry amongst the local Tibetans as the threat becomes more imminent with each passing day. The village elders have even approached the higher Chinese authorities to present their position that the shrine should not be demolished.

Fortunately, in a stroke of luck, the demolition order coincided with the change of the local officials of the Dingri County. The newly appointed local official Mr. Namgyal gave assurances to the higher Chinese authorities during a County level meeting that the shrine will not house monks and nuns. He also pledged that he will oversee the shrine to make sure that the shrine will not expand in the future. In the light of Mr. Namgyal's pledge, the demolition of the shrine was put on a hold but not without a possible threat in the future. The local Tibetans were still living with a fear of what lays in store for their treasured shrine. ■

profile **POLITICAL PRISONERS**

This is a regular section profiling political prisoners currently imprisoned in Tibet

Biography of Political Prisoner Dolma Kyab



Dolma Kyab

Dolma Kyab (pen name: Lobsang Kelsang Gyatso), born in 1976 to Mr Khetsun and Mrs. Dolma in Ari Village, Chilen (*Ch: Qilian*) County, Tsochang (*Ch: Haibei*) "TAP", Qinghai, attended the local primary school in 1984 and later joined the county middle school. After completing his schooling in 1995, he joined a teacher training centre and served as a teacher in a middle school in Chilen County. He later went to a university in Beijing to continue his studies. In 2003, he went to India to learn English and Hindi languages and returned to Tibet in May 2004. Upon return, he served as a history teacher in a middle school in Lhasa until his arrest.

Dolma Kyab had a passion for writing and maintained a manuscript written in Chinese entitled "Restless Himalaya" (*Ch: Sao dong de Ximalayashan*), which was a compilation of 57 chapters on various topics about democracy, the sovereignty of Tibet, Tibet under communism, colonialism, religion and belief etc. Along side this manuscript, he also began writing another on the geographical aspects of Tibet which was comparatively short but touched on sensitive topics about the location and number of Chinese military camps in Chinese occupied Tibet etc. Dolma Kyab was arrested on 9 March 2005. He was initially detained at the "TAR" PSB Detention Centre, popularly known as Seitru in Tibetan. On 16 September 2005, Lhasa People's Intermediate Court wrongly sentenced him for "endangering state security". According to confirmed information received by TCHRD, Dolma Kyab, has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for writing and maintaining a manuscript about Tibet. Although his family appealed for a just retrial, the court upheld the sentence on 30 November 2005. Upon the declaration of sentence, he was transferred to the newly opened Chushul Prison in Nyethang; however, prison officials refused to accept him as a prisoner as he had contracted tuberculosis whilst in detention. After treatment, he was transferred to Chushul Prison in March 2006 soon after the Tibetan New Year.

Dolma Kyab's physical and psychological condition is unknown. He continues to be imprisoned at Chushul Prison, which has not been known to foreign observers until recently and which reportedly houses many of Tibet's monks and political prisoners under heavy surveillance.

Dolma Kyab's arrest is a clear indication of China's outright clampdown on freedom of opinion and expression in Tibet. In a letter smuggled from prison and addressed to the United Nations, he condemned the severity of his sentence, saying

"I have written a book which was not yet published. In this book I wrote about democracy, freedom and the situation in Tibet. That is the main reason for my conviction, but according to Chinese law this would be not enough reason to give me such a sentence".

■

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Abbot and five other Tibetans arrested in Golog

Chinese authorities arrested an abbot and six other Tibetans from Golog Tong Kyab Monastery in Gade County, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture "TAP"Qinghai province, according to the confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy "TCHRD"

In mid July 2007, the Chinese Government arrested a number of Tibetans in the Golog region. On 16 July 2007, a large number of Chinese soldiers suddenly entered the Golog Tong Kyab Monastery and arrested an abbot and a monk.

During the raid, the People's Armed Police (PAP) arrested Thupwoe, Rigphel from Gonma Toema Township, Kundo, Rigkyab from Donkha Township and a large group of local Tibetans in a surprise raid. They were arrested for protesting against the construction of mosque by Hui Chinese businessman in Amdo Golog, Gadhe Prefecture "TAP". The local Tibetans remain severely opposed to the construction of the mosque. Apparently the mosque was built by Huis Chinese without procuring permission from the local officials.

In response, the local Tibetans protested, damaged the mosque and restaurants owned by Hui Chinese. The local Chinese authorities blamed the local Tibetans' fury and rampage as one fanned by the monks of Golog Tong Kyab Monastery. The Chinese authorities ordered the Tongkyab Monastery to pay the compensation for causing damages to restaurants and the mosque. However, the Golog Tong Kyab Monastery denied their involvement and refused to accept charges leveled by the Chinese authorities.

For many months Golog Tong Kyab Monastery remained under the close scrutiny of the Chinese authorities. The Democratic Management Committee (DMC) conducted "Patriotic Re-education" campaigns in the monastery but was met with stiff resistance from the Golog Tong kyab Monastery monks.

The local Chinese authorities had previously summoned the local Tibetans and clergy for a meeting where the higher Chinese authorities ordered monks not to leave the monastery and restricted their movements.

There were around 150 monks in Golog Tong Kyab Monastery under virtual state of house arrest. The local Chinese authorities in Gade have watching been former abbot of Golog Tong Kyab Monastery Tsag Nor, who was wanted in a case related to the conflict between Huis Chinese and the local Tibetans. He was dubbed by the Chinese authorities as the chief ring leader. The local Chinese authorities widely suspected him of fleeing to India after his sudden disappearance. He was a disciplinary teacher at the Golog Tongkyab Monastery for 6 years and also worked as treasurer for past 20 years at the monastery. He was expelled from his post at the monastery after he refused to attend the patriotic re-education campaign conducted by the Chinese authorities. The local Chinese authorities even announced cash toward of thirty thousand Chinese yuan as a reward to anyone who are an information about the former abbot Tsag Nor. On 17 December 2007, the abbot Nyiwoe was arrested from the Tong Kyab Monastery. Meanwhile in Golog, the Chinese authorities had already convicted and sentenced six Tibetans for defying the government enforced "patriotic education" conducted in Golog Tong Kyab monastery by the DMC. The abbot of Golog Tong Kyap monastery, Nyiwoe was sentenced to 8 years in prison. The five other monks i.e. Shekyab, 30 received two years sentence, Kundrup, 30 and Tsechoe, 30 received one and half years of imprisonment. The six Tibetan monks are currently serving their prison sentence in Gade prison, Gade County, Golog "TAP"

TCHRD has reveived no further information about the well being of the imprisoned monks at this point in time and strongly criticizes the intervention of the Chinese government in religious affairs of the monks of Tong Kyab Monastery. ■

School for discrimination

A 19-year- old, Chemi Dorjee from Ru Town, Gungthang Township, Kyirong County, Shigatse Prefecture, Tibetan Autonomous Region ("TAR") testified to Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) about the prevailing discriminatory practices by the Chinese authorities in the employment and educational sectors.

Chemi Dorjee told TCHRD, "I came from a semi-nomad family in the Kyirong County, located in the southern part of Tibet. My mother was a local leader in the area. After completing my primary education from Gungthang School, I enrolled for further studies. I was then asked to sit for an entrance examination and I passed it without much difficulty. However, after passing my entrance examination, I was asked to procure a medical certificate from a government doctor.

During the medical check up, I was diagnosed with a minor liver problem. Owing to my minor liver problem, I was barred from continuing my further studies in the mainland China. Strangely one of my friends, Thupten cleared the entrance examination but was again denied access for further studies by Chinese government with other excuses. Instead of him, a daughter of a school principal was sent to mainland China for further studies.

We were not discouraged. Neither our parents nor relatives were disappointed with the local Chinese authorities. The problem persisted and

so did the discriminatory practices. For three years we were not able to go for further studies in the mainland China.

In three years time, the government conducted the exam for further studies for the children of government civil servants. Out of many, only five children were selected for further studies through a competitive examination. I sat down for the selection test.

The subjects such as traditional herbal medicine, child care, traditional art, Tibetan modern art and agricultural science were taught in the middle school. However, our Tibetan students instantly faced a language problem at the school. Difficulty in mastering the Chinese language stops the Tibetan student from progressing along with the Chinese students.

Chemi Dorjee speaks to TCHRD, "I thought of taking up veterinary science so that I could treat domestic animals in my Ru Town. However, my primary education was too insufficient to take up such specialized subject like veterinary science. In that way we were sent to collect simple survey rather than to undergo serious educational training".

Afterwards we returned to our respective places. Unfortunately I learnt that there were no jobs for us. The previous County official who promised them with jobs had been transferred to some other County administration. The new County officials sent us back empty handed stating that there were no job vacancies.

Chemi Dorjee testifies to TCHRD, "Generally speaking, higher education and educational scopes were only in names but the situation on the ground presents completely different scenario. This is the dilemma faces by the Tibetan students. Schools were often the fertile grounds for instilling the principles and ideologies of communism and socialism in the minds of young impressionable Tibetan students. The Chinese government says something but does something else. In midst of all those disappointments, I come to India to receive a proper and sound education". ■

"Patriotic re-education" campaign forces monks to commit suicide

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has learnt that two senior monks from Tashi Lhunpo Monastery committed suicide following a "patriotic campaign" in the monastery. The Tashi Lhunpo Monastery is the traditional seat of the successive Panchen Lamas of Tibet, in Shigatse Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR").

As a sign of the bitter struggle between the Chinese Communist Party and the faith of Tibetan Buddhism, 71 years old Gyaltsen Tsepa Lobsang was the first known monk to commit suicide in Tibet on 8 September 2007 as he defied the orders of the Democratic Management Committee (DMC) during the "patriotic education".

The "DMC" is a branch unit of the Religious Affairs Bureau (RAB) of the Chinese government whose key work is to stem off the influence of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people's allegiance towards Tibetan Buddhism and the Dalai Lama in the religious institutions.

On the 8th of November, another senior monk of Tashi Lhunpo Yangpa Locho was found dead during the ongoing "patriotic education" campaign in the monastery. During the campaign sessions the monks were forced to denounce the Dalai Lama during denunciation sessions as a "wolf in sheep skin". In the Tibetan Buddhist tradition denouncing ones revered 'root guru' is considered as the most heinous act of 'blasphemy' and breaking away from the cardinal precepts.

A decade since the launch of the "patriotic education" campaign in Tibet's religious institutions, there has been virtually no reports of suicides in the monastery. In 1995, a disciple of Yangpa Locho was arrested and imprisoned by the Chinese authorities. He was involved in a protest against the Chinese government over the appointment of another boy Panchen Lama and the disappearance of the boy Panchen Lama recognized by the Dalai Lama in 1995. The appointment was marred by protests in the Tashi Lhundup Monastery.

According to sources, Yangpa Locho played a prominent role in the recognition of the reincarnation of the tenth Panchen Lama. Following the protests against China's appointment of another boy Panchen Lama, the Tashi Lhunpo and its monks has become the prime target of "patriotic education" campaign.

The Chinese authorities mistreated Yangpa Locho by quashing his publication of religious texts, ostracizing and expelling him from the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. He committed suicide and died at the home of his relatives.

The two of at senior monks and monastery had reportedly left behind their suicide notes according to a report given by a monk from Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. ■

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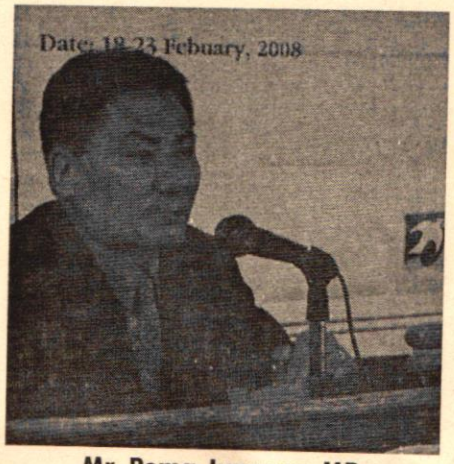
TCHRD conducts workshop on "Democratisation and Local Governance" among Tibetan communities in Darjeeling and Gangtok

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) attaches great importance to grassroots democracy, particularly the people's participation in Electoral Democracy. In light of TCHRD's mission, the Centre conducted workshops and surveys on "Democratization and Local Governance" of the Tibetan communities residing in and around Darjeeling and Gangtok from 18 to 23 February 2008. The workshops were particularly aimed at preparing the general public to elect their Settlement Officer and constitute a Local Assembly.

The task was carried out in three phases. In the first phase, the Centre collected public opinion on electing their own Settlement Officer and setting up a Local Assembly. The Centre's staffs were divided into three groups to collect public opinion and verdict on the Settlement Officer and the Local Assembly.

In the second phase, the Centre organized workshops for the heads of the various institutions, member of various Tibetan Associations, representatives of Tibetan Freedom Movement, Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (RTYC) and Regional Tibetan Women Association (RTWA).

In the third phase, a mass public talk was organized for the general public residing in the areas. It is in the purview of these three phases of the work, the Workshop on "Democratization and Local Governance" was carried in Darjeeling and Gangtok.



Mr. Pema Jungney, MP

Mr. Thupten Lungrik, Minister of Education

The finding of survey

The Centre's staff was divided into three committees in conducting the survey. The survey was done from 15-16 February 2008 in Darjeeling, Sonada Tibetan Settlement, Mirik, Kurseong, Phokrapong and Tibetan Refugee Self Help Handicraft Center in Lebogn. Out of the 232 Tibetans surveyed, 221 people were in favour of setting up the Local Assembly at the grassroots level and while 11 people thought that there was no need for setting up the Local Assembly at the grassroots level. Simultaneously, 142 people were in favour of a settlement officer appointed by the Tibetan Government in exile while 91 people were in favour of electing a settlement officer by the people.

In Gangtok, a survey was conducted from 19-20 February 2008, at the Guru Lhakhang and the Cholsum Tibetan Community Hall. A total of 71 Tibetan entered the polls and 63 people saw the needs of a Local Assembly at the grassroots level while 8 people thought that there was no need for setting up a Local Assembly. In Gangtok, 47 people were in favour of a settlement officer being appointed by the Tibetan Government in Exile and 23 people were in favour of a settlement officer being elected by the people themselves.

The opinions were later categorized and studied. The general public's worries and concerns were underlined and picked out. The outcome of the opinions and concerns were then handed out to speakers. People's doubts and misconceptions were forwarded to the speakers. They in turn addressed the doubts and misconceptions to the general public. In that way the workshop presented a healthy dialogue and interaction amongst the general public.

Workshop in Darjeeling and Gangtok

The first Workshop was organized at Manjushree Center for Tibetan Studies, Darjeeling on the 18 and 19 February 2008. The workshop was attended by the Settlement Officer, members of Tibetan Freedom Movement, representatives of Handicraft Centre, Regional Tibetan Youth

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Election Commissioner

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Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director, TCHRD

Congress, Regional Tibetan Women's Association and representatives from various other institutions and associations.

From 21-22 February 2008, the second workshop was held at Hotel Tibet in Gangtok where more than 90 people attended the workshop. The participants include representatives from the Tibetan Freedom Movement, Regional Tibetan Youth Congress, Regional Tibetan Women Association, Monastic Institutions, teachers of the Tibetan School and member of different associations in Gangtok.

Resource Persons

Thupten Lungrik, Minister of Education spoke at length about the functioning and administration of the Tibetan-Government-in-Exile. He called upon the people to be more proactive in assisting the Tibetan Government in decentralizing the process of democracy from its fledging state to more vibrant status. The general public was asked to play the lead role in the democratization. He marshaled scores of reasons and long term benefits for the people to have their own elected Settlement Officer through electoral process rather than being restricted and confined to one appointed by the headquarter in Dharamsala.

Mr. Pema Jungney, a veteran parliamentarian spoke in length about the charter of Tibetans in exile, the requirement of local assembly as per the charter, the functioning of the local assembly and the power of local assembly.

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Election Commissioner called upon the people to take more responsibility and initiative in the electoral process. He advised the general public that only people's participation in the electoral process such as voting would ultimately test and determine the democracy.

Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director gave detailed accounts of democratisation of Tibetans in exile and then spoke at length about the rights and duties of people in the democracy.

Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director presented insight into the Human Rights Situation in Tibet and the structure of the People's Republic of China as per the law and in reality.

Public talk in Gangtok

Due to unstable political scenario in Darjeeling, we were unable to organised a public talk in Darjeeling to general public as slated on 20 February 2008. Hoever, Gangtok the public talk was held at Hotel Tibet on 23 February 2008. The talk was aimed at reaching out to a wider audience.

Mr. Thupten Lungrik, Minister of Education issued words of encouragement that the general public can appoint or elect their own chosen Welfare Officer. He pointed out to people that the elements of suspicion, doubts, lack of knowledge and unnecessary skepticism on the part of general public so far had slowed down the goal of setting up a vibrant electoral process at the grassroots level. He reiterated that these unfavourable conditions had acted as a stumbling block for setting up a grassroots democracy through popular choice.

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, The Election Commissioner appealed to general public to participate and take their share of democratization in exile.

Ms. Pema Jungney. a veteran Parliamentarian emphasised the need for efficient and successful functioning of Local Assembly. She also called on the general public to participate more in order to set up

Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director, TCHRD

local governance and the functioning of grassroots democracy.

Conclusion:

The workshop was successful in laying a firm foundation in setting up the Local Assembly and electing the Settlement Officers. The workshop was immensely successful in educating and informing the general public. The public was made to understand from this workshop that all the limitations and problems could be addressed through the rules and regulations.

The workshop has left an indelible impression on the public in gaining their trust, faith and conviction in the Tibetan Government's initiative and endeavours regarding democratization.

There is a general sense of optimism and positive feeling in the public that the local assembly and election of settlement officer can be realized in the future if the ongoing initiative and the drive continues. This is the biggest outcome of the workshop conducted by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy from 18 February to 23 February 2008 in Darjeeling and Gangtok. ■

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UPRISING IN TIBET

CHRONOLOGY OF PEACEFUL PROTESTS IN TIBET SINCE 10 MARCH 2008

Since 10 March 2008, spate after spate of peaceful protests broke out in Chinese occupied Tibet. The Chinese security forces have rolled in tanks and deployed troops in large numbers in various parts of Tibet in order to forcibly quell the peaceful demonstrations. The protests mark decades of deep resentment by the Tibetan people against the Chinese rule in Tibet.

Following is a list of protests in chronological order. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) acknowledges that despite being fully alert some of the peaceful protest might not have been reported to the Centre.

Drepung Monastery- 10 March 2008

On the evening of 10 March 2008, about three hundred monks from Drepung Monastery, located on the outskirts of the capital, attempted to start a planned peaceful protest march towards Barkhor Street, Lhasa. However, they were obstructed from proceeding with their peaceful march by a large number of Chinese armed police before reaching Lhasa. Monks suspected of being the ringleaders of the planned protest were arrested by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials. Drepung Monastery has been sealed since then.

Sera Monastery - 10 & 11 March

On 10 March 2008, a group of fifteen monks, later joined by two laypersons led a peaceful pro-Tibet march from Tsuklakhang Temple, proclaiming pro-independence slogans, distributing pamphlets and raising the banned Tibetan national flags at Barkhor Street in Lhasa. They were arrested immediately by the stationed Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials following a brief protest march. The arrested Tibetans were reportedly beaten severely and manhandled by the PSB officials. Moreover, the shops and vendors around Barkhor Street were ordered to close and pack up. The detained monks were confirmed to be visiting student monks of Sera Monastery, mainly from the Kham and Amdo regions of Tibet. Additional contingents of armed forces were deployed to the area to issue an explicit warning to people against undertaking further protests as well as to control and monitor the activities of the people.

On 11 March, about 2000 strong Chinese troop fired tear gas in order to disperse hundreds of monks from Sera Monastery who were calling for the release of their fellow monks and shouting pro-Tibet slogans. The People's Armed Police forces sealed off the monasteries thereby completely curbing the people's movement in and out of the area, including protesting laypeople from visiting these monasteries.

Lutsang Monastery, Mangra County, Tsolho "TAP"- 10 March

In yet another incident, a protest has also been reported from the traditional Tibetan area of Amdo in Mangra County, Tsolho (Ch: Hainan) 'Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture' ("TAP") Qinghai Province on 10 March. About 150 monks from Lutsang Monastery in Mangra County, Tsolho "TAP" and around 200 laypersons from the area were barred by the Mangra County People's Armed Police (PAP) forces when they converged outside the County Assembly Hall where a government sponsored show was going on. Sensing a protest by the Tibetans, the show was forced to discontinue. Later monks and laypeople started shouting slogans "Long live Dalai Lama" and "The Dalai Lama should return to Tibet".

Jyekundo, "TAP" Qinghai - 9 & 10 March

On 9 March, hundreds of banned portraits of the Dalai Lama were confiscated from a number of homes in Jyekundo, (Ch: Yushu/Jiegu) "TAP", Qinghai Province during a midnight raid conducted by local Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials. Two families were reportedly fined 500 Yuan each for possessing the banned portraits. The next day, pamphlets calling for Tibet's independence were known to have been pasted on the walls around the area.

Ditsa Monastery, - 10 March

In one incident, around 20 local Chinese officials convened a meeting of monks at Ditsa Monastery, Bayan County, Tsoshar "TAP" (Ch: Haidong), Qinghai Province. However, around 70 monks walked out of the meeting carrying the portrait of the Dalai Lama and shouted pro-independence slogans. Later the monks proceeded towards a small hill behind the monastery to offer Sangsol Prayer, and were later joined by onlookers. Open calls for solidarity with "the peace marcher from Dharamsala to Lhasa," initiated by leading exiled Tibetan NGOs, were even reportedly raised by the monks. A total of around four hundred people gathered for the prayer that day.

Labrang Tashikyil Monastery, Sangchu County, "TAP" - 10 March

Incidents of police removing pamphlets calling for Tibet's independence were reported from Labrang Tashikyil Monastery in Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe xian), Kanlho "TAP" Gansu Province.

Kandze - 10 March

There are also reports of people having pasted pamphlets calling for Tibet's independence from Kandze County, Kandze "TAP" Sichuan Province on 10 March. So far there is no information on case of arrest or detention from the area.

Raid in former political prisoners' homes - 10 March

According to sources, on the evening of 10 March, sudden raids were being conducted in the homes of former political prisoners by the authorities looking particularly for any incriminating CDs such as the US Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama ceremony which have covertly been in circulation recently, or electronic goods particularly computers, phones and Internet connections.

Recall of government employees, Arrest and restriction in Tibet University

On 11 March, the authorities of Lhasa City have recalled all the employees of various government departments who were on leave to return to work immediately and issued a restraint order banning taking leave. Around five students of Tibet University were also confirmed to be arrested by the PSB officials on 13 March. Restrictions were also imposed on the movement of students, including Tibet University students in Lhasa, with authorities increasing the vigilance personnel and keeping a record of student movements at the main entrance gate of the University.

Chutsang Nunnery- 12 & 13 March

On the morning of 12 March, coinciding with the Tibetan Women's Uprising Day, around a hundred Tibetan nuns from Chutsang Nunnery in the west side of Lhasa marched towards Barkhor Street for a peaceful demonstration. However, they were blocked by Chinese People's Armed Police from moving forward and sent back to their monastery. There are no reports of arrest or detention after the march. However, on the morning of 13 March, the same group of nuns carried out their protest march towards Lhasa and have not yet returned to their monastery. On contacting the monastery, only a few senior nuns remain there.

Gaden Monastery- 12 March

Similarly, Gaden Monastery (about 50 Kms east of Lhasa City) in Taksе County, remains sealed off and surrounded by People's Armed Police since yesterday afternoon, following the protest by monks on 12 March. Contact with the outside world is known to have been terminated at the moment.

Ramoche Temple - 14 March

Information coming out of Lhasa has confirmed that Ramoche Temple in the north side of Lhasa has been surrounded by People's Armed Police (PAP) following a peaceful protest led by monks of the temple in Lhasa this morning. Ramoche Temple and all roads leading toward the temple were cordoned off by a large number of PAP forces, restricting monks from moving outside. A scuffle broke out between PAP forces and the protesting monks and common people. The report of agitating protestors setting fire on a vehicle and shops also surfaced from Tibet but incident of death, injury and arrest could not be ascertained.

Following protests by Tibetans in Lhasa, a meeting was convened among the concerned Department heads of surrounding districts adjoining Lhasa City, to restrict and control people's entry into the city. It is highly possible that security and movement of people may be tightened in an attempt to block the flow of information about protests to the outside world, and to prevent others from joining similar protests in the capital.

Amdo Labrang - 14 March

Thousands of Tibetan monks and laypeople converged and staged demonstration in the streets of Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe xian), Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Gansu Province. The demonstration which took place around 2pm (Beijing Time) today is currently ongoing. Mobile phone pictures depicting the intensity of the demonstration are obtained by the TCHRD.

Around 50 monks from the Labrang Tashikyil Monastery staged a demonstration carrying the banned Tibetan national flag and called for "Tibetan Independence" around 2 p.m. (Beijing Time) on 14 March. Around 500 monks from the same monastery later joined the demonstration. The demonstration eventually grew into thousands when laypeople also joined in. The police started to fire live ammunitions in the air and started to beat when the demonstrators neared the Sangchu County Public Security Bureau headquarters.

Amdo Labrang – 15 March

On 15 March a fresh demonstration erupted in the morning around 10 AM (Beijing Time) in Labrang, Sangchu County(Ch: Xiahe xian), Kanlho "TAP" Gansu Province in the eastern part of the Tibetan area as a follow-up to the previous day's demonstration staged by monks of Labrang Tashikyil Monastery which was later joined by thousands of Tibetans in the area.

Thousands of people including monks from Labrang Tashikyil Monastery staged a peaceful demonstration at the county government's headquarters. The demonstration was started by monks of Labrang Tashikyil Monastery and was later joined by common citizens at a place known as Choeten Karpo (White Stupa) where

people offered Sangsol Prayer (incense burning ritual). After the prayer session, people raised "pro-independence" and "Long live the Dalai Lama'" slogans while heading towards the Sangchu County Government headquarters. The People's Armed Police (PAP) fired tear gas and live ammunition into the air to disperse the demonstrators. The demonstrators were arrested and beaten by PAP forces and PSB officials from the area, although the number could not be ascertained at the moment.

Chinese Authorities issue "surrender" order – 15 March

In the morning of 15 March 2008, the People's Higher Court, Regional People's Procuratorate and the regional Public Security Bureau of the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") issued a notice demanding protestors to give themselves in for leniency by Monday midnight. The notice further stated that those who surrender and inform "will be exempt from punishment", it also stated, "those who cover up or shelter the lawbreakers would be punished in accordance with the law."

Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery – 15 March

Monks of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery (a branch of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery in Dzoge County (Ch: Zoige) Ngaba (Ch: Aba) "TAP", Sichuan Province staged a peaceful demonstration in the afternoon of 15 March 2008. Truckloads of troops were sent into the area to disperse the protesting crowd to put the situation under control. More than ten monks were reportedly arrested and around five others injured following a violent crackdown by People's Armed Police (PAP) on the peaceful protestors.

Bumying and Onpo Monastery sealed - 16 March

Hundreds of People's Armed Police have surrounded Bumying and Onpo Monasteries in Tibet, Shiqu County, Ganze Prefecture, Sichuan Province), to avoid further spread of the protests in Lhasa and other areas. Bumying Monastery remained sealed off following incident of Tibetan independence pamphlets having scattered in the area on the evening of 15 March. Further problems were provoked when police demanded the removal of a photograph of the Dalai Lama but a senior monk from the monastery refused to do so. After a short while, troops of People's Armed Police surrounded the monastery from all sides.

Onpo monastery, also in Sershul town is currently surrounded by People's Armed Police, seemingly without provocation. However, it appears to be a precautionary measure on the part of the Chinese authorities as this is the home monastery of several of the monks arrested in Lhasa from the Sera Monastery protest march earlier this week on March 10.

Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery – 16 March

At around 11.30 AM (Beijing Time) on 16 March 2008, thousands of Tibetan monks of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, gathered for a prayer session in the morning. Shortly after the end of morning prayer session, thousands of monks erupted into spontaneous protest by raising slogans calling for "Tibet independence", "return of the Dalai Lama" and "freedom for Tibet". In moment's time, the Chinese security police burst into the Monastery campus and lobbed tear gas on the Tibetan protestors.

At least seven shot dead in demonstration in Ngaba County - 16 March

At least seven people were known to have been shot dead including monks of Ngaba Kirti Monastery by the People's Armed Police (PAP) during the peaceful demonstration by thousands of people in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba) this afternoon. Hundreds of people are also known to have been injured in the incident following PAP crackdown on the protestors. The demonstration is still going on when the Centre received the information from the venue of demonstration.

The demonstration started around 11.30 AM (Beijing Time), when thousands of Tibetan monks of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Sichuan Province, gathered for a prayer session this morning. Shortly after the end of morning prayer session, thousands of monks erupted into spontaneous protest by raising slogans calling for "Tibet independence", "return of the Dalai Lama" and "freedom for Tibet". The demonstration was later joined by common citizens of Ngaba County total numbering thousands of people who were heading towards Ngaba County government headquarters and Ngaba County PSB Office.

Eight dead bodies have been brought into Ngaba Kirti Monastery: 16 March

Eight dead bodies have been brought into Ngaba Kirti Monastery according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. The bodies were brought in from the protest scene in Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. Sources say at least "30 Tibetans felled" after armed troops shot indiscriminately into the peacefully protesting Tibetans. Out of the eight bodies, one has been identified as Lobsang Tashi, a former monk in his mid 20s. The remaining bodies are unidentified at the moment. The monks in Kirti Monastery are currently offering prayers for the deceased.

Fresh protest broke out in Rong Gonchen Monastery, Rebkong County- 16 March

A fresh protest broke out in Rong Gonchen Monastery, Rebkong County (Ch: Tongren Xian), Malho Prefecture (Ch: Huangnan) "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture", Qinghai Province. Around 300 monks of Rong Gonchen Monastery conducted Sangsol Prayer (Incense burning ritual) on the hill just behind the monastery during the early hours of the day. It was known that the monks performed Long Life Prayer Ceremony for the Dalai Lama. Shortly after the end of the prayer ceremony, the monks started peace march towards the government headquarters of Rebkong County which is located in the downtown market area which was later joined by lay people of the County.

However, in minutes' time they were confronted and blocked by the security personnel from continuing the demonstration. Source says that the monks are currently stranded at the monastery courtyard surrounded by a heavy presence of paramilitary troops. In a course of time, more and more ordinary people flock in to join the monks protesting inside the monastery courtyard. The situation is said to be extremely tense. The source also says that the security personnel have already started firing tear gas on the crowds to disperse them. At the moment, the arrests, and deaths of the protestors could not be ascertained.

Eight dead bodies brought into Ngaba Kirti Monastery: 16 March 2008

Eight dead bodies have been brought into Ngaba Kirti Monastery according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. The bodies were brought in from the protest scene in Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. Sources say at least "30 Tibetans felled" after armed troops shot indiscriminately into the peacefully protesting Tibetans. Out of the eight bodies, one has been identified as Lobsang Tashi, a former monk in his mid 20s. The remaining bodies are unidentified at the moment. The monks in Kirti Monastery are currently offering prayers for the deceased.

Students staged a protest in eastern Tibet: 16 March 2008

Tibetan students in the eastern Gansu province staged a peaceful protest in the afternoon of 16 March. Around 500 Tibetan students of the Tibetan Studies Department of the North Western Nationality University, Lanzhou City, Gansu Provincial Capital, Lanzhou staged a peaceful demonstration inside the University campus this afternoon (Beijing Time).

Confirmed information says that students had circulated leaflets containing information about the recent Lhasa demonstrations inside the University campus. The sources confirmed that there are about one thousand Tibetan students studying in the university. Information confirmed that there are 300 Tibetan students holed up in the campus by the security forces. The students were known to be carrying a large banner with a slogan "DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN LIVES ARE PRECIOUS". The Tibetan students also raised slogans calling for the immediate end to the brutal crackdown on the Tibetan people referring to the ongoing reports of arrests in the Lhasa city.

Following the circulation of leaflets, the city People's Armed Police (PAP) forces and Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel stormed the university and cordon off the entire campus area. According to sources, the movements of students were known to have been strictly curtailed under a heavy presence of PAP and PSB at the University campus gate.

Protest in Amdo Machu: 16 March

Meanwhile in another incident, at around 6 PM (Beijing Time), about 1500 local Tibetans from Machu County (Ch: Maqu xian), Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture"("TAP"), Gansu Province staged a peaceful demonstration in the main city of the County. Protestors raised slogans calling for the "Independence for Tibet", "Long Live the Dalai Lama" and other demands. The sources also confirmed that the agitated protestors had burnt down one police vehicle during the demonstration. Additional large-scale contingents of PAP and PSB were brought in to crackdown upon the protestors.

Nyulru Protest: 16 March

Around 250 Tibetans of Nyulra Township, Machu County (Ch: Maqu xian), Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture"("TAP"), Gansu Province destroyed the doors of County government offices during the protest. The protestors also took off the Chinese national flag and hoisted the banned Tibetan flag in place. The protestors later shouted pro-independence slogans. The situation is known to be extremely tense at the moment with the large-scale mobilization of truckloads of paramilitary troops had already began in the area. No further information on the situation could not be ascertained

Mass abductions in midnight raids by Chinese security forces in Lhasa: 15 & 16 March

Hundreds of Tibetans are arbitrarily arrested in the ongoing house-by-house raid by Chinese security forces in Lhasa beginning from 15 March 2008. All former political prisoners have already been rounded off and thrown into prisons by the security forces according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

With streets filled with patrolling Chinese armed troops and tanks in Lhasa city, the security agencies comb each and every house in Lhasa and pick up all suspected Tibetans, especially youth, from their houses accompanied by severe beatings by the armed forces. In testimonies received by TCHRD, mothers and elderlies in the families helplessly plea at security forces upon seeing their sons and loved ones being beaten and dragged away.

Law enforcement authorities in the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region" had on Saturday (15 March) issued an ultimatum to the protesting Tibetans to voluntarily surrender before Monday midnight (17 March). However, the actual arrest has already begun in house-by-house raid since yesterday while the world expects it to take place from tomorrow. Although Martial Law is not officially imposed in Lhasa, it has all the elements of the Martial Law imposed in 1989 by the then "TAR" Party Secretary Hu Jintao, currently the President of People's Republic of China.

TCHRD fears more arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearances to take place in the coming few days. The Centre also expresses its deepest fear of torture on the Tibetan arrestees which is a regular feature in the Chinese administered detention centres and prisons in Chinese occupied Tibet. TCHRD appeals to the international community to urgently show their solidarity and act for the arrested peaceful Tibetan protesters and innocent arrestees.

Around 40 middle school students arrested in Marthang

Around 40 Tibetan middle school students were known to have been severely beaten before being arrested at around 8:30 AM (Beijing Time) following students' call for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) multiple sources within Tibet.

Around one hundred Tibetan students of Marthang Nationality Middle School in Marthang County (Ch: Hongyuan Xian), Ngaba (Ch: Aba) Prefecture, "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, erupted into a spontaneous demonstration inside the school compound calling for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet during the morning school hours. The age of the students are known to be between 14-20.According to witnesses, the People's Armed Police (PAP) and Marthang County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials blocked and immediately crushed the students while they came out of the school premises shouting slogan calling for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet. Students were severely beaten and manhandled before being dragged into the waiting police vehicles.

According to the latest information coming out of Tibet, it indicates that around 700 students of the Marthang Nationality Middle School in a solemn gesture of solidarity with the arrested students are staging protest outside Marthang County

PSB office. The conditions and identities of those middle school students could not be ascertained at the moment; however, the Centre will continue to monitor the situation and will update as and when more information surfaces from the area.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) condemns in strongest terms the Chinese security forces use of brute force upon the peaceful Tibetan protesters. TCHRD expresses its serious concern on the well being of the protestors and urge the Chinese authorities to exercise restraint in responding to continuing protests in the light of numbers of confirmed death surfacing from the area who are peacefully expressing their views and exercising their freedom of expression, association and assembly. TCHRD calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all Tibetans arrested and detained in the past days.

Sporadic protests reported from Meldrogungkar and Phenpo Lhundup : 17 March 2008

More reports of sporadic protests in other parts of Tibet are emerging, indicating protests have trickled into the neighboring counties as Lhasa city remains tightly under Chinese control for the fourth consecutive day. The ibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received confirmed information from multiple sources inside Tibet that a fresh demonstration was spearheaded by the monks of Gaden Choekhor Monastery, Phenpo Lhundup County (Ch: Linzhou Xian), Lhasa Municipality, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") which was later joined by common citizens at the County government headquarters.

Monks, nuns and common citizens of Phenpo Lhundup County, east of Lhasa, staged a peaceful protest yesterday on 16 March at the County government headquarters in a continuation of a previous protest on 15 March. Sources revealed that a similar protest is currently going at Phenpo Lhundup People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials in the area have severely restricted the movement of civilians. As of yet, there have been no reports of arrests on detentions at this particular protest. TCHRD is awaiting more updates from the area. At the time of reception of this information, there were no reports of arrest and detention at the place of demonstration.

A similar protest was also reported from Meldrogungkar, Meldrogungkar County (Ch: Mozhu Gongka Xain), "TAR". This morning monks and nuns from various clusters of monasteries and nunneries situated in Meldrogungkar County gathered for a peaceful demonstration in County headquarter. Like any other peaceful protest in Tibet, they were barred from proceeding with their demonstration by the county PAP and PSB officials. Reinforcements were called in to the area from nearby Lhasa city to contain the demonstration and prevent them from gaining momentum into a scale and intensity as has happened in other parts of Tibet in the past few days. We have no information of arrests or detentions.

Fresh demonstration broke out in Amdo Mangra: 17 March 2008

As Lhasa city remains tightly under Chinese control for the fourth consecutive day, a series of new protests are occurring in the eastern part of Tibet. At around 4:00 pm (Beijing standard time), a peaceful demonstration spearheaded by more than seventy monks of Kagya Monastery turned into a major demonstration with common citizens joining in large numbers.

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), this afternoon at around seventy monks of Kagya Monastery, Mangra County (Ch: Guinan Xian), Tsolho (Ch: Hainan) "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") staged a peaceful demonstration carrying the banned Tibetan national flags and shouting "Independence for Tibet". The monks were later joined by common citizens of Mangra County numbering around 500 and headed towards the County government headquarters. The situation in the area is known to be very tense with a heavy presence of PAP and PSB officials.

As of yet, there have been no reports of arrests on detentions at this particular protest. TCHRD is awaiting more updates from the area. At the time of reception of this information, there were no reports of arrest and detention at the place of demonstration.

Fresh Pictures: University students join the protest demonstration in Lanzhuo, Gansu Province, eastern Tibet: 17 March 2008

Fresh Pictures depict students protest in North Western Nationality University in Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu Province on 16 March 2008, 6 PM (Beijing Time). They also undertook twenty four hour hunger strike as a protest against Chinese Government violent crackdown on peaceful Tibetan demonstraters in all parts of Tibet.

Tibetan students demonstrate in Tsoe City: 17 March 2008

9 AM (Beijing Time)

According to the confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), the Tibetan students of the Tibetan Medical College, Teacher Training Higher Institute and other colleges in Tsoe City, Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) Prefecture, Gansu Province, "TAP" had carried out protest demonstrations in their respective university premises in an apparent opposition to the Chinese rule in Tibet. The protests in the campuses took place around the same time in the morning of 17 March 2008, spontaneously.

Just moments after the outbreak of the protests, the People's Armed Police (PAP) came to the scene and blocked them from continuing the demonstration. The security forces had cordoned off the campus premise and holed up the protesting students. When the information last came in, the scene was said to be very tense. Similar protest also took place in the North Western Nationality University in Lanzhou, the provincial capital of Gansu Province in northeastern Tibet.

In a similar case, on 16 March 2008, around one hundred Tibetan students of Marthang Nationality Middle School in Marthang County (Ch: Hongyuan xian), Ngaba (Ch: Aba) Prefecture, "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, erupted into a spontaneous demonstration inside the school compound calling for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet during the morning school hours.

The protest movement inside Tibet is gradually changing its trend with intellectual community such as students of universities and even the middle schools. The trend is significant as their being 'literate' and 'educated' part of the community. It shows the educated section of the Tibetan community too is raising their voices and resentment against the Chinese government.

There has been no reports of arrests or detention so far.

Fresh Pictures of Tibetan protesters' dead bodies and crackdown by the Chinese security forces: 17 March 2008

On 16 March 2008, around 11.30 AM (Beijing Time), thousands of Tibetan monks of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Sichuan Province, erupted into spontaneous protest by raising slogans calling for "Tibet independence", "return of the Dalai Lama", "freedom for Tibet" with carrying the banned Tibetan national flag.

They also shouted slogans calling for "Bod Gyalo" (Victory to Tibet), "Long Live the Dalai Lama". In moment's time, the Chinese security police burst into the Monastery campus and lobbed tear gas on the Tibetan protestors. The Chinese security police were currently blocking the protestors from marching out of the Monastery premises.

Following a similar protest by the monks of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery (a branch of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery), Dzoge County (Ch: Zoige) Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province yesterday afternoon, truckloads of troops were sent into the area to disperse the protesting crowd to put the situation under the control. In yesterday's protest at Ngaba, more than ten monks were reportedly arrested and around five others injured following a violent crackdown by People's Armed Police (PAP) on the peaceful protestors. Atleast fifteen dead bodies were brought to the Kirti Monastery when the report last came in.

Hundreds of Tibetan devotees protest in Amdo Golog: 17 March 2008

17 March 2008: (6 PM Beijing Time) Around hundreds of Tibetan devotees gathered for a religious teaching by their revered religious teacher when suddenly the security police forced the religious teaching to discontinue much against the wishes of the Tibetan devotees in Amdo Golog, according to the confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Multiple sources within Tibet confirmed that, around 200 Tibetan devotees consist of lay and clergy were receiving a religious sermon from a local religious teacher, Trulku Tenzin Pai Wangchuk in Chigdril County (Ch: Juizhi Xian), Golog "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Qinghai Province this afternoon were disrupted suddenly with the Chinese security personnel demanding immediate stoppage of the religious sermon leading local Tibetans to protest. In a short duration, the Chinese security personnel surrounded and blocked the Tibetan protestors. The situation on the ground was tense when the information last came in.

Meanwhile in a similar incident, around the evening of 17 March 2008, the monks and lay people of Minthang Monastery were also on a protest demonstration in Chigdril County (Ch: Juizhi Xian), Golog, Qinghai Province. According to the source, about hundreds of Tibetan protestors proceeded to a nearby local police station located two kilometers from Minthang Monastery. The protestors were shouting pro-independence slogans when the information last came in.

In a separate incident this evening, hundreds of monks and ordinary people of Lungkar Monastery Chigdril County, Golog "TAP" were observing candlelight vigil, expressing their solidarity with the Tibetan protestors in various parts of the Tibet. The Chinese security personnel were keeping a close eye on all of the demonstrations and situation was tense at the moment.

Thirty Tibetan protestors arrested in Toelung Dechen County: 18 March 2008

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), yesterday evening, on 17 March 2008, protest demonstration broke out in Dechen Township, Toelung Dechen County, Lhasa City of the "Tibetan Autonomous Region ("TAR").

According to numerous sources and eyewitnesses, the protest demonstration was initially started by a dozen of monks of Dinka Monastery, in Dinka Township, which was later joined by ordinary Tibetan people. Soon the protest demonstration ran out of the control of local security forces stationed in the area. In minutes, a large contingent of People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) security officers were dispatched to the area to disperse the Tibetan protestors.

As a result of the deployment of (PAP) and (PSB), the Chinese security forces arrested around 30 Tibetan protestors consisting of monks and ordinary people. The situation in Toelung Dechen Township is said to be tense and the area was under a heavy deployment of paramilitary troops when information last came in. At the moment the identities of the arrestees could not be identified.

500 Hundred monks protest in Kanlho, Gansu Province: 18 March 2008

This morning, 18 March 2008 (11 AM Beijing Time) around 500 monks of Choephel Shing Monastery erupted into protest according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

According to the multiple sources and eyewitnesses, around 500 monks of Choephel Shing Monastery, located in Dogo Township, Chone County (Ch:Zhouni Xian), Kanlho "TAP" were conducting a prayer ritual (burning Juniper Incense) at a hillock behind the monastery. Shortly after the end of the prayer ritual, the monks erupted into a protest demonstration.

The monks marched out carrying the banned Tibetan national flag, shouting slogans calling for the "Independence for Tibet" and "Long Live the Dalai Lama". The protest has been gaining momentum and growing in size when this report is being filed.

Reliable sources say that huge contingent of People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) has been brought into the area to quell the Tibetan demonstrators. The situation on the ground is extremely tense.

New cases of arrests and detentions reported from Lithang: 18 March 2008

Following a solo protest that was later joined by bystanders in Lithang County on 15 March 2008, the situation in Lithang is known to be very tense with authorities' imposing severe restriction on the movement of the people in the area, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

When the protest spread to other parts of Tibet in the recent few days, the Chinese authorities in a precautionary measure, sent reinforcement into Lithang County as the place witnessed mass protests last August spearheaded by Ronggye A'drak. On 15 March 2008, Barchog Lopoe, a 37 years-old teacher cum manager of Lithang Nyingma Monastery (one of the 113 branches of Lithang Gonchen Monastery) in Lithang County, Kardze "TAP" stopped a convoy of

military trucks from marching forward by standing in the middle of the road. Barchog Lopoe shouted slogans calling for free Tibet and Dalai Lama's long life, which was later joined by bystanders. Barchog Lopoe was arrested soon after his act by the Public Security Bureau (PSB)officials and took away to the County PSB Detention Centre. The bystanders and local public followed him towards the detention centre and demanded his release. Sensing more protest by the public, the PSB officials released Barchong Lopoe the same evening. Currently he is under constant vigilance and people of Lithang county fear that he might get re-arrested anytime.

On 16 March, a 52-year-old monk, Akyi, originally from Youru Village, Lithang County, and of Lithang Gonchen Monastery, started a sit-in protest on the main road of Lithang which was later joined by lay people of the county. Akyi was known to have been arrested while demonstrating and released soon after a brief detention in the county PSB detention centre following intervention from village and county heads. The authorities of Lithang County are known to have circulated a notice telling from venturing out of their home in the coming days as more military trucks were brought into the area. Schools, offices and shops in the area remain closed in the area.

In a similar incident on the morning of 17 March, witnesses confirmed to the Centre that many military tanks and reinforcement of PAP were brought into Lithang County with street looking completely deserted except for the military trucks, tanks and troops. Communication lines in the area were known to have been cut off since the evening of 16 March with complete restriction imposed on the people's movement outside their home. Dagay, 23-years old, a nomad from Youru Village in Lithang County while taking her sick mother for a vaccination was barred by the military troop from going to a clinic yesterday. Dagay in fury protested against the security personnel and was known to have been taken away to the PSB Detention Centre. Following villagers call for his release Dagay was released on the yesterday's evening.

Thousands of Tibetans Protested in Sertha County, Kardze: 18 March 2008

18 March 2008: (4 PM: Beijing Time), today evening, around thousands of Tibetans in Sertha County, Kardze, "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" (TAP) staged a major protest demonstration in Sertha County, Kardze in a large number shouting pro-independence slogans according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Shortly after the outbreak of the protest demonstration by the Tibetans, the People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) came to the area to quell and disperse the agitating crowds.

The situation in Sertha County was said to be tense with heavy presence of the Chinese security forces.

Hundreds protest in Amdo Bora : 18 March 2008

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) reveals that hundreds of Tibetans in Amdo Bora, in Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe Xian), Kanlho "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Gansu Province, staged a peaceful protest against the Chinese rule in Tibet this morning.

At around 11:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time), as the day coincides with major ritualistic observation day, monks and common citizens of Amdo Bora observed a prayer ritual (incense burning) ceremony and then suddenly erupted into a peaceful protest calling for more freedom in Tibet by raising the banned Tibetan national flags. The crowd before heading towards the County government headquarter, went to the Bora Primary and Middle School in the County. Later the protesting crowd barged into the two schools and brought down the Chinese flag hoisted in the school's compound and replaced it with the banned Tibetan national flags. Soon after the protestors headed towards the county government headquarter shouting pro-independence slogans. According to sources, three truckloads of People's Armed Police were brought into the area to control the crowd as reinforcement. As protestors neared their destination, the security forces fired numbers of tear gas shells into the protesting crowd from heading towards the county government headquarter. At the time of filing this information, the crowd had already dispersed.

As of now, there have been no reports of arrests or detentions at this particular protest. TCHRD is awaiting more updates from the area. At the time of reception of this information, there were no reports of arrest and detention.

Atleast three Tibetans shot dead in Kardze Protest : 18 March 2008

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received confirmed information from multiple sources, that at least three Tibetan protestors were shot dead this afternoon during a peaceful demonstration in Kardze County, Sichuan Province in eastern Tibet after Chinese security forces started an indiscriminate firing on the peaceful Tibetan protestors.

The incident took place on 18 March 2008, today between 2:30 - 3:00 PM (Beijing Standard Time) when around 300 Tibetans from all walks of life staged a peaceful protest demonstration in the main market square of Kardze County, Sichuan Province by raising slogans calling for "independence for Tibet" and "Long Live the Dalai Lama".

Soon after, more and more Tibetans in the market joined the protest demonstration shouting the pro-independence slogans. According to eyewitnesses account from the scene of demonstration, the Chinese paramilitary troops started firing live ammunition indiscriminately into the demonstrators from a rooftop of one building. Protestors started dispersing in all directions for cover. After a short while, three dead bodies were found lying on the road. According to sources, two of them were identified as Gonpo Nadul, Nyiga and the name of the third victim is still unidentified at the moment.

Sources say that 15 Tibetan peaceful protestors were also injured during the indiscriminate firing by the Chinese security forces. Out of 15 injured Tibetans, identities of the five, two females and three males were known. They are Pema Dechen, Chemi Gonpo, Lobsang, Tseten Phuntsok and Shao Mimi. The present conditions of those injured could not be ascertained, as visitors were not allowed inside Kardze People's Hospital, where the injured were admitted.

No further information on the exact number of dead, injured or arrest could be ascertained at the moment. TCHRD will issue further updates as the situation progresses. TCHRD condemns in strongest terms the Chinese security forces' brutal use of force on the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

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China launches renewed "Patriotic Education" Campaign across all sections in Tibet

The Chinese authorities in the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') and other Tibetan areas in neighboring provinces have launched a two-months renewed "Patriotic Education" campaign covering almost every sections of society beginning primarily with the monastic institutions, party cadres, security forces and government employees, farmers and private entrepreneurs, educational institutions and common people, to denounce the Dalai Lama and the "splittist forces" in the coming two months.

Following the recent series of protests across the "TAR" and the non-TAR regions by Tibetans, the Chinese authorities launched a renewed "Patriotic Education" campaign as it was earlier concentrated primarily in the monastic institutions long considered as the bastions of political dissidence, covering almost every section of Tibetan communities with more rigor and intensity. The stipulated two-months' renewed "Patriotic Education" campaign launched at the begining of April following unprecedented protests across Tibetan plateau since 10 March, was reinvigorated and targeted not only the monastic institutions but also government employees, security forces, farmers, nomads, private enterpreneurs and educational institutions. The principle and underlying message of this campaign is to "vehemently oppose the Dalai 'clique'" and "to expose the true nature of 'Dalai clique'" and "March 14 riot". Under the supervision of the Communist Party leaders, new committees were formally formed to formulate and execute the campaign across all sections of the society within two months stipulated time period.

Under the three themes, the renewed "patriotic education" campaign aims to 'educate' the masses about 'opposing splittism', 'protecting stability' and 'backing development', by holding meetings, inviting experts to give speeches, teaching and discussing the contents of the 'patriotic education' campaign, holding denunciation session of the Dalai Lama and screening propaganda shows and teaching Chinese laws and regulations.

According to the state run newspaper, Tibet Daily, dated 18 April, a two-month 'patriotic education' campaign was launched in Zangri County in Lhoka Prefecture, "TAR", for government employees, peasants, retired government employees and party members across all townships under Zangri County, pledged and reaffirmed the work ethics for the party cadres. The Zangri County People's Armed Police (PAP) and security forces were told that it was a right time to

Patriotic Education session in Chamdo [picture: Xinhua]

struggle and protest against the 'splittist' forces. The heads of townships and PAP under those townships were 'educated' about securing stability and further improving the national security. In various educational institutions, students were indoctrinated with communist ideology and taught how Tibet has flourished under its rule and denounced the old and backward Tibetan society by showing films from the period of the Cultural Revolution. Peasants, nomads and private enterpreneurs were told about the economic development achieved and happy life enjoyed by the Tibetans under the patronage and policy of the Communist party. For the monastic institutes, under this campaign monks and nuns are 'educated' to be patriotic towards nation, one's religion, oppose 'splittist' forces, to help maintain social stability, social legal institutes and to restore religious order.

At the beginning of this month, alongside intensification of security, the Chinese authorities have ordered more stringent ideological education and ramped-up propaganda in Tibet "to build anti-separatist sentiment", according to the Tibet Daily, a state run newspaper of 3 April 2008. Under this campaign, "work team" are sent to especially in monastic institutes on a regular basis to undertake this campaign no matter whether monastic populace are willing to attend or not but are compulsorily made to attend. The "TAR" Communist Party chief, Zhang Qingli ordered harsh punishments for local party officials found lacking in their commitment to Beijing's official line. "We absolutely will not condone violations of political and organizational discipline and will definitely find those responsible and mete out harsh punishment". He even told that efforts should be made to focus on negative portrayals of Tibet prior to the Communist invasion in 1950, and continued vilification of what Beijing calls the Dalai Lama's secret campaign to split Tibet from China and sabotage the Olympics, according to the state run newspaper Tibet Daily.

On 3 April, more than eight people including monks were shot dead and dozens left injured after fellow monks of Tongkor Monastery in Kardze County, staged a peaceful demonstration calling for the release of two monks arrested earlier on 2 April for objecting Chinese "Patriotic Education" campaign in the monastery.

On 11 April, the "TAR" authorities sent the "Legal information Education" "work team" as a part of the "patriotic education" campaign in Drepung Monastery, who were confronted by the monks of the monastery against visit of the "work team" to conduct the campaign and later detained by the authorities. There is no information on the condition and whereabouts of those detainees. However, according to the Chinese official mouthpiece, Xinhau, dated 11 April, reported that a patriotic education group has arrived at the monastery "to help maintain social stability, socialist legal institutions" and "restore religious order" but suppressed the protest and detention of monks in its report and cited "TAR" government as saying the officials involved in the "patriotic education" campaign throughout Tibet "have received the understanding and support of monks and religious followers". Mr. Zhang Qingli, the "TAR" Communist Party chief visited the Drepung Monastery on 18 April 2008.

On the same day on 18 April 2008, the "TAR" Communist Party chief Zhang Qingli visited Sera Monastery giving assurance to the monks that "the Communist Party committee and government of Tibet would protect the legal rights and interests of patriotic and devouts monks and nuns". The Xinhua reported that the Buddhist service have resumed after being suspended due to Lhasa 'riot' bu the official mouthpiece completely skipped the report of the detention of around four hundreds monks of the monastery in the early morning raid in Sera Monastery. There is no information on the condition and whereabout of those detained from the monastery.

On 12 April, a special meeting was convened among the representatives of the various monastic institutions under all eighteen counties of Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") at Dartsedo and instructed to commence the "patriotic education" campaign immediately across all religious institutions in Kardze.

According to official media reports, the campaign was reinvigorated across Lhasa city, educational departments in Lhasa, in Lhoka and Chamdo Prefecture.

On 3 April, monks of Wara Monastery in Jomda County, Chamdo Prefecture "TAR" confronted and challenged the "work team" from carrying 'patriotic education' campaign by saying 'even at the cost of our lives we will never defame and denounce our religious leader, the Dalai Lama".

On 14 April 2008, the PAP forces ransacked the residences of monks of Tsang Monastery in Kawasumdo County(Ch: Thunde Xian), Tsolho "TAP" Qinghai Province, confiscated pictures of the Dalai Lama.

On 21 April, Dorjee Tsering, Lhasa City Mayor, has told that the "Patriotic education" campaign will be a standard litmus test for the party cadres.

With the launch of renewed "Patriotic education" campaign especially in the monastic institutions, which are originally set up for providing religious practitioners with a conducive environment for meditation on religious contents and for achieving inner peace, are being forcibly re-functioned to serve the Party as a production machinery of loyal political followers. Freedom of religion for Tibetan Buddhists would mean that authorities cease not only with their controls and restrictions in Tibetan Buddhist institutes but most importantly cease mixing up a party's ideological messages with religious traditions. Any attempts, the violent destructive ones well as the nearly unperceivable ones that operate through indoctrination and manipulation, any attempts to assimilate politics and religion into a political version of religion are gross downfall against a people's right to freedom of their religion. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) calls for the immediate end to the practice of conducting so-called "patriotic education" campaign in Tibet and allows the normal religious practice to flourish in the monastic institutions.

Panchen Lama spends his 19th birthday under house arrest

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the XIth Panchen Lama of Tibet today turns 19. He has been missing for the past thirteen years along with his parents. There has been no information about his well being and whereabouts till date.

Although numerous governments and independent organizations in the past have consistently pressed the Chinese authorities to disclose information about his whereabouts and well being but there were no positive response from the government of China.

The authorities have cited various excuses for denying access to the Panchen Lama and his family. In 2006 the Chinese authorities refused to arrange meetings between the Panchen Lama and Reuters stating that it was done purely out of respect for the family's wishes not to be "disturbed" by outsiders.

In September 2005, Chinese authorities informed the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was in "good health and just like any other children is leading a normal, happy life and receiving a good cultural education". A year later, in an official communication from China, UN rights experts were told that Gedhun Choekyi is not the Panchen Lama but "merely an ordinary Tibetan child".

Ms Louise Arbour, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Ms Asma Jahangir, the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedom and Belief discussed the case of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima to the Chinese authorities during their official visits to China in 29 August- 2 September 2005 and 9 January 2005 respectively.

The Panchen Lama is now no longer an infant boy that requires protection from the state according to the Constitution of People's Republic of China (PRC). Therefore, as a citizen he has every right to enjoy his freedom to determine his fate and the freedom of movement without being under the custodianship of anyone, including parents and the state.

The Chinese constitution stipulates that a person who has reached the age of18, he or she is entitled with fundamental rights such as right to religious belief, education and occupation. Therefore the continuing disappearance of the Panchen Lama is a gross violation of the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution. Article 34 of the Chinese constitution guarantees that,

All citizens of the People's Republic of China who have reached the age of 18 have the right to vote and stand for election, regardless of nationality, race, sex, occupation, family background, religious belief, education, property status, or length of residence, except persons deprived of political rights according to law.

In view of the civil and political rights guarantee to every citizen, it is the legitimate right of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima to exercise his freedom. In no way should he be kept under any form of detention as a result of political manipulation, custody or protection. If he chooses to remain under state protection and custodianship, China must procure and provide the world with valid document to support the case. If it is not the case, then the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) deems the continuing disappearance of the Panchen Lama as a case of arbitrary detention and imprisonment and total disregard for his fundamental human rights.

The detention of the Panchen Lama starkly contradicts the spirit of the Chinese constitution and its enshrined fundamental rights and freedom. Article 37 of the Chinese constitution states,

The freedom of person of citizens of the People's Republic of China is inviolable. No citizen may be arrested except with the approval or by decision of a people's procuratorate or by decision of a people's court, and arrests must be made by a public security organ. Unlawful deprivation or restriction of citizens' freedom of person by detention or other means is prohibited; and unlawful search of the person of citizens is prohibited.

According to the Chinese constitution, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima is not a minor citizen, and hence does not require family and state protection. As a adult he has the freedom of movement, since he is now not under the threat, the Chinese authorities should disclose his present whereabouts and well-being and allow international community, media and international dignitaries to access him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On 14 May 1995, His Holiness the Dalai Lama announced that the then six-years old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the reincarnation of the Xth Panchen Lama.

· Three days later, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents disappeared and have never been seen again.

· On 24 May 1995 the government of People's Republic of China issued a statement describing the Dalai Lama's proclamation as "illegal and invalid."

· China proclaims another child to be the real incarnation - an unprecedented and bizarre act of an atheist state.

· Shortly after this announcement Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family disappeared from their native hometown without any information about their whereabouts and well-being.

· Chadrel Rinpoche, a former abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery seat of Panchen Lama, and Chairman of the Search Committee for the reincarnation of the XIth Panchen Lama and his assistant Champa Chungla also disappeared from Chengdu Airport in Sichuan Province on 14 May 1995.

· On 21 April 1997, the Shigatse Intermediate People's court sentenced Chadrel Rinpoche to six years of imprisonment. He was charged with "plotting to split the country" and "leaking state secrets".

· He was accused of working for and assisting the Dalai Lama in the search for the XIth Panchen Lama. Although his sentence ended on 13 May 2001 following the completion of a six-year prison term, there is no credible information on his whereabouts or on his state of health.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is gravely concerned at the continued disappearance and detention of the Panchen Lama and his parents and appeals for their unconditional release. TCHRD urges the International bodies to pressure the Beijing authorities to ascertain their whereabouts and well-being and to allow the relevant UN bodies to meet the Panchen Lama. The PRC should also ensure that the religious freedom of the Tibetan people be respected including their rights to identify religious leaders.

Hundreds of Tibetans protested in Kanlho, Gansu

A fresh protest broke out in Tsoe City's main square, Kakha Township, a remote region in Kanlho, Gansu Province in north-eastern Tibet, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 18 March 2008, around 12:00 (Beijing Standard Time) the monks of Kakhamey Monastery in Kakha Township joined by hundreds of Tibetans went on a protest march to the local government office in Tsoe City, Kakha Township.

During the protest march the monks and ordinary Tibetans shouted slogans demanding an immediate end to the crackdown by the Chinese security forces. The Tibetan peaceful protesters also shouted loud slogan calling for "Tibetan independent" and "Long Live the Dalai Lama".

The Tibetans' peaceful demonstration culminated by pulling down the Chinese national flag and hoisting prayer flags in its place.

More protests reported from Achok Tsenyi and Dzoge Monastery in Tibet

Over one hundred Tibetans in Marthang County, Ngaba "TAP" staged a peaceful protest yesterday afternoon. So far there have been no cases of arrests or detentions were made after the protest, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). This is in the continuation of the reports that the Centre has highlighted in the past few days starting from 10 March uprising day.

On 19 March 2008, around 1:00 pm (Beijing Standard Time), scores of Tibetan monks of Achok Tsenyi Monastery in Achok Township, Marthang County (Ch: Hongyuan Xian), Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest which was later joined by numbers of common citizens of Achok Township. The protestors headed towards the Township government headquarter in the main market area where protesters brought down the Chinese national flag and hoisted the banned Tibetan national flag in its place at the government headquarters. The protesters were shouting slogans calling for the return of the Dalai Lama and freedom in Tibet. The local Public Security Bureau (PSB) officers demanded protesters to call off the demonstration although, the protesters continued. Truckloads of armed police were brought into the main market areas to quell the protesters. There is no information on the number of arrest or detention of protesters at the moment. The Centre will continue to monitor the situation.

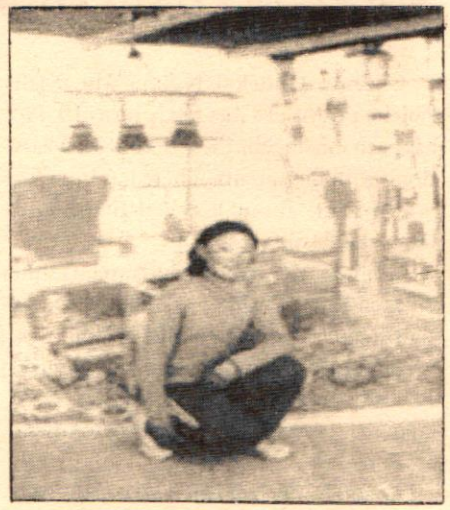
In another incident, on the evening of 10 March, monks of Dzoge Thangkor Soktsang Monastery in Dzoge County (Ch: Zoige Xian), Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province, lowered the Chinese flag hoisted inside the monastery compound and the same incident was repeated on the 14 March despite attempts made by the authorities to re-hoist the flag, according to confirmed information received by TCHRD. On the evening of 16 March, at around 6:30 PM (Beijing Standard Time) scores of Dzoge Thangkor Soktsang Monastery's monks were barred from proceeding with their protest march towards the County government headquarters by hundreds of armed police.

The next morning at around 11:00 (Beijing Standard Time), a protest was again led by the monks of Dzoge Thangkor Soktsang Monastery which headed towards County government headquarters and was joined by common citizens, shouting slogans calling for the independence for Tibet, "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "Release Panchen Lama" and "China quit Tibet". The protestors stormed into the compound of the County PSB headquarters and lowered the Chinese flag, replacing it with the banned Tibetan national flag. Within a few minutes, tear gas shells were fired into the protesters by armed security forces to disperse the protesters. There is no information on the number of arrests or detentions at the moment from that incident.

Middle school student shot dead in Ngaba County

The body of a girl shot dead in the Ngaba County protest on 16 March was identified as Lhundup Tso, 16 years-old girl and a student of Ngaba County Tibetan School, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 16 March 2008, around few thousands Tibetans erupted into a



Lhundup Tso, 16 years-old girl

spontaneous protest following the morning prayer session at Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery in Ngaba County by shouting slogans calling for "Tibet Independence", "Return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", and "Freedom for Tibet". The demonstration was later joined by common citizens of Ngaba County and headed towards Ngaba County government headquarters. At least 23 people including as young as 16 years old student, Lhundup Tso, were confirmed dead following Chinese Armed police shot many rounds of live ammunitions into the protestors at Ngaba County (Ch: Aba Xian), Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province on 16 March. The names of those identified are, Tashi Wangchuk, Ghegyam, Norbu, Lotse, Ghepan Thalo, Ngudrup Tso, Atisha, Sangye, Tsezin and identities of others were not yet known.

Lhundup Tso, a 16 years-old was born to Mr. Jigshe (father) and Mrs. Sherab Tsomo a.k.a Shetse(Mother). She was a brilliant student of Ngaba County Tibetan School, Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province.

The present situation in Ngaba County, in particular, is known to be very tense following mass protests in the past few days which saw deaths and injuries of scores of Tibetan in the peaceful demonstration. More reinforcement from the Mainland China is sent into the area to check the further spread of protest into neighboring counties and bring situation under tight control.

Tibetans facing massive arrest drive in Tibet

After days of the peaceful protests in Lhasa and in other parts of Tibet, the Chinese authorities are now arresting hundreds of Tibetans in other parts of Tibet.

On 19 March 2008, Lhasa City Procuratorate has arrested 24 Tibetan protestors on a basis of pre-trial detention. Although 24 Tibetan protestors are on pre-trial detention but it is already a foregone conclusion that they will be charged with serious crimes and will receive harsh prison sentences.

In China pre-trial arrests are usual practice, it is most likely that the detained Tibetan protestors will be indicted within five days at an extraordinary pace compared judicial system in the democratic countries. The swift arrests and sentencing is part of Chinese legal system of sending fear and panic to the protestors to cease their activities. It can well be described as "killing goats to scare sheep".

Official Chinese sources say that so far 170 Tibetans have voluntarily surrendered. Although the Chinese authorities promised to give 'leniency' to those who surrender within the dateline (midnight of 17 March 2008) however, given the nature of Chinese regime and its past record in dealing with Tibetan protestors in 1989, many doubt if the surrendered Tibetan protestors will receive any leniency as promised by the Chinese authorities. Chances are very little for Tibetans to receive leniency by surrendering themselves to the Chinese authorities.

As of now, over 1000 Tibetan protestors were arrested, hundreds disappeared and the numbers are rising. The situation in all parts of Tibet remains under intense restriction and vigilance and there has been many reports of ordinary Tibetan citizens reeling under a state sponsored crisis of intense shortage of food supplies, drinking water and other essential commodities to sustain life.

Tibetans in Ngaba County were already announced that they must surrender themselves to the Chinese authorities after days of protest on 15, 16 and 17 March with a promise of offering leniency. It also called upon people to surrender arms. The homes of suspected Tibetans involved in this week's demonstrations were ransacked and raided. The prayer session at Kirti Monastery was forced to suspend indefinitely. There are cases of enforced disappearance surfacing from the area.

Fresh ultimatum issued in Gansu for Tibetans to surrender

After days of protests in the different Tibetan areas of Gansu Province which saw the death of scores of Tibetans, the Chinese government sent thousands of troops on foot, trucks and helicopters into the area in an attempt to curb and hunt for protesters. Fresh public notices both in Tibetan and Chinese languages were posted around the county and security personnel are making public announcement of the notice through loud speakers, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 20 March, the public notice or ultimatum in disguise was jointly issued by the law enforcement authorities of Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture'" ('TAP') Intermediate People's Court, Procuratorate, and Public Security Bereau. The notice mentioned the recent protests in Sangchu (Ch: Xiahe), Luchu (Ch: Luqu), Machu (Ch: Maqu), Chone (Ch: Zhouni), Tewo (Ch: Diebu) Counties and in Hezuo city.

The public notice posted around all these counties and towns yesterday warned protesters - or criminal as the notice called them to surrender until midnight of 25 March. The notice says that those who turn themselves in will be treated leniently - but those who do not will be treated harshly, so is the case of those who shelter them. It is highly improbable given the nature of Chinese regime and its past record in dealing with Tibetan protestors in 1989 protest in Lhasa, many suspects the surrendered Tibetan protestors will actually receive any leniency as promised by the Chinese authorities. The prefecture law enforcement authorities have promised protection and rewards for those who surrender to the authorities. However, the actual arrest has already begun in house-to-house raid since yesterday.

More cases of arbitrary arrests, detentions and enforced disappearance of Tibetans in the late night raids in Sangchu and other counties are surfacing from these areas following issuance of public notice and massive launch of additional security forces into these counties. According to sources within Tibet, additional reinforcement of thousands of troops on foot, trucks and helicopters in Tibetan areas of Gansu and Sichuan Province were brought in as the government stepped up its hunt for protesters in the latest series of protests on the Tibetan plateau.

The official Chinese sources say that so far 170 Tibetans in Lhasa and 94 Tibetans from Phenpo Lhundrup County have 'voluntarily surrendered'. Yesterday, the Lhasa City Public Security Bureau has issued a public notice on list of 21 people "wanted" as the main instigator or offender of the recent string of protests in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa. Of which the photo identities of 14 people including monks were issued. As of now, over 1000 Tibetan protestors were arrested, hundreds disappeared and the numbers are rising each day with more similar protests being reported from other parts of Tibet. The current situation in all parts of Tibet remains under intense restriction and vigilance.

Hundreds of Tibetans protested in Chentsa, Malho "TAP", Qinghai Province

On 22 March 2008, around hundreds of Tibetans carried out a peaceful protest in Markhul-thang Township, consisted of four villages, which is located in Chentsa County, Malho "TAP", Qinghai Province in north-eastern Tibet according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

The Tibetans in Markhul-thang Township were carrying out special religious ceremony for a prosperous bounty harvest for this year. Shortly after the end of the ritual ceremony, several hundreds of Tibetans erupted into a peaceful protest by proceeding to the County headquarter chanting slogans.

According to sources, the peaceful Tibetan protestors were proceeding to the County Headquarter carrying a portrait of the Dalai Lama and the missing eleventh Panchen Lama Gedun Choekyi Nyima. In addition to that, the peaceful Tibetan protestors were carrying the banned Tibetan National flag and were shouting slogans "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "The Dalai Lama to return to Tibet", "Release the eleventh Panchen Lama Erdeni Gedun Choekyi Nyima" and "Freedom for Tibetan people".

However, when the peaceful Tibetan protestors came near the County Headquarter, prominent local religious leaders requested the peaceful protestors to turn away from continuing their demonstration to avoid bloodshed and losing human lives. The demonstrators were later sent back to their respective places. Sources say that hundreds of Chinese security forces were expecting the peaceful protestors at the County headquarter in full combat kit to quell and disperse the peaceful protestors

On 22 March 2008, many monks of Makur Namgyaling Monastery erupted into peaceful protest but were stopped by the Chinese security forces.

According to the latest development in the area, at least three Tibetan protestors were arrested by the Chinese security forces on the morning of 23 March 2008. The arrestees were Sherab, aged 40, Tabo aged 40 and Kunbo aged 20. Six other Tibetans arrested by the Chinese security forces on two separate raids have not been identified at the moment.

On 23 March 2008, around eight hundred Tibetans from Lha Village, Nyarong Monastery, Lowa village and Meru village erupted into protest demonstrations. However the Chinese security forces stopped the peaceful Tibetan protestors when they were at a place called Lokog.

A large mobilization of Chinese paramilitary troops from Chinese city of Seling (Ch: Xining) to Chentsa County is on a full swing to quell the Tibetan protestors when the report last came in. The heavy security blanket is maintaining a close vigil on the protestors as well as patrolling the streets. The situation on the ground is said to be tense and volatile.

One shot dead and another in critical condition in Drango protest

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), at least one Tibetan protester was shot dead and another left in critical condition following indiscriminate firing by the People's Armed Police on the protesting Tibetans in Drango County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" today afternoon.

At around 2:00 pm (Beijing Standard Time), a peaceful protest was initiated jointly by the monks of Chokri Monastery and nuns of Ngyoe-go Nunnery of Drawo Township, Drango County (Ch: Luhuo Xian), Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, in eastern Tibet which was later joined by the common citizens of Drawu Township. Around 200 protestors headed towards the township government headquarters chanting slogans "long live the Dalai Lama", "Independence for Tibet" and "freedom for Tibet".

According to multiple sources within Tibet, when the protesters were marching towards the township headquarters, a large number of People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) officers came to the scene to quell the agitated protestors. In the process, a clash occurred between the two sides, soon the Chinese security forces started firing live ammunitions indiscriminately into the protesting crowd, which led to the dead of at least one monk and left another in critical condition. The dead Tibetan is identified as Kunga, a 18-year-old monk of Chokri Monastery, Drango County (Ch: Luhuo xian), Kardze, "TAP". Tsewang Dhondup, 30-year-old monk from the same monastery is known to be in critical condition after being shot by Chinese security forces. According to sources within Tibet, many doubt if he could survive the gun shot injury. No further information on the exact number of dead, injured or arrest could be ascertained at the moment. TCHRD fears more cases of death would surface as many rounds of gunfire were shot into the protestors. The Centre will issue further updates as the situation progresses.

Earlier on 18 March a similar protest broke out in Kardze which led to the dead of at least three Tibetans and left 15 injured following armed police indiscriminate firing on the protesters.

Death toll rise to at least 100, over 1200 arrests and more than 100 disappear in Tibet

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has been closely monitoring the situation inside Tibet particularly since 10 March 2008 when the first peaceful protest led by Tibetan Buddhist monks broke up in Lhasa on the 49th anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day.

For the past more than two weeks, the exact figures on the number of arrest, death, injury or disappeared from the violent crackdowns during protests in various parts of Tibet is difficult to ascertain due to various circumstances such as censorship of information, lack of immediate and on the ground assessment, absence of third party fact finding mission and free media reporting in Chinese administered Tibet.

However, TCHRD has been able to filter considerable information based on eyewitnesses accounts, evidences and information given to the Centre by brave and conscious Tibetans inside Tibet. The information available to TCHRD have been reported to various human rights monitoring organizations, media and concerned UN bodies after our meticulous research and verification. According to eyewitnesses' accounts and testimonies received by TCHRD, so far at least 79 Tibetans are known to have died as a direct result of brutal crackdown by the Chinese security forces. Over 1200 Tibetans have so far been arrested under various circumstances and around more than 100 Tibetans disappeared. The figure of death, arrest, and disappearance cases of Tibetans are mounting each day with more information surfacing from Tibet.

Following the issuance of public notice by the "TAR" law enforcement authorities viz, Higher People's Court, the People's Procuratorate and the regional Public Security Bureau (PSB) on 15 March for protesters to give themselves in before midnight of 17 March, the state-run official mouthpiece, Xinhua, stated that, over 170 Tibetans "surrendered" in Lhasa city by 20 March (7:00 PM Beijing Standard Time). Another 94 Tibetans "surrendered" in Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa Municipality, "TAR" according to the official mouthpiece report released on 19 March.

Around 16 March 2008, Lhasa PSB officers arrested Ngawang Namgyal, a former

political prisoner and a former monk of Drepung Monastery, from his residence during mid night raid on alleged charges of 'inciting and supporting the Lhasa protest'. There is no further information on the condition of his well being at the moment.

On 20 March, the Lhasa City PSB has issued a "wanted" list of 21 people as the main instigators or offenders of the recent string of protests in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa. Of which the photo identities of 14 people including monks were issued. There has been no information whether they have been arrested or are still at large. The official mouthpiece, Xinhua, also claimed that over 381 Tibetans have so far "surrendered" in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba Xian), "TAP", Sichuan Province, after the issuance of "surrender notice" on 20 March 2008 which was jointly issued by the law enforcement authorities of Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture'" ('TAP') Intermediate People's Court, Procuratorate, and Public Security Bureau. According to sources within Tibet, many protestors especially the monks, who were involved in the peaceful protest in Ngaba County have fled their monasteries and home to avoid arrest by the security forces which has been hunting down the protesters and ransacking their homes at will. Many of people from the area were known to have disappeared since the protest broke out on 14 March. TCHRD doubts the very nature of "surrender notice" issued by the Chinese authorities in "TAR" and non -"TAR" areas of Tibet. TCHRD believes "surrender is a willingness on the part of person who surrender under normal circumstance and not under the duress, threat by the authority in power by inducing in the minds of people that if they do not surrender, they would suffer far more serious repercussions'. Therefore, the Centre considers the issuance of public notices to surrender protesters as "threat in disguise" to intimidate and create fear psychosis on the minds of highly suppressed people of the region.

As of today, around 645 Tibetans from various parts of Tibet have "surrendered" to the Chinese authorities following the official issuance of surrender notice. Of which only few were known to have been released without formal charges. Given China's past record in dealing with suspects in custody, TCHRD expresses its deepest fears that those who "voluntarily surrendered" or were arrested following demonstrations in various parts of Tibet are expected to face intense interrogation and grilling session in detention centres. It is highly probable that the detainees will be dealt with torture and extreme inhumane treatment in the detention centres to extract confession and related information. Torture is endemic and a regular feature in the network of Chinese administered prisons and detention centres. TCHRD is highly concerned about the well being of those arrested after the recent protests, particularly those suspected of being the 'instigators' and fears that the authorities will adopt extreme measures to curb the Tibetan sentiments in order to evade international criticism on her appalling human rights record in Tibet.

The Chinese authorities should guarantee free and fair trial for those who were arrested, who gave themselves in or detained following the protest. With total absence of legal representations, due process and other legal procedures, it is highly certain that many fundamental human rights of Tibetan detainees will be violated.

According to information, hundreds of military trucks, tanks and personnel have swamped the entire area of Lhasa, northeastern parts of Tibet particularly in Ngaba County, where maximum number of protests, arrest and death were registered.

TCHRD will submit the cases of those Tibetans killed, arrested and disappeared in Tibet to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and its relevant thematic mandates for urgent action. TCHRD appeals to the international community to urgently show their solidarity and act for the arrested peaceful Tibetan protesters and innocent arrestees.

Protest erupts after prayer for deceased in Drango County

Following a peaceful protest in Drango County (Ch: Luhuo xian), Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province, on 24 March 2008 which resulted in the death of one Tibetan and another left in critical condition after People's Armed Police (PAP) fired indiscriminately into the protesting crowd, the monks of Drango Gaden Rabten Nampargyalpeling Monastery organized a special prayer session for the deceased in the morning of 25 March.

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), at around 8:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time) on 25 March, the dead body of the 18-year-old monk, Kunga, who was shot dead in the protest a day before was brought to Drango Gaden Rabten Nampargyalpeling Monastery in Drango County by monks for a mass special prayer session. After the prayer, around 10 AM (BST) more than 400 monks of the monastery decided to hold a solidarity peaceful protest against the Chinese rule and at the same time vowed to stand up and support each other in case if death or detention occur to any of the monks during protest. The monks in their complete monastic robes proceed with their plan by raising slogans "Dalai Lama should return to the rightful throne in the Potala Palace", "Release Panchen Lama", "Stop current repression in Tibet" and "Independence and Democracy for Tibet."

The protesters headed towards the county headquarters, but were blocked by PAP and Public Security Bureau (PSB) forces stationed on the bridge in between the county government headquarters and the monastery. The protesting monks managed to push forward with their march although forcibly obstructed by the Chinese security forces. The monks joined by some lay people proceeded with their protest march and shouted slogans, when the protesters reached the County Market square, the security forces started firing live ammunitions and blocked all alleys of county market. In short time, protesters lay down on the road to avoid bullet fire and shouted for the protesters to stand together. Though few agitated protesters hurled stones at the military trucks during the protest, however, senior monks present in the protest stopped them from doing so. The monks continued with their protest shouting slogans for a couple of hours before being ruthlessly crushed by additional forces of PAP and PSB. According to sources within Tibet, the protesting monks rushed back to their monastery. At the moment situation in the area is known to be very tense with every possibility of protesting monks and laypeople getting arrested.

The present condition of Tsewang Dhondup, 30-year-old monk who was injured after being shot by Chinese security forces is known to be critical. There has been no information about injury and casualty in yesterday's incident.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

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Thupchok

China detains 32 monks in Chushul County

Namkar

China detains 32 monks of Ratoe Monastery in Chushul Public Security Bureau (PSB) Detention Centre, according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

According to multiple sources, the monks of Ratoe Monastery staged a major peaceful protest on 14 March 2008 in Nyethang Township, Chushul County, Lhasa Municipality, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR").

The peaceful protest was initially led by a group of monks of Ratoe Monastery but later joined by ordinary Tibetans

The protesters marched for about two and half kilometers heading to the Township government head office demanding "Freedom in Tibet", "Independence for Tibet" and "Long Live Dalai Lama".

When the protesters neared the Township government head office, they were halted and blocked by the Chinese security forces. The peaceful protesters were defused and sent back to their respective places. No arrests of protesters were made by the Chinese security forces at that time.

However, later the Chinese authorities came to Ratoe Monastery and stepped up intense political and "patriotic re-education" campaigns against what the Chinese authorities describe as inroads made by the "Dalai Clique and separatist forces" in the monastery. At the same time the monks were repeatedly pressed by the Chinese authorities to surrender before them. Apparently not a single monk surrendered and relented to the dictat issued by the authorities.

On 16 April 2008, the incident took a surprise turn when hundreds of Chinese security forces consisting of Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) surrounded the Ratoe Monastery around 4.30 AM in the morning (Beijing Standard Time). Shortly afterward, the security forces raided the monks' residences to search for weapons and other incriminating materials.

However, during the raid, no guns, weapons and other incriminating materials were found in the monks' residences. The photos of the Dalai Lama and mobile phones were confiscated by the Chinese security forces during the raid.

In the ensuing moments, the Chinese security forces arrested 50 monks of Ratoe Monastery for taking part in a peaceful protest on 14 March 2008. They were detained in Chushul PSB Detention Centre. However since then arrest, 18 detainee monks had been released. Currently 32 monks of Ratoe Monastery are detained in Chushul PSB detention centre.

Most of the detainee monks are in early twenties. A former political prisoner Namkar, 45, was among the detainees. He had earlier served two years imprisonment term in Drapchi Prison for taking part in Pro-independence Uprising of 1989 in Lhasa. Ironically, one of the arrestees was also identified as a 38 year-old Thupchok, a prominent Democratic Management Committee (DMC) "work team member" of Ratoe Monastery. As a DMC "work team

members" he had been directly responsible for implementing the controversial and much resented "patriotic education" campaign in his own Ratoe Monastery.

The situation in Ratoe Monastery is currently said to be calm and restricted. It is said that there are around 90 monks in Ratoe Monastery. The Chinese authorities have denied total visitation rights to the 32 detainee monks. There has been no further information about their present condition and well being.

China arrests 16 monks for defying "patriotic re-education"

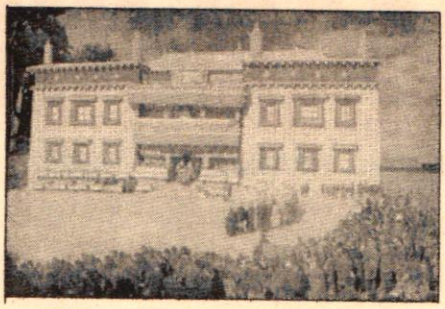
China arrests 16 monks and 2 lay Tibetans in Markham County according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

For over a month the Chinese authorities have been conducting "Patriotic re education" campaign in Woeser Monastery and Khenpa Lungpa Monastery in Garthog Township, Markham (Ch: Mangkang) County, Chamdo Prefecture, (Ch: Qamdo) "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR").

Khenpa Lungpa Monasteries since the beginning of April 2008. Sources told TCHRD that on 10 May 2008, the Chinese "work team" entered the monasteries to conduct intense and rigorous "Patriotic re-education" campaign which resulted in a bitter and heated arguments between the annoyed monks and the Chinese authorities. However, none of the monks signed off the official documents and nor did they write essays denouncing the Dalai Lama.

In response to the monks' adamant refusal, the Chinese authorities arrested them. On 12 May 2008, 10 monks of Khenpa Lungpa Monastery were arrested. Similarly on 13 May 2008, 6 monks of Woeser Monastery were also arrested. Two lay Tibetans were later arrested on 14 May 2008.

The "Patriotic re-education" campaign was introduced in 1996 in Tibet to undermine Tibetan people's loyalty to the Dalai Lama. It was also intended to win over the "hearts and minds of Tibetan people on the side of the Chinese



Woeser Monastery in Markham (Ch: Mangkang) County

government. But on contrary it has earned notoriety for its brazen attacks on the religious and cultural sentiments of the Tibetan people.

The Woeser and Khenpa Monasteries each housed fewer than a hundred monks on regular basis. In backdrop of the arrests of monks of Woeser Monastery, the remaining monks left the monastery which brought much sadness to the local Tibetan devotees who were unable to come to terms with a sudden closure of sacred monasteries.

On the other hand, the Chinese authorities and "work team" were conducting major "Patriotic re-education" campaign in Khenpa Lungpa Monastery.

Sources told TCHRD that few remaining monks left the monasteries and returned to their respective homes in a solemn act of protest. On usual days hundreds of devotees flock to the monasteries to offer their prayers and carry out religious rituals. Unfortunately, these days the devotees have none to turn to and a visible pall of silence looms over the monasteries and its surrounding premises, in a desolate and forlorn state.

The identities of the 18 Tibetan arrestees are:

1. Ngawang Tenzin, age 40, Woeser Monastery (Administrator)
2. Tenphel, age 19, Woeser Monastery
3. Rigyang , age 21, Woeser Monastery
4. Choegyal , age 23, Woeser Monastery
5. Lobsang Gyatso, age 19, Woeser Monastery
6. Tsangpa , age 17, Woeser Monastery
7. Lodoe , age 15, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
8. Namgyal , age 18, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
9. Butuk , age 13, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
10. Jamyang Lodoe , age 15, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
11. Tsepak Namgyal, age 15, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
12. Kalsang Tashi, age 17, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
13. Jangdrup , age 21, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
14. Wangchuk , age 22, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
15. Tenpa Gyaltsen, age 26, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
16. Passang Tashi , age 3o, Khenpa Lungpa Monastery
17. Dhargye Garwatsang, age 19 (lay)
18. Kunchok Tenzin, age 21 (lay)

Elderly woman brutally beaten during Township meeting

Following the protests by monks in Drango (Ch: Luhuo) County on 24 March, leading to the death of an 18-year-old monk and the subsequent solidarity protest on 25 March 2008, the local authority has expelled a large number of monks from Chogri Monastery and arrested some nuns of Nanggong (Tib translit: nganga sgong) Nunnery, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). Sources also reported disappearances of many lay people from the area.

On 26 March 2008, under the pretext of a call for a meeting with the authorities, two former abbots of Chogri Monastery, Geshe Namgyal Tsering and Geshe Sonam Gyurmey, were detained in the County Public Security Bureau (PSB) Detention Centre.

In an apparent measure to bring Tibetans in the area under control, the authorities called for a Getse Township meeting during which the residents were ordered to denounce and criticize the Dalai Lama and the "separatist" forces. An elderly woman, Ama Tsanglo, steadfastedly refused to abide by the order and on the contrary called for the fast "return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet". Upon this, the Township Party Secretary beat her brutally, amidst which she shouted, "I will never denounce the Dalai Lama. Even if you kill me today I won't have any regrets." Unable to see his old mother getting beaten mercilessly, her son sprang from the crowd and gave some strong physical blows to the Party Secretary. At the time of releasing this update, both the Party Secretary and Tsanglo are hospitalized, the whereabouts of the son is unknown.

Over hundred of monks arrested after a raid in Ngaba Kirti Monastery

After days of unrest and protests in Ngaba County since 15 March, which saw the death of at least 23 Tibetans, arrest and injury of over hundreds, the Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) forces arrested over a hundred monks from Ngaba Kirti Monastery during a raid of the monastery this afternoon, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

In th early morning of 15 March, hundreds of PAP and PSB came to Ngaba Kirti Monastery, dispersed people, mostly devotees, visitors gathered around the monastery compound and ordered surrounding shops to shut down.

Later around 12 noon (Beijing Standard time), PAP and PSB forces stormed into Ngaba Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba Xian), Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. At first the PAP and PSB forces barred the monks of Ngaba Kirti Monastery from venturing out of their rooms, followed by a sudden raid carried out in each and every monk's room, ransacking any portraits of the Dalai Lama and looking for any incriminating documents. At around 5:00 PM (Beijing Standard Time) at least a hundred monks were known to have been forcibly taken away by the armed forces to Ngaba County PSB Detention Centre after the raid. The current atmosphere inside the Kirti Monastery is known to be very tense and volatile.

According to the latest information from Tibet, sandbag barricades were erected by People's Armed Police (PAP) around the Kirti Monastery and surroundings area to curb the fresh outbreak of protest by the local residents of Ngaba County.

China arrest over 572 monks from Kirti Monastery in two-day raid

From credible information received from multiple sources in Tibet by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), a total of 572 monks from Ngaba Kirti Monastery were arrested by the Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) following a two day raid in monks' residence on 28 and 29 March 2008.

As reported earlier by the Centre, more information on the number of monks arrested following two days of raids in Ngaba Kirti Monastery in Ngaba County (Ch:Aba Xian), Ngaba " Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Sichuan Province, is surfacing from the area. According to several credible sources, a total of 572 monks including novice as young as ten years old from Kirti Monastery were known to have been arrested in two days' raid at the monastery by PAP and PSB officials. Before the launch of raids in the monastery on 28 March, hundreds of PAP and PSB reached the monastery, dispersed people, mostly devotees and visitors gathered around the monastery compound, and ordered surrounding shops to be shut down.

During the sudden and thorough raid, monks with modern communication gadgets such as mobile phones, cameras, computers or MP3 players in their residences were known to have been arrested under suspicion of having communicated with the exile Tibetan communities. The PAP and PSB ransacked every room of the monastery, baring every box and cupboard with rifle butts. There were even reports of security forces taking advantage by taking away valuable items from monks' residences. The sources also confirmed that in an attempt to hurt the religious sentiment of the Buddhist monks, the PAP and PSB officials forced monks to step over the portraits of the Dalai Lama found in monks' residences. The security forces even took photographs of monks who were coerced to hold the banned Tibetan national flag and portrait of the Dalai Lama to use as evidence of their crimes. The sources confirmed that symbolic ceremonial weapons hung on the statues of protecting deities inside the monastery altar were also reported to have been confiscated, and were accused of being weapons used by the protesters.

On the day of the raid in Kirti Monastery on 28 March, around 30 Tibetans who were arrested a few days earlier were known to have been paraded around the street of Ngaba County in a military truck to intimidate common people from undertaking further protests. Two monks identified as Ven. Lobsang Tenzin and Ven. Lobsang Chodhar of Kirti Monastery were among the group in that truck, according to the source.

On 29 March, PAP and PSB raided each and every residence of Ngatoe Adue Monastery in Ngaba County. There is no report of arrests from these raids at the moment.

In another incident, on 29 March a similar raid was carried out by the PAP and PSB officials at around dusk in the Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery (a branch of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery) in Dzoge County (Ch:Ruanggui/Zoige Xian) Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. Scores of monks were arrested from their residences after the raid, of which identities of only 19 monks are known at the moment. Next morning around 80 Chinese government officials and a large number of PAP forces carried out sudden raids again in Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery. There is neither clear information on the exact number of monks arrested nor about officials finding any incriminating documents after the raid in the monastery. However, the officials confiscated weapons displayed on the altar for protecting deities in the monastery, which officials alleged to have been used by the protesters. One source confirmed that there are shortages of food, water and medical attention in the monastery after successive protests broke out in Ngaba County.

On 30 March, a similar raid was carried out by PAP and PSB in every residence of Gomang Monastery in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. At least twenty monks from the monastery were known to have been arrested after the raid, however, the identities of those arrested have not yet been ascertained. The Centre will continue to monitor the situation and will update as and when more information on these arrests surfaces. In an earlier protest in Ngaba County, at least 15 to 20 monks of the same monastery are known to have been arrested.

On 30 March, at least 20 monks of Ngamey Dongri Monastery (a branch of Ngaba Kirti Monastery) in Ngaba County are known to have been arrested by PAP and PSB officers. The reasons for their arrest are unknown at the moment. There are even reports of a few people surrendering to the authorities but their identities are not yet established. Sources confirmed that several elderly people in the area were reportedly beaten with rifle butts by PAP and PSB officials.

At least 23 Tibetans including a 16 year old school girl Lhundup Tso, have been reportedly killed, hundreds critically injured, and many more arrested, as Chinese authorities resorted to violent crackdowns to quell the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators demanding independence for Tibet in Ngaba protest on 16 March 2008.

In solidarity, Tibetans march with prayers in Tsolho

Upon witnessing a massive protests across the Tibetan plateau since 10 March, Tibetan people from all walks of life in Holkha Township, Tsigorthang County (Xinghai Xian) Tsolho "TAP" Qinghai Province staged a peaceful solidarity march and later held a prayer session for those who lost their lives in the recent series of protests in Tibet on 25 March. Following the peace march and prayer session at the township government headquarters, three Tibetans were arbitrarily arrested in an early morning raid in their home by the People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

With severe restrictions placed on communication lines by the Chinese authorities, further information on the peaceful political dissents are hard to come by, however, a few brave and courageous Tibetans despite being aware of the grave risk have send first hand information substantiated with pictures. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received exclusive fresh pictures depicting peaceful Tibetan solidarity march in Holkha Township on 25 March.

According to confirmed information received by the TCHRD, on 25 March, hundreds of Tibetans from all walks of life including monks in Holkha Township staged a peaceful solidarity march at the main market square of the Township. The marchers were calling for an immediate end to the brutal crackdown on the Tibetan protesters in Lhasa and series of Tibetan protests in other parts of Tibet. In an unique display of their support for those who have lost their lives and were injured in recent protests, many marchers were seen carrying traditional prayer wheels in their hands while reciting prayers (Mani Mantra) and others holding a huge banner bearing text written in Tibetan and Chinese, that reads: Peace, Democracy. We mourn and pray (mani mantra) for our people who lost their lives. The marchers finally ended their procession at the Holkha Township government headquarters where they held a sit-in protest and recited prayer throughout the day. Although PAP and PSB officials were seen in their combat gear during the entire peaceful solidarity march, there was no report of arrest or detention of Tibetan marchers that day.

However, in a sudden change of tactic, the authorities launched an early morning raid in the homes of Tibetan suspected to be the leaders in the previous day protest. The PAP and PSB officials arbitrarily arrested at least three Tibetans including a female from their homes and took them to an unknown location. Arrestees are: Rinbum Gyal and Tsewang both in their late 20's and a female whose identity could not be ascertained at the moment. A Public Notice imprint with the official stamp of PSB was issued demanding protesters of the 'illegal' 25th March protest to surrender voluntarily for leniency. At the same time, it warned protesters of severe punishment who fails to surrender to the authorities within three days deadline. There is no current information on the number of people arrested and on the exact location of where the three are detained.

According to sources, following their arrest in the early morning raid on 26 March, more than 600 Tibetans from nine villages under Holkha Township staged a peaceful sit-in protest in front of Township government headquarters demanding immediate release of those arrested. The protesters sat for the entire day demanding the authorities to heed their demand. After a daylong protest, the protesting crowd finally dispersed after township authorities agreed to secure their releases. The sources confirmed that protesters pledge to undertake a similar protest at the government headquarters if authorities fail to deliver their promise.

Although there was no report of protest by Tibetans on 27 March in Holkha Township, yet at around 3 PM (Beijing Standard Time) hundreds of additional PAP and PSB officials in military trucks were flooded into the market place to check a further outburst of protest by Tibetans. Military troops in several rows were seen patrolling the streets of Holkha Township. Later that day, four people, Malle and Tsekyab Gyal both male in their late 20's from Holkha Township and two Tibetan businesswomen from other parts of Tibet were arrested by the security forces for unknown reason. There is no information on the location of their detention. The present atmosphere in Holkha Township is known to be very tense with heavy presence of military forces.

A new phase of defiance: Nuns of Tawu County hold prayer session for those killed in recent crackdown

In the aftermath of severe crackdown on the Tibetan protesters by Chinese military forces across various parts of Tibet since 10 March which led to the deaths of scores of Tibetans, a subtle form of protests are surfacing from Tibet in the form of staging peaceful solidarity prayer procession despite authorities' placing severe restriction.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received confirm information from reliable sources that on 2 April 2008 at 8 AM (Beijing Standard Time), around 200 nuns of Ratroe Nunnery in Tawu County (Ch: Daifu Xian), Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province set off a peaceful procession to showcase their solidarity with and pray for those who lost their lives in the recent spat of protests across the Tibetan plateau by chanting Buddhist prayers. The nuns of Ratroe Nunnery marched towards the county headquarters chanting Buddhist prayers such as, prayer for the Dalai Lama's longevity and Dolma (Tara prayer).

According to sources, the People's Armed Police (PAP) and the Public Security Bureau (PSB) officers ordered the chanting nuns to return to their nunnery or be forcibly returned. The nuns dispersed and return to their nunnery after offering prayers in front of Tawu County government headquarters. There is no immediate report of arrest of nuns although eyewitnesses report a heavy presence of the PAP and PSB during the peaceful procession.

In a similar peaceful protest in Holkha Township in Tsigorthang County on 25 March, where hundreds of Tibetans staged a peaceful solidarity march and later held a prayer session for those who lost their lives in

the recent series of protests in Tibet. Following the peace march and prayer session at the township government headquarters, three Tibetans were arbitrarily arrested in an early morning raid in their home by the PAP and PSB officials. In the following days four more Tibetans were also arrested and their whereabouts are still unknown to their families.

Two monks commit suicide in Amdo Ngaba

According to confirm information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), two monks committed suicide in Amdo Ngaba (Ch: Aba) as a direct result of relentless oppression by the Chinese security forces after the series of peaceful protests.

On 27 March 2008, a monk Lobsang Jinpa of Ngaba Kirti Monastery committed suicide. He hailed from Ngasib Village in Amdo Ngaba. In his signed suicide note, Lobsang stated, "the Chinese government has leveled false allegations against the monks of Kirti Monastery for leaking State Secrets to the outside world, leading and organizing the protests and for keeping the dead bodies of Tibetan protesters shot dead by the Chinese security forces. However, all the charges leveled by the Chinese government were not committed by anyone in Kirti Monastery, but carried out solely by me". The note further stated "I led the peaceful protest, and I am solely responsible for the protest". The suicide note carried a poignant end line, it reads, "I do not want to live under the Chinese oppression even for a minute, leave aside living for a day."

Lobsang Jinpa (32 year old), Ngaba Kirti Monastery

In another similar incident, a monk named Legtsok of Ngaba Gomang Monastery committed suicide on 30 March 2008. The deceased was 75 years old and hailed from a small hamlet in the upper flank of Ngaba prefecture.

Sources say that days before committing suicide, on 30 March 2008, Legtsok accompanied by two other monks while on their way to perform prayer rituals at a house of a Tibetan family encountered a large contingent of Chinese security forces heading towards Ngaba Gomang Monastery to quell the protesting peaceful monks at the monastery. The forces brutally beat Legtsok and detained him for a few days. Later he was released and sent back to the monastery.

Just moments before his suicide, he sent two of his disciples to return the money owned by his other disciples and relatives that was kept with him for safe keeping. Minutes after his disciples' departure, he committed suicide. When his disciples returned, they found him dead.

He repeatedly told his two disciples that "he can't bear the oppression anymore". Those words served as premonition to his imminent death.

Meanwhile on 3 April 2008, a monk of Ngaba Namtso Monastery was reportedly beaten to death by the Chinese security forces. Further information about the death could not be ascertained at the moment. TCHRD will issue update when further information surfaces regarding the death.

According to Tibetan Buddhist doctrine, suicide is one of the gravest forms of sins violating the cardinal precepts of the doctrine. Buddhist monks of Tibet were known for their patience and resilience in the face of adversity. The cases of suicides point to an indication of Tibetan monks being pushed to the extreme limits of endurance and helplessness in the face of oppression and repression by the Chinese authorities in Tibet.

At least eight shot dead in Tongkor Monastery in Kardze

In the latest case of Chinese shooting Tibetan protesters in Tibet, at least eight Tibetans were known to have been shot dead after People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) fired live ammunition onto the protesting crowd consisting of monks and laypeople on 3 April 2008. The protest broke out when monks of Tongkor Monastery (Ch: Donggu) in Zithang Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, called for the release of two monks arrested for objecting Chinese 'Patriotic Education' campaign the previous day, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). There are reports of scores of Tibetans injured and arrested after the protest and police firing.

The official mouthpiece, Xinhua, admitted the incident took place but described it as 'riot' mentioning only the injury of one government official and did not mention about deaths, arrests and injuries among the Tibetan protesters.

According to reliable sources, the protest flared up at Tongkor Monastery in Zithang Township, Kardze County on 2 April with the arrival of official 'work team' to enforce a "Patriotic Education" campaign - a political indoctrination session that requires monks to denounce the Dalai Lama and to oppose the ongoing protests. The chief monk of Tongkor Monastery, Lobsang Jamyang did not cooperate with the work team during the campaign. Yeshi Nyima, a monk protested against the campaign which was later joined by other monks of the monastery who refused to cooperate with the official work team by telling, "we cannot criticize the Dalai Lama even at the cost of our lives." But the next day the work team returned to the monastery with hundreds of PAP and PSB officials ransacked monks' residences looking for photos of the Dalai Lama, confiscated photos of Tongkor head lama, Tongkor Shabdrung, mobile phones and other belongings. Eyewitness said, PAP and PSB arrested an elderly monk Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin, in 70's and a lay person Tsultrim Phuntsok, 26.

Subsequently, more than three hundreds strong monastic community marched towards local county government headquarters to demand their release that was later joined by hundreds of laypeople. The group left after being told that the two monks would be released at 8:00 p.m. but returned after officials fail to deliver their promise. On their way, they were confronted by heavy presence of PAP and PSB officials which later turned into scuffle between the police forces and the protesters,

with police forces firing shots into the protesters, killing at least eight Tibetans and injuring dozens of people.

According to sources, those killed in the shooting include: Zangden, monk, 27 years old from Tsangyoe Village, Phurbu Delek, 30 years old, Tseyang Kyi, 23 years old female, Druklo Tso, 34 years old, female from Gugra Village, Tenlo, 32 years old male from Gugra Village and identities of three could not be ascertained at the moment. Three monks, Nyima, Kalpo a.k.a Kabhuk and Thupten Gelek originally from Sheru Village and monks of Tongkor Monastery sustained bullet injuries and are known to be in critical condition. Other reports cited the death of at least eight Tibetans after the shooting. There is no information on the whereabouts of Tsewang Rinzin, a disciplinary master of Tongkor Monastery.

The Chinese authorities in recent weeks have stepped up a constant vilification campaign against the Dalai Lama with virulent rhetoric in an attempt to undermine Tibetans loyalty to the Dalai Lama. The reinvigoration of "patriotic education" in the monastic institutions is the point in case.

In a similar incident in August 2007, when Ronggye A'drak a 52-year-old Tibetan nomad staged a peaceful solo protest in Lithang County during the annual horse race festival, the "Patriotic Education" campaign, which attempts to undermine Tibetan loyalty to the Dalai Lama, was stepped up even more across Lithang area in Kandze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") and cases of arbitrary arrests surfaced from the area after Tibetans openly opposed the campaign.

China arrests over 2300 Tibetans in Tibet

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) learns that the Chinese authorities are stepping up the offensive arrest drive inside Tibet with renewed vigour and fervour. The latest information emanating from Tibet indicates over 2,300 Tibetans from various parts of Tibet have so far been arrested by the Chinese authorities currently detained in detention centres located in Townships, Counties and Prefectures in various administrative regions of Tibet.

According to TCHRD documentation since 10 March 2008, the Centre has documented a list of 519 Tibetans whose identities were confirmed as of today. The official web portal www.chinatibetnews.com stated that on 3 April 2008 prominent officials of the three levels of courts of "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") convened meetings to begin the trial of Tibetan arrestees. In the meetings, it was pointed out the procuratoracy courts will have to take immediate steps to solve the cases and to hand down necessary sentences to those who will be found guilty of violating the law and order.

The China Tibet News released a figure, stated that 1000 Tibetans were arrested for their involvement on 14 March "riots" in Lhasa City. The news of arrests came in the wake of statement issued by the Lhasa City, Vice Party Secretary Wang Xiang Min where he said that the law enforcement and vigilance has been stepped up in the Lhasa and over 1000 Tibetans arrested in various detention centres across Tibet.

Meanwhile in an explicit sign of renewed vigour to quell the protests, "TAR" Public Security Bureau (PSB) Headquarters issued a wanted list of 79 Tibetans involved in recent protest on 13 different occasions since 15 March to 3 April 2008.

The Chinese authorities also stated that by 1 May 2008, the Lhasa law enforcement bodies will hand over the cases of 1000 Tibetan arrestees to all the three levels of courts in "TAR" for formal trials and convictions. In the backdrop of China's past records.

Tortured monk released in unstable mental condition

On 9 April 2008, around fifteen Tibetan monks defiantly briefed a group of foreign media personnel on a government managed tour currently in Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe) in Gansu Province.

The monks revealed the grave situation in the area and also delivered a clear cut message to the media group, concerning human rights abuses by the authorities in the area. According to a report by Reuters today (Protesting monks storm media tour in western China, By Lucy Hornby), "They said eight monks were still being held by authorities, but did not specify if they were from Labrang or elsewhere..." TCHRD had earlier received confirmed names of seven monks arrested from Labrang Monastery in Sangchu County, Kanlho "TAP", Gansu, on 1 April 2008. The arrestees are: 1) Gendun Gyatso, 30 yrs, 2) Gyurmey, 40 yrs, 3) Gelek Gyurmey, 30 yrs, 4) Sangay, 30 yrs, 5) Samten, 32 yrs, 6) Yonten, 34yrs, and 7) Thabkhey, 30 yrs.

It is learned that Thabkhey who was released after several days' detention is currently mentally unstable with bruise marks from severe beatings all over his body. It clearly indicates that the monks were brutally tortured in police custody. It is highly probable that the other monks are still in detention and the authorities have released Thabkhey in order to shun responsibility for his current condition. It is regular practice by prison authorities in Chinese administered prisons in Tibet to release Tibetan detainees and prisoners in near death or unstable conditions.

Around 70 monks of Ramoche Temple detain in midnight raid, whereabouts still unknown

In contrary to what the Chinese authorities are proclaiming about the calm and normalcy restored in Lhasa city, the reality in the area underlines that severe restriction and mass detention are continuing especially in monasteries which were proactive in the recent series of demonstration in Lhasa and other parts of Eastern Tibet. In the latest series of major clampdowns on monastic institutions, around 70 Tibetan monks from Ramoche Temple were known to have been detained on the night of 7 April 2008, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 7 April 2008, around 70 monks from Ramoche Temple were detained by the People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials during the midnight raid carried out in the monks' residences. The detained monks were taken away to an unknown location, according to reliable sources. At present only a few monks are left in the Ramoche Temple, which previously housed around a hundred monks, with scores detained and taken away in the midnight raid. There is no immediate information on the condition and whereabouts of those detained. The Chairman of the "Tibet Autonomous

Region" government, Qiangba Puncog, said at a press briefing of the State Council information office this morning, that police have detained 953 suspects involved in the '14 March violence' in Lhasa.

Severe restrictions have been imposed on the movement of the monks of Ramoche Temple since 14 March protest in Lhasa. Credible sources confirmed a case of one monk, Thokmey, committing suicide in Ramoche temple following massive crackdowns by the PAP and PSB on 22 March 2008.

A similar restriction was imposed on all the major monasteries of Tibet including Drepung, Gaden and Sera, with all access to these monasteries severely restricted with 24X7 monitoring by a heavy presence of PAP and PSB officials since the demonstration broke out on 10 March in Lhasa and other parts of Tibet.

As reported in China's official mouthpiece, Xinhua, on 1 April 2008, to the question raised by one visiting foreign journalist on a state-sponsored media tour on 27 March, Lhasa City Mayor, Duoji Cizhu, defended the deployment of the PAP and PSB into three major monasteries around Lhasa, by stating that the authorities had undertaken this measure in order to investigate the suspects involved in the recent 'unrest' and to avoid further protest by the agitated monks.

On similar showing of official support, on 8 April 2008, Zhu Wei Qun, Vice Minister of the United Work Front Department (UWFD) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee accompanied by Lobsang Gyaltsen, the head of the "TAR" United Work Front Department paid a visit to PAP and PSB personnel stationed at Gaden Monastery to boost their morale and appreciate their good work. According to reliable sources, all three major monasteries around Lhasa were virtually sealed off with a heavy presence of PAP and PSB personnel.

Over hundred Tibetans arrested in Rebkong County

Over one hundred Tibetans, including monks and lay people, have been arrested today for protesting by the Chinese security forces in Rebkong County (Ch: Tongren Xian), Malho (Ch: Huangnan) "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", Qinghai Province, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

At around 11 A.M. (Beijing Standard Time) on 17 April 2008, 22 monks from Rong Gonchen Monastery staged a peaceful demonstration in Rebkong County market calling for the release of three monks (Lobsang Dhondup, 20 years old; Drakpa, 28 years old; and Lobsang Dhondup, 30 years old), who had been arrested on 13 April 2008 for participating in a peace march on 16 March 2008.

A few minutes into the demonstration, Chinese armed security forces arrested the demonstrating monks. When news of the monks' arrest reached Rong Gonchen Monastery, 80 monks marched to the County market and called for the release of the 22 monks arrested. As the ordinary people in the market also joined the monks in their demonstration, the group became large and very loud.

Consequently additional contingents of security forces arrived at the County market to quell the demonstrators. When the situation became extremely tense, former chief of Rong Gonchen Monastery, 80-year-old Alak Khasutsang, arrived at the market to intervene and try to diffuse the tension between the demonstrators and the security forces. However, the Chinese security forces started to severely beat every one at the scene irrespective of age or status. Over 80 Tibetans, including monks and lay people, were arrested and taken away to the County Public Security Bureau Detention Centre.

At the time TCHRD received this information, a large number of Chinese security forces have been deployed at Rong Gonchen Monastery, shutting down the monastery for outside visitors as well as restricting monks of the monastery from leaving.

torture in Phenpo County

A day after protest broke out in Lhasa city on 14 March 2008, it spread to the adjacent Phenpo County, in the east of Lhasa city. On 15 March 2008, thousands from Tibetans of all walks of life protested in Phenpo Lhundup County.

The Chinese government responded the protesters with harsh crackdown and during which many Tibetans were killed, arrested, tortured and awarded harsh sentences ranging from three-year prison term to life imprisonment. The Chinese government has been consistent with their in-disproportionate crackdown on peaceful Tibetan protesters, followed by indiscriminate arrests, unlawful detentions and awarding harsh sentences.

A Tibetan died of torture

According to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), on 1 April 2008, a Tibetan farmer died after being subject to brutal torture by the Chinese prison guards. The deceased farmer was identified as Dawa, a 31 year-old farmer from Dedrong Village, Jangkha Township, Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa City, "TAR". He was arrested while participating in a peaceful protest in Phenpo County on 15 March 2008.

Multiple sources say that during two weeks of detention in prison, he was subjected to torture by the Chinese prison guards. When it became evident that his health was failing, the Chinese prison authorities quickly released him on 27 March 2008 for medical treatment. At the time of the release, his health was already in a very critical condition. After spending four days in hospital, he died on 1April 2008.

Adding insult to the injury, the Chinese authorities charged the deseased's family with a fine of 1000 yuan (US $ 125) for causing destruction to public property and bringing damages to economy.

Many Tibetans shot dead during the Phenpo crackdown

Sources also told TCHRD that many Tibetans were killed during the harsh crackdown in Phenpo County on 15 March 2008. One of such confirmed information was Jinpa, a 23 years old Tibetan farmer shot dead by the Chinese security forces. He hailed from Jangkha Township, Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa City, "TAR". He died of bullet wounds on 15 March 2008 in Phenpo County during the protest.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

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Tsering Tsomo, 27 years old nun of SamtenLing Nunnery

China detains scores of nuns calling for the release of solo protester and critically injures three monks in Kardze Protests

The Chinese security forces severely beaten and then arrested a nun of SamtenLing Nunnery in Drango County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Sichuan Province, following her act of defiance by staging a peaceful solo protest in Drango County, by raising pro-Tibet slogans and distributing pamphlets calling for 'the swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet" and "freedom in Tibet", according to confirmed information received from reliable sources by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 8 June 2008, at around 9:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time), Tsering Tsomo, 27 years old nun of SamtenLing Nunnery a.k.a Watak Nunnery, originally from Chakra Village, Drango County (Ch: Luhuo Xian) Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') staged a peaceful solo protest in Drango County by raising Pro-Tibet slogans and distributing pamphlets calling for "swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet" and "freedom in Tibet" among the people. After a short stint of her solo protest, Tsering Tsomo was known to have been surrounded by the security forces and was severely beaten and tortured by pounding her with iron rods, kicked and punched her indiscriminately. The county PSB officials later took her away to the county Detention Centre for further questioning.

The news of Tsering Tsomo's arrest and torture reached her nunnery. In gesture of solidarity and support calling for her release, at around 5:00 PM, more than two hundred nuns of SamtenLing Nunnery staged a peaceful demonstration and headed towards Drango County headquarters. Before reaching their destination, the security forces stopped the protesting nuns at a place known as Gogaythang from further proceeding with their protest. The security forces used brute force to stop protesters from moving forward. Besides indiscriminate kick and punch, even electric prod and iron rod were used on the peaceful demonstrators, severely injuring scores of them. Ten protesters were seriously injured and were known to have been taken to nearby hospital for treatment. Scores of protesters were detained by the security forces and took away in waiting military trucks to the County Detention Centre. According to source, the family members and relatives of those injured and hospitalized were not allowed to meet their love ones. There is no further information on the current condition of those injured and detained by the Chinese security forces. The Centre is highly concern about the safety of those injured and detained. The Centre has been vigilant on the recent series of protests, arrests, detentions, tortures and disappearance of Tibetans and will continue to monitor the situation particularly in Kardze "TAP" which has witnessed a series of peaceful protests and will update as and when more information surfaces from the area.

Yet in another incident, on 6 June 2008, three monks belonging to different monasteries in Drango County, Kardze "TAP" staged a peaceful protest in front of the county government headquarters, according to confirmed information received by the Centre. The three monks unidentified as Tsewang Dakpa, 22 years old from Jangtha Township, Drango County, Kardze "TAP", Thupten Gyatso(age unknown) from Tawu County, Kardze "TAP" and Jangsem Nyima, 22 years old from Dzatoe County, Jyekundo (Ch: Yushu/Jiegu) "TAP" Qinghai Province staged a peaceful protest calling for the "quick

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return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet" and "Freedom in Tibet". According to eyewitness accounts from the site of the demonstration, three monks were indiscriminately beaten with electric prod, kicked and punch by the Chinese Security forces that all three require urgent medical attention. Tsewang Dakpa in particular sustained multiple and severe injury from the torture that eyewitness recounted slight chances of his survival. They were known to have been critically injured and taken to Drango County hospital for treatment that day.

However, according to the latest information received by the Centre this morning, there has been rumor of Tsewang Dakpa's death spreading in Drango County following indiscriminate beating suffered at the site of demonstration. However, it cannot be confirmed at the moment. Two other monks were known to have been in critical condition and were shifted to another hospital. There has been no information on their physical condition and current whereabouts following their hospitalization.

TCHRD condemns in strongest terms the Chinese security forces' brutal use of force on the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators. TCHRD also call upon the PRC government to release all those Tibetans who have been arrested and detained for exercising their fundamental human rights enshrined in the UDHR, constitution and many other international covenants and treaties that she is party to. The government of the PRC should ensure that they are not subjected to further ill treatment and torture which are common features in Chinese administered detention centres and prisons in Tibet.

TCHRD commemorates 11th UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

On 26 June 2008, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy TCHRD) commemorates the eleventh anniversary of the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture to recognize the pain and suffering that victims and survivors of torture throughout the world has gone through.

In 1984, the General Assembly adopted the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), which entered into force on 26 June 1987. It was an important step in the much-needed process of globalising human rights and acknowledging that torture, and all forms of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, are absolutely and universally illegal and should not be condoned. There can be zero tolerance for torture. In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly decided to mark this historic date and designated 26 June each year as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The Convention obliges States to make torture a crime and to prosecute and punish those guilty of it. It notes explicitly that neither higher orders nor exceptional circumstances can justify torture.

In Chinese occupied Tibet, it has a long and reprehensive history of gross human rights violations abetted by a political culture of impunity towards past human rights violations. The torture and ill treatment are endemic in the wide network of prisons and detention centers across the Tibetan plateau. Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment appears to have become a central element of state agents' treatment of Tibetans perceived as being in opposition to the Communist regime and those attempting to exercise their rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and expression. Tibetans who support the exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama or have divergent views to those of the Communist regime have been primary targets of torture, ill-treatment or other forms of human rights violations. TCHRD notes that, Chinese Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) are repeatedly using torture as a means of intimidating, investigating and extracting information or confessions from real or perceived offenders and detainees.

TCHRD has recorded cases of more than 6,500 Tibetans arbitrarily arrested or detained and the deaths of more than 100 others, disappearance, torture, violent beating and ill treatment of Tibetan people by the Chinese authorities in Tibet since recent series of protests that broke out across Tibet. Additionally, the cases of thousands of injured Tibetans remain unaccounted for since 10 March Protests. Reportedly, many Tibetans have also died shortly after being released from Chinese custody, in which they were subjected to inhumane torture. For instance, Nechung, a 38- year-old mother of four children from Charu Hu Village in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province, died days after being subjected to brutal torture in a Chinese prison on 17 April 2008.

In another instance, Dawa, a 31 year-old Tibetan farmer from Dedrong Village, Jangkha Township, Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa City, "TAR", died on 1 April 2008 after being severely beaten by Chinese prison guards. On 8 June 2008, Tsering Tsomo, a 27-year-old nun of Samtenling a.k.a Watak Nunnery was severely beaten and tortured by pounding her with iron rods, kicked and punched indiscriminately for staging a peaceful solo protest in Kardze County. In order to secure her release, more than two hundred nuns staged a peaceful protest but they too were meted out with brutal crackdown by the Chinese security forces by pounding with electric prod, kicked and punched, injuring scores of them.

In yet in another incident, three monks from Drango County in Kardze "TAP" were brutally crushed by the security forces for staging a peaceful protest in front of the County government headquarters that they were seriously injured from used of brutal force by security forces. One of them, Tsewang Dakpa, a 22 year old from Jangtha Township, Drango County, in particular sustained multiple and severe injury that eyewitness recounted slight chances of his survival. There were even rumour of Tsewang Dakpa's death from torture he suffered and it could not be ascertained even today.

Thabkey, a 30 year-old monk of Labrang Monastery, arrested along with seven other monks who defiantly briefed a group of foreign media personal on a government

managed tour in Labrang, was released after several days' detention. Thabkey was released in a mentally unstable condition with bruise marks all over his body from severe beatings in the police custody.

Torture and ill-treatment being a regular feature in the Chinese administered prisons and detention facilities, the Centre is highly concerned about the well-being and safety of the political prisoners and detainees involved in political activisms upon whom the worst of torture is afflicted. It is important to note that torture is now considered a peremptory norm of international law, which means that its prohibition is absolute. International law states clearly that there are no circumstances under which torture and other cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment can be justified. Article 2 of CAT unequivocally states that:

"No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political stability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as justification of torture. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification for torture"

However, electric prod, violent beating, pricking cigarettes on the face, beating, hand or thumb cuffs, feet manacles, aerial suspension, exposure to extreme temperature, long period of solitary confinement, sleep deprivation, forced labour and forced exercise drills are few of the commonly used techniques employed by the Chinese authorities to defeat the nationalist spirit of the Tibetans and to break down individual's personality. As terrible as the physical wounds are, the psychological and emotional scars are usually the most devastating and the most difficult to repair. A subtle form of mental torture is being used on former political prisoners in Tibet. Life after prison for these prisoners are made extremely difficult as they are denied readmission into their monastery or nunnery, socially ostracized, are constantly harassed by officials and have no prospect of leading a normal life and therefore, many escape into exile for freedom and start a new life. Notwithstanding the increasing reports of torture and ill treatments, intimidation and human rights violations have taken a new, subtler and covertly violent form which has enacted a tangible climate of fear in the Tibetan population.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) signed the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment on 12 December 1986 and ratified the convention on 4 October 1988. The Chinese constitution does not contain an express prohibition of torture. The relevant provisions of the constitution in this context are Article 37 and 38 that protect the personal dignity of Chinese citizens. Chapter two of the constitution of the PRC covers several fundamental civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights but contains no explicit prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Although PRC outlawed certain forms of torture in the revised Chinese Criminal Procedure Law that came into effect in 1997, not a single change has been made to criminal or criminal procedure laws. Despite UN Special Rapporteur recommendation for changes in it's 2006 report, such changes have gone unimplemented. Necessary changes would includes the provision of the comprehensive definition of torture in line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and the adoption of fair trial guarantees as provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which PRC is a signatory. In view of the current human rights situation in Tibet, TCHRD urges the government of the PRC to implement the recommendations made by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to eradicate torture and "to ensure torture survivors' right to full reparation with special attention to medical and psychological needs". And thoroughly investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of abuses when those abuses can be proven. The PRC should eradicate the widespread culture of impunity and perpetrators of gross human rights abuses should be brought to justice. The Centre also urges the international community to pressure the PRC to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

Monks detained during Patriotic Education campaign

A number of monks of Drepung Monastery in Tibet were detained by the Chinese security officials in and around 12 April 2008 following the monks' protest against Chinese "Work Team" who paid a visit to the monastery to conduct "Patriotic Education" Campaign, according to confirmed information received from reliable sources by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

The "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") authorities sent the "Legal Information Education" "Work Team" as a part of the "patriotic education" campaign to Drepung Monastery in and around 12 April 2008, according to the official mouthpiece, Xinhua, dated 13 April 2008.

According to reliable sources, a new "Work Team" on "Legal and Information Education" arrived in Drepung Monastery to start "Patriotic Education" campaign to the Drepung monks, however, the monks protested in unison against the campaign. Later security forces were called into the monastery by the "Work Team" to control the protesting monks. Number of Tibetan monks were immediately detained and taken away to unknown location by the security forces for interrupting and protesting the campaign. There is no information on the condition and whereabouts of those detainees.

The "Patriotic Education" campaign which was reinvigorated across various monastic institutions in Tibet requires monks to denounce the Dalai Lama and to oppose the ongoing protests in addition to usual political indoctrination sessions. The new 'work team' of "legal and information education" was primarily aimed at informing the monastic institution about the legal and other consequences of taking part in political activities as most of recent protests across Tibet were led by the monastic community.

Although, the official Chinese mouthpiece, Xinhua, dated 13 April covered the incident of visit by "Work Team" to Drepung Monastery, however, it suppressed the protest and detention of monks in its report.

All roads leading towards Drepung Monastery were known to have been sealed off with extra deployment of armed police forces. The movements of the monks in the monastery were severely restricted with security personnel curbing access to outside visitors to the monastery including devotees

China closes down Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastic School

In the aftermath of series of Tibetan protests across Ngaba region in eastern Tibet, the Chinese authorities of Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') have indefinitely closed down the school run by Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery on 8 April 2008, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

According to multiple sources, the Chinese authorities of Ngaba "TAP' indefinitely closed down Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery's school in Dzoge County (Ch: Ruanggui /Zoige Xian), Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province, on 8 April 2008. From the sources, the primary reason for its closure was cited as participation by a number of students of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery in March 15th protest along with other senior monks of the monastery at Dzoge County headquarters. Students both novice monks and children from surrounding areas were known to have been sent back to their respective places after the closure.

The school at the time of its inception in early 1986 was under the care of scholar Dzoge Aku Nyima with only three classes, which were mostly held in the Monastery's hall and monks' residences. A separate school was established in 1996 through the generous fund raised by the head of the management committee of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery, Alak Lungtsang Nangwa Rinpoche.

Students at the main gate of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastic School

The school was not free of any official interference in the past. In 1998, the Chinese authorities forcibly took over the governance of the monastic school two years after its establishment. However, irrespective of taking over governance by the authorities, the monastic school has been run and managed directly by Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery until its closure on 8 April 2008. Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastic School caters to educating primarily novice monks below 18 years of age and children from surrounding nomadic areas, on Tibetan language, literature and Buddhist philosophy. At the time of its closure, the school housed 504 novice monks and lay children from neighboring areas. Almost all of its students were from poor rural and nomadic areas where there is no education facility. The monastic school was a boon for the poor farmers and nomads who subsist on daily earnings and could not provide for their children's education.

Although, the Chinese official mouthpiece, Xinhua, reported on 25 March, that most schools in Aba County resumed classes since the return of normalcy in the area. The indefinite closure of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monasitc School on 8 April was not mentioned anywhere in the reports of official mouthpiece till date.

Monastic schools have been the primary source and backbone of education for Tibetans in Tibet. Such schools have always catered to the need of education to the masses who could not pay exorbitant school fees laid by the government. The Chinese government has been targeting monastic schools as they are deemed to be teaching "splittist" ideologies when in reality the curriculum in monastic schools are based on Tibetan culture and Buddhist philosophy.

Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastic School

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Tensions are High as the Olympic Torch Arrives in Lhasa

The Olympic torch relay will travel to the heavily guarded Tibetan capital, Lhasa, on 21 June after the three-day tour that was initially planned was cut to one day. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) remains highly concerned about the level of restriction imposed on the Tibetan people's fundamental freedoms in the months that have followed in the wake of the March protests.

Since the beginning of June this year, several thousand of the People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) forces were redeployed into main market squares, streets, major monasteries and road junctions around Lhasa city to check and respond to any untoward incidents during the Olympic torch relay, which is scheduled to travel from Norbulingka to Potala Palace square tomorrow.

According to an official Chinese government website, the 11-km relay will start from Norbulingka, the summer palace of the Dalai Lama and end at the Potala Palace, but it has not mentioned the timing of the torch relay. An official internal circular had been sent to Chinese government departments ordering their heads to discourage their own employees, as well as the common citizens, from taking part in any political activities during the torch relay.

In a press conference during the third Chinese state sponsored media tour of Tibet on 3 June, in response to a question raised by a Hong Kong based journalist, Pema Thinley, the Vice-Chairman of the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') government acknowledged the intensification of the security forces and identified what he saw as its three main motivations. He concluded that the increased pressure from the Chinese government might be an effort to reduce "the possibility of further unspecified 'incidents' in Lhasa during the Olympic torch relay, secondly to check any untoward incident during Saka Dawa (a Buddhist holy month) and finally to crush pro-Tibet Independence activists."

Mr. Thinley's perspective reemphasizes earlier comments made by Chinese authorities in Tibet who have promised to "severely punish" and "give no indulgence" to Tibetans who would try to "sabotage" the torch relay.

The move by the Chinese authorities to allow journalists from 29 foreign media groups to cover the Lhasa leg of Olympic torch relay, however, has been welcomed by those calling for increased media access to Tibet. Because the media tours allowed foreign journalists have been so closely monitored and controlled though, for many there still remains something to be desired. Many still believe that the authorities should provide free and unfettered access to all media to shed light on the situation on the ground. TCHRD believes that the media presence in Lhasa for the torch relay would not only do good, but also that Chinese authorities should provide unfettered access to foreign journalist to speak freely to Tibetans, visit prominent monasteries and nunneries which remain sealed off, visit those in detention, or otherwise investigate aspects of the recent protests.

Since there has been a complete lockdown in Tibet and restrictions on the travel of independent international observers to Tibet, as well as severe media censorship, the Chinese authorities currently have a pseudo state-sanctioned license to commit human rights abuses, including arbitrary detention, beatings, and abductions of Tibetans. The Centre has recorded the arrests or arbitrary detention of more than 6,500 Tibetans and the deaths of more than 100 others. Additionally, the cases of thousands of injured Tibetans remain unaccounted for since 10 March Protests across Tibet. Reportedly, many Tibetans have also died shortly after being released from Chinese custody, in which they were subjected to inhumane torture. In one instance, Nechung, a 38- year-old mother of four children from Charu Hu Village in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province, died days after being subjected to brutal torture in a Chinese prison on 17 April 2008. In another instance, Dawa, a 31 year-old Tibetan farmer from Dedrong Village, Jangkha Township, Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa City, "TAR", died on 1 April 2008 after being severely beaten by Chinese prison guards.

Numerous credible reports received by the TCHRD about the scale and intensity of the Chinese government's repression across Tibet suggests that authorities have used the March Protests as an opportunity to launch a systematic crackdown on Tibetans' fundamental rights. The Chinese authorities have deployed a large number of security forces to suppress further demonstrations and have intensified their "patriotic re-education campaign" across all sections of Tibetan communities. So far, the Chinese officials have given only limited information on those who have been sentenced after swift trial proceedings.

Following the March protests in Lhasa and other traditional Tibetan areas in the east and north, the Chinese authorities have repeatedly disregarded demands made by the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile to allow independent international observers into Tibet to report on the continuing protests there and the reactions of the Chinese government that occur in the aftermath. Recently, in response to the international condemnation of the brutal crackdowns on the protesters, the Chinese government organized three official media tours to Lhasa and Labrang and permitted 15 diplomats to visit Lhasa in late March, but seriously restricted their ability to speak freely to Tibetans.

In early April, a request was made by Ms. Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the senior Chinese diplomats in Geneva to visit Tibet to independently witness first-hand the human rights violations in the ongoing crisis in Tibet. Her request was declined by the Chinese government on the grounds that 'the timing was not convenient." Similarly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is mandated to visit detention facilities and check on the well-being of prisoners worldwide, has never been allowed to carry out such work in China, and particularly not in Tibet, since 10 March protests, which subsequently led to mass arrests and detentions across Tibet. In addition, six United Nations Special Procedures mandate holders issued a joint statement calling for "greater and unfettered access to the regions for journalists and independent observers, guarantees for the free flow of information, and full implementation of international standards in regard to the treatment of protesters and those detained," but all of these demands were ignored.

Hundreds of Tibetans are still languishing in the Chinese administered prisons and detention centers for peacefully expressing their opinions, exercising fundamental human rights and even many whose families still have no knowledge of their whereabouts.

Human rights transgressions in China remain systematic and widespread and the communist regime continues to trample upon the civil liberties and democratic rights of Tibetans.

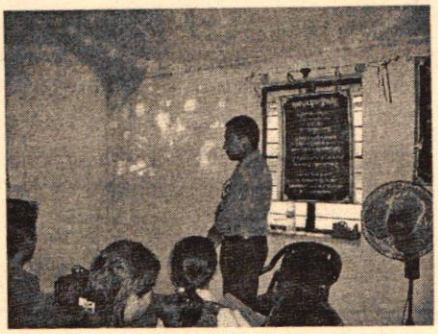
TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

Jampa Monlam Testifies in Spain's High Court as the Olympic Games Approach

On 19 May 2008, Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director of the Centre attended court proceedings at Court nº 2 of Spain's Audiencia Nacional, where, along with former political prisoners Palden Gyatso and Bhagdro, he gave his eyewitness testimony to the most brutal crackdown in Tibet in recent history, the suppression of the March 1989 uprising. The order given for the crackdown came from Hu Jintao, then the Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party in Tibet and currently president of People's Republic of China. Mr. Monlam also gave a briefing on the current human rights situation and recent unrest in Tibet for journalist and media groups outside of the high court

Mr. Jampa Monlam and two Tibetan monks arrive at Spain's National Court in Madrid to give testimy

TCHRD talk series



Mr. Jampa Monlam, answering questions raised by the participants

Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director, spoke with Tibetan youths at a workshop organized by the Tibetan Regional Women's Association on 17 June 2008 in Rajpur, India. The Assistant Director spoke about the current human rights situation, recent protests in Tibet and principles of democracy.

On 22 June 2008, the Centre's Assistant Director gave a talk to local Tibetan youths who came to attend a workshop organized by the Tibetan Regional Youth Congress at Dharamsala. He spoke about the human rights situation and recent uprising in Tibet.

Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director, was also invited by the Department of Education to give talk on current human rights situation and recent protests in Tibet and screen video clips of recent mass uprisings in Tibet to the Tibetan Fulbright scholars, who are pursuing master's degrees in America, at DIIR Lhampa Tsering Hall on 24 June 2008.

Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Centre's Executive Director, addressed the current human rights situation and recent crackdown in Tibet with a group of 15 students from University of Arkansas in America here at Centre on 21 June 2008.

Mr. Urgen Tenzin with American students during their visit

TCHRD ACTIVITIES

Bulletin

Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director, gave a talk to all Tibetan students in India who attended a workshop organized by the Tibetan Parliamentary and Policy Research Centre at Ganchen Kyishong Mess Hall. The Executive Director briefed the students on the human rights situation and repression in Tibet, including denial of the Tibetan people's political freedoms and religious rights, attacks on their cultural heritage and even their language. Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director, also briefed the audience on the economic situation for Tibetans in Tibet, and the health issues facing Tibetans inside Tibet.

On 25 June 2008 Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director, gave talk to a group of 20 American students on current the human rights situation, mass uprisings and recent crackdowns in Tibet. After the talk, there was also a brief question and answer period.

On 22 June 2008 Mr. Tashi Phuntsok was invited by the Delhi Tibetan Regional Youth Congress to give talk on the human rights situation and recent protests in Tibet to youths attending the workshop, conducted by the Tibetan Regional Youth Congress (TRYC) in Delhi, where video clips of March uprising in Tibet were also screened. At the end of the event, he also answered questions raised by the participants.

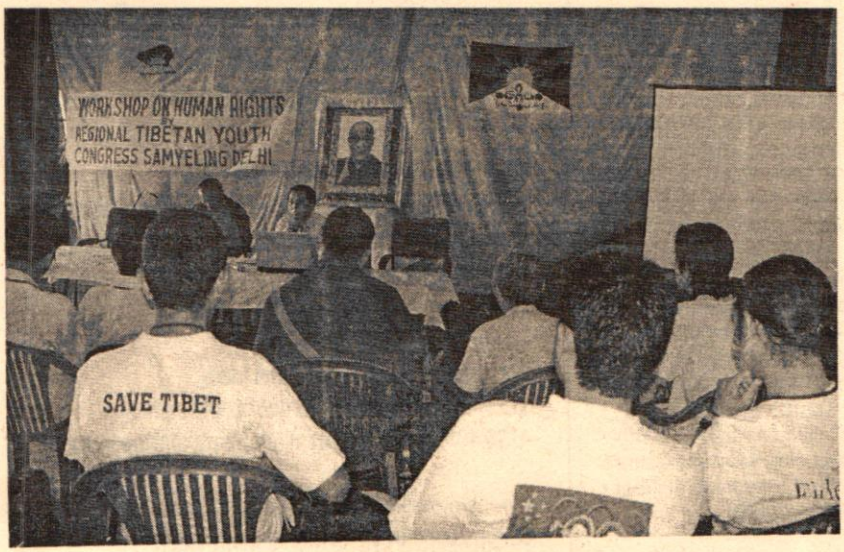
On 24 June 2008, Mr. Tenzin Norgay, UN Affairs Personnel addressed international law students from America during their visit to Dharamsala, and the group debated on current and arising issues facing Tibet in attempts to find possible solutions to the Tibetan issue.

Group photo session after workshop

Mr. Tashi Choephel, researcher at the Centre, was invited by the Tibetan High Studies Sahara to speak about the current human rights situation and recent uprising in Tibet to a group of American students during their short visit. The program concluded with a question and answer session.

Mr. Lobsang Tsultrim Yardrong, field officer at the Centre, attended a five-day workshop on Conflict Resolution and Multi-Track-Diplomacy (MTD) at Hotel Surya at dhasa, organized by the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) from the 23-27 June 2008.

Over 24 employees from various departments of Centre for Tibetan Administration (CTA) and NGOs, like Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), Tibetan Women's Association (TWA), Tibetan Centre for Conflict Resolution (TCCR), Active Non Violence Centre (ANEC) participated in the five-day workshop.



Mr. Tashi Phuntsok addressing the workshop participants.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

If you would like to subscribe to TCHRD's monthly Human Rights update or to order one of our publications, please send your name and postal details (including e-mail) to our office.

Partial list of TCHRD publications:

•The Next Generation:*The State of Education in Tibet Today* (1997)• Behind Bars: *Prison Conditions in Tibet* (1998) • Closing the Doors:*Religious Repression in Tibet* (1998)•*Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Tibetan Translation) (1998)•Democracy:*An Education Booklet* (1998)• Fearless Voices: *Accounts of Tibetan Former Political Prisoners* (1998)•Human Rights:*An Education Booklet* (1998)•*A Guide to Human Rights* (1999)•*A guide to Democracy* (1999)•Tales of Terror:*Torture in Tibet* (1999)•*Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet* (1999) •Torture and Ill-Treatment in Tibet (2000)• Racial Discrimination in TIbet (2000)• Impoverishing Tibetans:*China's flawed economic policy* (2000)• *Destruction of Serthar Insitute : A Special Report (2002)* Dispossessed: *Land and Housing Rights in Tibet* (2002) • Strike hard Campaign: *China's crackdown on political dissidence* (2004) • State of education in Tibet: *A human rights perspective* (2004) • *Kuxing:* Torture in Tibet (2005) • Death Penalty in China (2005) • International Bill of Human Rights (2005) • TCHRD 1996-2006: A Decade of Human Rights Research • Railway and China's Development Strategy in Tibet: A Tale of Two Economies • Prisoners of Tibet • Annual Report : *Human Rights Situation in Tibet* (1996 - 2006)

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Two months' ultimatum issued to the Tibetan Communist Party members and government employees to recall their children studying in exile schools

13 ethnic Tibetan Party members expelled in Lhasa

Following a series of protests by Tibetans across Tibet since 10 March 2008, the Chinese authorities have embarked on numerous premeditated measures and steps to tighten control over the Tibetan people. The latest targets are identified as ethnic Tibetan Communist Party members and the government employees.

A new official regulation jointly prepared by the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") Communist Party's Discipline Inspection Commission (Ch: Jie Wei) and "TAR" Government Discipline Committee (Ch: Jian cha ting) was officially announced yesterday, targeting Tibetan party members and government employees whose children are studying in the exiled educational institutions run by the "Dalai Clique", according to the latest information posted on the official website (www.chinatibetnews.com). The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is very concerned that the implementation of this regulation will soon lead to expulsion of Tibetan employees and members who fail to comply and abrupt termination of children's education of those who return to Tibet.

The new official regulation jointly issued by the "TAR" Communist Party Discipline Inspection Commission and "TAR" Government Discipline Committee has warned their Tibetan party members and government employees of dire consequences and will act according to the Party rules and policies, if they fail to recall their children studying in exile educational institutions run by the "Dalai Clique".

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China arrests a popular religious figure in Kardze County

Trulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche

The Chinese authorities had arrested a revered religious figure in Kardze, Tibet according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 18 May 2008, around 4.30 AM (Beijing Standard Time), the Chinese security forces had arrested Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche from his residence without stating any reason. He was a highly revered religious figure in Kardze County, "TAP", Sichuan Province.

The arrest of the prominent religious figure has brought much grief and disbelief to the local Tibetans. Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche was much loved and revered for his religious vocation and looking after the welfare of the local Tibetans in Kardze County.There has been no information about his current whereabouts, detention and well being.

Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche was a highly regarded reincarnated Tulku (Living Buddha) of Tehor Kardze Monastery. He was the chief spiritual preceptor and the head of Pang-ri and Ya-tseg Nunneries in Kardze. A charismatic figure who was a source of inspiration and hope had constructed an old age orphanage and opened two chemist shops for the local Tibetans.

Incidentally on 14 May 2008, the Chinese authorities had arrested 55 nuns of his Pang-ri Nunnery in Su-ngo Township, Kardze County for protesting against the implementation of the "Patriotic education" campaign in religious institutions.

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Though a new regulation was formulated tentatively and soon to be officially promulgated and implemented in the mid of September this year, has primarily targeted Tibetan government employees and party members.

The announcement of the new regulation made yesterday clearly stated that, the "Dalai Clique has over the years cited free scholarship, boarding and food facilities to the young children in order to entice them to leave Tibet for schools and monasteries in exile. The young who are the future seeds were targeted by the Dalai clique by enticing with facilities in the exile schools and monasteries in order to challenge the party and the government." The official announcement cited the reason for the formulation of a new regulation as to maintain stability and to oppose the 'splittist' forces within the Party members and "TAR" government employees. The new regulation, stated as "political regulation", has categorically mentioned that the Party members and government employees are not allowed to send their children to educational institutions in exile. The new regulation further stated that the act of sending children into exile educational institutions run by the "Dalai clique" goes against the Party rules and government policies and it will act and punish those accordingly.

A two-month ultimatum was issued yesterday to the ethnic Tibetan party members and government employees to recall their children studying in exiled educational institutions run by the Dalai clique. The announcement stated that, although a new regulation has been formulated, before its promulgation "TAR" government employees and the Party members should recall their children from the exiled educational institutions run by the Dalai clique within two months' period and should voluntarily surrender and explain before the concerned government department or the Party for leniency without penalty. The regulation further stated that those who have participated in "splittist" activities should surrender voluntarily for leniency.

Unfortunately, though well-educated and professionally competent, these students and monks will fall under surveillance and lack job security because of their affiliation with Tibetan exile institutions if they decide to return to their homeland. For those families who send their children to India for an education when there are no other options, harsh repercussions can be expected.

The announcement further stated that, however, after the promulgation of the new regulation, those party members and government employees who conceal information on or fail to recall their children studying in exile educational institutions run by the Dalai Clique within the stipulated deadline shall be expelled from the Party and fired from their government job. This new regulation shall be promulgated soon and will cover all the current Party members, government employees, retired Party members and government employees.

This is not the first time that such an ultimatum was issued. In 1994 a policy was instituted demanding that parents recall their children from India lest they be demoted or expelled from their jobs, and their children lose their rights to residence permits if they did not return to Tibet within a specified time. And many parents recalled their children studying in exile schools and many ended up terminating their education.

The new regulation aims to put the Tibetan employees and members through political litmus test of their ideological loyalty to the party and the government and to eliminates those with a history of separatist activities. The timing of the new regulation raises concern about the Chinese authorities intention towards managing Tibetan employees, party members and their children.

Following the recent series of protests across the Tibetan plateau, at the beginning of April, the Chinese authorities launched a renewed "Patriotic education" campaign covering almost every section of Tibetan communities with more rigor and intensity. The campaign not only targeted the monastic institutions but also government employees, security forces, farmers, nomads, private entrepreneur, educational institutions and Party cadres. The ethnic Tibetan Party cadres and government employees in particular comes under scanner with test of individual loyalty to the party, one's stand on the separatist forces, family background and way of thinking were thoroughly judged.

On 21 April, Dorjee Tsering, Lhasa City Mayor, has told that the "Patriotic education" campaign will be a standard litmus test for the party cadres and will be set as a standard barometer for testing one's loyalty to the Party. Under the three themes, the renewed "patriotic education" campaign aims to 'educate' the masses about 'opposing splittism', 'protecting stability' and 'backing development', by holding meetings, inviting experts to give speeches, teaching and discussing the contents of the 'patriotic education' campaign, holding denunciation session of the Dalai Lama and screening propaganda shows.

According to reports posted on the official website, China's Tibet Information Centre, dated 10 July 2008, 13 Party members under Lhasa City were expelled from the Communist Party for their involvement in the "March 14 riot" and their failure to uphold the three themes under the renewed "patriotic education" campaign.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) remains highly disturbed by the new regulation imposed on the ethnic Tibetan Party members and government employees to recall their children studying in educational institutions run by the exiled government. It is highly probable that those parents who fail to comply with the official regulation will face expulsion from their job and could possibly face arrest. TCHRD remains highly concern about those children who are studying in the exile run educational institutions. It is highly regrettable that the Chinese authorities under the new regulation has not spared the children who risked their lives crossing high Himalayas to receive free and broad based education. The Chinese authorities should immediately withdraw this new regulation and respect the ethnic Tibetan government employees and party members rights.

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The arrest of Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche serves as a dark reminder of China's campaign against the prominent religious figures inside Tibet who have been viewed by the Chinese authorities as a direct challenge to their authority. In the past, many of prominent Tibetan religious figures such as Khenpo Jigme, the founder of famed Sertha Buddhist Institute, Tulku Tenzin Delek, the founder of Kham Nalanda Monastery, who championed the welfare of Tibetan people and Bangri Rinpoche, the founder of Gyatso orphanage school in Lhasa were arrested under false and fabricated charges.

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China arrests three nuns of Tehor Nyagay Nunnery in Kardze

Three Tibetan nuns from Tehor Nyagay Nunnery, in Kardze County were arrested by the County Chinese security forces for staging a peaceful protest, according to reliable sources within Tibet.

At around 1:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time) on 20 May 2008, three nuns from the Nyagay Nunnery, situated in Kardze County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture"(TAP"), Sichuan Province, started marching from Tehor Nyagay Nunnery towards the Kardze County which is around 20 Kms away from the Nunnery. The Nyagay Nunnery is very close to the famous Kardze Tehor Dargay Monastery. The three nuns, Achoe from Rida Village, Soe Choekyi from Lamna Village and Taga a.k.a Tashi Yangtso from Noekab Village under Kardze County were said to have reached, Kardze County, their preplanned destination of the protest before morning dawn sets in. The reason cited for the three nuns was to launch their march in the wee hours of the morning so as to avoid being blocked and arrested by the heavy security presence and severe restriction imposed on the movement of the people in that area.

According to the source, the three nuns started their protest at around 9:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time) near Kardze County headquarters when people begin to gather for their daily lives in the county. The three nuns shouted slogans calling for "Freedom in Tibet", "Dalai Lama should return to Tibet", and "Immediate release of the political prisoners imprisoned by the Chinese authorities". The three nuns were immediately detained by the County Security forces and taken away to unknown location. There is no immediate information on their whereabouts and conditions.

Soe Choekyi from Lamna Village, Kardze County

Taga a.k.a Tashi Yangtso from Noekab Village, Kardze County

Achoe from Rida Village, Kardze County

A Tibetan nomad shot dead in Amdo Golog, hundreds arrested

On 21 March 2008, the Tibetans in Ponkor Township staged a peaceful protest in Darlag County, Golog "TAP", Qinghai Province, according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

According to sources, on 21 March 2008, the Tibetan people from Ponkor Toema and Mema Townships in Darlag County staged a peaceful protest by pulling down a Chinese national flag and replacing it with the banned Tibetan national flag.

During the protest, the Tibetans protested against the Chinese authorities who came to the protest scene. The Chinese authorities responded the protest by dispatching five big and small military vehicles to Darlag County on 22 March 2008. While the military vehicles were entering into Darlag County, a group of 350 horsemen charged and blocked the Chinese military vehicles from entering. During the blockage, the Tibetan horsemen protested against the Chinese authorities.

On 23 March 2008, the monks of Ponko Monastery and a local religious lama Gurlu intervened and pacified the escalating tension on both sides. On the same day, around 30 Chinese military vehicles came to Darlag County to quell the peaceful protesters.

On 24 March 2008, around 50 Tibetans from Ponkor Toema and Mema Township were arrested by the Chinese security forces for taking part in peaceful protest. Later on 25 March 2008, 10 Tibetans and 40 other Tibetans were again arrested. In the backdrop of persistent arrest threats and intimidation by the Chinese security forces, around 400 Tibetans from Ponkor Toema and 100 Tibetans from Ponkor Mema Townships fled and sought hide outs on nearby mountain tops on 26 March 2008. In response, around 860 Chinese security forces have surrounded the mountain from various sides. Days later the Chinese security forces were luring the hiding Tibetans to surrender by promising leniency in punishment. Ironically on 27 March 2008, two Tibetans voluntarily surrendered themselves to the Chinese security forces but were severely beaten and tortured.

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A 22-year-old Choetop who was killed during the gun fire

Sources told TCHRD that in the following weeks, hundreds of Tibetan protesters were arrested by the Chinese security forces. Many of the them, who were later released from the detention were charged with a hefty fine of 20,000 Chinese yuan as a punishment (US $ 2,500).

On 28 April 2008, events took a dramatic turn when the armed Chinese security forces surrounded a nomadic hamlet in Ponkor Toema Township. At the breaking of a dawn, the armed security forces fired live ammunition on the nomads. Moments later, 22-year-old nomad Choetop was killed during the gun fire. The Chinese security forces took the dead body with them and till date the dead body was not returned to Choetop's family for funeral rites. The situation in Ponkor Toema Township was said to be tense and more and more Chinese security forces were beefing up in Ponkor Township.

China jails 17 Tibetans in a "swift and quick" court proceeding

On 29 April 2008, China's state media announced that 17 Tibetans have been sentenced between three years to life imprisonment in connection with the Lhasa revolt in March 2008. It is the first instance of a group of Tibetans handed down with harsh prison terms since protests broke out in Lhasa and various Tibetan areas under Chinese administration beginning from 10 March 2008. The state media did not reveal whether the current group of Tibetans sentenced to harsh terms were part of those who gave in before the official surrender deadline issued by the authorities.

The Xinhua report stated, "Two men, including a Buddhist monk identified as Basang (Passang), received life sentences... Basang was accused of leading 10 people, including five other monks, to destroy local government offices, burn down shops and attack policemen... Of the five monks, two were sentenced to 20 years, and the other three to 15 years in jail." "The other man who received a life sentence was identified as Soi'nam Norbu (Sonam Norbu), a driver for a Lhasa real estate company". No details were given on the 10 other people sentenced. The Chinese authorities have arbitrarily arrested thousands of Tibetans following the pan-Tibet protests in March 2008. While the official media claims 2300 Tibetan protesters were arrested, The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) fears the actual number of arrests can be manifold.

On several occasions, the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") Communist Party and Government officials have called for a swift and quick judicial process to strike back at the "separatists" and the "Dalai clique". On 4 April 2008, Lhasa City Deputy Party Secretary said that amongst the protesters arrested in Lhasa, 800 Tibetans would be brought before the court. During a conference of "TAR" court officials in the evening of 2 April 2008, "TAR" government Vice-Chairman, Pema Thinley, urged "the usage of law as a tool to strike back at the enemies". He called for a "swift and quick judicial proceedings" for those involved in March protest. Jampa Phuntsok, during his briefing at the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China on 9 April told reporters "953 have been arrested out of which 328 have been released where as 403 will be carried forward for sentencing by the court."

There are currently thousands of Tibetan protesters under detention in Tibetan areas outside the "TAR". In the aftermath of the mass uprising by the Tibetan people, Chinese People's Armed Police and Public Security Bureau officials arrested thousands of Tibetans particularly from Kardze (Ch: Ganzi), Ngaba (Ch: Aba), Sangchu (Ch: Xiahe) and Kanlho (Ch: Gansu).

In the absence of any independent media and monitoring agencies in Tibet and the use of judicial proceedings as an official reprisal instead of protection of fundamental human rights of the Tibetans, TCHRD expresses its concern at the sub-standard legal proceedings in Chinese occupied Tibet and fears the worst scenarios for the Tibetan protesters last month who exercised their fundamental human rights of freedom of opinion and expression.

The court in session

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A popular Tibetan religious figure, Geshe Sonam Phuntsok, passes away in Kardze

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received confirmed information that, Geshe Sonam Phuntsok, a former political prisoner who spent five years in prison for his religious activities and for conducting a long life prayer ceremony for the Dalai Lama in October 1999, passed away on 5 April 2008 in Kardze after a prolong battle with multiple illnesses following a lengthy imprisonment and maltreatment in the prison.

As per the earlier information received by the TCHRD, Geshe Sonam Phuntsok, popularly known as Kardze Geshe, was in poor health for the long period of time since his release from Chuandong no. 3 Prison in Tazhu County in October 2004. Geshe Sonam Phuntsok, 57 year-old, was a hugely popular religious figure particularly in Kardze. Since his release from prison in October 2004, Geshe Sonam Phuntsok was put under virtual house arrest as movements outside his residence were severely restricted that Geshe has to seek official permission even for any medical treatment. His activities particularly in religious spheres were under constant surveillance from the authorities.

TCHRD mourns the death of Geshe Sonam Phuntsok, a popular religious figure of Kardze and considers his untimely demise as a direct result of the lengthy imprisonment, maltreatment in the prison and lack of timely medical attention after release along with constant mental harassment that he has to undergone till his last breath.

Background

Geshe Sonam Phuntsok was born in 1951 in Choesa Village, Shusar Township, Rongbatsa District, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Sichuan Province. Early in his childhood, he was ordained as a monk and at the age of 18 he received sacred initiation and other religious teachings from eminent Buddhist masters. In the 1980s he taught Tibetan literature to monks from 35 different monasteries. He also recorded historical descriptions of 13 monasteries in Kardze "TAP". Geshe was based at Dhargay Monastery in Rongbatsa District but often traveled to monasteries and remote villages throughout Kardze County to conduct religious ceremonies and teachings. In

Geshe Sonam Phuntsok

1996, Geshe travelled to India to visit holy places for pilgrimage. He met with the Dalai Lama as part of his pilgrimage during that time. Geshe Sonam Phuntsok returned to Tibet and continued to conduct religious ceremonies for nearly three years thereafter.

Arrest

Geshe Sonam Phuntsok along with two other monks, Sonam and Agya Tsering of Kardze Dargay Monastery were arrested at gunpoint on 25 October 1999 by a team of around 20 Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials on suspect of having "clandestine contacts" with the exile Tibetan Government. Geshe was barely clothed and barefooted at the time of arrest. He had prior to his arrest, initiated a long-life prayer offering for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In an address he made around that time, he praised His Holiness the Dalai Lama and advised the people to follow his preaching. Aware of the consequences for such an action, he even told the public that he did not regret anything.

On 31 October 1999, around 3000 local Tibetans gathered infront of Rongbatsa Government Office and demanded his immediate and unconditional release. A large crowd comprising of Tibetans from neighbouring counties also demanded the release of Geshe. About 600 PSB officers and People's Armed Police ("PAP") threw tear gas shells and fired indiscriminately into the crowd to quell the protest. Many Tibetans were detained and some received imprisonment terms and monetary fines for their acts. Tsering Wangchuk, a protester died while in police custody.

Sentence

In March 2001, after a year and five months detention in Dartsedo Prison in Dartsedo County, Kardze "TAP", Kardze People's Intermediate Court sentenced Geshe to five years' imprisonment term on charges of "Inciting splittist activities among the masses", "travelling to India on an illegal document procured from Lhasa, for seeking audience with the Dalai Lama and for taking photographs with him", "illegally conducting religious ceremony on several occasions within Kardze County", and "for conducting long-life prayer ceremony for the Dalai Lama in Rongbatsa".

Ill health in prison

During two separate visits to the prison, Geshe's father and a relative were shocked to see him in a frail health. His father, Agya Phuntsok, described that Geshe was lean, semiconscious and could not move properly. In December 2001, Geshe, suffered from high fever, diarrhea, dizziness and lethargy. Although, Geshe was taken to a nearby military hospital on two occasions, kept on three IV drips and hospitalised for seven hours, it did not bring about much improvement to his health. In June 2002, it came to be known that Geshe had ulcer and low blood pressure but not life threatening one.

Release

Geshe Sonam Phuntsok was released after completing his five years prison sentence. On 26 October 2004, Chinese Public Security Bureau (PSB) Officials brought Geshe in a government vehicle to his native Rongbatsa District in Kardze County, Kardze Tibet Autonomous Prefecture ("TAP"), Sichuan. He had earlier arrived in Dartsedo County on 24 October 2004 after release from Chuandong no 3 Prison in Tazhu County and underwent medical treatment before arriving at Rongbatsa District.

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Situation extremely tense in Xiahe County, defiant monks in front of media tour disappears

The situation at Labrang Monastery in Sangchu (Ch: Xiahe) County is extremely tense. Thousands of People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnels have surrounded Labrang Monastery in the aftermath of arrest of hundreds of monks, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 7 May 2008, thousands of PAP and PSB officers (estimated around 5000) surrounded Labrang Monastery and carried a sudden raid in the monastery. During the raid, around 140 monks were arrested and taken away for detention. The next day a large number of monks of the monastery protested calling for the release of the monks arrested on the previous day. The authorities upon fearing the protest to escalate further, released all the detained monks except for 18 monks. However, the monks continued to call for the release of the remaining 18 monks and the authorities gave in by releasing another 11 out of the 18 monks today morning. Despite additional contingents of armed police arriving at the monastery, monks in large number have again protested against the authorities to release the remaining seven monks but the authorities flatly refused to do so, challenging the monks to take any counter measure.

Defiant monks dissappear

In another confirmed information received from the area, two monks who defiantly spoke out in front of the government managed media tour in Sangchu County on 7 April 2008, are known to be have been disappeared. Shortly after the media visit to the area, Thabkhey and Tsundue, have disappeared. The local Tibetan residents fear that the police have secretly lifted them for their defiant action which caused major embarrassment to the government of the People's Republic of China. The family members of the two monks have approached the local PSB headquarters regarding their whereabouts, however, the authorities feigned ignorance about the two. Till date, nobody knows about their whereabouts and the family members live in anxiety over fear of them being killed extrajudicially.

Labrang Monastery

Demonstrations in Kardze County

A group of local Tibetans were severely beaten and then detained by the Chinese security forces for staging peaceful demonstrations in Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD)

On 21 June 2008, a Tibetan youth named Dragu of Khashul Village, Dado Township, Kardze County, Kardze "TAP", was detained by the People's Armed Police (PAP) as he had entered into the main market of the County calling for a free Tibet until his protest was overtaken by 7 local PAP officers. He was seen sporting a white band tied around his head with the words "Bod Rangzen" (Free Tibet) written on it and with Tibetan flags painted on both of his cheeks.

On 22 June 2008, around 11:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time) 24-year-old monk Tsering Phuntsok and 36- year-old monk Tashi Sherab both of Khangmar Monastery in Kardze County, Sichuan, staged a peaceful demonstration in the County.

In the afternoon around 1:00 PM of the same day, a 37 year-old monk named Sergha and 27 year-old monk, Yeshi Dargye, also of Khangmar Monastery further staged protest by distributing pamphlets and calling for a free Tibet, and praying for the long life of the Dalai Lama and the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

On the same day around 2 - 3 PM local time, another demonstration consisting of more than 10 local Tibetans erupted in the same County which was led by an unidentified layman of Shillidha Village.

All the peaceful protesters whilst being brutally beaten were arrested by the Chinese armed forces.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES

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TCHRD attends the 1st UN Advocacy Training Session in Bangkok

Mr. Tashi Choephel, researcher, attended the 1st UN Advocacy Training Session (UNATS) organized by Forum-Asia from 29 June to 6 July, 2008 at St. Gabriel Foundation in Bangkok, Thailand. The five days training session was attended by 26 participants representing various NGOs from 14 different countries of South and East Asian countries. The training session taught the participants with concepts of international advocacy, strategy and tactics, the UN Human Rights Protection System, participation and the role of Civil Societies in the UN, the International Human Rights Norms and standards. The five days' of UN Advocacy Training Session and two days of 4th Regional Consultation by the Solidarity for Asian People's Action (SAPA) Working Group on UN Human Rights Council was participated by numerous resource persons. On 5th July participants were taken for Field Trip to UN ESCAP, where they were given panel briefing from UN ESCAP, OHCHR, UNDP and ILO. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) would like to graciously thank the Forum-Asia for inviting and sponsoring a staff of the Centre for the training session.

Mr. Tashi Choephel with participants during the Training session

On 22 July, 2008, Mr. Tashi Choephel, Researcher, was invited to give a talk to around 32 Tibetan students from different countries who were at the Tibetan Children's Village School for a Summer Camp. Mr. Tashi introduced the students with the fundamental concept of human rights and briefed them on the current human rights situation in Tibet with the help of PowerPoint presentation and video clips. At the end of the talk the students raised many pertinent questions.

TCHRD address on workshop

On 22 July 2008, Mr. Jampa Monlam, (Assistant Director) and Mr. Tenzin Norgay (Personnel for UN Affairs), were invited as resources person for the work-shop on Human Rights and Democracy, organized by the Manali Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (RTYC). Mr. Monlam covered the topics of concepts of human rights, human rights situation in Tibet, events in Tibet since 10 March 2008 and its implications.

Mr. Norgay covered the topics of origin of the United Nations, the importance of the UN as a world organization, relevance of UN to the Tibet issue, historical perspectives between the UN and Tibet, International law and its relevance to the Tibet issue. After the sessions by the two TCHRD officers, the floor was opened for questions by the audience. Many pertinent questions like "how strong is the structure of the Chinese communist party", "is there any hope resolving Tibet issue at the UN" etc, were raised by the members in the audience.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

If you would like to subscribe to TCHRD's monthly Human Rights update or to order one of our publications, please send your name and postal details (including e-mail) to our office.

Partial list of TCHRD publications:

•The Next Generation:*The State of Education in Tibet Today* (1997)• Behind Bars: *Prison Conditions in Tibet* (1998) • Closing the Doors:*Religious Repression in Tibet* (1998)•*Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Tibetan Translation) (1998)•Democracy:*An Education Booklet* (1998)• Fearless Voices: *Accounts of Tibetan Former Political Prisoners* (1998)•Human Rights:*An Education Booklet* (1998)•*A Guide to Human Rights* (1999)•*A guide to Democracy* (1999)•Tales of Terror:*Torture in Tibet* (1999)•*Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet* (1999) •Torture and Ill-Treatment in Tibet (2000)• Racial Discrimination in TIbet (2000)• Impoverishing Tibetans:*China's flawed economic policy* (2000)• *Destruction of Serthar Insitute : A Special Report (2002)* Dispossessed: *Land and Housing Rights in Tibet* (2002) • Strike hard Campaign: *China's crackdown on political dissidence* (2004) • State of education in Tibet: *A human rights perspective* (2004) • *Kuxing:* Torture in Tibet (2005) • Death Penalty in China (2005) • International Bill of Human Rights (2005) • TCHRD 1996-2006: A Decade of Human Rights Research • Railway and China's Development Strategy in Tibet: A Tale of Two Economies • Prisoners of Tibet • Annual Report : *Human Rights Situation in Tibet* (1996 - 2006)

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Olympics and Tibet under a cloud of repression

On the eve of China's first Olympics, as the world prepares to gaze more intently than ever on the grand spectacle of the 29th Olympics, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) deplores and expresses its deepest dismay on China's failure to uphold the Olympic principles particularly with regard to continual of repression in Tibet. The communist regime continues to cling on to its old authoritarian ways and still ruthlessly suppresses peaceful dissent. Over the recent past the Chinese authorities under the pretext of security measures has intensified clampdown on the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people.

Spontaneous pan-Tibet protests since 10 March 2008 are sincere manifestation of brutality and oppression suffered by the Tibetans at the hands of the Communist party for more than half a century. This goes in contrast to the authorities' projection of the image of "harmonious society" and failure of Beijing long held Tibet Policies.

Particularly this year, Tibetans in "Tibet Autonomous Region " ('TAR") and other neighboring areas have witnessed unprecedented repression and crackdown following massive protests since 10 March across the Tibetan plateau which has resulted in the death of more than 120 Tibetans as a direct result of Chinese brutality. Over 6500 were detained in various places and hundreds injured with many cases remain unaccounted for due to various circumstances.

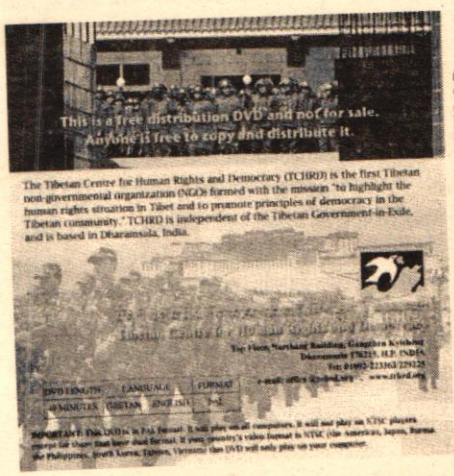
Practice of Torture unabated:

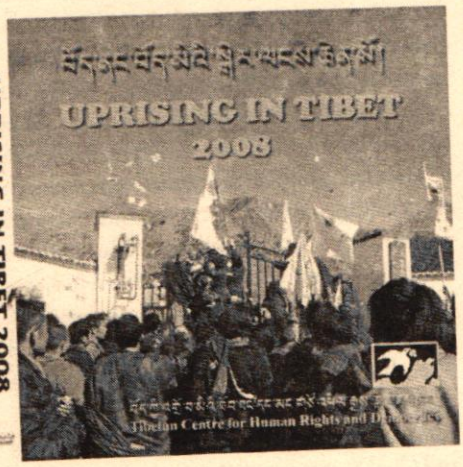
There are many credible reports of people died from torture and inhuman treatment meted out to them. Just for instance, Nechung, a 38- year-old mother of four children from Charu Hu Village in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province, died days after being subjected to brutal torture in a Chinese prison on 17 April 2008. In another instance, Dawa, a 31 year-old Tibetan farmer from Dedrong Village, Jangkha Township, Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa City, "TAR", died on 1 April 2008 after being severely beaten by Chinese prison guards. Similarly three monks from Drango County in Kardze "TAP" were brutally crushed by the security forces for staging a peaceful protest in front of the County government headquarters. One of them, Tsewang Dakpa, a 22 year old from Jangtha Township, Drango County, in particular sustained multiple and severe injury that eyewitness recounted slight chances of his survival. There were even rumor of his death from torture he suffered and it could not be ascertained even today.

Thabkey, a 30 year-old monk of Labrang Monastery, arrested along with seven other monks for briefing a group of foreign media personal on a government managed tour in Labrang, was released after several days' detention in a mentally unstable condition with bruise marks all over his body resulted from severe beatings in the police custody.

Ambiguous law to suppress dissent:

China still continues to use certain provisions of the Criminal Law as political tools to





UPRISING DVD COVER

suppress dissent. The charges of "endangering state security", "disrupting social order" and the term "terrorist organization" in China's Criminal Law are not defined, thereby allowing a broad and ambiguous range of interpretation, including criminalization of non-violent political protests in the politically restive regions like Tibet and used to prosecute those engaged in legitimate and peaceful human rights activities. China justified its repression of free speech under a broad interpretation of "national security".

Renewed "Patriotic Reeducation Campaign" in Tibet:

At the beginning of April this year, alongside intensification of security measures, the Chinese authorities have ordered more stringent ideological education and ramped-up propaganda in Tibet "to build anti-separatist sentiment". Under the renewed "patriotic reeducation" campaign launched across all section of Tibetan communities in Tibet which has resulted in the dramatic rise of religious repression, arrest, detention of those who opposed the campaign which requires people to sign and oppose the Dalai Lama. Almost all the major monastic institutions across Tibet virtually remains locked up with heavy security presence since 10 March protest. Not sparing even the ethnic Tibetan Communist party members, on 21 April, Dorjee Tsering, Lhasa City Mayor, has told that the "Patriotic re-education" campaign will be a standard litmus test for the party cadres and will be set as a standard barometer for testing one's loyalty to the Party. The campaign is used as a tool to stabilize and exert control over what the Chinese authorities term "the hotbed of dissent activities," referring to the monastic institutions. The forced implementation of the campaign in garnering loyalty to the state is in direct contravention of many international human rights provisions on religion.

New Measures to purge Monasteries and monastic populace

In addition to this campaign, the introduction of new measures in Kardze in 28 June 2008 aims to purge monasteries of monks and restrict religious practice was a clear revelation of systematic new attack on Tibetan Buddhism and have disturbing implications on the lives of monks and nuns in Tibet. TCHRD has documented numerous cases of people having detained for opposing the "patriotic re-education" campaign.

Lengthy Prison sentences:

Of the number of people sentenced so far, none of the arrestees were given the standard due process and legal representation as required in the international legal norms. On 29 April, the Intermediate People's Court of Lhasa handed down 30 people with prison sentences ranging from three years to life sentence. On 19 and 20 June, four local courts in Lhasa and the Shannan Prefecture announced prison terms for another 12 Tibetans without due process and legal representation in an arbitrary and summary execution of judicial process. This was in tune with the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') Communist party and Government officials call for a "swift and quick judicial process to strike back at the "separatists" and the "Dalai clique". TCHRD remains very skeptical and fear for the worst scenarios for the Tibetan protestors who were held as prisoners of conscience after political motivated trials and are still in detention and waiting for the court sentence. Judging from the gravity of sentence handed down on those who peacefully exercised their fundamental human rights in the recent months. TCHRD fears for the worst kind of sentence, for those who led the protest and those authorities deemed as sole perpetrator of protests, has been substantiated by the Executive Vice Chairman of "TAR", Pema Trinly's briefing at a press conference on 10 July, saying another 116 suspects who were on trial "would be decided under Chinese laws whether some would be sentenced to death." While it is widely known that the Tibetans were sentenced for showing their political dissent, the state media has downplayed the whole nature of their activities as petty criminal offenses by projecting the cases as that of looting, arson, theft, rioting etc., rather than acts of 'expression' of political dissidence. Beijing refuses to see the reality of the political nature of the pan-Tibet popular protests. In order to shun its repression in Tibet, China has virtually sealed off the Tibetan plateau despite the promise to increase openness in the buildup to the Olympics and imposed communication blackout. Clearly the harshness of sentences handed down indicate that it is not a case of petty criminal activity only, but involves the larger issue of political dissidence — which the state media deliberately fails to mention.

Fresh Ultimatum on "TAR" Party members and Civil Servants:

In addition, recently the Chinese authorities have embarked on numerous premeditated measures and steps to tighten control over the Tibetan people targeting every strata of Tibetan society. The latest targets are identified as ethnic Tibetan Communist Party members and the civil servants with the issuance of two-month ultimatum on 14 July 2008 to recall their children studying in educational institutions run by the "Dalai clique" or face expulsion from party membership and government job.

Politicization of Olympics: By Whom?

While the government of the People's Republic of China complains about the politicization of Olympics to avert international criticism of her human rights records, it is but PRC government herself who from the very onset of the Olympic Games has involved the issue of human rights to politicize the Games at the first place. China is still using the Games as a tool to push forward its political agenda. During the Olympic torch relay in Lhasa, Tibet, the "TAR" Party Secretary, Zhang Qingli bombarded the selected audience with political rhetoric that, "Tibet's sky will never change and the red flag with five stars will forever flutter high above it," Tibet's hardline Communist Party Secretary General Zhang Qing Li said at the relay ceremony: "We will certainly be able to totally smash the splittist schemes of the Dalai Lama clique."

Broken Promises:

During the bidding process and after International Olympic Committee (IOC) granted Beijing the 2008 Olympic Games on 13 July 2001, Chinese and Olympic officials made assurances that human rights in China would improve as a result of hosting the Games. However, in contrary, the human rights situation in Tibet over the past few months has gone from bad to dismal in the run up to Beijing Olympic Games with intensification of security measures and creation of climate of fear thereby resulting in the restriction on the movement of the people and the curtailment of their fundamental human rights. The suppression of political dissent has increased because of the Olympics, rather than lessened, and China has failed to honor the pledge to improve its human rights record that she made when awarded the games.

profile POLITICAL PRISONERS

Biography of political prisoner Ngawang Phuchung

Ngawang Phulchung (born in 1965), from Toelung Dechen County, Lhasa Municipality, was first detained in 1987 in connection with his participation Profile of Current Known Political Prisonerson a peaceful demonstration. He joined Drepung Monastery at an early age and reached an advanced level of study in Buddhist philosophy. He was just a short step from attaining the degree of Geshi (Doctorate of Philosophy in Buddhism), but felt compelled to concentrate his energies on the Tibetan struggle for political and religious freedom.

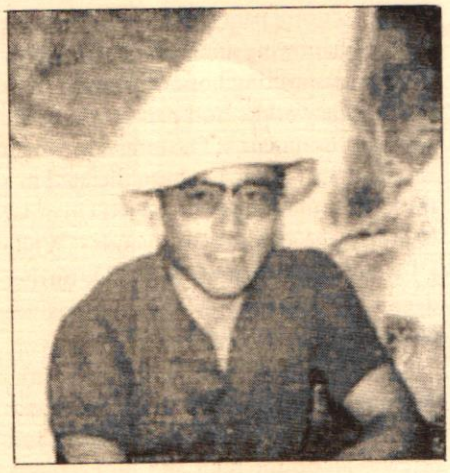
On 27 September 1987, Ngawang Phulchung and 20 other monks of Drepung Monastery staged a peaceful demonstration in central Lhasa demanding respect for human rights, including religious freedom and the right to self-determination for Tibetans. This was a turning point in the Tibetan struggle and sparked off a series of public protests. Prior to this day, few Tibetans had dared express their concerns for fear of ruthless Chinese reprisals. The Chinese violently suppressed the demonstrators who were beaten and detained. Ngawang was held without charge for 4 months and was finally released in January 1988 following intense international media attention and pressure and the personal intervention of the late Xth Panchen Lama. Soon after his release, Ngawang said he had participated in the demonstration in support of the Dalai Lama and in order to protest against the Chinese authorities' condemnation of the Dalai Lama's Five Point Peace Plan which they claimed was an attempt to split the motherland. Asked whether he and the others were afraid to demonstrate, his reply was "No, we were not frightened ... we were already prepared to give up our lives for the six million Tibetans. Anyway, sacrificing your life is not against

Buddhism". Ngawang was also one of 10 members of a group which clandestinely produced political literature and distributed it extensively. In April 1989, Ngawang Phulchung and 3 other monks were arrested for forming a "counter-revolutionary group" which had clandestinely produced political leaflets. Amongst the "reactionary literature" published by the group was a complete Tibetan translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The group had also reported on political unrest in Tibet, criticized human rights violations by the Chinese authorities, listed the names of persons arrested or killed by the Chinese police and military, and alerted Tibetans to the international support for their cause. A further document published by the group was entitled "The Meaning of the Precious

Democratic Constitution of Tibet". It described a parliamentary system for an independent Tibet, relying on the traditional principles of Buddhist dialectics to analyse the concept of democracy and called upon Tibetans to fight "with inner strength". The group was branded as "the scum of religious circles" and, in order to make an example of those involved, the Chinese authorities staged a show trial. On 30 November 1989, when the group was sentenced before a forced public gathering of 1500 Tibetans, Ngawang was denounced as the leader of the group and sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment and 5 years' deprivation of political rights. At his sentencing, Lhasa Intermediate People's Court accused him with "organising and joining a counter-revolutionary clique and spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda and inflammatory disinformation", "seriously undermining national security" and "collecting intelligence and passing it on to the enemy". The people gathered were told that the monks had "venomously slandered our socialist system characterized by the people's democratic dictatorship".

The Chinese government broadcast the sentencing on TV, with following warning:

The crimes committed by Ngawang Phulchung and other criminals demonstrate that the so-called human rights, freedoms and democracy played up by separatists both at home and abroad are nothing but a pack of deceitful lies ... Let the sentence of Ngawang Phulchung serve as a stern warning for separatists both at home and abroad that those who split the motherland will come to no good



Ngawang Phunchung

end. On 30 March 1991, an American delegation visited Drapchi prison and a group of prisoners handed the diplomats a peution allegedly protesting against the conditions of detention. The petition was confiscated and, after the visit, prisoners, including Ngawang, were reportedly severely beaten and placed in the solitary confinement. Undeterred, Ngawang and other prisoners have continued to protest against the ill-treatment of prisoners, with the inevitable result that they have been beaten or placed in dark isolation cells. Ngawang Phulchung was transferred to Drapchi Prison along with the rest of the members of his group on 15 January 1990. Ngawang was later known to have been transferred to newly operational Chushul Prison where he remains incarcerated.

The latest information is that almost all of Ngawang's colleagues from Drepung Monastery who were imprisoned along with him have been released from prison early after receiving sentence reductions or completing their prison sentences; however, Ngawang was the last man in perison.

He was at last freed after 18 years in prison and one of the longest serving Tibetan political prisoners, Ngawang Phulchung who was one of the ring leaders of the famous peaceful pro-independence demonstration of 27 September 1987, in Lhasa was released from Chushul Prison (Ch: Quashui Prison) around 21 October 2007.

Testimony by a Tibetan youth in Lhasa

A rare testimony in detail of a Tibetan youth who was arrested in the aftermath of Lhasa unrest in March- ,2008- ,is obtained by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy- (,TCHRD-),.- ,The interviewee describes the use of extreme torture in prison,- ,cries of pain in the corridors of the prison,- ,harrowing stories that he constantly hears,- ,unwavering hope of support from the outside world,- ,and perception of life post imprisonment.- ,The interview which is reproduced below has been dictated to a third party and edited by TCHRD in order to protect the identity of the youth.- ,While (*) denotes information withheld, further details,- ,comments or explanations are provided in square brackets.

"On- (*) ,March,- around- ,one- ,hundred soldiers entered my house,- ,broke down five doors,- ,checked everything and threw it all on the floor and hit everyone present there.- ,It was like a robbery or burglary.- ,There were a lot of firearms and they were very rough with us.- ,I was arrested.- ,They took me with them,- ,with my thumbs tied behind my back,- ,very tightly,- ,resulting in the whole area being numb for the last two or three months- [,all of his left thumb-],.- ,They treated us very harshly.- ,Talking to each other,- ,they said,- ",This is our chance-",,- ,and they beat us.- ,At first I thought that they were going to kill me,- ,they hit my head a lot,- ,and skull can be broken easily.- ,It is not like the rest of the body.- ,They took me to prison.- ,For four days they didn't ask me anything,- ,they just threw me in.- ,They gave us half a steamed bun a day.- ,That's very small.- ,Everyone were very thirsty and a lot of people drank their urine- [,the detainees were not provided with water-],.- ,We had no clothes,- ,no blankets,- ,nothing to lie down on,- ,nothing- [,just cement floors], and it was very cold.- ,For four days nobody spoke to us,- ,they just left us there."

"During the day it's quiet,- ,there's nothing in Lhasa during the day.- ,Between- ,11:00- ,at night and- ,5-6:00- [,in the morning-] ,they arrest thousands of people. In that room,- ,after four or five days,- ,they gave us two steamed buns with hot water.- ,We were- ,(*) ,people in that room.- ,Very bad.- ,We heard a lot of things.- ,Many people had their arms or legs broken or gunshot wounds but they weren't taken to hospital.- ,They were there with us.- ,It was really terrible.- ,I can't believe that we are in the- ,21st century.- ,For instance,- ,one boy who was shot four times,- ,one from here to there- [,the bullet entered from the left side of his back and exited from the left side of his chest,- ,near his heart-],,- ,one from here to here- [,from inner left elbow to inner left wrist-],,- ,and one here- [,a horizontal wound on his upper right arm-],.- ,Some people had their ribs broken.- ,One man was punched in his- [,right-] ,eye,- ,and it was all swollen and black and blue,- ,very bad.- ,People had their teeth broken,- ,these are just examples.- ,A lot of terrible things were done."

"One of the problems is that people have no food,- ,they are very hungry,- ,they are just falling over.- ,One boy fell into the toilet,- ,all in the same room,- ,and he was cut right across his face- [,under his chin along the jaw-],.- ,For instance,- ,a lot of people have psychological problems,- ,and they're the first to collapse.- ,A boy from Tse-Tang ,- ,he has a problem of the- ",heart-",,- ,a psychological problem,- ,and he was very thin.- ,At first he fell two or three times every day but they didn't care."

"The worst thing- – ,this is Gondzhe- [,the name of the prison-],,- ,in Lhasa there are nineteen prisons,- ,the biggest is Drapchi and there is one in Chushul- [,Ch:- ,Qushu County-],,- ,they are empty,- ,they showed the visitors that nobody is in prison,- ,it's just for show.- ,Usually there is no prison at the train station,- ,but they rented a very big building and they put people there and in Du-Long- [,Toelung Dechen County-] ,and at the train station,- ,and in Gondzhe-; ,they put people in these three places.- ,At night they bring a big bus,- ,and many soldiers come,- ,and one hundred to one hundred and fifteen go to Du-Long.- ,They say it's time to go home,- ",You haven't done anything wrong,- ,you're going home,-" ,but they put them in a huge bus to Du-Long or to the train station.- ,They've mixed up the people and transferred people from here to there- [,from prison to prison-],.- ,I didn't see this myself,- ,but friends told me what they saw at Du-Long.- ,Some monks had sacks put over their heads and they were taken away and didn't come back,- ,so maybe they were killed."

"I met an old man,- ,65- ,years old,- ,who had two ribs broken and he was all bent over- [,demonstrates a bent man-],,- ,and he couldn't stand up straight,- ,he was dying,- ,so the police took him to People's Hospital,- ,where one or two people die every day- [,due to police violence-],.- ,The people who are taken to hospital are usually people who have been shot or beaten,- ,and they usually die there.- ,A brother and sister from (*-),,- ,the brother was younger,- ,were sleeping in the same room and all of a sudden soldiers came and threw them out of the window from a high floor to the ground,- ,the brother was killed on the spot.- ,Yes,- ,right outside the building.- ,The sister didn't die,- ,but she can't lie down,- ,she has to remain in a sitting position all the time.- ,They took the body away and told her that she is forbidden to tell anyone.- ,(*).These are just a few examples.- ,There are many problems like this."

"Many questions were asked of people who were not guilty of anything.- ,They are just- [,guilty of being] Tibetans.- ,There are many counties in Tibet,- ,they call the police from each county,- ,and the people from the counties aren't in Lhasa so they show them that the prisons are empty,- ,but they were taken to all kinds of places,- ,because in Lhasa there are so many people watching so they keep everyone away.- ,Now the monks from- (*)monastery,,- ,friends and relatives,- ,we don't know where they are."

"You know that they say that there are no soldiers in Lhasa,- ,but they're in civilian dress and they check identity papers."

"I want to talk and that people should know what's happening in Tibet.- ,If they beat me that's okay- [,he means that his family may be hurt as well-],,- ,I didn't do anything bad in Lhasa.- "

"Many young people in Lhasa,- ,for example,- ,if we were together on the- ,14th- [,of March-],,- ,I was beaten,- ,so I was- ",sold-" ,and then you're with me- [,with the prison warden doing the beating-],.- ,But I have friends in- (*) monastery,- ,I would rather die than give them away.- ,I saw a lot of things that they did in prison.- ,A guy from Dhadezhe [possibly Dartsedo County]- ,had a new jacket,- ,so they beat him and he died,- ,because of the jacket,- ,because it was very new,- ,so they said he stole it,- ,so because of his new coat he was killed."

"There are a lot of high school students from Sauko- .- ,A seventeen-year-old who had not participated in the events of the-

,14th- [,of March-],,- ,all his clothes were taken away,- ,they tied his hands and they pushed a wagon at him until he fell,- ,there are all kinds of torture methods.- ,This kid was very young and he didn't even do anything.- ,Afterwards he said that he'd done all kinds of things,- ,that happens to a lot of people,- ,they pressure people to admit things they never did. I didn't see the dead people,- ,but in prison people called out to the police or soldiers,- ",Someone's dead-!",,- ,every day people shout that.- ,At Gondzhe there are nine buildings,- ,and each building has eleven rooms and in each room there are twenty or thirty people.- ,And one day,- ,a Chinese man was asked some questions,- ,someone called and asked how many people had been arrested and he said less than ten thousand,- ,and that doesn't include Drepung,- ,Sera,- ,Ramoche,- ,Jokhang.- ,After they let us out they arrested the monks.- ,When I got out- [,of prison-], I heard that many were arrested at Drepung Monastery.- ,I was released on- (*) ,April- ,."

"I met a monk from Ramoche before I was released.- ,I am very worried about the monks.- ,The soldiers regard the monks as something very different,- ,because a monk from Dezhe, [possibly Derge County],- ,his finger was bent over- [,shows a completely bent finger-] ,and he'd been blinded in one eye,- ,he couldn't see out of it at all,- ,he was beaten more than us but luckily- … ,Really I can't understand why they do terrible things to monks,- ,very,- ,very painful."

"I met a boy from (*) [County] in the same prison,- ,and he had two friends in Lhasa who lived near Ramoche and they were shot,- ,and his two friends,- ,one,- ,there's a hospital near Anichenko- ,- ,he was taken to a nunnery and he died there,- ,21- ,years old,- ,I've forgotten his name-; ,the other was- ,20- ,years old,- , he was shot and he's in hospital,- ,maybe he'll die too.- ,He was shot on Gangsu Street."

"A boy named (*),- ,aged- ,(*),- ,from Anishim-*, near Lhasa,- ,is in prison,- ,and two of his friends were shot to death.- ,He and his- ,18- ,year-old brother were from Phenpo.- ,In the prison at Gondzhe there are a lot of people from Phenpo."

"During the day it's very quiet,- ,everything happens at night,- ,everything's very secret.- ,There is no telephone contact with Drepung,- ,Sera or the train station.- ,Sometimes we can get in touch with the train station,- ,but not most of the time,- ,so they can't be reached."

"I have a relative in India,- ,I wrote just what I heard and saw to send over the internet.- ,I wrote a little and I saved it on Word,- ,and all of a sudden it disappeared,- ,so I was very frightened.- ,So I haven't checked my e-mail,- ,I have a lot of friends abroad and they send many e-mails but I haven't opened them.(*)."

"Outwardly they show people that everything is very nice but inside it's really terrible.- ,People did really bad things and forced us to make this problem.- ,At Ramoche they didn't do anything,- ,but thousands of soldiers surrounded the monastery and all the temples,- ,and many vehicles closed off the gates like a prison.- ,We can't be tolerant anymore,- ,we should be tolerant but we can't be tolerant anymore.- ,There are no human rights and cultural genocide is the reality,- ,that's the big part,- ,but the small part we see,- ,for instance in Lhasa,- ,on a main street like Beijing Lu- [,Lu means street in Chinese-],,- ,or Gengshu Lu,- ,how many Tibetans have businesses on streets like those-? ,This is Lhasa,- ,Tibet,- ,not China.- ,Don't the Tibetans have to live- ? ,The Chinese are more talented because they study in big cities.- ,They have experience or enough money to do business,- ,but Tibetans come from villages,- ,they are farmers or nomads,- ,they don't have money,- ,so how can they do business in Lhasa-? ,What is more necessary-? ,That the local people do business in Lhasa or the Chinese- ? ,Why don't the Chinese police allow Tibetans to do business on one side of the street and the Chinese on the other side- – ,so things will be more balanced-? ,There are many Tibetans who are very talented and intelligent,- ,but they don't have enough money to make it.- ,They have money because they live in Beijing or Shanghai.- ,That's the small part.- "

"I see a lot of things,- ,I'm okay,- ,I can do many things.- ,But I see many Tibetans,- ,the way they live,- ,and the way the Chinese live,- ,and this is Tibet.- ,The local people shouldn't be superior to the Chinese,- ,but there should be balance.- ,There are some very old Tibetans who have pensions from the government,- ,you can see them on TV.- ,They said bad things to the Tibetans.- ,I watch them and I just laugh.- ,There are many westerners who are fighting for Tibetan civil rights.- ,I'm very happy that these people are doing this.- ,I want to study more at home every day but I can't.- ,When I watch TV,- ,everything is lies,- ,so it pains my heart- [,points to his heart-] ,and it's very bad.- ,So I walk in the streets and I see the soldiers asking me for my identity papers,- ,they look at my card and ask me,- ",When were you born-?" ,and if there's the smallest mistake you're finished.- ,They check the picture and your face,- ,but a Chinese person can pass right by- [,without identity papers-],,- ,that's okay."

ý(*). "Before this was the best place, but now it's like a prison, it's not like Lhasa. When I was in prison,- ,a Tibetan policeman told me- ",Kneel down here-!",,- ,I had my thumbs tied behind my back.- ,He sat down- [,on a chair in front of me-],,- ,put his foot on my head and kicked my forehead with his foot,- ,pushed my head back and slapped my face over and over again,- ,and I saw this man and I was very sad.- ,He's Tibetan and now I see him every day,- ,I've seen him many times- [,since then-],.- ,,A lot of Chinese and Tibetans jumped on my back and kicked me and beat me over the head,- ,they twisted my head back so I couldn't see their faces,- ,but to show me your face and to do those bad things- – ,that's the worst thing."

"This is just an experience,- ,I could learn a lot from it.- ,In prison sometimes I dreamed about food and I remembered the food we cook at home,- ,my mother and my sister's cooking and I could smell it,- ,and then I really appreciated how tasty the food is at home.- ,I usually eat everything and then I say- ",That wasn't so good,-" ,and now I've learnt that it's very,- ,very good.- ,These are the worst things that I've ever seen in my life,- ,but you learn how to be a good person.- ,Sometimes,- ,when my (*)'s children are here,- ,and they don't do their schoolwork,- ,I yell at them and hit them.- ,But now if I yell at them it pains me sometimes.- ,I've learned a lot."

"I'm worried about the small Tibetan population.- ,Many people are dying today or being crippled with broken arms and legs,- ,and that's very bad.- ,And people are in prison,- ,like me,- ,and I think about the people in prison all the time.- ,I think about the terrible state they are in.- ,Young people,- ,16- ,or- ,17- ,years old,- ,crying all the time- – ,it makes me really sad.- ,I saw people with broken limbs and people who'd been shot- – ,seeing their pale faces is very,- ,very sad."

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China tortures and arrests two nuns of Dargay Hardu Nunnery for peaceful protest

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has learned from reliable sources inside Tibet that Chinese security forces have arrested two nuns from Dargay Hardu Nunnery on 23 May 2008 for their peaceful protest at Kardze government headquarters.

In recent times, Kardze County in particular has been very restive with numerous cases of peaceful protests led by the nuns from various nunneries and their subsequent arrests and detentions are surfacing from the region. On 23 May 2008, two nuns of Dargay Hardu Nunnery; Ven. Jampa Lhamo, a 30-years-old from Sadul Village and, Ven. Rinzin Wangdon, a 23-years-old from Lharinyan Village, Kardze County, Kardze, "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest at the Kardze County Government headquarters and chanted slogans calling for the "Swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "Freedom for Tibet"

Jampa Lhamo from Sadul Village, Kardze County

Rinzin Wangdon, a 23-years-old from Lharinyan Village, Kardze County

and "Immediate release of all political prisoners".

Rinzin Wangdon, a 23-years-old from Lharinyan Village, Kardze County Long before the two nuns could further carry on their peaceful protest in front of the county government headquarters, a group of Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials detained the two nuns. According to sources, the two nuns were severely beaten and manhandled by the PSB officials at the site of the demonstration before being taken off to Kardze County PSB Detention Centre for further questioning. There is no information on the current condition of two arrestees. The Centre will continue to monitor the situation and will update on the issue as more information surface from the area.

Earlier more similar peaceful protests were reported from Kardze region particularly by nuns of various nunneries such as Tehor Nyagay Nunnery, Drakar Nunnery, Ganden Choeling Nunnery, Gaysey and Pangrina Nunnery.

China detains at least three Tibetans for peaceful protest in Kardze, Tibet

On 11 June 2008, at around 11:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time), at least three Tibetans were severely beaten and detained by the Chinese security forces for staging a peaceful protest in Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Sichuan Province, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

According to sources, this morning at around 11:00 AM (BST), a peaceful protest was staged by a few Tibetan residents of Kardze County, at one of the road intersections at the Kardze county main market square, raising Pro-Tibet slogans and distributing pamphlets calling for "the swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", "freedom in Tibet", "release of those arrested in recent protests" and "China quit Tibet" etc. Shortly after their brief protest, at least three Tibetans were known to have been rounded up by the Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials and savagely beaten, kicked and punched before being taken away to the county detention centre. The number of people having participated in this morning peaceful protest could not be ascertained, however, at least three protesters were confirmed severely beaten and detained by the PSB officials. The current condition of three detainees still remains unknown. The Centre will continue to monitor the situation and will update on the condition and the number of arrests or detained as and when more information surface from the area.

The three Tibetan detained were identified as Namsey Lhamo, a 30- year-old mother of two children and farmer from Raga Village, Dando Township, Kardze County, Tenzin Dargyal, a 32-years-old father of an infant and a farmer from Kardze County and another monk whose identity could not be ascertained at the moment.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

TCHRD releases new documentary video

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD)

Centre's Director and Assistant Director during the during press confrerence

officially launched a new documentary video entitled "Uprising in Tibet 2008" on 6 August 2008 at the press conference to Tibetan medias at Lhakpa Tsering Hall, Department of Information and International Relation (DIIR), Ganchen Kyishong, Dharamsala.

Local Tibetans and foreigners watching the documentary at Yongling School Hall

The documentary video "Uprising in Tibet 2008" seeks to highlight eye witness accounts of Tibetan people's protests in Tibet spring this year and subsequentChinese authoritiessevere and harsh crackdown on protesters. It covers major events of uprising by Tibetan people inside Tibet from 10 March to 29 April 2008. With narration both in Tibetan and English the Centre will soon bring out updated version of the DVD additional narration in Chinese language.

On 6 August 2008, the Tibetan version of the documentary video was screened to public at the Tsuglag Khang(main temple), Mcleod Ganj, Dharamsala. The screening was

CTA staff glued documentary video show

coincided with a candle light vigil observed by the Tibetans on the same evening. In order to reach to a wider audience, the documentary movie was also screened to the Tibetan people in Majnu-ka-Tilla in Delhi on that same evening.

On 19 August 2008, the Centre screened the English language version of the documentary video especially intended for non-Tibetan audience in Dharamsala. The screening took place at the Yongling School Hall in Mcleod Ganj. More than hundreds of foreigners came to watch the documentary video. Numerous DVDs were distributed to the audience for copying and mass circulation.The documentary video was appreciated its contents On 26 August 2008, the documentary video was screened to the staff members of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) at the staff mess Hall Gangchen Kyishong Dharamsala.

On 28 August 2008, the Tibetan language version of documentary video was screened to the staff members and students of Tibetan Medical and Astro institute at School Hall Dharamsala. Around hundreds of Tibetans watched the documentary video with applause and tears.

TCHRD talk series

On 19 March 2008, Mr. Jampa Monlam, the Assistant Director of the Centre was invited by the Ngari Welfare Association to give a briefing about the current situation of human rights scenario inside Tibet.

On 22 August 2008, Mr. Jampa Monlam, gave a detail account of current human rights situation in Tibet. He particularly spoke on the recent protests inside Tibet in front of a large crowd of Tibetans gathered for candle light vigil at the Main Temple courtyard. The vigil was organized by the four Tibetan NGOs - Tibetan Women's Association (TWA), National Democratic Party of Tibet (NDPT), Students for a Free Tibet (SFT) and Gu Chu Sum Movement of Tibet (Ex-political prisoner's association) based in Dharamsala.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

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TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

SEPTEMBER 2008

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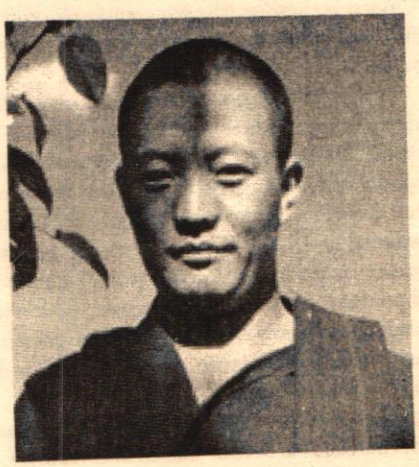

Sonam Rabgyal of Ramoche Temple

Five Ramoche monks missing since April raid

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its deepest concern over the fate of former Chanzoe (manager and the treasurer) Sonam Rabgyal and four other monks of Ramoche Temple, whose whereabouts could not be ascertained since their arrest during a midnight raid in monks' residence on 7 April 2008.

Before the major protests that broke out in and around Lhasa city on 10 March Tibetan Uprising anniversary, Sonam Rabgyal, 39 years old, native of Markham County, Chamdo Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR'), Damdul, Rabgyal and two other monks of Ramoche Temple located in Lhasa came under scanner of the Chinese authorities for their involvement in initiating long life prayer offerings to the Dalai Lama - the exile Tibetan leader and for reciting (Tib Kyabtho) which made direct reference to the Dalai Lama's long life and for a quick resolution to the Tibet issue during the annual Great Prayer Festival called Monlam Chenmo on the eight day of the Tibetan New Year (which corresponds to 14 February this year).

According to sources, the "work team" under the "Patriotic Re-education" Campaign stationed inside the temple came to know about their action and interrogated them intensely for many days.

On 7 April 2008, around 70 monks of Ramoche Temple were detained after the PSB and PAP forces carried out midnight raid in monks' residences. Although all were released after days of interrogation in the detention centre, the whereabouts and conditions of the five-aforementioned monks still continue to be completely unknown to their family members and affiliated monastery. During the raid, valuables such as ornaments spiritually adorned on the ancient statues of the temple and religious objects made of gold and silver were known to have disappeared. Severe restrictions still continue to be put on the movement of the monks of major monasteries since the major protest broke out in March. Even today major monasteries around Lhasa remain virtually sealed off despite officially declaring them reopened to tourists and pilgrims.

Ramoche Temple, which lies to the north of Lhasa City, and other surrounding areas were epicenters of Tibetan protests in March 2008. Ramoche Temple houses 115 monks, a mandatory limit set by the Chinese authorities.

Following massive clampdown particularly on monastic institutions after protests led by monks in Lhasa city, Ramoche temple was not spared. There were even reports of desperate and helpless monks resorting to extreme step of committing suicide, sustaining injuries or complete disappearance slowly surfacing from Tibet. For instance, Thokmey a.k.a Tsangpa Thokmey (prefix name used of his origin) a monk of Ramoche Temple committed suicide on 22 March 2008 following massive crackdown by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) forces in Ramoche Temple. Another credible report confirmed by sources reveal that, Ngawang Tenzin, a monk of Ramoche Temple sustained injuries on his hand from the gunshot fired by the Chinese security personnel during the March 14 protest in Lhasa. At the moment, the physical condition of Ngawang Tenzin could not be ascertained and there is no information on whether he receive proper medical attention or not.

The Centre expresses it's deepest concern over the safety of those Tibetans who still continue to be detained since the protest broke out in Tibet in March this year, and fears for the worst particularly of those whom the authorities deemed as the prime

instigators or the perpetrators of protests. The cases of missing persons that is slowly filtering out of Tibet is one of the biggest concern at the moment.

Many Tibetans charged with heavy sentences

On 29 April 2008, China handed down sentences to 30 Tibetans ranging from three to life imprisonment in a closed trial. The trial was already overshadowed by political campaigns against what China called "Dalai Clique" and "separatist forces".

On 28 April 2008, Lhasa People's Intermediate Court sentenced Yeshe, a 35 year-old Tibetan from Phenpo Lhundup County to 12 years prison term on two accounts of "crimes". He was awarded 7 years of imprisonment for "storming and charging at the government offices" and another 5 years imprisonment for "inciting unrest". In all he has to serve a 12 years of prison sentence and a deprivation of political rights for 2 years.

In what has appeared to be a political witch hunt, the Chinese authorities issued harsh rhetoric on numerous occasions. For instance, the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") Communist Party and Government officials called for a swift and quick judicial process to strike back at the "separatists" and the "Dalai clique". During a conference of "TAR" court officials in the evening of 2 April 2008, "TAR" government Vice-Chairman, Pema Thinley, urged "the usage of law as a tool to strike back at the enemies". He called for a "swift and quick judicial proceedings" for those involved in the March protest. Jampa Phuntsok, during his briefing at the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China on 9 April told reporters "953 have been arrested out of which 328 have been released where as 403 will be carried forward for sentencing by the court."

The Chinese authorities are currently implementing a major "Patriotic Education" campaign drive in Phenpo County which commenced on 24 March 2008. The "Patriotic Education" this time is permeating almost every sections of society beginning primarily with the monastic institutions, party cadres, security forces and government employees, farmers and private entrepreneurs, educational institutions and common people, to denounce the Dalai Lama and the "splittist forces" in the coming months. As a consequence, many fundamental human rights of Tibetan people are taken by the whim and fancy of the ruling authorities for what they called "safeguarding national security" and "achieving unification".

China arrests two young monks of Tehor Tsitsang Monastery in Kardze

In the recent spates of sporadic protests reported from Kardze County, more reports of protest led by group of two or four persons continue to surface from the area. According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), two young monks in their early 20's from Tsitsang Monastery were detained by the County Chinese security forces for their peaceful protest in Kardze County.

On 20 May 2008, two monks, Loyang from Tsaklab Village, Lhopa Township, Kardze County, and Tenzin Ngodup from Pharingtsang of Kardze County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest at the main Kardze County headquarters and chanted slogans, "Dalai Lama return to Tibet", "Long Live the Dalai Lama", and "Immediate release of all political prisoners including Trulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche". The latter is a prominent religious figure arrested on 18 May by the Chinese security forces from his residence for unknown reasons and was taken away to an undisclosed location. The two protesting monks were immediately detained by the Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials and bundled away in a waiting police vehicle to the Kardze County PSB Detention Centre for questioning. There is no information on the condition of two arrestees at the moment.

Kardze Tsitsang Monastery, to which the two young arrested monks belong, was established by Venerable Hor Choeje Ngawang Phuntsok of Kardze County. Apart from Kardze Tsitsang Monastery, he established twelve other monastic institutions in Kardze region. Venerable Hor Choeje Ngawang Phuntsok is a highly revered and respected figure among the local people of the region.

Incidentally on the same day, three nuns of Tehor Nyagay Nunnery, Achoe from Rida Village, Soe Choekyi from Lamna Village and Taga a.k.a Tashi Yangtso from Noekab Village under Kardze County staged a similar protest at Kardze County government headquarters and were later detained by the PSB officials.

Similarly more protests and arrests were reported from the same area on 11, 12, 14 May 2008 where twelve nuns from Drakar Nunnery and scores of nuns from Kardze Ganden Choeling Nunnery and 55 nuns of Pang-ri Nunnery in Su-ngo Township, Kardze County were arrested by the Chinese security forces.

A Tibetan woman succumbs to torture

A Tibetan woman in Ngaba County died after being subjected to brutal torture by the Chinese prison guards, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

A 38 year-old Nechung, mother of four children died days after being subjected to brutal torture in the Chinese prison. She hailed from Charu Hu Village in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province.

Sources told TCHRD that she was involved in peaceful protests on 16 and 17 March 2008 in Ngaba County. Later on 18 March, she was arrested by the Chinese security forces for allegedly being the first person to pull down the door plate of the Township office.

On 26 March 2008, she was released from the prison. She spent nine days in prison undergoing brutal torture in the hands of Chinese prison guards. At the time of her release from the prison, her health was in an extremely critical condition. There were many bruise marks on her body, she was unable to speak and eat food, constantly vomiting and could hardly breathe properly.

After the release, her relatives immediately took her to the County government hospital for treatment. However, the County government hospital refused to admit her to the hospital to receive timely medical treatment, apparently under influence and intimidation of the local Chinese authorities. She was completely denied from accessing timely medical treatment in the hospital.

After remaining in critical condition for 22 days without medical treatment she died on 17 April 2008 in abject state of neglect, pity and apathy of local Chinese authorities. Even after her death, the Chinese authorities issued terse warning to Tibetan monks for offering prayers and ritual rites for her deceased soul. This goes to show that the Chinese authorities traverse extreme lengths to deprive Tibetan people of their basic and fundamental human rights in a cruel and bizarre abuse of power.

She is survived by her four children, all minors. Her husband has been on the run since her arrest, apparently to avoid being arrested by the Chinese security forces.

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profile POLITICAL PRISONERS

Biography of political prisoner Lobsang Tenzin

Lobsang Tenzin, 40, was born in the Dranak Shol area of Lhasa City and lived with his mother, Dolkar, and eight brothers and sisters before his arrest. From age 8 to 13, Lobsang was a student at Bonshod Elementary School. From 14 to 19, he studied at the Lhasa Intermediate School and he then enrolled at Tibet University, at the age of 20. On 27 September 1987, there was a peaceful pro independence demonstration led by monks of Drepung Monastery which sparked a series of similar protest through out the late 1980s and early 1990s. On 5 March 1988, Lobsang actively participated in a demonstration in Lhasa and was subsequently arrested for throwing stones and fighting with a Chinese official during the demonstration. He was then implicated as the "principal culprit" in the death of a PAP officer. Lobsang was immediately taken to Gutsa Detention Centre, where he was severely beaten with wooden sticks and iron rods. His entire body was bruised and he sustained 4 large wounds to his head. These events were described to his mother, during a visit with him in prison. On 16 April 1988, the Chinese authorities widely broadcasted Lobsang's arrest and expulsion from the university through the use of television, radio, and newspapers. At this time, the Special Police legally notified the family of his arrest.

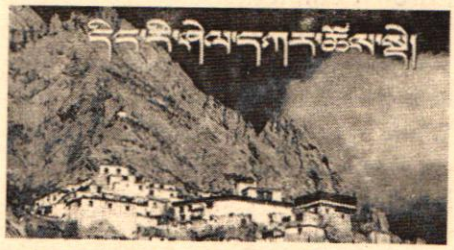
On 19 January 1989, after a summary judicial procedure, Lobsang Tenzin, along with 5 other Tibetans, was sentenced by Lhasa People's Intermediate Court. All six had been charged in connection with the death of the PAP officer and Lobsang Tenzin had been charged as the primary instigator. He was sentenced to death with 2 years' reprieve. The other men involved were Sonam Wangdue (layname Shugden), sentenced to life imprisonment (who died on 8 April 1999 at his residence in Lhasa after being granted medical parole in 1993 but who was unable to recover from the injuries he sustained through torture and inhuman and degrading treatment in Drapchi Prison); Gyaltsen Choephel, sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment; Tsering Dhondup, sentenced to 5 years imprisonment; Bhakdro, sentenced to 5 years imprisonment; and Tamding, sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment. All except for Lobsang Tenzin were released.

On 31 March 1991, Lobsang and Tenpa Wangdrak were caught attempting to hand over a letter to the then US Ambassador, James Lilley, detailing prison torture and maltreatment. The interpreter accompanying the Ambassador snatched the letter from his hands. The 2 were viciously beaten and moved to unlit isolation cells. On 27 April 1991, after protest by fellow prisoners in relation to their continued isolation, the 2, along with 3 other prisoners, Lobsang Palden, Tenpa Phulchung, who died in November 1998 following his release, and Penpa, were taken to Sangyip Prison with both their hands and feet chained. The following day, they were again handcuffed and transferred to Powo Tramo Prison, a RTL unit in Kongpo. They were held at Damchu, a unit within Powo Tramo Prison Complex.

By 1 June 1991, when Lobsang Tenzin's manacles were removed, his health had been severely affected. While in prison, Lobsang Tenzin has sustained severe beatings which have caused his health to deteriorate. His brother reported after visiting him in October 1992, that both his memory and general physical condition were deteriorating. In August 1999, a visitor of one of Lobsang Tenzin's fellow inmates reported that he was in very poor health. He had suffered a damaged kidney causing his body to become numb and making it extremely difficult for him to stand. He has also developed psychological disorders while in prison, as well as other minor diseases. Under pressure of international protests, Lobsang's death sentence was commuted to a term of 18 years' imprisonment in 1994. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr. Manfred Nowak, during his visit to China, Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Region between 20 November-December 2005, met with Lobsang Tenzin at the newly operational Chushul Prison near Lhasa. Before Lobsang's transfer to this newly built prison, he served majority of his prison sentence in Powo Tramo Prison.

12 monks of Dingri Shelkar Choedhe Monastery arrested for opposing the "Patriotic re-education" campaign

The Chinese security forces arrested twelve monks of Dingri Shelkar Choedhe Monastery during a night raid for opposing the "patriotic re-education" campaign on 19 May 2008, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).



Dingri Shelkar Choedhe Monastery

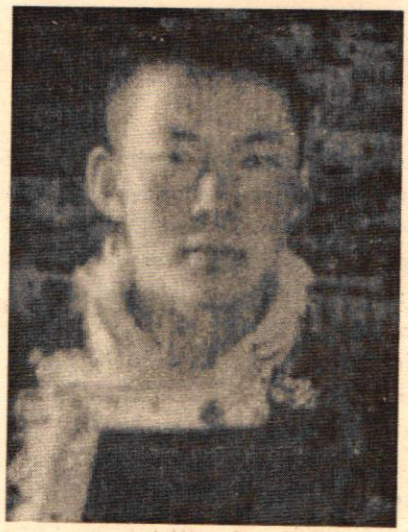
The Chinese authorities re-launch and reinvigorate the "Patriotic re-education" campaign in the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") and other Tibetan areas in neighboring provinces for a stipulated two-month period covering almost every sections of society beginning primarily with the monastic institutions, party cadres, security forces and government employees, farmers and private entrepreneurs, educational institutions and common people, to denounce the Dalai Lama and the "Splittist forces".

During one of those campaigns re-launched since 1 April 2008, the Chinese "work team" visited Shelkar Choedhe Monastery in Tingri County (Ch: Dingri Xian), Shigatse Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') on 19 May 2008, to conduct the "Patriotic re-education" campaign which resulted in a bitter and heated argument between the monks and the Chinese "work team". According to the source, Ven. Khenrab Tharchin, a member of so-called Democratic Management Committee (DMC) of Shelkar Choedhe Monastery stood up while the campaign was in session by openly opposing the "patriotic re-education" and even told the visiting "work team" that he cannot denounce the Dalai Lama as required under the campaign. Another eleven monks of the same monastery stood up in support of Ven. Khenrab Tharchin and adamantly opposed the campaign in unison. According to source, after the incident, entry to the monastery was closed for faithful devotees and visitors. Monks were ordered from leaving their monastery compound and even cell phones were known to have been confiscated to curb the report of the incident from leaking to the outside world and the monks were even known to have been threaten with dire consequences if found 'leaking' the information to the outside world.

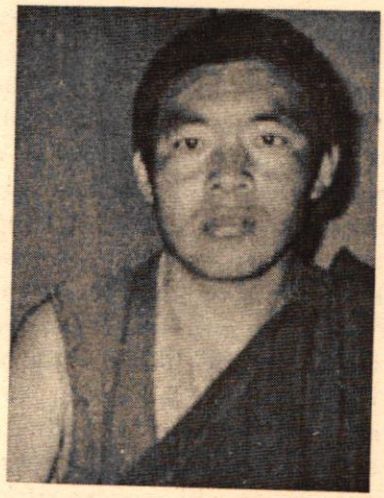
In order to avoid the public glare, on the same night, scores of Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP) forces and Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials stormed into the monastery and forcibly taken away the twelve protesting monks from their residences to unknown location. There is no information on the current whereabouts and the condition of arrested monks. The identities and origins of the those arrested monks were as follow:

Ven. Khenrab Tharchin, 32 years old, Drushe Village, Shelkar Township,
Ven. Tsewang Tenzin, Phelbar Village, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
Ven Tenzin Gayphel, Lingshar Village, Gaymar Townsip, Dingri County
Ven, Khenrab Tashi, Mashak Village, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
Ven. Topgyal, Drushe Village, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
Ven. Tenzin Tsering, Bichu Village, Gyatso Township, Dingri County
Ven. Lobsang Jigme, Norgay nomadic area, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
Ven. Khenrab Nyima, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
Ven. Dhondup, Che Village, Tsakhor Township, Dingri County
Ven. Tenpa, Lolo Langga, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
Ven. Samten, Shollingshar, Shelkar Township, Dingri County
Ven. Choedhen, Shollingshar, Shelkar Township, Dingri County

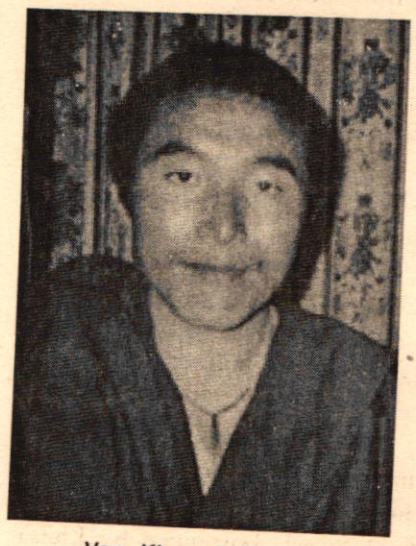
According to source, few days after their arrest, the family members of the monks went to enquire the local PSB officers about the exact place of their detention and requested authorities for visitation. Instead of listening to their request, the family members and relatives of those arrested monks were intimidated with stern warning for damaging the image of the government 'and questioned their source of information about monks' detention.



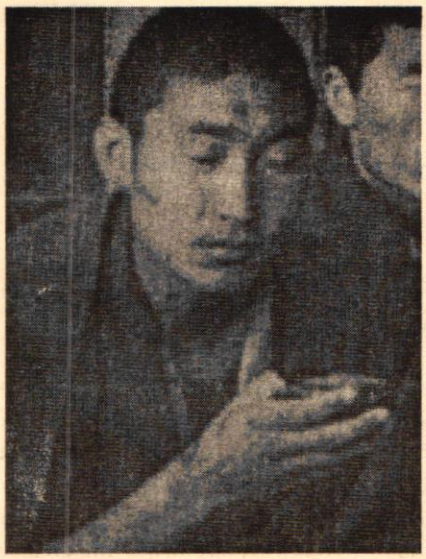
Ven. Topgyal



Ven. Lobsang Jigme

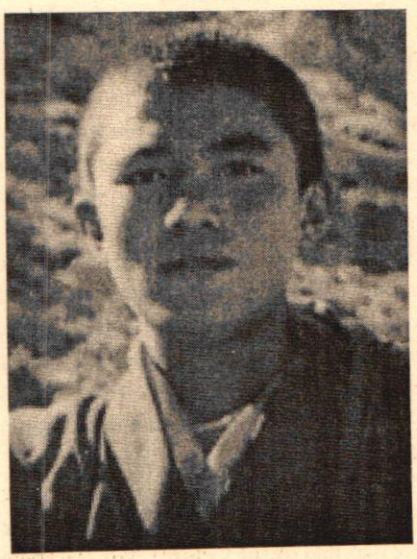


Ven. Khenrab Tharchin



Ven. Tsewang Tenzin

Ven. Tenzin Gayphel



Ven. Khenrab Tashi

The stipulated two-months' renewed "Patriotic re-education" campaign launched at the beginning of April following unprecedented protests across Tibetan plateau since 10 March, not only permeates the monastic institutions but also government employees, security forces, farmers, nomads, private entrepreneurs and educational institutions. The principle and underlying message of the campaign is to "vehemently oppose the Dalai 'clique'" and "to expose the true nature of 'Dalai clique'" and "March 14 riot". Under the supervision of the Communist Party leaders, new committees were formally formed to formulate and execute the campaign across all sections of the society within two months stipulated time period. In the subsequent period, numerous cases of Tibetans having arrested or detained for openly opposing and defying the campaign were reported from numerous places especially from monastic institutions.

China's Constitution, adopted on December 4, 1982, specifically provides, in "Chapter II- the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens" – Article 36 states, "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. No state organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion. The state protects normal religious activities. No one may make use of religion to engage in activities that disrupt public order, impair the health of citizens or interfere with the educational system of the state. Religious bodies and religious affairs are not subject to any foreign domination."

However, as seen by the events unfolded since the beginning of this year in Tibet, in reality China's grand promises of freedom for religious belief provide meager protections for human rights and religious freedom of the Tibetan people. This is evident from the re-launch of the "patriotic re-education" campaign in supplement to the last year's implementation of the "Tibet Autonomous Region Implementing Measures for the Regulations on Religious Affairs", on 1 January 2007("Implementing Measures"), and the more specific Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism (the Reincarnation Measures).

The Chinese authorities, like in the past, have issued and implemented "TAR" specific measures on religious affairs such as the previous two measures and the "Patriotic re-education" Campaign. The prominent theme evidenced by these measures and campaign is the connection drawn by the Chinese Communist government between splittism, or threats to the Chinese state's "national security", "social stability" and "ethnic unity", from Tibetan Buddhists' religious beliefs and activities. Because of the close link between Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan culture and national identity, China associates the practices of Tibetan Buddhism as a threat to its state security. China nourishes a deep fear of any expression of religion as a guise for protest or unpatriotic activity. The Chinese government demands absolute loyalty from its subject and does not tolerate or allow any activities that construes as challenge or threat to its authorities. The Chinese Communist Party requires its citizens to "love the country"- to respect the authority of the Party above all other would-be competing loyalties. "TAR" Party Secretary Zhang Qingli, claimed that the Chinese Communist Party is the "real Buddha" for Tibetans.

On 29 May 2008, "TAR" Communist Party Secretary, Zhang Qingli, during a meeting of the Party heads under various administrative regions under "TAR" convened at Lhasa, formulated a six major areas of works to be carried forward in their respective areas. Of the six areas of works, the third point set to focus on the reinvigoration of "Patriotic re-education" campaign and proposed the head of the monastic institution to be more stringent in implementing the campaign in religious institutes under their area.

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TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

TCHRD conducts XVII workshop for monks and nuns

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) conducted its XVII workshop on Human Rights and Democracy exclusively for the monks and nuns at Gangkyi staff hall, Dharamsala from 3-10 September 2008. Keeping in view that the monks and nuns play important roles in social and cultural spheres of Tibetan society that this workshop was conducted. Moreover, in order to make this workshop tailor-made for the concerned participants, the XVII workshop was a slight deviation from the Centre's workshop convention. The eight-day workshop was exclusively given to Tibetan monks and nuns from India, Nepal and Bhutan.

A total of 73 monks and nuns participants representing 36 different monasteries and nunneries in India, Nepal and Bhutan attended the eight-day workshop at Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamsala. During the course of the eight-day workshop, it dealt on many aspects of Tibetan politics and culture in a livley and frank manner. The monks and nuns raised many key questions concerning the human rights, democracy and the issue of Tibet.

The resource persons for the eight-day exclusive workshop on monks and nuns were invited from important departments of the Tibetan government in exile and other independent academies and independent bodies of the democratization process in exile Tibetan community.

The eight-day workshop covered on the broad arena of Tibetan polity, human rights

The workshop in progress

Participants pose a group photo

and democracy. The key note talk of the workshop was delivered by Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, the honorable Kalon Tripa (PM) of the Tibetan government in Exile. The honourable Prime Minister spoke on the "Method of Non Violence strategy and Middle Way Approach".

The Chief Justice Commissioner of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission Mr. Namgyal Tsering (Drelmay) delivered a talk on the "Role of Judiciary and its responsibility".

The Tibetan people's participation in the electoral democracy has been the chief goal of Centre's initiative. For this occasion, the Centre invited Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, the Chief Election Commissioner to give a talk on the vital subject of "Essence of election in Democracy form of government".

In order to appeal to the very nature of the workshop participants, Venerable Geshe Lhakdor, the Director of the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA) was requested to explore on the topic of "Relationship between Buddhism and Human rights".

The monks and nuns who came from the far-flung monasteries and nunneries were given a first hand briefing of their own Tibetan government in exile by Geshe Tsering Phuntsok, the Minister of department of Religious and Culture (DoRC) of the Tibetan government in exile. The topic of his talk was "Policies and Functioning of Central for Tibetan Administration (CTA)".

It is the primary challenge of the Centre in creating a thorough understanding on the functioning and role of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile. In an attempt to fulfill this important goal, Mr. Pema Jungney, a veteran member of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile delivered a key talk on the "Importance of Parliamentary systems and its functioning". Mr. Penpa Tsering, a member of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile gave a talk on "Concept and types of autonomy and Tibetan perspectives".

The workshop participants were treated with a first-hand account of trials and tribulations of Tibetans who fought for human rights and freedom inside Tibet.

Open discussion and interaction underway

The Centre invited two former political prisoners Mr. Ngawang Dripsel and Mr. Dawa Tsering (who is currently working as Centre's Field Officer) recounted their "Personal Testimonies" to the enraptured audience.

To address and discuss the Tibetan issue beyond the domestic Tibetan society and circle, the Centre arranged Mrs. Gyari Dolma, the Deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile to deliver a talk on the topic of "Present status of Tibet in international platform".

The part of the workshop concerning the concepts of Human Rights and Democracy were handled by the Centre's staff members on case by case basis. The Centre's Executive Director Mr. Urgen Tenzin addressed on the

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

"Democratization of Tibetan government in Exile".

The Centre's Assistant Director Mr. Jampa Monlam gave a talk on the "Human Rights situation in Tibet".

The Centre's UN Affairs Personnel Mr. Tenzin Norgay delivered a talk on the "UN structures and to issue Human Rights cases to UN human rights mandate".

The Centre's researcher Mr. Tashi Choephel gave a talk on the "concept of human rights and Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

The Centre's reseacher Mr. Chukora Tsering Agloe conducted a discussion on the "China's Regulation on the Reincarnation of Lamas" to pool in and gather views and opinions from the monks and nuns themselves.

On the final day of the workshop, the participants were given a guided tour of the seven departments of the Tibetan government in exile. It was one of the main high-light of the eight-day workshop since many of the participants from far-flung Tibetan communities and settlements never have had the opportunity to see for themselves the physical and internal structure of the Tibetan government in exile.

In addition to that the participants were introduced to offices and premises of the three autonomous bodies such as office of the Audit General, Election Commission, Public Service Commission and the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission.

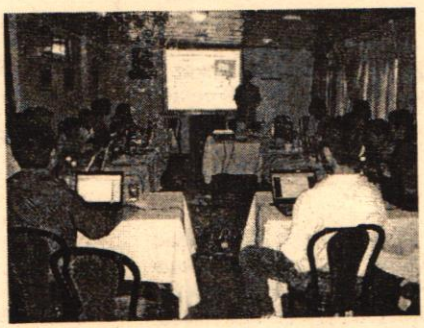
The participants were provided with rare opportunity to witness the live proceedings of the 15th Tibetan Parliament in Exile. The eight-day workshop and discussion concluded with Mr. (Jeshong) Lobsang Tsultrim, the secretary of the Department of Religious and Culture giving the conclusion speech and distributed certificate of completion to each participants with traditional Tibetan scarf.

Digital Security and Privacy Training for Human Rights Defenders

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) and FrontLine-International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders jointly organized a three-day workshop on Digital Security and Privacy Training for Human Rights Defenders at Mcleod Ganj, Dharamsala from 17-19 September 2008.

The workshop was organized in wake of ever increasing malware attacks and cyber threats face by various of Tibetan governmental and non-governmental organizations. The workshop seeks to provide better protection and security in their every day field of works.

Participants pose a group photo



Mr. Wojtek Bogusz gives training durng the workshop

In recent times, both Tibetan government and non-governmental organizations are facing numerous threats from various potential cyber threats. In an attempt to equip Tibetans with these new forms of cyber attacks, this workshop was organized and conducted.

A total of 24 participants from various Tibetan and Indian NGOs and exile government departments attended the workshop. Mr.

Participants tackling the problems

Ugyen Tenzin, the Director of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) opened the workshop with brief key note speech.

The aim of the workshop was to equip Tibetans on various areas such as Physical security of information, general computer safety (viruses, spyware, firewall and good passwords), file encryption, backup policy, information destruction and cleaning your computer from traces of your work, communication security and privacy (encryption of email, instant messaging and voice communication), Communication circumvention (web censorship circumvention and anonymous publishing) and developing the broader digital security strategy.

The workshop of this kind will go far in making human rights defenders, self-reliant and competent in combating cyber terrorism and threats.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy is immensely grateful to FrontLine and Mr. Wojtek Bogusz for giving such an essential training for the Tibetan Human Defenders at this crucial time. We are certainly convinced that there will still be many organizations which needed this kind of specialized training while combating cyber threats and attacks in their every day work.

The Centre requests Mr. Wojtek Bogusz and the esteemed FrontLine to organize and conduct more such workshop for human rights defenders in the future.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

If you would like to subscribe to TCHRD's monthly Human Rights update or to order one of our publications, please send your name and postal details (including e-mail) to our office.

Partial list of TCHRD publications:

•The Next Generation:*The State of Education in Tibet Today* (1997)• Behind Bars: *Prison Conditions in Tibet* (1998) • Closing the Doors:*Religious Repression in Tibet* (1998)•*Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Tibetan Translation) (1998)•Democracy:*An Education Booklet* (1998)• Fearless Voices: *Accounts of Tibetan Former Political Prisoners* (1998)•Human Rights:*An Education Booklet* (1998)•*A Guide to Human Rights* (1999)•*A guide to Democracy* (1999)•Tales of Terror:*Torture in Tibet* (1999)•*Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet* (1999) •Torture and Ill-Treatment in Tibet (2000)• Racial Discrimination in TIbet (2000)• Impoverishing Tibetans:*China's flawed economic policy* (2000)• *Destruction of Serthar Insitute : A Special Report (2002)* Dispossessed: *Land and Housing Rights in Tibet* (2002) • Strike hard Campaign: *China's crackdown on political dissidence* (2004) • State of education in Tibet: *A human rights perspective* (2004) • *Kuxing:* Torture in Tibet (2005) • Death Penalty in China (2005) • International Bill of Human Rights (2005) • TCHRD 1996-2006: A Decade of Human Rights Research • Railway and China's Development Strategy in Tibet: A Tale of Two Economies • Prisoners of Tibet • Annual Report : *Human Rights Situation in Tibet* (1996 - 2006)

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TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

OCTOBER 2008

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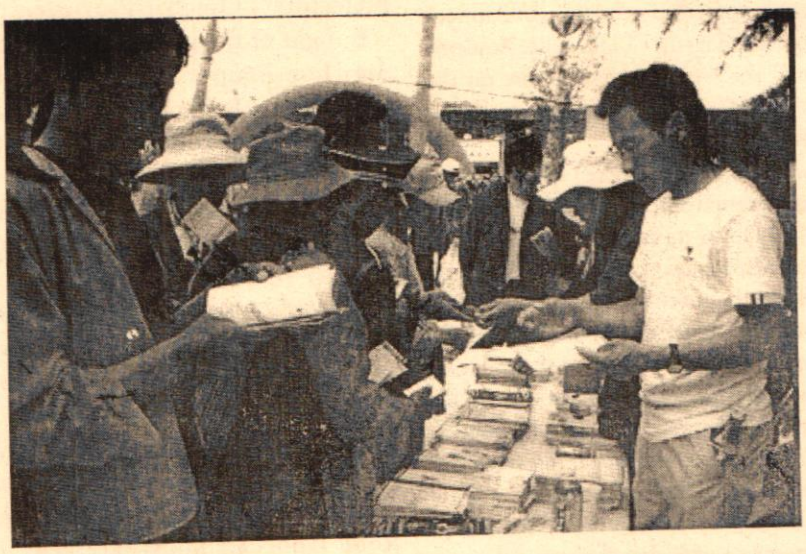
A Tibetan AIDS activist disappears in Tibet

The whereabouts of Tibetan HIV/AIDS activist, Wangdue (one name only), remains unknown to his family members since he was arbitrarily detained by the Lhasa City Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials from his home on 14 March 2008 in Lhasa, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).



Wangdue distributing HIV/AIDS awareness pamphlets to the Locals in Lhasa City in this undated photo received by the TCHRD

Wangdue with one of his colleagues at the HIV/AIDS awareness stall in Lhasa

Wangdue, now in his early 40s was born in Taktse County (Ch: Daxi/Dagze Xian), Lhasa Municipality, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR"). He is a former political prisoner initially arrested for his involvement in the March 1989 protest in Lhasa and was later sentenced to three years to "Re-education through Labour" in Sangyip Prison, otherwise known as "TAR" PSB Detention Centre. His prison sentence was further increased by four years by the Lhasa City Intermediate People's Court for his involvement in a protest in Sangyip, and he was later transferred to the notorious Drapchi Prison in Lhasa where he completed his remaining prison term. Following his release

in 1995, Wangdue studied English language besides working in Lhasa.
Wangdue later came in contact with a foreign NGO working on an HIV/AIDS awareness program in Lhasa City and worked to create HIV/AIDS awareness in various brothels around Lhasa city, in schools in neighboring counties and towns, and organized talk series in various nightclubs mushrooming in the holy city. The NGO also published and printed numerous education booklets, posters and pamphlets on HIV/AIDS awareness in Tibetan and Chinese language for free distribution to educate the general public on the deadly disease which is gradually gaining ground in Tibet. Due to their success, numerous schools, government offices including the "TAR" Police Academy invited the NGO to give lecture on the HIV/AIDS awareness to their students, staffs and recruits.

Like the Chinese democracy, environmental and AIDS activist, Hu Jia, who has been nominated by the Nobel Committee for this year's Nobel Peace Prize, Wangdue has been spearheading a noble community service project in educating the masses about the HIV/AIDS in Tibet. Wangdue who has disappeared since his arbitrary detention on 14 March, deserves a similar respect and adulation from the international community for his selfless community service and the international community, should therefore, urgently press for his early release so that he can continue with his noble mission of creating awareness on HIV/AIDS, an epidemic which is gradually spreading at an alarming rate in the Tibetan holy city of Lhasa and other neighboring towns and cities.

TCHRD expresses its deepest concern over the safety of Wangdue and urgently calls upon the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to ascertain his whereabouts and physical conditions. The Centre appeals to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance (UNWGEID) to urgently issue intervention to locate him and his current status.

A former chief of Rong Gonchen Monastery in critical condition

The Chinese authorities have stepped up an unprecedented repression in Rong Gonchen Monastery in Rebkong County (Ch: Tongren Xian), after protest on 17 April 2008, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Rong Gonchen Monastery is an important Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Rebkong County, Malho (Ch: Huangnan) "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", Qinghai Province.

In light of the peaceful protest on 17 April by a group of 22 monks from Rong Gonchen in Rebkong County market, and arrests of over one hundred protesters in the afternoon, the situation has been tense and volatile following the crackdown by the Chinese security forces.

According to fresh development of situation in Rong Gonchen Monastery in Rebkong, the Chinese authorities are not allowing anyone to meet the arrested Tibetans in detention centres. Multiple sources confirm that 80-year-old Alak Khasutsang, a former chief of Rong Gonchen Monastery, who tried to diffuse the tension between the Tibetan demonstrators and the Chinese security forces on 17 April has reportedly sustained severe head injury during the police crackdown and was said to be in a critical condition. He was also known to be suffering from a high blood pressure. One source reported that he was taken to a hospital in Xining City for treatment. However, there was no exact information about his current whereabouts.

Another monk, Geshe Tenzin Choephel, 50 years old resident of Xining City and teacher of Qinghai University for Nationalities, who was in Rong Gonchen Monastery at the time of raid in the monastery on 17 April was known to have been arrested for unknown reason. There is no information on his whereabouts at the moment.

Moreover, on 17 April, around 6 PM (Beijing Standard Time), scores of Chinese armed security forces raided monks' houses in Rong Gonchen Monastery. During the raid, the Chinese armed security forces forcibly flushed out the monks from their houses to the monastery's courtyard and were made to kneel down with hands behind their head. The Chinese security forces threatened the monks at gunpoint. In the raids, the Chinese security forces seized all photos of the Dalai Lama found in the monks' rooms.

The sources also told TCHRD that a dozen of the Chinese security forces in full combat gear were armed with guns. The Rong Gonchen Monastery has been under a severe restriction, and the monks were isolated from each other without any form of interaction amongst them. Since yesterday, armed Chinese security forces have been keeping a close vigil in the monks' rooms.
Sources say that at present, a severe restriction on the movement of monks is still continuing in Rong Gonchen Monastery. There is no information about exact number of monks arrested by the Chinese security forces.

The Chinese authorities have issued terse warning to the monks about leaking the information to the outside world following the severe crackdown by the Chinese authorities. TCHRD expresses serious concern over the condition of the arrested monks and calls upon the authorities to immediately lift the restriction imposed in Rong Monastery.

Tibetan journalist whereabouts still unknown week after arrest

The whereabouts of a Tibetan journalist, Rangjung, who was arrested around midnight on 11 September 2008 by Sertha County Public Security Bureau official from his home for unknown reason, still remains unknown. According to reliable sources, the friends and family members of Rangjung have not heard from him since his arrest on 11 September. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its deepest concern over the well-being of Tibetan journalist and calls for the Chinese authorities to ascertain his whereabouts to the family members.

According to the source, Rangjung, who was an employee at the local Sertha television station was detained by security personnel from his home and taken to unknown location. He was working as a news reporter and a newscaster for the Sertha Television station. At the time of his detention, the security personnel also impounded two laptops from his room. The current whereabouts and reasons for Rangjung's arrest still remains unknown. He is a father of two children.

Rangjung, a 28-year-old, was born to nomadic family in Palshul Rogsa in Sertha County (Ch: Seda/Sertar Xian), Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Sichuan Province. He had his elementary education from Nyitoe Primary School in Nyitoe Township under Sertha County. After completing his secondary education, he went on to complete his teacher-training course from Dardo Teacher Training College in Dartsedo (Ch: Kangding) in Sichuan Province. Rangjung even taught for a brief period at a school in Nyitoe Township, Sertha County before joining the Sertha Television station. In addition to his work at broadcasting service, Rangjung had composed various articles and had already published two books that deal with Tibetan history, culture, literature and arts etc. He had even composed and edited Tibetan song on a compact disc (CD) entitled "Tsenpoe Boe".

From the earlier arrest made by the Chinese security personnel during the protest in Sertha county on 15 July 2008, Lhagyal, a layman from Gochok Village, Sertha County, was released after paying fine of 10,000 Chinese yuan. Although information on the release of few lay Tibetans involved in the recent protests surface, after paying hefty monetary fine, yet there were hardly any information on the release of monks and nuns from Sertha county.

Since March 14, Tibet has been sealed off to all outside observers. All tourists and journalists were forced to leave although China did organized three state managed tour of selected medias inside "TAR" and adjoining provinces. Tens of thousands of soldiers and police have been brought in to occupy all of Tibet's cities and larger towns. Thousands of Tibetans, lay people and monks, have been detained, often as a result of house-to-house raids in the middle of the night. Little if any information has been given to families of their whereabouts. Though many have since been released, many- most of them monks- remain unaccounted for. They have effectively been "disappeared".

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its deepest concern over the numerous cases of enforced and involuntary disappearance that is slowly surfacing from Tibet despite stringent media, communication restriction and censorship. The Centre appeals to the United Nation's Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance (UNWGEID) to press the issue and seek its intervention on the whereabouts of disappeared Tibetans since March 10 Protest in Tibet.

China fires gunshot on peaceful protester in Kardze

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has documented numerous cases of protests particularly led by the nuns of various nunneries in Kardze County in the past few weeks. According to the latest information received by the TCHRD from a reliable source confirmed that, three nuns of Dragkar Nunnery and a female student were arrested by the Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials for staging a protest yesterday.

On 28 May 2008 at around 9 AM (Beijing Standard Time) three nuns of Dragkar Nunnery in Kardze County, Kardze (Ch: Ganzi) "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture"('TAP') Sichuan Province staged a peaceful demonstration in Kardze County main market square. The three nuns chanted slogans calling for the "swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "Freedom for Tibet" and "Immediate release of all political prisoners". The protesting nuns even distributed pamphlets calling for the "independence for Tibet". After a period of short demonstration they were arrested and taken away by the Kardze County PSB officials for questioning. The names and origins of the three nuns were identified as Ven. Sangye Lhamo, 26 years old from Kyakyatengtsang family of Dungra Village, Serchuteng Township, Kardze County, Ven. Tsewang Kando, 38 years old, Dungra Village, Serchuteng Township, Kardze County, and Ven. Yeshi Lhadon, 24 years old from Tsozhi village, Kardze County. Kardze "TAP" Sichuan Province. The present condition and well-being of three nuns were unknown at the moment.

After about an hour of their demonstration, another solo protest was staged by a 21-year-old female student, Rigden Lhamo of Tapontsang family from Lhakey Village, Thingkha Township, Kardze County, by unfurling the banned Tibetan national flag and shouted similar slogans at the county government headquarters.

According to an eyewitness account from the area, the county security forces fired gunshots and there is no clear information on whether Rigden Lhamo was shot or injured. However, it was confirmed that the County PSB officials detained her after her brief protest in front of the county government headquarters.

According to another eyewitness account from the demonstration site, bloodstains were seen on the body of Rigden Lhamo but it could not be ascertained whether it was from severe beating inflicted on her by the security forces or from the gunshots. There is no information on her current whereabouts at the moment. It was confirmed that she has sustained an injury and therefore should be subjected to immediate medical attention. The current situation in Kardze is known to be very tense with authorities deploying more security forces into the area to suppress further political dissidence.

China arrests 55 nuns of Pang-ri Nunnery for protesting

Over 55 nuns in Kardze protested against the Chinese authorities on 14 May 2008 according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

The protest was carried out by nuns of Pang Na Tashi Gepheling Nunnery situated in Su-ngo Township, Kardze County, (Ch: Ganzi) Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province on 14 May 2008. The nunnery is about 2 kilometers away from the Kardze County government headquarter. Pang-ri Nunnery housed 80 nuns on regular days.

Sources say the Pang-ri nuns were deeply hurt and angered by the high-handedness of the Chinese authorities' killing, torture and arrest peaceful Tibetan protesters in many parts of Tibet. They were particularly resented by the Chinese government allegation that the Dalai Lama has masterminded the protests in Tibet. They also had a deep-seated resentment against the implementation of "Patriotic re-education" campaign forcing Tibetans to sign official documents that criticize, denounce and attack the Dalai Lama. The Pang-ri nuns voiced their resentment against the ongoing "Patriotic re-education" campaign in nunneries and monasteries. In an anticipatory move, the nuns gathered for a meeting where they vowed never to take part in "Patriotic re-education" campaign at any cost.

The nuns made a proclamation amongst themselves that, "It is better to die than to denounce, criticize and attack the Dalai Lama, to sign official documents denouncing the Dalai Lama, if there is no place for us to worship and live, let us go somewhere else or die, if the Chinese authorities kill us, let us be killed, we have no regrets."

Shortly after the end of the meeting, on 14 May 2008, around 5 PM (Beijing Standard Time), defying the gun wielding Chinese security forces and intense government restriction, the nuns grouped themselves at the Kardze bridge, and then marched straight to the Kardze County government headquarter chanting slogans "Independence for Tibet", "Long Live the Dalai Lama" and "The Dalai Lama to return to Tibet".

When the protesting nuns neared the County government headquarter, the personnel of Public Security Bureau (PSP) and People's Armed Police (PAP) immediately arrested the protesting nuns, bundled up and thrown them into police vehicles and taken into custody within minutes. More than 55 nuns were arrested on the spot and their torn and fallen robes and clothes were reportedly scattered on roads. No one picked up the nuns' robes for fear of being arrested by the security forces. Eyewitnesses say the nuns shouted slogans and threw pamphlets into air while taken away in police vehicles for detention.

On 14 May 2008, the rest of nuns who had not participated in the protest demonstration had left to other places for conducting religious ceremonies.

In aftermath of Pang-ri nuns protest, the Chinese authorities have imposed strict restriction on daily movements of nuns and monks. In the case of undergoing urgent medical treatment, the Tibetan nuns and monks must procure special permission from the higher Chinese authorities. Along with that they must have a guarantor, who must be a government staff and who will also have to escort them all along wherever they go. If they fail to follow the instruction, they risk being arrested by the Chinese security forces. Since 15 May 2008 onwards shops and groceries remained shut down and freedom of movements restricted in Kardze County.

China fires gunshot on peaceful protesterin Kardze

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has documented numerous cases of protests particularly led by the nuns of various nunneries in Kardze County in the past few weeks. According to the latest information received by the TCHRD from a reliable source confirmed that, three nuns of Dragkar Nunnery and a female student were arrested by the Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials for staging a protest yesterday.

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The current situation in Kardze is known to be very tense with authorities deploying more security forces into the area to suppress further political dissidence.

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China's legal wrangle of Tibetan popular uprising: A Critique

Beginning from 10 March 2008, Tibet saw mass popular uprisings in the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") and the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR". The pan-Tibet political uprising is an eruption of popular resentment against the Chinese authorities' five decades of misrule in Tibet which saw systematic gross violations of human rights in every sphere of life, and incompetent development policies being forced upon the Tibetan people. The on-going pan-Tibet protest is an _expression_ of discontent and revolt by the Tibetan people against the central government of People's Republic of China.

Since the eruption of protests last month, Beijing has repeatedly attempted to project the Tibetan protests through the prism of criminal activities such as looting, arson, theft and rioting. Beijing refuses to see the reality of the political nature of the pan-Tibet popular protests.

Recently the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court handed down harsh sentences to a group of 30 Tibetans on 29 April 2008. The state media, Xinhua, in its latest report "Judges and lawyers: Rioters in Lhasa unrest receive fair trial" released on 1 May claims "They [the Tibetans] were convicted of arson, robbery, creating disturbance, assembling to assault state organs, preventing state personnel from carrying out their functions and theft."

The nature of the court proceedings and the official interpretation of the Tibetans' activities obviously brings forward the questions of competency of the court and the official downplaying of the nature of the Tibetan activities. The Lhasa fast-track court, in a record one and half month's time, handed down life imprisonment terms to three Tibetans (Pasang, Sonam Tsering and Tsering), between 15-20 years prison term to seven others, and the rest received terms ranging from three to 15 years. The sentencing is a clear mockery of law and due process. In light of the fact that due process involves filing of documents, engaging independent lawyers, case verification, consultations from both the parties, non-extraction of confession through torture, etc., in a state with rule of law, the purpose and nature of the court in Lhasa obviously is only to provide a legal rubber stamp on concept of innocent until proven guilty.

The fact that one of the Tibetans is seen sitting on a chair during the court session indicates torture and inhumane treatment in detention, which is blindly denied by the Chinese authorities. Tibetans arrested for political crimes are subjected to the worst torture and ill treatment by the police in detention centres in order to extract confessions and break down their nationalist sentiments. In light of the usual inhumane practices by the police in Chinese-administered detention centres and prisons, and the fact that in the officially-released picture one Tibetan is sitting on a chair in the court, brings forward the high probability of use of torture and inhumane treatment met out to the defendants. In further details provided in the Chinese language report of the same court hearing, Migmar Dolma the lawyer for Lobsang Samten is quoted as saying "On 17 April, I went to see my client. Upon entering the detention centre, two doctors were attending the prisoners. At that time around 10 prisoners were being treated and two of the prisoners were on IV drip." This statement by the lawyer corroborates the high probability of severe beatings on the Tibetans in the detention centre.

While it is widely known that the Tibetans were sentenced for showing their political dissent, the state media has downplayed the whole nature of their activities as petty criminal offenses by projecting the cases as that of looting, arson, theft, rioting etc., rather than acts of _expression_ of political dissidence. However, Article 293 of China's Criminal Law stipulates a "fixed- term imprisonment of not more than five years, criminal detention or public surveillance" for acts "creating disturbances, thus disrupting public disorder". But the state media states that three Tibetans were sentenced to life imprisonment, seven were given 15-20 years prison sentences, while the remaining Tibetans were sentenced to prison terms of 3-14 years. Clearly the harshness of sentences handed down indicate that it is not a case of petty criminal activity only, but involves the larger issue of political dissidence — which the state media deliberately fails to mention.

The pan-Tibet protests since 10 March 2008 are spontaneous reactions by the Tibetans inside Tibet who have for long time suffered brutality and oppression at the hands of the authorities. Tibetans from all walks of life and age groups have

participated in this revolt. For instance, Passang, one of the Tibetans who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the recent court hearing, is an ordinary monk at the Dingkha Monastery in Dechen Township, Toelung Dechen County, Lhasa City, "Tibet Autonomous Region". On 17 March 2008 around 3 pm (Beijing Standard Time), he along with 12 monks from the monastery went to the Township market and raised pro-independence slogans. As a mark of their political statement they brought out goods from the shops of Chinese settlers and set them on fire. They were later arrested by the People's Armed Police, and eye-witnesses saw 30 Tibetans including the monks being severely beaten by the PAP officers and thrown into the police vehicle like sand bags.

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More cases of Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance surfaces from Tibet

In the recent few months after the outbreak of the major protests across the Tibetan plateau since March 10, 2008, a few more cases of, particularly, the enforced and involuntary disappearance of Tibetans are beginning to surface. According to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), there are at least more than a thousand Tibetans whose current whereabouts and well being remains completely unknown to their family members and their affiliated monasteries.

The whereabouts of 80 monks of Drepung Monastery located on the outskirt of Lhasa City, still remains unknown after months of clampdown following the March protest. Drepung Monastery was one of the prominent centre of political dissent in the past and featured prominently in the recent March protest. According to reliable sources, many of the visiting monks housed in the three biggest monasteries in Tibet are mostly from Amdo and Kham regions (outside "TAR") who represent a substantial chunk of percentage in the three major monasteries and does not possess the official registration card. The Chinese authorities in Tibet have particularly targeted those monks from outside "TAR" with expulsion. Lobsang, a monk of Drepung Monastery, hailed from Lhatse County, Shigatse Prefecture "TAR", disappeared from the monastery following the March protest in Tibetan capital. There is no information on his whereabouts so far.

In another instance, a batch of 1995 and former student of SOS Tibetan Children's Village School, Migmar Dhondup, is known to have gone missing after the March protest in Lhasa. Migmar Dhondup, a commerce student who graduated in 1995 and was originally from Dingri County (Ch: Tingri Xian), Shigatse Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR'). According to the confirmed information received from reliable sources, like many other returnees, Migmar Dhondup, work in Lhasa as tourist guide before his disappearance during the March Lhasa protest. There is no clear information of whether he participated in the protest or not but his family member and friends has not heard of him since the Lhasa protest in March.

Similarly, Thabkhey and Tsundue of Labrang Monastery who defiantly briefed in front of the state managed foreign media tour in Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe Xian) in Gansu Province, "TAP" on 7 April 2008 were not seen since their sudden disappearance after putting a daring act in front of the visiting foreign medias. Local residents fear that the security personnel secretly lifted them for their daring act. Although the family members of the monks approached the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) headquarters regarding their whereabouts, however, the authorities feigned ignorance about the duo. Till date, no information on their whereabouts or to which detention centre have been taken was made known to their family members or their affiliated monastery.

Despite numerous cases of enforced and involuntary disappearances of Tibetans since series of protests from March this year, a very few cases of emerged only after months of their arbitrary detention. In one case, the death of a disappeared person surfaced only after two of her colleagues were later sentenced by the court. Guru, 25 years old nun of Samtenling a.ka. Watak Nunnery in Drango County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Sichuan Province involved in June protest in Drango County disappeared and the news of her death since her disappearance came to light only after two of her colleagues Tsering Tso, 27 and Ugyen Lhamo 32 were sentenced 2 years' imprisonment by Drango County Intermediate People's Court. The death of Guru shed a light on the risk involved and calls for the immediate protection of all persons from enforced and involuntary disappearance. TCHRD expresses its deepest concern over the fates of those Tibetans who were arbitrarily detained and disappeared since the March protest in Tibet. The Centre calls for the International communities to press for the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to disclose and make public the whereabouts and their status. The Centre also appeals to the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance (UNWGEID) to review this pressing issue and seek its intervention on the disappeared Tibetans. TCHRD also calls for an end to the sufferings brought about by this cruel practice used to silence the political dissidents and their family members inside Tibet.

TCHRD reaffirms the right of every person to life, liberty and dignity and therefore, the right not be subjected to enforced disappearance. The core value of one's existence is to live freely without prejudices, discrimination, and harm as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Enforced disappearance does not only violate these basic human rights by physically removing a person from the protection of law but it also denies the families of the disappeared person the right to know the truth and to seek justice.

The government of the PRC has not yet sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Disappearance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the 20 December 2006. TCHRD calls the government of PRC to sign and ratify this important international convention and pass a domestic law to criminalize enforced disappearance.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES

Bulletin 79

TCHRD organizes workshop for monks and nuns in Mundgod, South India

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) conducted its 19th workshop on human rights and democracy in Mundgod Tibetan settlement in south India from 20 to 26 October 2008. The 19th workshop was the second in the series of the workshop conducted especially for monks and nuns from the five principle religious traditions of Tibet.

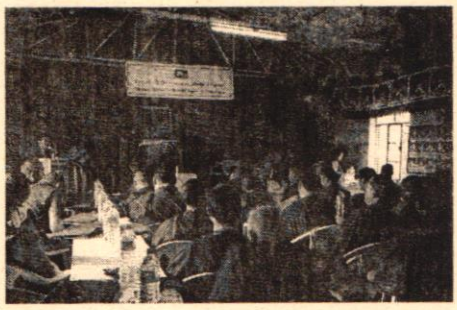
The 19th workshop was conducted in Mundgod Tibetan settlement in south India where major Tibetan monasteries and learning Centres are located.

The charismatic seventh Ling Rinpoche opened the 19th workshop with a solemn message that democracy and its practices were unheard of in the old Tibet, and now in exile India sincere efforts must be made to take Tibetan society on the true path of democracy and people's rule. He said a well functioning democratic institution in exile Tibetan community will act as an impetus to the future cause of Tibet and Tibetan people.

The monks and nuns from over twenty different monastic communities attended the workshop training on broad scope of subjects dealing on human rights, democratization in contemporary exile Tibetan community, the Tibetan government in exile, the rule of law, judiciary, the status of Tibet in international community and the discussion on the middle path strategy.

The 19th workshop commenced with the Centre's Executive Director Mr. Ugyen Tenzin and Assistant Director Mr. Jampa Monlam giving an elaborate and guided talk on "The history of the Tibetan democratization processes in exile" and "the Current Human Rights Situation inside Tibet" respectively.

The six days workshop dealt on numerous issues. Mr. Dasur Norpa Tsering Norbu, the Justice Commissioner of the Tibetan settlements in south India delivered a guided talk on "The role of judiciary and its responsibility". Mr. Thupten Lungrig, the Minister of the Department of Education delivered two seminal talks on the topics of "Non Violent Activism and Middle Way Approach" and "The Functioning of the Executive Body (Kashag)". The Chief Election Commissioner of the Tibetan government in exile Mr. Tashi Phuntsok



Ling Rinpoche speaking during the opening ceremony of workshop

delivered a talk on "The Importance of Electoral Democracy and People's Participation". Ven. Geshe Kelsang Damdul, the assistant Director of Institute for Buddhist Dialectics delivered a gripping talk on "The Tibetan Buddhism and Human Rights Ideals". Mr. Pema Jungney, the former

A participant raising question during the discussion

speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in exile and the current parliamentarian spoke on the topic of "The Tibetan Parliament in Exile and its Role". Finally the two former political prisoners of Tibet Mr. Tsering Samdup and Mr. Dawa Tsering (Centre's field officer) recounted their personal accounts and trials suffered in the Chinese prison for speaking up for freedom and justice.

The workshop concluded on 26 October 2008 with persistent suggestions and requests from the workshop participants calling for more such workshops to be organized and conducted for broader sections of the Tibetan monastic communities in India, Nepal and Bhutan.

A group photo session during the workshop

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

If you would like to subscribe to TCHRD's monthly Human Rights update or to order one of our publications, please send your name and postal details (including e-mail) to our office.

Partial list of TCHRD publications:

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TV Grab of Jigme describing Chinese atrocities in Tibet

China re-arrests monk who exposed Chinese crackdown to foreign media

Jigme, a Tibetan Buddhist monk, who provided a rare first-hand account of China's crackdown on Tibetan protesters to foreign media has been arbitrarily arrested by Sangchu County People's Armed Police(PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) this afternoon from one of the Tibetan homes in Labrang for unknown reason according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from reliable sources.

According to the source, " Around fifty People Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials in several military trucks came to Labrang this afternoon at around 1:00 PM (Beijing Standard Time) and barged into a Tibetan home from where they arrested Jigme and took him away in a military vehicle. And nobody knows where he was taken to and for what reason".

Jigme a.ka. Jigme Guri, a monk of Labrang Monastery in Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe Xian) Kanlho "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Gansu Province, was earlier arrested on 22 March 2008 by four armed forces while returning to his monastery from a market and he was known to have been detained and tortured for two months in the detention centre for his suspected role in one of the biggest protests that took place in Labrang on 14 March 2008. He was released on medical ground after months of detention where he was intensively interrogated to extract confession by means of torture that he was left unconscious twice from injuries he suffered.

At the beginning of September, the Voice of America's Tibetan Service in its Wednesday program Kunleng aired a video from Jigme giving detail accounts of Tibetan people's aspiration, torture and inhumane treatment meted out to monks of Labrang Monks who were detained during March Protest at the County government headquarters. In a telephone interview with the Associated Press on 12 September, Jigme gave detail accounts of the Chinese crackdown on Tibetans which is still going on months after the events. He later went into hiding fearing authorities' repercussion for exposing Chinese brutal crackdown on Tibetans.

Monks of Labrang Monastery and other Tibetans in Sangchu took to the streets in large numbers in March to show solidarity with Tibetans demonstrating in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa. On 9 April, monks at Labrang Monastery disrupted a government-sponsored media tour and afterwards two monks who defiantly spoke in front of the media have disappeared since then. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses it strongest condemnation of Chinese security officials' arbitrary arrest of Jigme for airing the grievances and peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression and opinion. The Centre expresses its deepest concern on the prevailing circumstances on many parts of Tibet, which have been active in the past protests across Tibet.

China sentences 14 Tibetans for March unrest in Tibet

China state media, Xinhua, reported on 29 October that, three county courts of the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') sentenced 14 Tibetans to varying prison terms on alleged crimes ranging from endangering public security, robbery, smashing or looting and creating disturbances in so called "March riot".

According to the report, "Tenzin Yeshi, Tashi Namgyal and Gaden Chodak (a.k.a Gaden) of Gachoe Monastery were involved in spearheading a violent riot on 14 March 2008 in Phenpo Lhundup County (Ch: Linzhou Xian)". The report cited that, "Tenzin Yeshi and Tashi Namgyal were arrested from the site of the riot by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials whereas Gaden Chodak managed to escaped from the site and reached his Monastery, where he later instigated other monks, Lobsang Tsemey (lay name: Passang), Tenpa Dhondup and Lobsang Theychu (lay name: Tashi Norbu) to jointly prepare 'independence' leaflets to cause unrest. On the next day, forty monks of the monastery headed by Lobsang Tsemey led a demonstration towards Phenpo Lhundup County PSB Headquarters".

The report gave detail account of the Tibetan protestors by saying, "On the same day, Doloe, Lhakdon and Dorjee Dolma planned and led monks of Sha Monastery, nuns of Podo Nunnery and around 10 farmers from Dendong Village in Phenpo Lhundup County to join the protest which also headed towards County headquarters". According to the report, "they were involved in 'arson, looting, killing, disrupting public order and assaulting government offices among other crimes. Dorjee Dolma was convicted of taking notes of the names of all the nuns and writing leaflets with a plan of sending them to overseas 'Dalai clique'."

Phenpo Lhundup County People's Court sentenced Lobsang Tsemey and Doloe to 15 years' imprisonment with deprivation of political rights for five years and monetary fine of 2000 yuan each for violating article 289, 263(4) and 293 of the Chinese Criminal Law. Whereas, Gaden Chodak, Lhakdon, Tenpa Dhondup, Lobsang Kheychu, Dorjee Dolma, Tenzin Yeshi, Tashi Namgyal were sentenced between 5- 14 years' of imprisonment by the same court, according to the court verdict mentioned in the report.

The same official report cited that the Chushul County (Ch: Qushui Xian) People's Court sentenced two Tibetan monks of Ratoe Monastery to 5 and 9 years' jail term for their involvement in March 15 'riot' at Chushul County government headquarters. Ratoe Monastery is located in Nethang Township, Chushul County, "TAR". The report said, "On the evening of 15 March, around 10 monks led by Lobsang Tsephel, Tsenam of Ratoe Monastery protested towards Nethang Township government offices. They ransacked and destroyed nearby properties of Shangthungda Petrol Station. Lobsang Tsephel set aflame to a bike parked outside the station office while Tsenam added tyre on the burning bike and attempted to push the burning bike under a nearby oil tanker which was successfully thwarted by timely intervention of the security officials. They were convicted under the article 118 of the Chinese Criminal Law of sabotaging gas facility and endangering public security". The court sentenced Lobsang Tsephel to 9 years' imprisonment term whereas Tsenam was sentenced to 5 years' jail term.

Similarly in another verdict, the Lhasa Municipality Court sentenced Phuntsok Tenpa, Phuntsok and Phuntsok Drakden to varying jail sentences of 3 years and 9 months, 2 years and 9 months, and 2 years 6 months respectively for their crimes of "obstructing the administration of public order by vandalizing public properties, looting, arson, insulting the national flag, disrupting public order as per the article 277 and 293 of the Chinese Criminal Law."

Earlier this month, Chinese people's court in Chamdo has sentenced eight Tibetan monks from Tongxia Monastery for allegedly bombing a government building in Gyanbe Township, Chamdo Prefecture during the March unrest. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) strongly expresses its shock and dismay at the lengthy prison sentences handed down to 14 Tibetans. The Centre is aware that case had been carried out without adequate legal oversight or due process that the detainees were denied access to family and legal counsel and in some cases held incommunicado for a long period of time. Such actions call for urgent need of international media and independent agencies be allowed immediate unfettered access to all Tibetan areas to investigate the real situation.

In a sophisticated move to divert the direction of Tibetan people's call for more freedom and human rights in Tibet, the recent court verdicts indicates authorities attempts to 'criminalize' the Tibetan people's protest. It was clear that some of the protests which turned violent have resulted in the injury, damage to property and lives. TCHRD condemns such attacks and acknowledges the Chinese authorities' right and duty to protect all individuals against violence, however, TCHRD is concerned that in restoring order, the Chinese authorities have resorted to measures, which violate international human rights law and standards. These have reportedly included unnecessary and excessive use of force, intimidation, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearance. While such measures may help to quell protest in the short-run, the Centre is highly concerned that such violations will only stoke up further hostility, compromising any future effort to address legitimate grievances held by many Tibetans over Chinese government policy of Tibet.

Chinese court sentences five Tibetans between 3 - 10 years imprisonment for Kardze Protests

In the past few days, five Tibetans were given lengthy prison sentences ranging from 3 -10 years' imprisonment term by the Kardze Intermediate People's Court in Dartsedo (Ch: Kangding), Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Sichuan Province on charges ranging from "endangering state security to disrupting public order and other crimes", according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from reliable sources.

According to sources, "On 29 October 2008, Kardze Intermediate People's Court sentenced Sherab Sangpo, a 26-year old monk of Dongthog Monastery in Kardze County to 6 years' imprisonment on charges of 'endangering state security' for his act of raising the handwritten banned Tibetan national flag during 26 March 2008 protest in Kardze." The source added that Sherab Sangpo was arrested by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials from the site of the demonstration on 26 March and was led to an undisclosed location until his court trial on 29 October. He was taken to the Kardze Intermediate People's Court in Dartsedo at around 8:30 AM (Beijing standard time) and the court verdict was declared around the noon by judges. On the same day, another Tibetan, Loga from Kardze was given 3 years' jail term by the same court for his participation in the March protest in Kardze. There is no information on whether Sherab Sangpo and Loga were allowed personal attorney to defend their cases in the court or not.

On the next day on 30 October 2008, another two other Tibetans: Ngoega, 53-year-old from Serchu Village and Norbu Tsering, 49-year-old from Drukhang Village, Kardze County, Sichuan Province, were handed down with 8 and 9 years' imprisonment term respectively by the Kardze Intermediate People's Court on charges of "endangering state security" for their participation in a political demonstration on 18 March at the county headquarters, the sources informed.

According to the source, "Both Ngoega and Norbu Tsering were brought to the Court at around 9:00 AM with around 20 people gathered for the court verdict. Apart from an assigned Tibetan translator, rest were mostly Chinese." The sources explain that Ngoega retorted the judges' verdict by saying, "we did not commit any crimes of destroying or burning public properties rather we were involved only in distributing pamphlets on Tibetan cause. For that act I suffered torture, inhuman and degrading treatment at the hands of security personnel that I regain my body sensation only days after my transferred to the prison."

Outside the court premise, severe restrictions were imposed with heavy presence of security guards during the entire proceeding and the court gave its verdict at around noon and it was informed that no opportunity was given to defenders to question the court verdict. According to source, Norbu Tsering, who was arrested on 18 March was held incommunicado and there was no information on his whereabouts until his court trial on 30 October at Dartsedo.

Although the Kardze Intermediate People's Court in accordance with the Chinese Criminal Law granted defendants a right to appeal within ten days of sentence, however, success of such appeals are almost non-existent especially of those involved in political 'crime'. Moreover, Ngoega's family members were denied the opportunity to put forward their case on his behalf during his detention and felt it would be futile attempt to re-appeal the court. The same court sentenced the fifth person who is known to be from Sertha County, Kardze "TAP" and whose identity could not be ascertained at the moment to 10 years' imprisonment term on 28 October 2008. The Centre will update as and when upon receiving more details.

The Vice-Chairman of the regional government of "TAR", Baema Cewang, in a remark during a meeting with visiting members of the Australian house of representatives on 4 November 2008, has said that 55 Tibetans have been handed down with sentence ranging from three to life for their involvement in the 'March 14 riot' in the Tibetan Capital.

There are hundreds of Tibetans who are still held without any charges and at least 105 Tibetans were known to have been sentenced so far in "TAR" and Tibetan areas outside the "TAR" for their participation in the series of protests across the Tibetan plateau since March this year.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) strongly condemns the indictment of five Tibetans, as their freedom to expression and opinion did not violate any of the constitutional components of Chinese law. The Centre also expresses it deepest concern and condemns the authorities' use of torture on the detainees who were held incommunicado for a long period of time and questions the transparency of the legal proceeding as trials were held behind the closed door with heavy security presence.

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China detains Drakar and Gaden Choeling Nuns in Kardze

In aftermath of the series of pro-Tibet protests in many parts of Tibet since 10 March 2008, the Chinese government has stepped up unprecedented "Patriotic re-education" campaign in an attempt to counter the growing voices of dissidence in the Tibetan society. The "Patriotic re-education" campaign was originally launched to "stem out" Tibetan nationalism in Tibet's religious institutions. However, in recent years it was conducted in secular Tibetan society such as schools and communities.

Since 10 March 2008, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has documented hundreds of Tibetans arrested in connection with the "Patriotic re-education" campaign. In many of Tibet's monasteries and nunneries, the Chinese government has stepped up the "Patriotic re-education", which requires the monks and nuns to criticize and denounce the Dalai Lama.

The campaign has stirred so much of angst and resentment within the Tibetan people at large where those monks and nuns who denounce the Dalai Lama and sign off the official document are allow to stay in monasteries and nunneries while those who refuses to obey the order either face expulsion from their monasteries and nunneries or face imprisonment.

TCHRD has learnt about sporadic cases of the "Patriotic re-education" campaign conducting in Kardze County,"TAP" in recent times.

In one of such incidents, twelve nuns of Drakar Nunnery were arrested for protesting against the Chinese authorities in Kardze, according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 11 May 2008, two Drakar nuns were arrested after they protested against the Chinese authorities in Kardze County, (Ch: Ganzi) Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province. The nuns called for "religious freedom", vent their anger against the "Patriotic re-education" campaign and the denunciation of the Dalai Lama. The nuns Sonam Lhamo and Thupten Dolma were arrested by the Chinese security forces.

A day later on 12 May 2008, a group of nuns again protested against the Chinese authorities in the afternoon in Kardze County. During the protest, 10 Drakar nuns were arrested by the Chinese security forces.

The names of the arrestees were:

Tashi Gha
Thinely
Sonam Yangzom
Tamdin Choekyi
Yangkyi
Lhamo Choekyi
Jampa Lhamo
Dickyi
Nyima
Bhuti

On 14 May 2008, scores of nuns of Ganden Choeling protested against the Chinese authorities in Kardze County, according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

The protest took place around 9 AM (Beijing Standard Time) when few nuns of Kardze Ganden Choeling Nunnery protested against the Chinese authorities in Kardze County, (Ch: Ganzi) Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province.

The nuns protested and marched towards Kardze County government headquarters which lay on the other side of a bridge. When they were about to cross the Kardze bridge, about 300 personnel of Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) came to the protest scene and blocked the agitated nuns from crossing the bridge and heading towards the County government headquarters to protest.

Incidentally, three nuns were able to breached the security blanket and reached the County government headquarters, where they protested and shouted slogans. Within minutes, they were arrested, beaten severely by the security forces.

The names of the three arrested nuns were Dorjee Khando, Takdon and Pema Lhamo. Meanwhile there has been no information about the whereabouts and conditions of those remaining nuns blocked at the bridge by Chinese security forces.

China arrests four nuns in Kardze protest

The Chinese authorities had arrested four Tibetan nuns for staging a protest in Kardze County Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province, according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Around 6 PM (Beijing Standard Time), 22 May 2008, the four Tibetan nuns of Nyimo Gaysey Nunnery in Tehor Kardze County had staged a peaceful protest at the County government headquarters. They were protesting against the recent crackdown of peaceful Tibetan protesters and the illegal detention of Tibetan people in the Chinese prisons.

The four protesting nuns raised their fists and protested at the Chinese authorities after arriving at the County government headquarters. Moments after the protest, the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnels rushed to the protesting scene and immediately arrested the four nuns. The detained nuns were later subjected to severe beatings and torture by the Chinese security forces.

The nuns distributed loads of pamphlets in and around the County government headquarters calling for an independence for Tibet and shouted slogans demanding "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "The Dalai Lama to return to Tibet", "Independence for Tibet" and "To release all political prisoners".

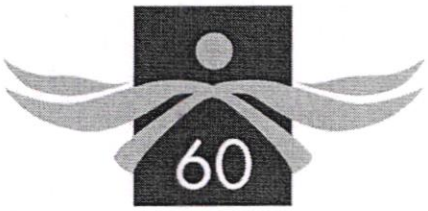
The detained nuns were identified as Bhumo Tengha from Lunang Village and Rinchen Jamatsang, Jamgha Dolma and Pema were from Lhopa Township, Kardze County, Kardze "TAP" Sichuan Province. In recent months, Kardze areas have witnessed spates of peaceful protests by the Tibetan monks, nuns and ordinary Tibetans against China's unpopular crackdown on Tibetan religious institutions, detention of prominent religious figures and implementation of "Patriotic education" and severe curtailments on the freedom of movements by the Chinese authorities.

TCHRD Press Statement on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

As the world celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) today under the theme of "Dignity and Justice for all of us," we at the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) are reminded of the importance of this remarkable document to people the world over, and redeem our commitment working in educating and creating awareness of human rights so that the people can claim and enjoy their rights. The rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration — such as nondiscrimination; freedom of movement and association; right to education and asylum; freedom of thought, opinion, and expression; and freedom from torture, arbitrary detention— are of particular importance to Tibetans who have undergone one of the most difficult periods in her history in recent times with massive human rights violations in every sphere of their lives under the Chinese rule.

In addition to setting out rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls on every person to help promote and defend those rights — for our fellow human beings and ourselves. For many years, TCHRD has worked steadfastly in highlighting the human rights violations of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule in Tibet and exerted extra efforts in protecting human rights on their behalf, promoting and educating the concept of human rights as enshrined in the UDHR to the general public for more than a decade.

On 10 December, Tibetans commemorate not only International Human Rights Day, but also the conferment of the Noble Peace Prize to the Dalai Lama in 1989, who epitomizes the struggle for peace and



human rights through non-violence. We join together in the celebration of these rights on this day when the noble clauses of the UDHR were adopted sixty years ago.

The past eleven months in Tibet witnessed unprecedented violations of Tibetan's human rights and freedoms. It is highly deplorable and condemnable that the People's Republic of China (PRC), despite being a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a state party to UN treaties on human rights, fails to respect and uphold the basic principles set forth in the UDHR and that the most blatant forms of violations are regularly occurring in the region with impunity. Chinese authorities continue to practice a systematic denial of human rights of the Tibetan people. Mr. Wang Chen, director of the State Council Information Office, on the eve of the anniversary, acknowledges human rights problems in China by saying that human rights development still has "quite a few things less than satisfactory," but would see progress as the modernization drive went on. However, time will stand a witness to the optimism that the Chinese authorities shown in the human rights development based on its so called 'people first' policy.

During the past eleven months of 2008, TCHRD has documented, among others, the following few events:

TCHRD received information on more than 120 known Tibetans who were killed in the recent series of protests across the "Tibet Autonomous Region " ('TAR') and the Tibetan areas outside "TAR" since 10 March unrest;

More than 6500 Tibetans were arbitrarily detained or arrested for their participation in the pan-Tibet protest of suspected of political activities;

There are at least more than a thousand Tibetans whose current whereabouts and well being remains completely unknown to their family members and their close associates or affiliated monasteries. The XI th Panchen Lama, Gendhun Choekyi Nyima, has been missing for the past thirteen years along with his parents. There has been no information about his well being and whereabouts to date;

Altogether the Centre registered over 300 separate events of protests of different magnitudes covering 90 Counties in the "TAR" and in the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR";

The year witnessed one of the most ruthless and repressive crackdowns by the Chinese law enforcement agencies in detention centers, police stations, prisons and at the site of demonstrations. Tibet has witnessed one of the highest numbers of death from torture this year. There were reports of Tibetans having been beaten to death or released on their near death condition, for solely raising slogan in support of the Tibetan leader and calling for his swift return to Tibet or for more freedom and human rights. There were a few cases of people committing suicide due to the

atrocious repression and others who became mentally unstable following inhumane torture;

The United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) recommended that the People's Republic of China (PRC) probe the deaths of Tibetans killed in the spring 2008 protests in Tibet and to adopt measures to prohibit and prevent enforced disappearances and to provide information on the fate of missing persons including the XIth Panchen Lama in its concluding observation on the fourth periodic report of the People's Republic of China on the implementation of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Committee asked China to ensure that all persons detained or arrested in the aftermath of the Spring 2008 events have "prompt access to an independent lawyer, independent medical care and the right to lodge complaints free from official reprisal or harassment;"

In addition to the last year's implementation of the "Tibet Autonomous Region Implementing Measures for the Regulations on Religious Affairs" on 1 January 2007("Implementing Measures"), and the more specific Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism (the Reincarnation Measures), the Chinese authorities launched a stipulated two-month' renewed "Patriotic Education" campaign at the beginning of April this year following unprecedented protests across the Tibetan plateau. The campaign was reinvigorated and targeted not only the monastic institutions, which were long considered as the bastion of political dissidence, but also government employees, security forces, farmers, nomads, private entrepreneurs, and educational institutions with more rigor and intensity. The Centre recorded a large number of Tibetans arrested or detained simply for opposing the campaign which requires denouncing their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, and pledging their allegiance to the Communist Party;

Sweeping new measures were introduced by the People's Government of the Kardze "TAP" in Kardze to purge hundreds of monasteries, and to strike hard at heart of the Tibetan monastic communities and its identities, and to restrict religious practice in the wake of protests across the plateau that reveal a systematic new attack on Tibetan Buddhism;

At least 165 were sentenced to lengthy prison terms for their participation in the recent protest, of which 6 people were sentenced to life imprisonment and at least more than 75 were sentenced to 10 years and more of imprisonment. The nature of the court proceedings and the official interpretation of the Tibetans' activities obviously bring forward questions of the competency of the court and the official downplaying of the nature of the Tibetan activities. The legitimacy of the court sentencing procedure raised big question as the Tibetans were denied access to a meaningful defense and many were tried secretly. There are hundreds of Tibetans who are still held without any charges;

In the pre and post Olympics periods, the Chinese authorities have virtually sealed off the entire plateau to foreign journalists and observers and imposed information blackouts despite promising to increase openness in the buildup to the Olympics. For these reasons the Centre fears for the safety and well-being of those now in detention and those who have disappeared since March this year.

On this anniversary, TCHRD urges the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to put an immediate end to the practice of torture, enforced disappearances, "patriotic education" campaigns, arbitrary detention and information blackouts and also calls upon the PRC government to respect and comply with international standards of human rights practices and its own constitutional guarantees.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary, TCHRD is organizing several events and we would like to invite all of you to join, which is aimed at emphasizing the universality and indivisibility of rights that are enshrined in the UDHR. The Centre will set up a stall outside the Tsuklakhang, the venue for celebration of International Human Rights Day, by distributing publication such as UDHR and other major International Covenants in Tibetan and English languages besides distributing Centre's human rights publications, posters etc.

In the evening, the Centre will screen a documentary entitiled "What Remains of Us" to the general public at the main Temple courtyard after the candle light vigil, which will be coordinated by regional NGOs of Dharamsala, for the people who have laid their lives while exercising their fundamental rights enshrined in the UDHR.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

TCHRD attends 12th Annual Asian Training and Study Session for Human Rights Defenders (ATSS) in Bangkok

Mr. Lobsang Tsultrim, Field Officer of TCHRD, attended the 12th Annual Asian Training and Study Session for Human Rights Defenders (ATSS), which was organized by Asian- Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) a membership-based regional human rights organisation, from 16 November to 2 December 2008 at Students Christian Centre (SCC), Rachithawi, Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Lobsang Tsultrim with participants during the session at SCC, Bangkok

Around 27 participants representing various NGOs from 15 different countries of South and East Asian Countries attended the 17 days training session.

The training was conducted by expert trainers and facilitators from various countries and covered the major topics which include, concept of human rights, historical evolvement of human rights, universal declaration of human rights, exploring domestic and international human rights standards, exploring domestic and international human rights protection mechanism, human rights defenders-concepts, situations and challenges, human rights defenders-international standards, international mechanisms, practical skills in using international mechanism, community organizing-cases studies, practical skills, principles and practical skills, strategies and tactics, popular education and human rights advocacy, popular education tools, fact-finding and documentation of human rights violations, media strategizing, human rights mainstreaming in the media work, cyber campaign, video advocacy, identifying the human rights trend in Asia, recent developments in ASEAN and SAARC, UN human rights advocacy: UN human rights council, UN human rights advocacy: special procedure, universal periodic review, Treaty monitoring bodies, brainstorming for country and regional Action Plans: Plenary.

In the afternoon of 19 November, Forum-Asia organized a field trip to urban slum community located in the outskirt of Bangkok. The aim of the field trip was to make familiar with the grass root level of human rights for the participants. Two of representative from community shared their problems with participants. The trip ended with raising questions related to their problem.

TCHRD, would like to express its deepest thanks to Forum-Asia for inviting and financially supporting one of its staff for the training session.

Director briefs Denver University students

Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director of TCHRD, briefed about the current Human Rights situation in Tibet to a group of 16 students from the Denver University, U.S.A on 4 December 2008 about current human rights situation in Tibet at the Centre's office, He also highlighted the recent March uprising in Tibet to the students and answered questions raised by the students

Talk to health staff

Mr. Tenzin Norgay, UN Affairs Personnel, was invited to speak on the "Human Rights enshrined in Indian Constitution and work place ethics related to HIV and ILO's (Indian Labour Organization) code of practice" during an educator's training for health staff on 17 - 18 November 2008. The workshop was jointly organized by the Department of Health of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile and an NGO, Choice-HIV/Aids Initiative.

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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

If you would like to subscribe to TCHRD's monthly Human Rights update or to order one of our publications, please send your name and postal details (including e-mail) to our office.

Partial list of TCHRD publications:

•The Next Generation: *The State of Education in Tibet Today* (1997)• Behind Bars: *Prison Conditions in Tibet* (1998) • Closing the Doors: *Religious Repression in Tibet* (1998)•*Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Tibetan Translation) (1998)•Democracy: *An Education Booklet* (1998)• Fearless Voices: *Accounts of Tibetan Former Political Prisoners* (1998)•Human Rights: *An Education Booklet* (1998)•*A Guide to Human Rights* (1999)•*A guide to Democracy* (1999)•Tales of Terror: *Torture in Tibet* (1999)•*Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet* (1999) •Torture and Ill-Treatment in Tibet (2000)• Racial Discrimination in TIbet (2000)• Impoverishing Tibetans: *China's flawed economic policy* (2000)• *Destruction of Serthar Insitute : A Special Report (2002)* Dispossessed: *Land and Housing Rights in Tibet* (2002) • Strike hard Campaign: *China's crackdown on political dissidence* (2004) • State of education in Tibet: *A human rights perspective* (2004) • *Kuxing:* Torture in Tibet (2005) • Death Penalty in China (2005) • International Bill of Human Rights (2005) • TCHRD 1996-2006: A Decade of Human Rights Research • Railway and China's Development Strategy in Tibet: A Tale of Two Economies • Prisoners of Tibet • Annual Report : *Human Rights Situation in Tibet* (1996 - 2006)

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Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

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HUMAN RIGHTS update

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

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Yeshi Choedon

Chinese court sentences seven Tibetans between 8 years to life

In the past couple of months, Lhasa Intermediate People's Court sentences seven Tibetans for their involvement in the so called "March 14" Riot. The sentences of indicted range between 8 years to life imprisonment, according to the confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

The information was further corroborated by the Lhasa Evening News (Ch: Lasa Wen bao) dated 8 November. According to the report, five Tibetans were sentenced by the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court on 27 October. The same court sentenced two other Tibetans on 7 November 2008 respectively for their involvement in the "March 14 Riot". The report cited that on 27 October 2008, five Tibetans were sentenced between 8 years to life imprisonment and deprivation of political rights on charges of "endangering state security" to committing crimes of "treason" or illegally offering information to people outsideChina.

The Lhasa IntermediatePeople's Court convicted and sentenced the following Tibetans to varying prison terms.

Wangdue, in his 40's was sentenced to life imprisonment and deprivation of political right for life on charges of "endangering state security,"

Migmar Dhondup was convicted on same charge of "endangering state security" and was sentenced to

Wangdue

14 years' imprisonment and five years deprivation of political right,

Phuntsok Dorjee was sentenced to 9 years' imprisonment and five years deprivation of political rights on charges of "treason" or illegally offering information to people outside China.

Tsewang Dorjee was sentenced to 8 years' imprisonment and five years deprivation of political rights on charges of "treason" or illegally offering information to people outside China,

Sonam Dakpa, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and five years deprivation of political rights on charges of "treason" or illegally offering information to people outside China.

Whereas the same court on 7 November sentenced Yeshi Choedon, in her 50's and retired health worker to 15 years in jail and deprivation of political rights for five years on charges of "endangering state security" and Sonam Tseten was sentenced to 10

years' imprisonment with deprivation of political rights for five years on charges of treason or illegally offering information to people outside China.

Wangdue, now in his early 40s, a former political prisoner and HIV/AIDS activist whereabouts remains unknown until his court trial on 7 November 2008. The Lhasa City Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials arbitrarily detained him from his home on 14 March in Lhasa.

The bald comments made earlier by the Chinese official on the number of Tibetans having sentenced so far were devoid of any details about names, charges, jail terms, dates of court trials and other details. Mr. Li Boadong, Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva, in a response to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) expert during a hearing told, "After judicial proceedings, 69 had been sentenced to imprisonment for committing crimes of arson, robbery, theft, obstructing government functions, trouble-making in the streets, gathering to disrupt public order or attacking State organs; seven had been sentences for committing crimes of treason or illegally offering information to people outside China, and eight were still under investigation by the judicial organs." The authorities had earlier said no Tibetans had so far been sentenced to death, raising the possibility of such punishment in the future trials.

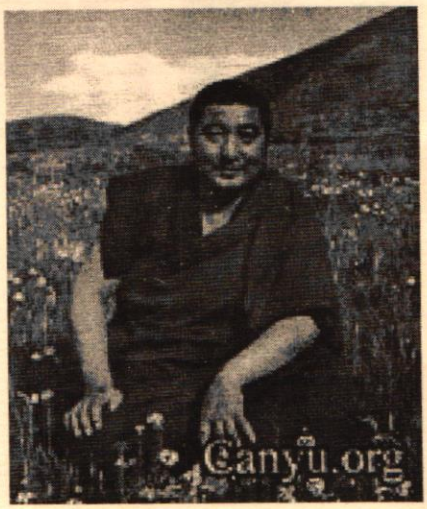
In the absence of any independent media and monitoring agencies in Tibet, the nature of the court proceedings without legal representation of their choice obviously bring forward the questions of competency of the court. TCHRD expresses its concern at the sub-standard legal proceedings in Chinese occupied Tibet and fears the worst scenarios for the Tibetan protesters who exercised their fundamental human rights of freedom of opinion and expression.The sentencing is a clear mockery of law and due process.

The Centre expresses its deepest shock and is outraged by these bogus trials and the harshness of the sentences handed down on those seven Tibetans. We are extremely concerned about the eight Tibetans whom the Chinese official told are being under judicial investigation. Any prison sentence can amount to a death sentence in Tibet where torture and inhumane treatments of political prisoners is well documented. The Centre questions the transparency of the legal proceeding as trials were held behind the closed door and many of the convicted were held incommunicado and disappeared since their arbitrary detention by the law enforcement agencies.

Testimony of Labrang Jigme

Venerable Jigme aka Jigme Guri, a monk of Labrang Monastery in Amdo (Ch: Gansu Province) in a video interview to Tibetan news Voice of America (VOA), speaks about his experience following arrest and in the Chinese prison.

"This year after general assembly of M onastery was over on 15th day of second Tibetan month (22 March 208), I went to the market. There I sat at the side of a taxi-stand and repair my shoe. While returning to the monastery, I received a call on my mobile phone but phone number didn't display on the screen. Suddenly a white vehicle dashed, and stopped in front of me. Four soldiers arrested me and dragged me into the vehicle. When I looked back, I saw a nun. I shouted "Ani! Ani! [nun, nun!] several



Labrang Jigme Guri

times to made sure she saw getting me arrested by the Chinese police. Once I got into the vehicle, they covered my head with a black cloth and handcuffed me. They pointed gun at my head, pressed body down and they took me to the armed police guest house".

"They removed the cloth covering my head but except the handcuffs on in the guest house which is located at back of the local police station. Afterwards, they checked my whole body and took my phone, wallet and everything. I was forced to sat on a chair with my hands tied at the back. A young soldier pointed an automatic rifle at me and said in Chinese, "This is made to kill you, Ahlos (derogatory term used for Tibetans by some Chinese). If you move inch I will surely shoot and kill you on the spot with this gun. We will throw your corpse in the garbage ground and nobody will ever know." Once I heard this, I was not scared by the gun pointed at my head but by the thought that this man is not only a soldier, but also a law enforcement officer, and here he is pointing a gun at an ordinary citizen and uttering such words...[it made me very sad....] as if my heart was shattered in two."

"I felt that such a powerful nationality harassing and oppressing

a small nationality, a big nation makes weapons for killing a small nationality, if doing so at the low level there is no doubt that they are doing worse to us at higher levels. By telling us that Tibetans could be killed and our dead bodies dumped in the garbage ground and that nobody would know - that means they are not treated us even like dogs and pigs because if other people's dogs and pigs are killed, there will be somebody to claim them. Then why can't we Tibetans be claimed after death? We are ordered not to claim our fellow Tibetans' bodies even after death. At that time, I realized that there is no racial equality. During the interrogation session, some of the many questions they asked me were, "Did the Dalai Lama instigate you? Did the Dalai Lama ask you to carry out this looting, burning and destruction?"."How do you view the Dalai Lama? " As for me, I am a follower of Buddhism. The Dalai Lama is like my life, heart and soul. In that I am not alone. For all the six million Tibetans, the Dalai Lama is their spiritual refuge in this life as well as the next. The whole world respected his tremendous efforts toward world peace. He is the champion of world peace. He has established a path of non-violence. I totally reject their accusation that the Dalai Lama has master-minded acts of looting, burning and destruction. The Dalai Lama can never encourage such things. Even an ordinary monk like myself cannot urge anybody to burn, loot and destroy. Dalai Lama is like the soul of the six million Tibetans. There is no way we can be parted from him. As a Tibetan monk, historically, we have a teacher-disciple relationship. We must maintain this relationship. We have strong faith in the Dalai Lama. I replied to the question of how I view the Dalai Lama".

"They took us to the jail after a few days in Detention Centre. At the prison, the soldiers commanding us in Chinese 'one, two, three', as some of us didn't understand Chinese, they scolded us - they would call us 'animals', 'fools', and beat us with batons. When we asked why they are beating us, they said, 'you people cannot understand Chinese language' and mock us. My question is: In the Charter and Constitution of the People's Republic of China, it is enshrined that, in the regional areas of different nationalities, the language of that particular nationality is to be used and that the regional nationality must be given the right to govern. Then why is that, in the Tibetan areas, instead of using Tibetan language, Tibetans are not only verbally abused as "animals" and "fools" but are physically beaten just because he does not understand the Chinese language?"

"In the case of Tibetans, there is no difference between one's actions and age. For instance, monks as young as 14 and 15 and as old as 60 and 70 year old were arrested. They arrested Tibetans whether involved in demonstration or not. We have no clothes on our backs and shoes on our feet. Two monks would be tied together and put in the vehicle to be driven away. They are thrown in the vehicle like throw logs of fire wood. Even if some of them had their heads injured, and for some, their hands broken, they were all taken to the prison. Relatives or friends were not allowed to visit, bring food, clothing or beddings. We had to face together all the problem of cold. We felt extremely sad because we only Tibetans were severely beaten by the Chinese security police".

"We were shifted to a prison in Kachu [Linxia in Chinese]. We are only Tibetan prisoner and others were Hui Chinese and Muslim Chinese. Everyday, with bare feet, we had to remove urine and excrement, and wash the floors. We were forced to take off our monks' robes and put on a layperson's clothing at prison. I am a follow of Buddhist monk and it is humiliating to disrobe and put on a layman's clothes, and to be handcuffed and taken away, barefoot, in a vehicle. There wasn't even a towel to clean the face, the prison condition is so bad".

"During the one month in prison, I was handcuffed in one position for days and nights. During interrogation session, they accused me of having contacts outside with the Dalai Lama, Samdhong Rinpoche, and Ajia Rinpoche, and they forced me to agree for having contacts with them. Likewise, I was accused that I have contacts inside with scholars and teachers. "You have been involved in activities and have led organizations. You have made calls to many outside provinces. What have you achieved from those? Where did you print the Tibetan flags? How many flags did you print? How many members are there in your group?" and "You have no choice but to accept these crimes". They would hang me up for several hours with my hands tied to a rope..... hanging from the ceiling and my feet above the ground. Then they would beat me on my face, chest, and back, with the full force of their fists. Finally, on one occasion, I had lost consciousness and was taken to a hospital".

"After I regained consciousness at the hospital, I was once again taken back to prison where they continued the practice of hanging me from the ceiling and beating me. As a result, I again lost conscious and then taken to the hospital a second time. Once I was beaten continuously for two days with nothing to eat nor a drop of water to drink. I suffered from pains on my abdomen and chest. The second time, I was unconscious for six days at the hospital, unable to open my eyes or speak a word".

"At last, when I was nearly dying, they handed me over to my family. At my release, my captors lied to the

provincial authorities by telling them that that they had not beaten me. Also, they lied to my family members by telling them that they had not beaten me; they also made me put down my thumbprint (as a signature) on a document that said that I was not tortured. I had to stay for about twenty days at a hospital and spent twenty thousand Chinese yuan to get treatment.

Around 180 monks had been arrested, said my monk peers after I return to the monastery.

Our monks had done nothing but arrested includes, senior monk and the official Lama. They were made to stand on the tip of their toes at night, and were beaten with the butts of guns on their back. The Chinese took pictures with their mobile phones as they were beating the monks on their necks.

I also figure out that soldiers stole religious statues, money, personal belongings and even foodstuff from the monastery and monks residences during the raid in the monastery. It is apparent that the real looters and murderers are these soldiers of Chinese Communist Party. They engage in illegal acts and we are the ones who are arrested, beaten and tortured and killed.

Chinese constitution granted all those rights of racial equality, freedom of expression and freedom of religion, then why are we not allowed to respect the figure for whom we have faith in our heart of hearts? Right in front of our eyes, they stamp with their feet on the picture of the Precious One [the Dalai Lama], break the picture frames with butts of guns, shred the pictures into pieces and burn them in fire. We, being Tibetans and Buddhists, when we see the picture of our object of refuge being trampled under foot, and torn into pieces, we view these as irreparable acts. When Tibetans break a few windowpanes, they say that such acts caused hundreds of millions of Yuan worth of damage. How do you measure the damage caused to our hearts by seeing our most revered One's picture trampled under foot? The Chinese leadership says that the goal is to achieve a harmonious society, but at the same time continue to vilify the Dalai Lama, a figure that all Tibetans respect and honor as their spiritual head.....how can we begin to feel harmony when our values are denigrated and trodden on and, we are also accused of aligning with the Dalai clique and instigating riots among the public.

Monks are being beaten and tortured all during this period. Not only that, monks who spoke to some reporters were beaten with batons and had their legs broken; on some, they used electric batons on their heads and in their mouths - the electric baton affected their brains and some have become disabled ... sort of insane. We endured such torture.

Our main hope is that the international media and the United Nations' investigators come to Tibet and check on the real situation and then report on it after they assess their findings.

Chinese propagated to the outside world that Tibetans are breaking the domestic rules and target to destroy the Party's laws and by saying these, they are arresting and beating us, and even killing many people. Many people have fled to the mountains and dare not return to their homes and families. It will help if the world media see the real situation in Tibet and report about it to the outside world.

The Dalai Lama never instigates us to do anything. Dalai Lama did not tell us to fight for independence. He never said anything of this sort. We support the Dalai Lama's Middle Way approach and the process of solving Tibet's issue through peaceful dialogue. But we are sad about being extremely oppressed today. Today, I, as a witness to truth, am telling through the media, the story of Tibetans killed, undergoing torture in prisons, and about the countless who have been forced to flee to the mountains and are too afraid to return to their homes, so that the media can truthfully report on these situations. This is my hope.

Officers from the security office and secret service as well as work teams have visited my room in the monastery, and are keeping close watch on me. Even now here is one man purposely watching me. I am not allowed to go out, nor am I allowed to make phone calls. I have a thick copy of the Chinese Constitution to study; I am ordered to write a confession. While I am not physically in a prison, I have no freedom whatsoever.

This year 2008, Chinese take series of action against us, not just in Labrang, Amdo, but also in Kham and Central Tibet too. Many Tibetans are being killed, many oppressed and arrested. We heard that more than 200 Tibetans were killed and several thousand arrested. Still the beatings and arrests have not stopped. For us, access to news is blocked; we are not allowed to watch news or put up a satellite dish nor are we allowed to listen or watch news from the United States and other foreign countries. We are ordered to watch and listen to domestic broadcasts. We are not allowed to listen to foreigners or to talk to them. As such, where is the freedom of expression? Where is the freedom of religion?

Tibetan people are undergoing all kinds of suffering. For me personally, I am a Buddhist monk at Labrang monastery. I was one of those arrested this year. I said this to the face of my captors: if you kill me, then that will be the end of it. But if I am able to go outside and get the opportunity, I will talk about the torture I went through; I will tell the people of the world as a truthful witness, about the sufferings

undergone by friends and report these to the media".

"Although I was told not to tell that I was beaten; I was warned not to contact anyone outside. But I cannot be silent about the tortures which I went through, nor the suffering borne by friends. This is also my reason for telling you this today. Still there is a harsh crackdown taking place in Tibetan areas and imposed restrictions on the movement of Tibetans".

"Chinese authorities told us to support Beijing Olympic but Tibetans around here are not even allowed to travel to Lanzhou and Beijing to watch. We are not even allowed to go outside our own areas. Because of the Olympics, even all traditional festivals, celebrations and religious rituals have been banned".

"There is a military presence everywhere. In the barn belonging to our monastery, they have made effigies out of straw and dressed them in Tibetan robes. The Chinese soldiers use them for doing bayonet practice. It seems that their enemy are the Tibetan people and the robe-wearing monks. Not all arrested Tibetans were involved in protests. Why are they stabbing their bayonets on the effigy with Tibetan dress as their military exercise? It is not just monks who are suffering as a result of the Chinese viewing Tibetans as their enemy.....even Tibetan staff members, students and the ordinary Tibetans.... all are suffering. This big government, big country, and big nationality is using weapons, tanks and cannons on a small, humble people such as the Tibetans. Thousands of soldiers are surrounding us. 'Kill the Tibetans who are disobedient', they order".

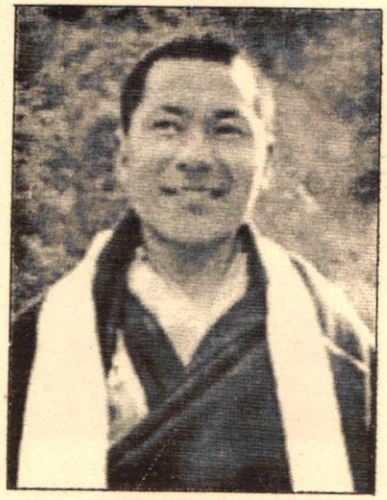
"In this 21st century, the people of the world are walking on the path to world peace. The peace-loving people and the supporters of truth should expose China for blocking the media and restricting reporters from seeing what is going on inside Tibet. I would like the world's press, the United Nations and human rights organizations to pay attention and find a solution to the current dire situation for the Tibetan people. You can pressure China to conduct meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama's representatives for a mutually beneficial solution to the Tibet-China issue. It is the hope and wish of the Tibetans inside Tibet to invite the Dalai Lama to Tibet. The Chinese Communist Party has stated that stability and unity are important goals for the nation. Now if both the Dalai Lama and the CCP work together to solve the Tibet-China issue through dialogue for the mutual benefit of both the Chinese and Tibetans, there is no reason why genuine and long lasting peace, stability and unity cannot be achieved".

N.B. [The above statement in English is a rough translation of the interview given in Tibetan is not a direct translation of every single phase, and or figure of speech]

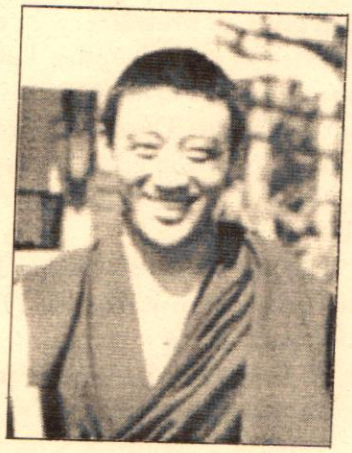
China sentences four Amchok monks in Ngaba County

A Chinese court sentenced four monks of Amchok Dialectics Monastery with varying prison sentences for participating in March protest, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 23 October 2008, Kardze People's Intermediate Court in Dartsedo County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Sichuan Province sentenced four Tibetan monks to prison sentences ranging from 7 to 13 years of rigorous imprisonment for their alleged "crime" of "endangering the State security".



Tsultrim Gyaltso



Ludrub Yeshi

Ludrup Tendar

Ludrup Phuntsok

The four monks of Amchok Dialectics Monastery were identified as Ludrub Yeshe, Ludrub Phuntsok, Tsultrim Gyatso and Ludrub Tendar. They were arrested for participating in peaceful protests on 16 and 17 of March 2008 in Tibet.

Ludrub Yeshe, 33, hailed from Marthang County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province.
He was sentenced to 13 years of rigorous imprisonment by the Intermediate People's Court of Dartsedo County, Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province, for "endangering the State security". Ludrub Yeshe had previously visited and resided in India for a period of seven years between 1996- 2004. He came to India in 1996 primarily for his religious studies and training at Gashar House of Gaden Monastery in south India. In 2004 he ended his religious studies at Gaden Monastery and then returned to Tibet.

Ludrub Phuntsok, 23, hailed from Marthang County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. The same court sentenced him to 13 years of imprisonment for "endangering the State security". Ludrub Phuntsok was one of the brightest students in Amchok Monastery. In addition to his religious studies, Ludrub Phuntsok was also the editor of a periodical Magazine called "Maseng Shedra" (flowers of expression).

Moreover, two Amchok monks Sonam, 37, from Tsaruma Village, Ngaba County and Lobsang, 23, from Toema Village, Ngaba County were also reportedly detained by the Chinese authorities. Sources say they were arrested for taking part in a peaceful protest in March 2008 in Ngaba County. They were currently being detained in a prison in Dzoge County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province. Sources confirmed that they were subjected to all kinds of torture and maltreatment inside the prison cell.

Tsultrim Gyatso, 43, hailed from Meruma Township, Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province. He was sentenced to 9 years of imprisonment for "endangering the State security". Sources told TCHRD that he was one of the teachers and has a large number of pupils under him in Amchok Monastery.
Ludrub Tendar, 43, hailed from Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province.

He was sentenced to 7 years of imprisonment on charge of "endangering the State security". He also worked as a dialectics at Amchok Monastery.

In the post March 2008 unrest inside Tibet, hundreds of Tibetans in various parts of Tibet were facing lengthy prison sentences and convictions for holding on to their consciences. Many of them had already endured harsh tortures and difficult ordeals in the Chinese prison.

In another incident, Logyam, 36, a Tibetan writer from Ngaba County, who conritbuted artclse to Maseng Shedrea Magazine has been deained by the Chinese authorities since 2005.

He as arrested for compiling and circulating the speeches of the Dalai Lama to the local Tibetans populace. In 2007, he was formally convicted and sentenced to six years of rigorous imprisonment in Maowar Prison, in Sichuan Province. Sources told TCHRD that on numerous occasions, he was made to denounce the Dalai Lama in the prison cell and when he refused to do so, he was severely beaten and tortured by the Chinese prison guards.

TCHRD expresses its serous concerns at the manner in which the Chinese government is handling the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators in detention, whose "crime" if any would not amount more than peacefully airing their grievances, dissenting against the Chinese government for the policies that affected their lives and existences and merely exercising the freedom of speeches and opinions stipulated and enshrined in the Chinese constitution.

TCHRD maintains that such continued detention and maltreatment of Tibetans by the Chinese authorities would only amounts to gross violation of fundamental human rights and international laws.

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TCHRD screen its documentary video to a group of foreigners

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Information Officer and Mr. Lobsang Tsultrim Yardrong, Field Officer of Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) screened a documentary video ("Uprising in Tibet 2008") compiled and produced by TCHRD at Khana Nirvana, Mcleodganj, Dharamsal a on 26 December 2008.

DVD COVER

Around 60-70 foreigners from different countries came to attend the show at Khana Nirvana restaurant. The show was followed by a discussion with TCHRD staff and audience on current human rights situation in Tibet.

Centre briefs press delegations from Russia and Ukraine

On 24 December 2008, Mr. Chokura Tsering Agloe, Centre's Researcher, was invited by the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) to briefs the current human rights situation in Tibet to a group of more than 20 press delegates who are on official visit to the seat of Exile- Tibetan government. The talk was organised at Lhakpa Tsering Hall, DIIR, Gangchen Kyishong Dharamsala.

The entire press delegation was accoumpanied by some 20 press, including reporters from Russia, Ukraine, Buryat and Tuva.

Professors of Miami Unversity learn about human rights situation in Tibet

Mr. Chokura Tsering Agloe, Centre's Researcher, briefed on current human rights situation in Tibet in the light of recent protests against the Chinese government to about ten faculty professors from Miami University Ohio, U.S.A. who were on official visit to sign MOU with IBD to foster already existing academic cooperation into a fuller collaboration. Talk was organised by the Institute of Buddhist Dialectic (IBD), at Main Temple, Mcleodganj, Dharamsala on 30 December 2008.

Centre meets college graduate students during the workshop

On 20 November 2008, Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director, was invited as resource person to speak to 20 college graduate Tibetan students at Sarah on recent demonstration and current human rights situation in Tibet the workshop organized by Tibetan Centre for Conflict Resolution (TCCR) at Sarah Institute for Higher Tibetan Studies.

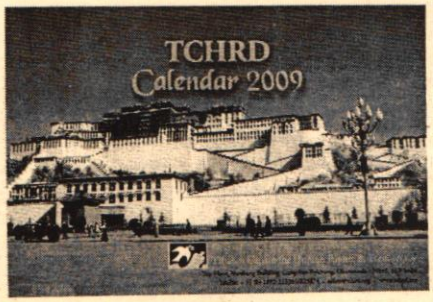
Class XI students on current human rights situation in Tibet

With objective of educating the youth of class XI students from various Tibetan schools in India and Nepal who are on Winter break, Delhi based Tibetan Parliamentary and Policy Research Centre .(TPPRC) organised a workshop on Hman Rights and Democracy in December at two alternative venue here in Dharamsala. The Centre's assistant Director Mr. Jampa Monlam was invited as one of the resource persons to deliver talk on the concept of human rights and current human rights situation in Tibet in the light of recent series of protests since March 2008 at Gangchen Kyishong, staff mess Hall.

The talk was later followed by question and answer session.

TCHRD releases pictorial calendar

TCHRD releases a pictorial calendar dedicated to Tibetan protesters who were arrested,died, detained and sentenced in spring uprising in Tibet, 2008.



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The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is an independent centre which aims to promote and protect human rights and a democratic polity for Tibet. It attempts to educate Tibetans on human rights principles and to work with other human rights and democracy groups as part of a worldwide movement towards these ends. TCHRD is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860 in 1996.

If you would like to subscribe to TCHRD's monthly Human Rights update or to order one of our publications, please send your name and postal details (including e-mail) to our office.

Partial list of TCHRD publications:

•The Next Generation: *The State of Education in Tibet Today* (1997)• Behind Bars: *Prison Conditions in Tibet* (1998) • Closing the Doors: *Religious Repression in Tibet* (1998)•*Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Tibetan Translation) (1998)•Democracy: *An Education Booklet* (1998)• Fearless Voices: *Accounts of Tibetan Former Political Prisoners* (1998)•Human Rights: *An Education Booklet* (1998)•*A Guide to Human Rights* (1999)•*A guide to Democracy* (1999)•Tales of Terror: *Torture in Tibet* (1999)•*Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet* (1999) •Torture and Ill-Treatment in Tibet (2000)• Racial Discrimination in TIbet (2000)• Impoverishing Tibetans: *China's flawed economic policy* (2000)• *Destruction of Serthar Insitute : A Special Report (2002)* Dispossessed: *Land and Housing Rights in Tibet* (2002) • Strike hard Campaign: *China's crackdown on political dissidence* (2004) • State of education in Tibet: *A human rights perspective* (2004) • *Kuxing:* Torture in Tibet (2005) • Death Penalty in China (2005) • International Bill of Human Rights (2005) • TCHRD 1996-2006: A Decade of Human Rights Research • Railway and China's Development Strategy in Tibet: A Tale of Two Economies • Prisoners of Tibet • Annual Report : *Human Rights Situation in Tibet* (1996 - 2006)

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