HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

JANUARY 2009 VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

CONTENT

-Executive Summary of Annual Report 2008: Human Rights Situation in Tibet (pg 1)

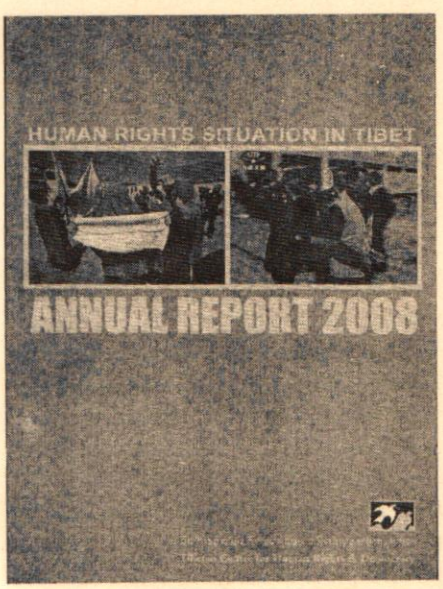
-End Notes (pg 4)

-Human Rights Situation in Tibet: Annual Report 2008 (pg 5)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-TCHRD launches its Annual Report 2008 Human Rights Situation in Tibet (pg 7)

-TCHRD attends Human Rights defenders at Bangkok. (pg 7)



Annual Report 2008

Executive Summary of Annual Report 2008: Human Rights Situation in Tibet

The year 2008 was historic for Tibet! The 49th anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising on 10 March 2008 sparked off an unprecedented magnitude of spontaneous mass popular protests in the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") and the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR"; Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunan.[1] The pan-Tibet political uprising this past spring 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. To China and the world the year was a stark reminder that the Tibet issue needs to be urgently resolved. It is clearly evident that the policies designed and ordered from the faraway central government in Beijing have failed miserably in Tibet. Decades of state propaganda, especially aggressive in the years leading up to the Olympics year, about development in Tibet is torn apart. Tibetans in Tibet yearn for human dignity and fundamental human rights and they have spoken their aspirations clearly and strongly in the pan-Tibet peaceful protests this year.

It was known from the beginning that 2008 being the year of summer Olympics in Beijing was going to be a noisy one for the People's Republic of China for its notorious human rights record. But interestingly nobody foresaw such a huge uprising in Tibet. It is clear that the outside world has underestimated the sentiments of the Tibetans inside Tibet. There were some reservations in certain sections of the international community that there have been some positive changes taking place inside Tibet. However, the uprising in Tibet has shattered that myth for the better. Tibetans inside Tibet are suffering and the Tibetans have spoken their hearts and minds clearly and strongly.

The uprising in Tibet in 2008 saw at least 120 known Tibetans killed in police firing, at least 6500 Tibetans arrested, over a thousand cases of involuntarily or enforced disappearance, at least ten known cases of death due to torture, and at least 190 Tibetans sentenced to varying prison terms from nine months to life imprisonment.[2] The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) believes that the actual figures could be manifold in light of the magnitude of the uprising in Tibet. However, the government's severe blockade of information which is often linked to "leaking state secrets" and punishable by lengthy prison terms under the charge of "endangering state security" for what is a standard practice of reporting human rights violation has enormously stifled the flow of information. In order to avoid international condemnation, the government engaged in a systematic and intermittent ban on communication channels. Those arrested for communicating to the outside world have been dealt with severely.[3]

The protests in Tibet subsequently led to the world wide condemnation of Chinese authorities' use of brute armed forces on the Tibetans. Sympathetic individuals and Tibet supporters resonated the call for justice during the global relay of the Olympics torch. Tibet supporters and other rights group activists sent a strong message of condemnation of the grave human rights situation in Tibet and in particular the brute use of armed forces on peaceful protesting Tibetans.[4] The Chinese authorities in a counter measure whipped up nationalism amongst its citizens as well as those overseas.[5] Nationalist Chinese lashed severe attacks on western media and dozens of anti-west websites were setup to launch cyber campaigns in conjunction with those on the ground.[6] But the authorities quickly

realized that the ordinary Chinese were experiencing a unique opportunity of protest and freedom of association facilitated by the authorities, which could in fact boomerang hard on the government in the future.[7] This reluctance to accept criticism and prompting conflicts in the name of "nationalism" leads to the conclusion that China fails in these qualities to become a global superpower. One of the key characters of global superpowers is free speech and confidence in its people, yet China fails to exhibit these qualities. In its path to become a global superpower the world has to engage China, and China in turn has to heed with dignity the critique by other countries.

The role of information and communication tools played a vital role during the uprising in Tibet in 2008. Unlike the past large scale protests in the late 1980s and early 1990s which were largely clustered in Lhasa, the protest which began on the 49th anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising on 10 March 2008 rapidly spread like a wild fire. Within a couple of days the protests had already engulfed the whole Tibetan plateau. Modern electronic gadgets and digital technology played a crucial role in the flow of information both within Tibet and to the outside world.[8] Making it hard for the authorities to deny, evidence of state law enforcement agencies' use of excessive armed force surfaced in the outside world in the form of mobile phone clips and graphic pictures.[9] The Chinese authorities were quick to curb the flow of information by cutting channels of communication.[10] When free and independent media persons were being denied access to Tibet to cover the protests, brave individuals took maximum use of modern technology to report the situation on the ground despite the risk of lengthy prison terms and torture when caught. In the absence of independent media; the risk was worth taking felt these brave individuals. Labrang monk Jigme Guri's video testimony of torture[11] and Dhondup Wangchen's "Leaving Fear Behind" video documentary[12] are some of the leading evidence tapes that have marked a milestone in the use of modern tools in proving human rights violations in Tibet.

Following the March protests in Tibet, the Chinese authorities dismissed several interventions made by high profile entities entrusted with protecting human rights. In early April, a request made by the then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, to visit Tibet to independently assess first-hand the situation on the ground was declined by the Chinese government reasoning that 'the timing was not convenient."[13] Additionally seven United Nations Special Procedures mandate holders issued a joint statement expressing their deep concern over reports of security forces firing on peaceful protesters.[14] The statement called for "restraint and non-violence by all parties, greater and unfettered access to the regions concerned for journalists and independent observers, guarantees for the free flow of information, and full implementation of international standards in regard to the treatment of protestors and those detained, both in the People's Republic of China and in other countries in which protests are taking place."[15] The joint statement by experts was never heeded. The International Committee of the Red Cross which has the mandate to monitor the well-being of prisoners worldwide has never been given access to Tibet. PRC's denial of access to the UN mandates on human rights discredits these offices in general and in a way proves the allegations of gross human rights violations made by the rights group. Clearly China has plenty to cover up in denying access to those entrusted with investigating human rights issues. The government's non cooperation with the UN Committee against Torture during the examination of the fourth periodic review of China's compliance to the United Nation's Convention against Torture (CAT) and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment exposed PRC's total disregard of the UN human rights mechanism to protect people against torture although it is a state party to the convention. [16]

One of the key components of the authorities' crackdown upon the Tibetan protesters has been minimal tolerance and to strike deadly in order to quell the mass protests. On several occasions the authorities have indiscriminately opened fire into peacefully protesting Tibetans which have resulted in the deaths of many innocent Tibetans. The events in Lhasa, Kardze County and Ngaba County were especially drastic in nature of the retaliation by the armed forces and the actual figures of casualty during an event. On 14 March 2008, Lhasa went up in smoke as the city was gripped by protest. The Chinese armed forces fired live ammunitions on the protesting Tibetans and around 80 Tibetans were shot dead.[17] There were unconfirmed reports of government agents firing indiscriminately in the cover of darkness. On 3 April 2008, at least 14 Tibetans were shot dead when armed security forces fired live ammunition indiscriminately into a protesting crowd near Tongkhor Monastery in Kardze County[18]. 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 to the Chinese 'Patriotic Education' campaign in the monastery. The bodies of the dead were not returned to the families. On 16 March 2008, the Chinese security forces made a bloody armed retaliation over a protest in Ngaba County participated by thousands of Tibetans which resulted in the death of at least eight known Tibetan who died after sustaining bullet injuries.[19] The actual number of deaths can be much higher as people have seen at least "30 Tibetans felled" by the armed troops. The youngest among the dead was a 16-year-old girl; Lhundup Tso.[20] The UN Committee against Torture in its concluding observation to the examination of the fourth periodic report of China's compliance to the Convention against Torture has in its recommendation specifically asked for the PRC to give a detail account of the events in Lhasa, Kardze and Ngaba County. PRC as a state party to the convention is bound to provide the details as required by international law and the reply is watchfully awaited by all the concerned parties including the TCHRD.

A crucial tactic employed by the Chinese authorities in order to suppress Tibetan protests is the systematic use of torture in police stations, detention centres and prisons. Torture is used as a tool to break the nationalistic sentiments of the Tibetans and in order to spread a message of intimidation to those who dare to question the state and its officials.[21] Many Tibetans have been tortured severely as an exemplary case to the others from active participation in protests. In some areas Tibetans have died as a direct result of torture whilst in the custody of state law enforcement agencies. As a direct result of relentless oppression by the Chinese security forces to combat peaceful protests, many anguished Tibetans have taken the ultimate drastic decision of

committing suicide to free themselves from the authorities' constant physical and mental torture.[22] In Tibetan Buddhism, ending one's life is considered as one of the gravest forms of sins violating the fundamental principles of the religion. Buddhist monks of Tibet are known for their compassion, patience and resilience in the face of adversity. The cases of suicides by Buddhist monks in Tibet strongly corroborate the fact of use of relentless torture by the authorities.

Besides torture, cases of enforced and involuntary disappearances are enormous.[23] To a certain extent the phenomenon is state sponsored as it is a deliberate attempt by the government to purge dissent by making individuals disappear. Denial of information regarding arrestees is a standard practice by the Chinese prison authorities. Family members are left to run from one police post to another in search of their loved ones although the state agencies are required to inform them mandatorily. In an apparent case of disappearance, Thabkhey and Tsundue, both monks at the Labrang Monastery disappeared after they defiantly briefed the media about the truth on the ground during the government organized media tour to the area on 9 April 2008.[24] Midnight mass disappearance too was rampant especially from the monasteries. And perhaps the most prominent case of disappearance is that of the Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, who was abducted in 1995 by the Chinese government and has not been seen till date.[25]

When massive protests broke out in Tibet, the authorities in a counter measure unleashed the vicious "patriotic education" campaign in order to suppress the Tibetans after the immediate measure of direct brutal crackdown.

[26] The authorities 'implementation of "patriotic education" acted as rubbing salt on the fresh wounds already sustained by the Tibetans many of whom had either lost their near and dear ones in the protest or someone from the family got arrested or disappeared. The "patriotic education" campaign brought further psychological trauma amongst the Tibetan community especially in the monastic institutions. The campaign acts as a political tool to humiliate the Tibetans and break down their nationalistic sentiments. By early April, "patriotic education" campaign was being extended beyond the monasteries into the community of lay Tibetan society in rural areas of Ngaba County. "Patriotic education" "work teams" arrived in homes and ordered Tibetans to condemn the recent protests, denounce the Dalai Lama and pledge allegiance to the Communist Party. Eight points were forced to be reiterated in front of a camcorder and those who refused to cooperate were threatened with imprisonment. One of the key components of the patriotic education campaign is the vilification of the Dalai Lama. The opposition and launching of criticism on the Dalai Lama had been the broad policy formulation adopted by the leadership in Beijing. The strategy was to discredit the Dalai Lama of his moral authority and as the legitimate leader of the Tibetan people. Since China maintained a rigid system of information blockage and embargo on Tibetan people inside Tibet, the Chinese leadership presumed that tarnishing the image of the Dalai Lama could win over the hearts and minds of the Tibetan people. However, it was not to be.

Despite almost 50 years of rule by China, the Dalai Lama rules the hearts and minds of the Tibetan people. In the pan-Tibet spring 2008 protests, registered around 300 separate events covering over 90 counties in the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") [27] and the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR", the call for the return of the Dalai Lama was unanimous. At a point when the protests in Tibet started to turn violent, the Dalai Lama expressly called for an immediate end of violence attached with a warning of resignation if the Tibetans start to abandon the path of non-violent struggle.[28] The violent agitation dramatically subsided for the Tibetans can not go against the words of the Dalai Lama against all odds. The Dalai Lama has showed them the path of non violence and at this critical juncture too the exiled leader continues to lead the Tibetan struggle through non violence.

Beijing has repeatedly downplayed the nature of the Tibetan protests through the prism of criminal activities such as looting, smashing, arson, theft and rioting.[29] Beijing refuses to see the reality of the political nature of the pan-Tibet popular protests. On 17 March 2008, Zhang Qingli, the "TAR" Communist Party Secretary, urged that there be "quick arrests, quick hearings, and quick sentencing" of the people involved in the protests,[30] which was virtually a political directive to circumvent guarantees for a fair and impartial legal due process. In view of such express orders, fast-track courts in a clear exercise of summary execution of judicial process passed verdicts quickly.[31] Handing life imprisonment term and lengthy prison terms up to 20 years in a record one and half month's time is self explanatory about the nature of judiciary in Chinese administered Tibet. The nature of the court proceedings and the official interpretation of the Tibetans' activities obviously bring forward the questions of competency of the court and the official downplaying of the nature of the Tibetan activities. The fast paced court verdicts were clear mockery of law and due process.[32] In fact in all cases there was absence of due process as required under international law. The purpose and nature of the court in Lhasa obviously is only to provide a legal rubber stamp on pre-concluded convictions without the concept of innocent until proven guilty.[33] Courts in China clearly are not for protection and delivery of justice and on the contrary it acts as a vehicle to legitimize state actions. For instance, 21 Chinese lawyers who had publicly offered to defend Tibetan protesters were forced to withdraw their assistance after judicial authorities in Beijing threatened to discipline them and suspend their professional licenses[34] The authorities claimed that the Tibetan protesters were "not ordinary cases, but sensitive cases." The TCHRD documented at least 190 Tibetans being handed prison terms ranging from nine months to life imprisonment for individuals as young as 16 years old to 80 years old. Out of the total sentenced so far, seven received life imprisonment terms while 90 Tibetans were sentenced to 10 years or more. The Tibetans have been largely sentenced under the charges of "endangering state security"; a controversial legislation which has neither ever been defined properly nor mentioned its scope of application.[35] The legislation is used as a blanket cover to strike anyone daring to question the state.

In the aftermath of protest, Tibetan Communist Party members and the civil servants were racially targeted for their loyalty. According to China's Tibet Information Centre on 10 July 2008, 13 Tibetan 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. In another instance the Tibetan CCP members and civil servants were served with

the issuance of a two-month ultimatum on 14 July 2008 to recall their children studying in schools run by the Central Tibetan Administration or face expulsion from party membership and government job.[36] Consequently at least 24 students have been pulled out of schools in India and another equal number of students have already made plans to return.[37] Every year minors below the age of 18 form the largest number of refugees arriving from Tibet in pursuit of broad based modern education in schools established by the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration in India. As against the usual figure of around two thousand refugees escaping Tibet, this year only 627 Tibetans[38] have managed to arrive in India.

At the height of political repression in Tibet in 2008, calls of restraint were consistently issued by the various heads of states as well as world bodies such as the United Nations. In the backdrop of the summer Olympics in Beijing in August 2008, the calls for improvement in human rights in China and particularly dialogue by China with the Dalai Lama to resolve the Tibetan issue were heightened. Although certain issues like pollution in Beijing and free access to foreign journalists were relatively tackled, the Tibet issue remains stagnant. China's refusal to address the issue sends a wrong signal of irrelevance of non-violent movements to the various contemporary struggles being waged in the world. China is head strong in its resolution to pressurise world leaders against meeting with the Dalai Lama and it does so openly. China cancelled a major EU-China summit scheduled at the end of November 2008 because the Dalai Lama would then be visiting Europe around the same time and was scheduled to meet President Sarkozy, the EU President.[39] Such a move by China in flexing its economic muscles was unprecedented.[40]

The Sino-Tibet dialogue started in 2002 collapsed after eight rounds of talks till date. At the height of mass protests in Tibet, the Envoys of the Dalai Lama visited China to secure the well being of the Tibetan arrestees and diffuse the tension in Tibet.[41] The Tibetans inside and outside of Tibet banked on the visit for some tangible results finally after years of parleys between the two sides. Despite enormous tension on the ground the visits turned out to be another futile diplomatic exercise.[42] The eighth round of talks was a litmus test of sincerity of the Chinese side since it took place after the Beijing Olympics and hence was devoid of pressure on China. As per the strategy China made unprecedented disclosures about the latest talks blasting the Dalai Lama and dismissing the Tibetan demands as "motive of independence" or "half independence" or "independence in disguise etc.[43] Soon after the exile Tibetans gathered for a special meeting in Dharamsala which was the first of its kind.[44] The meeting enjoyed the mandate of free voice of the Tibetan people. Around 560 delegates from 19 countries around the world during the five day meeting resolved to end the negotiations until genuine political will is shown by China.[45] Despite the Tibetan side's genuine attempts to engage in a result oriented dialogue, China seemingly tried to gain the upper hand by showing of engagement with the Tibetan envoys until the end of Olympics in August. China's strategy was to delay all criticisms at least until the end of the summer Olympics and it has been executed skilfully with an unprecedented press conference soon after the eighth round of talks.[46]

The year 2008 was historic for Tibet with a chain of events throughout the year. The Tibetans inside Chinese occupied Tibet have spoken their heart out with great sacrifices. The brave individuals have championed the spirit of non-violence in the face of extreme adversity. The year 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of exile for the Tibetans. In a conflict ridden world, the Tibet question, especially in the aftermath of the spring 2008 protest, poses a serious moral challenge to the world. It's a test of the world's conscience about the relevance of a non violent struggle and peace and dialogue. Tibet needs humanity to support it in this critical juncture of its history and humanity needs Tibet to continue to show light in the path of non-violence as the only hope for the solution for long standing political issues.

EndNotes

1 "Scores of Tibetans arrested for peaceful protest in Lhasa", Press Release, TCHRD, 11 March 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080311.html

2 "TCHRD Press Statement on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", Press Release, TCHRD, 10 December 2008; Out of the 190 sentences passed by the courts in Tibet till date, seven Tibetans have been sentenced to life imprisonment term.

3 "Chinese court sentences seven Tibetans between 8 years to life Imprisonment", Press Release, TCHRD, 16 December 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20081216.html

4 "Clashes along Olympic torch route", BBC, 6 April 2008, available at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7332942.stm

5 "The Chinese turn on their nationalism", C. Gopinath, Business Line, 12 May 2008, available at http://www.thehindubusiness line.com/2008/05/12/stories/2008051250280900.htm

6 "FM spokesman: "Anti-CNN" website reflects Chinese people's condemnation", Xinhua, available at http://news. xinhuanet.com/english/2008-03/27/content_7871585.htm

7 "China activists 'must curb zeal'", BBC, 18 April 2008, available at http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2008/04/beijing-tries-to-rein-in-nationalist-beast/

8 "New technology triggers battle for information from Tibet", AFP, 18 March 2008, available at http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gyuONfqd4fnQB61MMrrD-PjyMDjw

9 "Photographic evidence of the bloody crackdown on peaceful protesting Tibetan at Ngaba County, Sichuan Province, on 16 March 2008", Photo Release, TCHRD, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080318c.html

10 "Tibet: China blocks YouTube, protests spread, bloggers react", BoingBoing.net, 16 March 2008, available at http://www.boingboing.net/2008/03/16/tibet-china-blocks-y.html

11 "A Voice from Tibet", Voice of America, 3 September 2008, available at http://www.voanews.com/tibetan/archive/2008-09/2008-09-03-voa1.cfm?CFID=60281078&CFTOKEN=98883722

12 Leaving Fear Behind, official website at http://leavingfearbehind.com/

13 "China says not now to Arbour visit", Human Rights Tribune, 11 April 2008, available at www.humanrights-geneva.info

14 "UN human rights experts call for restraint and transparency as mass arrests are reported in the Tibet Autonomous Region and surrounding areas in China", Press Release, United Nations, 10 April 2008, available at http://www.unhchr.ch/huricane/huricane.nsf/view01/04E93C974F48F850C1257427002D7EAD?opendocument

15 Ibid

16 "Concluding Observations of the Committee Against Torture on the fourth periodic report by the People's Republic of China to the implementation of the Convention Against Torture", Geneva, 3-21 November 2008, OHCHR, CAT/C/CHN/CO/4, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/CAT.C.CHN.CO.4.pdf

17 "'Eighty killed' in Tibetan unrest", BBC, 16 March 2008, available at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7299212.stm

18 "Pictures of Tibetans shot dead by Chinese armed police on 3 April 2008", Press Release, TCHRD, 17 April 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080417.html

19 "Photographic evidence of the bloody crackdown on peaceful protesting Tibetan at Ngaba County, Sichuan Province, on 16 March 2008", Press Release, TCHRD, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080318c.html

20 "Middle school student shot dead in Ngaba County", Press Release, TCHRD, 20 March 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080320a.html

21 "TCHRD commemorates 11th UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture", Press Statement,

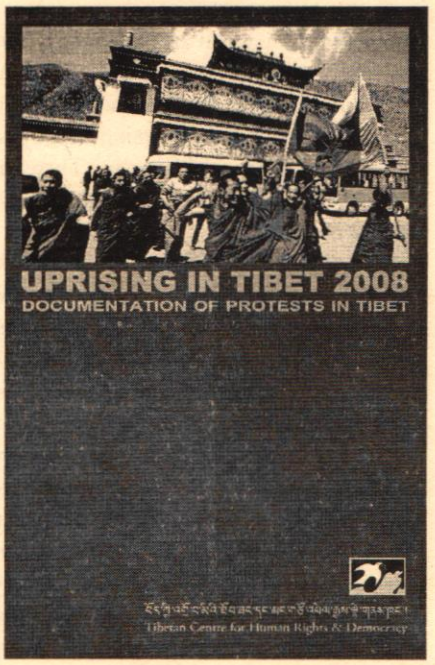
TCHRD, 26 June 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080626.html
22 "Two monks commit suicide in Amdo Ngaba", Press Release, TCHRD, 4 April 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080404a.html
23 "More cases of Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance surfaces from Tibet", Press Release, TCHRD, 25 September 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080925.html
24 "Monks Disrupt Media Tour in China", Jim Yardley, New York Times, 10 April 2008, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/10/world/asia/10tibet.html?fta=y
25 "Panchen Lama spends his 19th birthday under house arrest", Press Statement, TCHRD, 25 April 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080425.html
26 TCHRD's Briefing Paper to the Committee Against Torture to List of issues to be considered during the examination of the fourth periodic report of CHINA (CAT/C/CHN/4), pg 7-9, 29 October 2008, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/docs/ngos/TCHRD_China_cat41.pdf
27 "TCHRD Press Statement on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", Press Release, TCHRD, 10 December 2008, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20081210.html
28 "Dalai Lama Threatens to Resign", New York Times, 19 March 2008, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/19/world/asia/19dalai.html
29 "17 jailed for Lhasa violence", Xinhua, 29 April 2008, available at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-04/29/content_8073067.htm
30 "China: Tibetan Protesters Denied Fair Trial", Human Rights Watch, 29 April 2008, available at http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/04/29/china-tibetan-protesters-denied-fair-trial
31 "China's legal wrangle of Tibetan popular uprising: A Critique", Press Release, TCHRD, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080503.html
32 "China: Tibetan Protesters Denied Fair Trial", Human Rights Watch, 20 April 2008, available at http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/04/29/china-tibetan-protesters-denied-fair-trial
33 "China's legal wrangle of Tibetan popular uprising: A Critique", Press Release, TCHRD, available at http://tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080503.html
34 "Chinese Lawyers suppressed for offering legal service to Tibetans", Central Tibetan Administration, 12 May 2008, available at http://www.tibet.net/en/flash/2008/0508/120508.html
35 "Leaking State Secrets: Beijing Finds Nothing Noble in Speaking Out on Human Rights", Rebecca Novick, The Huffington Post, 29 July 2008, available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rebecca-novick/leaking-state-secrets-bei_b_115535.html
36 "Two months' ultimatum issued to the Tibetan Communist Party members and government employees to recall their children studying in exile schools." Press Release, TCHRD, 15 July 2008, available at http://www.tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080715.html
37 "24 Tibetan Children Return Home", Gaurav Bisht, Hindustan Times, 25 December 2008
38 Figure according to Tibetan Refugee Reception Centre, Dharamsala, between 1 January– 31 December 2008
39 "China confirms EU summit off over Dalai Lama row", EUbusiness, 27 November 2008, available at http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/1227729724.75/
40 "Angry China flexing muscle with Europe over Tibet: analysts", AFP, 26 November 2008, available at http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iYw-GuTNGRSZJIeR1PG3L79sgKaw
41 "China and envoys of the Dalai Lama hold talks about Tibet", Mian Ridge, Christian Science Monitor, 6 May 2008, available at http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0505/p99s01-duts.html
42 "China says serious differences in talks with private envoys of Dalai Lama", People's Daily, 10 November 2008, available at http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6530513.html
43 "China says no compromise on national sovereignty, refutes Dalai's so-called "middle way"", Xinhua, 10 November 2008, available at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-11/10/content_10336956.htm
44 "Dalai Lama calls special meeting on Tibet", International Herald Tribune, 28 October 2008, available at http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/10/28/asia/AS-India-Dalai-Lama-Tibet.php
45 "Recommendations of the First Special General Meeting Convened Under Article 59 of the Charter", Official Website of the Central Tibetan Administration, November 2008, available at http://www.tibet.net/en/index.php?id=595& articletype=f lash&rmenuid=morenew
46 "China holds press conference on talks with Dalai Lama", Xinhua, 10 November 2008, available at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-11/10/content_10334510.htm

Human Rights Situation in Tibet: Annual Report 2008

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) releases it 2008 Annual Report: Human Rights Situation in Tibet both in Tibetan and English language. The annual report focuses on three spheres of human rights violations in Tibet viz. Civil and Political Liberties, Right to Information and Religious freedom.

In retrospect, the year 2008 witnessed unprecedented violations of Tibetan's human rights and freedoms in the so called "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') and the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR"; Sichuan, Gansu, Qinghai and Yunnan. Chinese authorities continue to practice a systematic denial of human rights of the Tibetan people. The pan-Tibet political uprising in the spring of 2008 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.

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. Beijing has repeatedly downplayed the nature of the Tibetan protests through the prism of criminal activities such as looting, smashing, arson, theft and rioting and refuses to see the reality of the political nature of the pan-Tibet popular protests with different magnitudes covering 90 counties in the "TAR" and non "TAR" areas. 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



Uprising in Tibet 2008



Travellers to Tibet

completely unknown to their family members and their close associates or affiliated monasteries. The XIth Panchen Lama, Gedhun 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;

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 witnessed one of the highest numbers of death from torture this year. There were reports of Tibetans having been shot dead by firing live ammunition, 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 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 Chinese authorities following the March Protest in Tibet dismissed several interventions made by high profile entities entrusted with protecting human rights. In early April 2008, a request made by the then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, to visit Tibet to independently assess first-hand the situation on the ground was declined by the Chinese government citing that 'the timing was not convenient.' Additionally six UN Special Procedures mandate holders issued a joint statement expressing their deep concern over reports of security forces firing on peaceful protesters. The statement called for "restraint and non-violence by all parties, 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. The International Committee of the Red Cross which has the mandate to visit detention facilities and check on the well being of prisoners worldwide has never been given access to Tibet. The Chinese government non-cooperation with the UN Committee against Torture during the examination of the fourth periodic review of China's compliance to the UN Convention against Torture (CAT) and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment exposed her total disregard of the UN human rights mechanism to protect people against torture despite being a state party to the Convention.

According to the Centre's documentation, there are hundreds of Tibetans who are still held without any charges and at least 190 Tibetans were known to have been sentenced so far by various county level courts in "TAR" and Tibetan areas outside "TAR" for their participation in the series of protests in 2008. Of these 7 Tibetans were sentenced to life imprisonment for their participation in Tibet protests whereas 90 Tibetans were sentenced to 10 years and more of imprisonment. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy believes that the actual figures could be manifold in light of the magnitude of the protest in Tibet. The government severe blockade of information, which is often linked to 'leaking state secrets' and punishable by lengthy prison terms under the charge of 'endangering state security' for what is a standard practice of reporting human rights violation, has enormously stifled the flow of information.

In the sphere of right to information, China continues to keep a firm grip on the media outlets and censors their news reports as a matter of routine and Tibet remains virtually sealed off with imposition of communication blackout following major protests in Tibet. Jamming and strict control of foreign radio, TV and news broadcasts in Tibet continued to be stringent.

There are still many Tibetans serving lengthy sentences in various prisons during the past years, there was no development on sentence reduction or early release from 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 religious sphere, 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 2008 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;

As observed and recommended by the United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT) to PRC to probe the deaths of Tibetans killed, missing in the spring 2008 protests in Tibet and to adopt measures to prohibit and prevent enforced disappearances, TCHRD wants to reiterate that China should ensure that all persons detained or arrested in the aftermath of the Spring 2008 events have prompt access to an independent lawyer, prompt medical care and the right to lodge complaints free from official reprisal or harassment. It should immediately end the practice of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture, information blackouts, and respect and comply with international standards of human rights practices and its own constitutional guarantees. It is not enough for China to ratify international human rights conventions or offer verbal commitments to adhere to human rights laws alone, it is high time for the people in China to see concrete improvement and a genuine level of respect and action in the promotion and protection of their human rights.

Along with the 2008 Annual Report, TCHRD also releases two special reports entitled "Uprising in Tibet 2008: Documentation of protests in Tibet" which is a compilation of the events in chronological order since 10 March 2008 till 16 July 2008 and revised version of the "Briefing Paper for Travellers to Tibet."

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

Centre releases its 2008 Annual Report: Human Rights Situation in Tibet

On 21 January 2009, theTibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) held a press conference at Lhakpa Tsering Hall, Department of information and International Relations (DIIR) for the release of its 2008 Annual Report: Human Rights Situation in Tibet. The Centre's Executive Director briefed a group of Tibetan media from various media agencies, about the current human rights situation in Tibet and ansered the question posed by the media personnels.

Again on 22 January 2009, the Centre held a separate press conference for the Indian media outlet at the Indian Coffee House, Dharamsala for the release of its 2008 Annual Report: Human Rights Situation in Tibet. Around 15 reporters and journalist from different news agencies attended the press conference and the conference was concluded with question answers session with TCHRD staff and reproters.



Mr. Urgen Tenzin and Mr. Jampa Monlam during the press conference

TCHRD attend 3rd Regional HRDs Forum and the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on WHRDs

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, an Information Officer of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) attended the 3rd Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum and the Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders from 18 – 20 January 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. The forum was organized by Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) and was attended by 150 human rights defenders from 21 Asian countries. The prominent speakers during the forum includes Mrs. Margaret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Mr. Pablo Esoiniella, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Mr. Nuno Caldeira da Silva, European Commission (EC).



Mr. Tashi Phuntsok giving a country presentation on HRDs in Tibet who are in risk

On 20 January, Mr. Tashi made a presentation on country situation of Human Rights Defenders in Tibet to the co-participants. He also briefed Mrs. Margaret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders about the situation of prominent human rights defenders in Tibet who are in risk. Mr. Tashi distributed centre's DVDs and publications during the forum and also at Foreign Correspondence Club of Thailand. The forum was concluded with the Adoption of the 2008 Bangkok Commitment.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

8

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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)

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

9

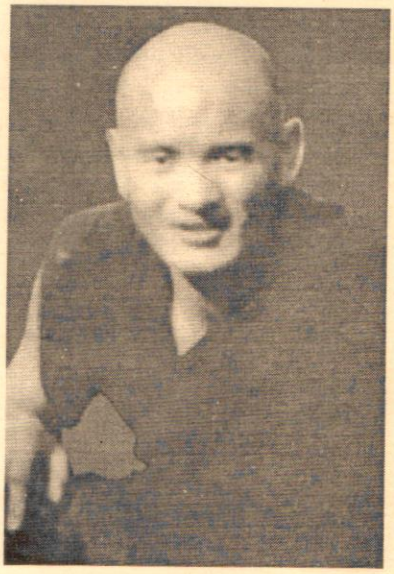
CONTENT

-China arrests a solo protester in Lithang (pg 1)
Fifteen Tibetans arrested in Lithang after a peaceful protest (pg 1)
-China grills 5766 Tibetans Under Winter 'Strike Hard" Campaign in Lhasa (pg 2)
-A Tibetan man blinded and sentenced to four years' in jail in Ngaba (pg 3)
- Two sentenced in Kardze (pg 3)
-China sentences four nuns and two laymen in Kardze (pg 4)
-More cases of detention and disappearance emerges after Lithang Protest (pg 5)
-China sentences four Tibetans in Kardze (pg 5)
- Lithang under siege days after the protest (pg 6)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-TCHRD Conducts 20th Workshop in Nepal (pg 7)

-Orientation on Local Governance in Majnu-ka-Tilla (pg 7)



Lobsang Lhundup, a monk of Nekhor Monastery

China arrests a solo protester in Lithang

A monk of Nekhor Monastery in Lithang County in Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') was arrested for staging a peaceful solo protest demonstration on 17 February 2009, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from reliable sources.

"At around 12 noon (Beijing Standard Time), Lobsang Lhundup, a monk of Nekhor Monastery staged a peaceful solo protest demonstration at the main market square of Lithang town for about 15-20 minutes before being forcibly detained by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP). Lobsang chanted slogans 'Long Live the Dalai Lama,' Independence for Tibet,' 'Swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet' and ' No Losar (Tibetan New Year) celebration this year,'" according to the source.

Lobsang Lhundup is known to have been taken to the Lithang PSB Detention Centre for further interrogation. According to eyewitnesses accounts from the site of the demonstration, "Lobsang, who was limping with the help of a walking stick, was forcibly subdued and taken in a police vehicle after his brief protest at the main market."

Lobsang Lhundup, 38 years old, born in Gemo Village, Lithang County, Kardze "TAP" was a monk of Nekhor Monastery, which is the primary monastery of four adjoining villages. His family, a nomad, shifted their base from Gemo Village to Lithang town a year and a half ago. According to the source, Lobsang Lhundup returned home after completing annual religious prayers at Nekhor Monastery a fortnight ago.

Lobsang Lhundup visited India in 2002 for the Kalachakra teaching at Bodhgaya, which was cancelled owing to the Dalai Lama's ill health. He stayed until the next teaching in January 2003 and returned to Tibet after the teaching the same year.

TCHRD expresses its deepest concern over the detention of Lobsang Lhundup and calls for his immediate release, as his act constitutes nothing more than the peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and thought. The authorities should ensure that Lobsang Lhundup is not subjected to ill treatment in the detention centre. The Centre deems the case as an outright clampdown on the freedom of opinion and expression in Tibet. Freedom of expression, opinion and assembly are fundamental human rights enshrined in the Chinese constitution and in UDHR.

Fifteen Tibetans arrested in Lithang after a peaceful protest

Following yesterday's solo protest by Lobsang Lhundup, a monk of Nekhor Monastery in Lithang County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Sichuan Province, a group of 15 Tibetans from Lithang County staged a similar peaceful protest this morning, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Sonam Tenpa, 29 years old, a younger brother of Lobsang Lhundup along with fourteen other Tibetans staged a peaceful protest march at Lithang main market square this morning at around 11:40 AM (Beijing Standard Time) which lasted for around 2 hours, according to source. Sonam Tenpa who led the peaceful protest was known to be carrying a huge portrait of the Dalai Lama adorned with a traditional Tibetan scarf. The peaceful Tibetan protesters took to the street of Lithang main market chanting slogans, 'Long

Live the Dalai Lama,' Independence for Tibet,' 'Swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet' and ' No Losar (Tibetan New Year) celebration this year,' sources described.

According to eyewitnesses accounts from the site of the demonstration, "all the Tibetan protesters were brutally beaten, manhandled and forcibly loaded into military trucks by the Chinese Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) forces that many were badly bruised and injured with blood dripping from their nose, head and arms."

The identities of all those detained are; Sonam Tenpa, 29 years old, Jampa Thokmey, 30, Gelek Kunga, 26, Lobsang Tenzin 23, Lobsang Phendey, 37, Jampa Yonten, 30, Sanggey, 29, Jampa Tsering, 28, Lobsang Wangchuk, 30, Lobsang Tashi, 21, Gendun Choephel, 30, Dargye, 37, Gedhun, 29, Jampa, 40 and Amdo Gyaltsen, 41. All the detainees were known to be from nomadic families who have shifted their residences from different villages to Lithang Town.

According to source, "two more groups of Tibetan people- a few Tibetans close to Ronggye A'drak who was arrested and sentenced in 2007 and a few other local Tibetan residents of Lithang- were also detained by PSB and PAP forces following their protest demonstration. The current whereabouts and their condition could not be ascertained at the moment. More troops were deployed around Lithang following yesterday's protest by a Tibetan monk.

TCHRD condemns in strongest terms the Chinese security forces' brutal use of force on the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators and calls upon the Chinese authorities to release the fifteen Tibetans who have been arrested and detained solely for exercising their fundamental human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Constitution and many other international covenants and treaties that China is party to. The government of the People's Republic of China should immediately locate the whereabouts of the detainees and should guarantee, in all circumstances, the physical and psychological integrity of the detainees.

The authorities should ensure that detainees are not subjected to further ill treatment in the detention centre as they were subjected to in broad daylight at the market square. The Centre deems the case as an outright clampdown on the freedom of opinion and expression in Tibet.

China grills 5766 Tibetans Under Winter "Strike Hard" Campaign in Lhasa

In the latest move to tighten its grip on the Tibetan people in Tibet and intensify its hard-line policies prior to any major events, the Chinese authorities' in Lhasa city launched a stipulated 42-day winter "Strike Hard" Campaign beginning 18 January 2009.

According to information given in the official newspaper, Lhasa Evening News (Ch: Lasa Wen Bao) today, "Within three days of the launch of Winter "Strike Hard" Campaign beginning 18 January 2009, Lhasa City Public Security Bureau (PSB) office had deployed 600 officers, around 160 police vehicles and conducted raids on 7 housing blocks, 2922 rented houses, 14 guest house and hotels, 18 bars and 3 internet cafés in Lhasa. After conducting the raid on these locations, the PSB were able to round up 5766 suspects and questioned them. This figure highlights the result of the launch of the "Strike Hard" campaign in Lhasa since it was launched three days ago." The official report did not mention about the number of people detained or released following the raid.

Apart from this campaign, recently Lhasa City government issued official notice requiring all the outside visitors wishing to stay for more than 3 days or less than a month in Lhasa City to apply for a temporary stay permit from the PSB office. The notice warned that those failing to procure the same would be severely dealt with legal actions.

Although the primary objective of the current winter "strike hard" campaign was cited as securing public security and stability of Lhasa city, however, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) believes the sole objective as authorities' attempt to detain those Tibetans suspected to be involved in the 2008 spring protests, target former political prisoners and many Tibetans from outside Lhasa city and does not have official temporary stay permit (Ch: Zan zhu zheng). Under this campaign, the State law enforcement bodies abuse the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people through arbitrary arrest, detention, interrogation and torture, dismissal from jobs and expulsion from religious institutions. TCHRD condemns the launch of so called winter "strike hard" campaign and doubts the motive behind the launch of the campaign prior to major events in Tibet.



PSB officers checking hotel in Lhasa

"Strike hard" campaign was first launched in China in 1983 with primary objective of fighting corruptions and crimes However, the motive of launching this campaign in China and in Tibet is totally different. In China, the official objective of this campaign is to crack down severely on general crime and end corruption practices. However, in Tibet the motive is to intimidateand eliminate those supporting Tibetan independence and human rights activists in Tibet. "



Vehicles used by the security forces

A Tibetan man blinded and sentenced to four years' in jail in Ngaba

The Intermediate People's Court of Ngaba County in Sichuan province sentenced a Tibetan to four years' jail term for spearheading protests in Ngaba County last year, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from reliable sources.

A 33-year-old, Choephel of Urjamtsang family, Unit No. 2, Meruma Township, Ngaba County, Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture"('TAP') Sichuan Province, who was involved in March 15, 16 and 17 protests in Ngaba County last year was sentenced to four years' jail term by the Ngaba County Intermediate People's Court on 4 November 2008.The court original sentence of ten years' jail term to Choephel was later commuted to four years' term on the ground of his clean past record, according to the source. The Intermediate People's Court of Ngaba County convicted Choephel on alleged crimes of leading protest, looting and ransacking County Public Security Bureau (PSB) office and burning national flag in a series of protests that took place in Ngaba County last spring.



Choephel of Urjamtsang family

According to sources, "Following a massive protest in Meruma Township in Ngaba County on 17 March 2008 which was participated by hundreds of Tibetans, the County PSB officers in a sudden raid stormed into Choephel's home to detain him. He was beaten black and blue with rifle butts resulting in a serious injuries to his left eye, head and limps. However, he managed to ran and flee towards a hill adjacent to his unit where he went into hiding for few days before returning home. However, on 4 April the PSB officials in a surprise raid arbitrarily detained him from his home. For four months Choephel's family members were not able to trace his whereabouts despite frantic searches and phone calls to local offices. Later at the end of August 2008, family members learnt about his detention at Barkham County PSB Detention Centre. They even sent clothes, eatables and written message to him but were unsure whether those items reach him or not. Even his father, Urjam, was subjected to rigorous interrogation at Meruma Township Police station after the detention of Choephel."

"On the evening of 3 November 2008, Choephel family received a phone call from Ngaba County PSB office informing family members about the court trial the next day. The family members, relatives and friends went to the Ngaba County Intermediate People's Court for the hearing the next day, however, only two persons were allowed inside the courtroom. The verdict was read out by the chief judge and convicted Choephel on alleged charges of leading the protest, ransacking and looting county PSB office and burning national flag. The court's original verdict of ten years' jail term to Choephel was later commuted to four years' on the ground of his clean past record," sources added.

"Finally on 19 January 2009, the family members were allowed to meet Choephel after seeking permission from the local police station and enquiring about the exact location of his detention. They were told to communicate only in Chinese and not in their mother tongue through a barricaded glass separating them. No clothes or eatables were allowed to offer except for the cash. Choephel is known to have been blinded his left eye from the injuries he sustained during security forces assault on 17 March raid at his home," sources described. Choephel is known to have been taken to a distant Menyang court, about 200 Kms outside the provincial capital, Chengdu.

The Centre has documented numerous cases of Tibetans having handed heavy and harsh prison terms for their participation in the 2008 protests in Tibet. In many cases the sentencing and whereabouts of the people come to light months after their detention or disappearance.

The TCHRD strongly condemns the sentencing of Choephel as his freedom of opinion and expression does not violate any of the constitutional components of Chinese law.The Centre also expresses it deepest concern and condemns the authorities' use of brute force on Choephel which blinded his left eye and detaining incommunicado for a long period of time. The Centre questions the transparency of the legal proceeding as trial was held behind the closed door without any legal representative of his choice.

Two sentenced in Kardze

In a series of court trails recently of Tibetans detained for their involvement in the protest last year in Tibet, more such cases of court sentencing are slowly reaching the outside world. The latest among such court trials were from Kardze (Ch: Ganzi) where in January this year, monk and a nun were sentenced to varying prison terms of four and three years respectively for staging peaceful protests in Kardze county, according confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Ngawang Lhundup, aged 22 and Kel Nyima (age unknown), both monks of Kardze Monastery were detained by the Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) on 9 June 2008 for staging a protest demonstration at the Kardze County headquarters, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Sichuan Province. According to sources, "Ngawang Lhundup was sentenced to four years' imprisonment term by the Kardze County Intermediate People's Court in early January this year for his protest in June last year." There was no information on his whereabouts since his arrest by the PSB officials until his court sentence in January this year. The fate of his friend Kel Nyima remains unknown, as there is no information on his whereabouts and condition.

12

China sentences four nuns and two laymen in Kardze

Chinese authorities has recently conducted a series of court trials of Tibetans arrested and detained for their involvement in the pan Tibet protests in 2008 which swept across the areas inhabited by Tibetans in Tibet. Acccording to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), four nuns and two laymen from Kardze (Ch: Ganzi) County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province were sentenced to a varying terms in January this year for staging a peaceful protest in 2008. Lunglung Sonam (age unknown), son of Samdak and Pamo from Thamei Village, Kardze County, was sentenced to three years imprisonment in January 2009 by Kardze County Intermediate People's Court, as per information provided by one of his close contacts in the Kardze region. LungLung was earlier arrested on 17 May 2008 for participating in a peaceful protest in Kardze county.

In a another court trial on 15 January 2009, Kardze County Intermediate People's Court sentenced three nuns from Yarteng Nunnery to two year and six months imprisonment term. The three nuns are: Poewang, 28, daughter of Choewang Gyatso and Rigah of Yarkhag Village, Kardze County;

Yangzom, 31, daughter of Kunga Choegyen and MarMar also from Yarkhag Village, Kardze County; and Lhamo, 29, daughter of Nakad from Thamed Village, Kardze County. They were all arrested for staging a peaceful protest in Kardze County on 18 June 2008. According to information received by TCHRD on 1 February 2008, all three nuns were now held in a unknown prison in Tsithar Township, Chengdu,



Choephel of Urjamtsang family

Sichuan Province. Sources also reported that at least 44 nuns were held in that prison.

A 32-year-old Ngawang Phuntsok, son of Ngawang Kunga and Palden Choetso from Bumshul village, Kardze County was detained for six months in county Public Security Bureau (PSB) Detention Centre for staging a solo peaceful protest on 18 June 2008 in Kardze County. He was arrested from the site of protest with the pictures of the Dalai Lama. On 20 January2009, Kardze County Intermediate People's Court sentenced Ngawang to three years prison term. He is currently held in a prison in Woemin Samisa (Ch.) a 70 Km from Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

In a separate court trial on 2 January 2009, a 28-year-old nun of Dragkar Nunnery, Yangkyi, a daughter of late Tha Tsering and late Ten Choekyi of Serchu Teng Village, Serchu Township, Kardze County was sentenced by the same court to one year and nine months following her arrest for participating in a peaceful protest



Poewang



Yangzom



Lhamo

Ngawang Lhundup was born to Sangay Wangchuk (father) and Yarkong (mother) in Dhago Village, Dhago Township, Kardze County, Kardze "TAP" Sichuan Province.

In a separate court trial in January 2009, Pema Lhamo, a nun of Kardze Gaden Choeling Nunnery was sentenced to three years' imprisonment term by the same court for her participation in a peaceful protest at Kardze County on 14 May 2008. She was arrested from the site of the protest along with six other nuns of the same nunnery and a layperson. There is no information on the current status and whereabouts of Tibetans who were also arrested along with Pema Lhamo.

It is not known where the two have been held currently. The sources confide they were reports of two having transferred to a prison nearby the provincial capital, Chengdu, to serve their sentence but it cannot be confirmed as of now because of much restriction on flow of information and severe monitoring by the authorities.

As the Tibetans all over pledge to skip the upcoming Tibetan New Year (Losar 25-27 February 2009) to mourn victims of last year's protests in Tibet, Chinese authorities particularly in Kardze are said to be deliberately encouraging Tibetans to celebrate the New Year, with monetary gift of 500 Yuan each to encourage celebrations.

The TCHRD strongly condemns the sentencing of Tibetans who were involved in peaceful protest to voice their political and religious aspirations as shared by many other Tibetans inside Tibet and calls for their immediate release. Over the past year, courts at various levels have sentenced nearly 200 Tibetans involved in a series of protests to varying prison terms including life sentence to seven Tibetans.

13

with fellow nuns on 12 May 2008 in Kardze County.

TCHRD strongly condemns the sentencing of the five Tibetans as their freedom to opinion and expression does not violate any of the constitutional components of Chinese law. Since their activities constitute nothing more than an expression of their opinion, thought and exercise of their basic human rights peacefully, TCHRD calls upon the Chinese authorities to release them immediately with any condition.

Over the past year, courts at various levels have sentenced nearly 200 Tibetans involved in a series of protests to varying prison terms including life sentence to seven Tibetans. TCHRD is gravely converned about the fate of the arrested Tibetans and hundreds of other Tibetans who have disappeared since the major protest that rocked Tibet last year.

More cases of detention and disappearance emerges after Lithang Protest

According to additional information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from reliable sources regarding the protest demonstration by 15 Tibetans in Lithang County on 18 February 2009, Sonam Tenpa, 29 years old and Lobsang Tenzin, 23, in particularly sustained severe injuries from the brutal beating at the site of the demonstration and the whereabouts of Gelek Kunga, still remains unknown.

According to sources, "following a peaceful protest by fifteen Tibetans in the streets of Lithang main market, they were later joined by few Tibetan onlookers in the street. The Lithang County Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) detained five more Tibetans along with 15 other known Tibetans who staged a peaceful protest demonstration in Lithang on 16 February 2009 and were brutally beaten, manhandled at the site of the demonstration before being forcibly loaded into military trucks. They are, Damdul (only one name) the head of Dekyi Village, Lithang County, two other Tibetans whose identities could not be ascertained at the moment, and two Tibetan nomad ladies of Sako Village in Lithang County, Yanglo and Dolma." The latter two were known to have been released last evening.

The total number of Tibetans known to have been detained, since 15 February solo protest by Lobsang Lhundup of Nekhor Monastery and subsequent peaceful on 16 February, has reached 21.

According to some close associates, "Lobsang Lhundup is currently detained at Lithang County PSB Detention Centre whereas other Tibetan detainees are currently held in Lithang Tsagha PSB Detention Centre." According to sources, on learning about their detention at Tsagha PSB Detention Centre, the family members and relatives went to visit the detainees, however, to their shock, Gelek Kunga who was detained along with other Tibetans was nowhere to be seen in the detention centre. Many fear for the safety and the well being of Gelek Kunga since his detention and disappearance.

"The Shops and restaurants remain closed on that day following the peaceful protest in Lithang town. The vehicular traffic movement between Lithang and Bathang, which is around 6-7 hours journey distant, was brought to a grinding halt after the protest and subsequent deployment of massive troops into the areas to check further Tibetan protest," sources added.

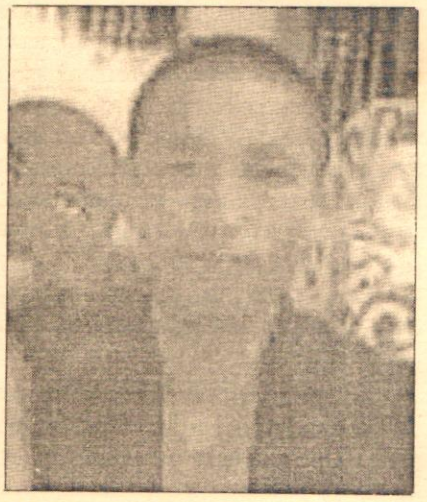
TCHRD calls upon the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to immediately locate the whereabouts and safety of Gelek Kunga and in all circumstances guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of all the detainees, and should guarantee immediate and unconditional access to legal representation, their families and any medical attention required for the injured detainees. The Centre deems the case as an outright clampdown on the freedom of opinion and expression in Tibet.

China sentences four Tibetans in Kardze

Four Tibetans detained for their participation in the last year's protests in Kardze County were sentenced by the County Intermediate People's court to varying prison terms, according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).



A 35 year-old Soe Lhatso,nun of Pangri Na Nunnery



A 36-year-old Bhumo, nun of Pangri Na Nunnery

According to sources, out of 55 nuns who were arrested following peaceful protest at Kardze County government headquarters on 14 May 2008, two nuns were sentenced by the County Intermediate People's Court. Soe Lhatso, a 35 year-old, born to Yeshi Gyaltsen (father) and Drukdung (mother) in Gechung Village, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') and nun of Pangri Na Nunnery was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment term whereas another nun, Bhumo, a 36-year-old born to Tenzin Thinley (father) and Sheymo (mother) and nun of Pangri Na Nunnery was sentenced to 9 years in jail for their participation in a peaceful protest demonstration in Kardze last year. The exact date of their court sentence is not known. The two are said to be held currently at a prison in an area called Trimon,

about 140 Kms from Chengdu, the provincial city of Sichuan Province.

According to sources, "out of 55 nuns detained on 14 May, between 12- 13 nuns are still being held in a detention Centre whereas the remaining nuns were released between 15-17 September 2008. Nuns who are still held in detention centre are said to be 'important members' of Pangri Na Nunnery referring to those who are responsible members of the nunnery.

In yet another incident of sentencing, Ngawang Tashi, 18 years-old, born to Sangay Tsering (father) and Kelwang (mother) in Jesungda Village, Kardze County was sentenced to three years imprisonment term. Whereas Dorjee Tashi, 18 years-old, born to Gonpo Dadul (father) and Dungtso Dolma (mother) in Jhelingda Village, Kardze County was sentenced to three years' in prison. Both were arrested for their participation in 18 March 2008 protest in Kardze County and were detained at Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) Detention Centre before being shifted to Drango County PSB Detention Centre for few months before the court sentence. The verdicts, sources say, were passed by the Kardze County Intermediate People's Court. The exact date of their court sentence and current place of detention is not known.

The Centre expresses its grave concern over the fate of detainees who were sentenced and urges the international community to take up their case to press the Chinese government to obtain their immediate release and also of all individuals imprisoned and detained for exercising rights guaranteed under Chinese and international human rights law. The Centre also calls upon the Chinese government to respect the fundamental rights of the arrested nuns and in no case they should be subjected to torture and ill-treatment as torture and inhuman treatment of prisoners and detainees are regular featuré in the Chinese administered prisons and detention centers in Tibet.

Lithang under siege days after the protest

According to the latest information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), Chinese authorities in Lithang County have significantly beefed up security measures by bringing more forces amidst severe restriction imposed on the movement of the people in Lithang following days of protests.

According to sources, "hundreds of People's Armed Police (PAP) -a paramilitary force- in full combat gears has arrived in Lithang County in the past couple of days following protest by Tibetans in the area. Severe restrictions are being put on the movement of the people in Lithang. People from villages and monasteries were told not to move out of their houses and warn of serious consequences if they come out in the street. All the shops, and restaurants remain closed with streets bearing complete deserted look except for the hundreds of security forces in full combat gears. The situation is very tense in Lithang at the moment."

The residents of neighboring nomadic villages like Othok and Youtru were completely barred from venturing into Lithang town. The telecommunication lines in the area is said to be temporarily cut off that it remains difficult to stay connected with the outside world.

According to sources, "Yesterday (18 February) a meeting was called among the monastic clergies, committee members and high lamas of the monasteries in Lithang, where monks were warned by authorities of dire consequences if anyone participates in any of the secessionist activities. They were also told that government would firmly crush the savage aggression of the Dalai clique, defeat separatism, and wage people's war to maintain stability."

At the moment, movement of the monks was severely restricted that neither could they come out of the monastery nor the visitors could pay visits to the monastery.

Of the 21 Tibetans detained since 15 February protest in Lithang, three people were known to have been released; two nomad ladies, Yanglo, Dolma and Damdul Gonpo (earlier reported as only Damdul) were released in the evening of 16 February 2009 from Tsagha PSB Detention Centre. Damdul Gonpo, a former monk of Drepung Gomang Monastery, was a unit leader of Derge Village, Unit no.1, Lithang County, Kardze "TAP"

As an indication of possible unrest in Tibet in the run-up to major event and anniversary, China has ordered government and security forces to crush any sign of allegiance and loyalty to the Dalai Lama. Many Tibetan areas are now out of bounds for foreigners.

Recently, a conference of Chinese Communist leaders in Lhasa ordered authorities to "mobilize and fully deploy" to maintain stability, the Tibet Daily, official mouthpiece reportedly said. The security meeting in Tibet said the overarching task for Tibetan authorities this year was to "resolutely go toe-to-toe in a battle against all destructive separatist activities to maintain stability." AFP reported a Chinese state media in Tibet as saying Thursday. "The meeting called on the party, government, military, police and public in all areas... to firmly crush the savage aggression of the Dalai clique, defeat separatism, and wage people's war to maintain stability," the paper said of the meeting in Lhasa.

In recent days, the security beef up has been witnessed in at least four areas of the Tibetan region; Lhasa, the capital; Labrang (Ch: Xiahe), a town in Gansu Province that witnessed a persistent and large scale protest last year; Rebkong (Ch:Tongren), a monastery town in Qinghai Province; and Lithang, a town in Kardze "TAP" Sichuan Province that has been locked down this week.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its grave concern on the increased military presence in the Tibetan areas prior to major events. The Chinese authorities in the name of maintaining stability in Tibet are committing a large-scale human rights violation, clampdown on the freedom of expression, opinion, thought, movement and peaceful assembly and resorting to arbitrary detention. The Centre urges the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to uphold and respect fundamental human rights affirmed and asserted in the Constitution, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties that she had signed and ratified. TCHRD also urges the international community to step up necessary pressure and political influence on China to immediately put an end to rampant and gross violation of human rights in Tibet.

15

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

TCHRD Conducts 20th Workshop in Nepal

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) conducted its 20th workshop on Human Rights and Democracy from 10-13 February 2009 at Boudha Tibetan Community enclave in Kathmandu Nepal. The workshop was participated by 65 Tibetans in Nepal including the Tibetan in the far flung areas of Pokhara and Tserok Tibetan community.



A group photo session after the workshop in Nepal

This was first ever kind of workshop conducted in Nepal since the Centre's inception in 1996. In view of Centre's overriding concern about the need to disseminate information and give critical orientation to the Tibetans in Nepal, which so far has been on the fringe of the evolving processes of democratization in exile.

On the first day of the workshop, the Centre's Director Mr. Ugyen Tenzin gave a comprehensive talk on the evolution, progression and the functioning of the democracy model in exile. On the morning of the same day, Mr. Jampa Monlam, a long term human rights advocate and the former political prisoner gave a power-point presentation on the current human rights situation inside Tibet. The part of his briefing talk also dealt on the structure of the constitution of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the prevailing China policy implementation inside Tibet.

In the afternoon of 10 February 2009, Mr. Pema Jungney, a long time member of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE), an expert on the "Tibetan Charter in Exile", explored the nitty-gritty of the Tibetan charter to the workshop attendees, its significance and role in the democracy in exile. He conducted a demonstrative talk and illustration on the roles, functioning and purpose of the Local Assembly or the democracy at grassroots level. Mr. Pema's session was devoted to question and answer, interaction with the participants.

On 11 and 12 February 2009, Mr. Pema Jungney gave a comprehensive talk on "Middle Way Approach". It has been Centre's effort to assist the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in educating the Tibetan masses regarding the policy frame work, concept and principle of the Middle Way Approach.

In the afternoon of the same day, the present Election Commissioner, Mr. Tashi Phuntsok gave a detailed account of the participatory democracy in exile by relating statistical data, facts and figures of the past elections. Moreover, he urged and stressed the importance of the Tibetan people to pay special attention to electoral politics, which has been considered as the backbone of any democracy. He also emphasized about the need to know about the candidates' backgrounds, procedures, their rights, duties and most importantly the people's involvement in electing their representatives to the Tibetan Parliament in Exile. In keeping with upcoming election of the Kalon Tripa, the election commissioner urged and called upon the participants to start preparing, listing nominations and above all to elect the right candidate for the next Kalon Tripa. In end, he said that the election of the next Kalon Tripa will be a landmark event in the evolution of the democracy in exile.

On 13 February 2009, in order to present an opportunity for the participants to have a personal interaction with the former political prisoners of Tibet, in this workshop, the Centre invited Ngawang Rinchen to narrate his personal accounts, trials and tribulation in the Chinese administered prisons of Tibet. This is to render a direct insight into the personal sacrifices and ordeals faces by the Tibetan political prisoners inside Tibet.

In the afternoon, the Centre arranged a special time for the participants to discuss, interact and to vent their own opinions on the topics that had been covered by the key resources during the workshop. The participants were also allowed to debate amongst themselves on themes of human rights, electorate politics, democracy and the local assembly.

Orientation on Local Governance in Majnu-ka-Tilla

The Centre conducted Orientation Workshop to the Tibetans in Majnu ka-Tilla about local governance and Local Assembly between 31 Jan - 2 February 2009. It has been the core objective and the endeavor of the Centre in promoting the local governance at the grass roots level. Compare to the Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPE), the evolution of local assembly and the people's democracy at the lowest level is at an embryonic stage. The Centre has been expressing concern on this part of the democracy in exile for a while.

The workshop's key objective was to inform the Tibetan in Majnu-ka-Tilla about the local assembly and choosing their own Settlement Officer, the highest elected figure at the grassroots level. The Centre invited Mr. Thupten Lungrig, the Minister of Education, Mr. Pema Jungney, a veteran parliamentarian and Mr. Tashi Phuntsok the current Election Commissioner.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

16

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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)

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS update

HUMAN RIGHTS *update* is a monthly newsletter of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. www.tchrd.org

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

MARCH 2009

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 7

17

CONTENT

-China detains 95 Tibetans who protested in the aftermath of Tashi Sangpo's suicide in Marchu River (pg 1)
-Nine monks setenced, other monks committeed suicide in Tibet (pg 2)
-Tibetans Protest in Kardze during the Tibetan New Year (pg 2)
-China to step up unprecedented restriction in Tibet (pg 3)
-Self-immolated man told to imputate his llegs (pg 5)
- A website proprietor arrested in Gansu province (pg 5)
-China arrests a Tibetan civil servant in Mangra County Qinchai Province (pg 5)
-Tashi Dhondup's brother disappearedt (pg 6)
-China sentenced four Puru-na nuns in Kardze County (pg 5)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-TCHRD at the 10th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (pg 7)
Centre attends two-day workshop at Surya hall (pg 7)



Tashi Sangpo

China detains 95 Tibetans who protested in the aftermath of Tashi Sangpo's suicide in Machu River

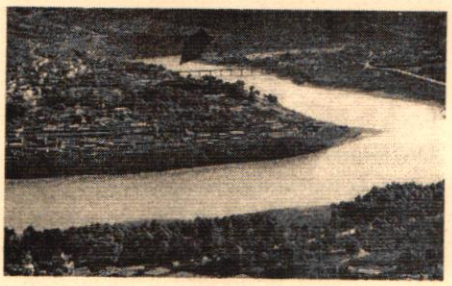
The official Chinese state media, Xinhua News Agency was quoted as saying that the Chinese authorities arrested 95 Tibetans who protested against the Chinese government, in the aftermath of a Tibetan monk who committed suicide by drowning himself into Machu River (Yellow River) on 21 March 2009.

According to Xinhua News Agency, the Chinese authorities have arrested six monks while 89 others surrendered to the local police station. Xinhua also says that 93 were monks and while 2 were lay people. It also says protesters "assaulted policemen and government staff".

Xinhua News Agency maintained that Tashi Sangpo's whereabouts still remain unknown and his body still yet to be found. However, according to the information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy from various sources stated that the monk Tashi Sangpo, 28, plunged into Machu River and drowned himself out of sheer desperation and frustration. He hailed from Gyulgho Township, (Ch: Lajong), Machen County, Golog "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Qinghai Province.

TCHRD learnt from numerous sources that Tashi Sangpo was detained in a local police station since 10 March 2009 after political pamphlets and a banned Tibetan National flag were seized from his room on 21 March 2009. Somewhere around 3.30 PM (Beijing Time), he was permitted to visit a toilet, and it was at that time he drowned himself into Machu River as an act of extreme sign of defiance and desperation.

Ironically, in a very poignant sight, Ragya Monastery was sealed off since March 10 and stood helplessly at the background of Machu River (Yellow River) when Tashi



Machu River where Tashi Sangpo committed suicide

Sangpo made his fatal leap into Machu River, one of the largest rivers of Tibet. The Chinese security forces had been maintaining a close vigil and patrol since March 10 of this year after political pamphlets and literature were seized and a banned Tibetan National Flag hoisted on the Ragya Monastery.

Moments after Tashi Sangpo's death, several thousand monks and local Tibetans in and around Ragya Monastery gathered to carry out strong protest on the streets of Ragya Monastery, at a local police station and the County government headquarter, chanting a slogan "Bod-gyalo" (victory for Tibet) while crying bitterly. Some sources told TCHRD that the protesters shouted slogans such as "Independence for Tibet" and "Long Live the Dalai Lama".

In the aftermath, a disciplinarian of Ragya Monastery, Palden Gyatso and four other monks were arrested by the Chinese authorities. The situation remains very tense at Ragya Monastery and surrounding Tibetan communities. In an attempt to clampdown on the angry protesters, seven military trucks carrying security personnel were sent from Xining, the provincial city of Qinghai province.

Few days ago, the Tibetan government in exile released rare video footages exposing

the brutality of China's crackdown on the peaceful protesters during and after the March 14, 2008 protest in Lhasa city. Tendar, one of the torture victims with severe wounds and cuts, died after he was locked up in a detention cell unattended with no medical treatment. He later died under gruesome and pitiable condition as wounds rot beyond cure. There are many cases of torture deaths whose fate remains unknown to the outside world due to the secretive nature of the Chinese regime, curtailment of the flow of information, censorship currently placed inside Tibet. Hence, TCHRD is entitled to presume that there might have been many other cases of torture deaths in the Chinese prisons and detention centres. Tendar's fate highlights the urgency of protection and international intervention needed by Tibetan people in Tibet, as the situation inside Tibet deteriorates at an astonishing pace, in the face of the muted silence, feigned ignorance of the United Nations and its vital organs. At this point of time, inside Tibet, the Tibetan people are not able to defend even the most basic and fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Hence, TCHRD urges the international community to intervene immediately and help protect the dignity of Tibetan people inside Tibet.

Nine monks sentenced, other committed suicide in Tibet

Nine monks studying at Samye Monastery in Tibet were sentenced to varying prison terms between 2-15 years' in jail for their participation in the last Spring Tibet protest in Lhoka Prefecture "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') and a monk committed suicide, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

In the series of court sentences of the Tibetan people involved in the last spring Tibet protests, more cases of court sentences and other extreme cases of Tibetan committing suicide due to intolerable sufferings are surfacing.

The Lhoka Intermediate People's Court sentenced nine monks to varying terms between 2 -15 years' in jail for their participation in the 15 March 2008 protest which took place at Samye government administrative headquarters in Dranang County (Ch: Zhanang xian), Lhoka (Ch: Shannan) Prefecture, "TAR". They were detained at Lhoka Public Security Bureau (PSB) Detention Centre following a brief protest demonstration. The protest was joined by hundreds of Tibetans of Dranang County calling for the "swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", "religious freedom" and "human rights for Tibetans." Although, the exact date of their court sentence could not be ascertained, however, the source said that they were known to have been sentenced in May-June 2008.

According to the source, following the protest the movement of the monastic populace were severely restricted that not a single monk was allowed to move in and out of the monastery for three days. After three days of complete lockdown, the County PSB officials along with the 'Work Team'- ((Tibetan: las don ru khag, Chinese: gongzuo dui) specially formed units of government personnel sent to conduct "patriotic re-education" in an institution or locality)- arrived at monasteries to question each monk regarding the protest demonstration. During one such intense interrogation on 19 March 2008, a visiting scholar from Dorjee Drak Monastery to the Samye Monastery called Namdrol Khakyab from Nyemo County, Lhasa Municipality, "TAR,' committed suicide leaving a note that accused of unbearable suppression by the Chinese regime and cited innocence of other monks of the monastery and took full responsibility for the protest demonstration.

According to the source, "Of the nine Tibetans sentenced, four were visiting Buddhist scripture masters to the Samye Monastery from other monasteries, and other five were monks of the Samye Monastery. Five monks are:

Gyaltsen of Tsona (Ch: Cuona) County, Lhoka Prefecture was sentenced to 15 years' in jail;

Nyima Tashi, of Gongkar County (Ch: Gongga Xian), Lhoka Prefecture was sentenced to 13 years' in jail;

Phuntsok (One name only) born in Kongpo, Nyingtri Prefecture 'TAR' and his parent were known to have shifted their home to Kyiray in Lhasa, was sentenced to 13 years' in jail;

Tenzin Dawa, of Tsome County (Ch: Cuomei xian), Lhoka Prefecture, was sentenced to two years' in jail

Rigden, of Dranang County, Lhoka Prefecture, was sentenced to 2 years' in jail.

The visiting Buddhist scripture masters were identified as,

Tenzin Bhuchung of Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa Municipality and monk of Langthang Monastery was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment term;

Tenzin Zoepa, of Tsome County, Lhoka Prefecture and monk of Jowo Monastery, was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment term;

Gelek of Lhodrag County (Ch: Luozha xian), Lhoka Prefecture and monk of Sang Ngag Choekor Monastery was sentenced to 2 years' jail term

Ngawang Tenzin of Nagartse County (Ch: Lianggarze xian), Lhoka Prefecture and monk of Khathok Monastery was sentenced to 2 years' in jail.

Following the protest demonstration, the Samye Monastery was forcibly closed for almost nine months from March till November 2008. There is no information on the exact location of their detention at the moment nor is there any information on their physical condition.

TCHRD strongly condemns the sentencing of nine Tibetans monks for their peaceful protest demonstration in Samye. Since their activities constitute nothing more than an expression of their opinion, thought and exercise of their basic human rights peacefully, TCHRD calls upon the Chinese authorities to release them unconditionally. TCHRD expresses its grave concern over the outrageous violation of denying the Tibetan devotees and practitioners from enjoying their right to religious freedom and beliefs by completely closing the religious institution for months. Suicides resulting from unbearable mental torture have also been recorded in the past. As a direct consequence of relentless oppression by the Chinese security forces, many anguished Tibetans attempted to and others took the drastic step of committing suicide to rid themselves of persistent physical and mental torture. Last year witnessed suicide even by monks who were known for their patience and resilience in the face of adversity. Such cases are clear 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.

China to step up unprecedented restriction in Tibet

The Chinese state mouthpiece "Xinhua News Agency" on 4 February 2009 released a report concerning the stepping up of security restriction in "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") and non -"TAR" regions of Tibet. According to Xinhua report, the Security Department of the Central Government of China released an official paper titled "The Key Task To Improve The Overall Security Situation in 2009". The paper spelled out 33 Points to combat security threats. Out of the 33 Points, 15 points dealt on security concerns in the "TAR" and "Non-TAR" regions of Tibet. The paper listed "Three Categories of People" as the most potent threat to overall social stability and security inside Tibet. They are as under:

Those individuals who took part in the last year's protest and who were later released Those individuals who illegally left and re-entered Tibet

Those monks and nuns who were expelled from monasteries and nunneries According to Xinhua News Agency report, close surveillance, restriction and inspection were to be maintained on those Tibetans fell under the "Three Categories of People" in all parts of Tibet. The paper endorsed the continuation of "Strike Hard" (Ch: Yanda) campaign in Lhasa city for an indefinite period of time. On the most significant note,



Zhang Qing Ling shaking hand with the Chinese security personnel in full combat gear

"TAR" and non -"TAR" regions of Tibet were singled out as the principle target of the "Key Task" in the drive to maintain high level of security presence and social stability in China. Similarly on 4 February 2009, the Security Department of the Central government in Beijing issued terse order to regional government of "TAR" to step up unprecedented security restriction and clampdown on any kind of untoward protest and demonstration should they take place. The order issued by the Central government is significant as the first anniversary of the last year's pan Tibet protests and demonstrations draw in.

As reported in Xinhua News Agency, stern orders were issued to step up the restriction, surveillance and monitoring in the Tibetan areas. Numerous check posts have been installed on major roads, highways, streets and alleyways. There has been intense restriction on the movement of Tibetan people. According to many sources, temporary police and military bases have mushroomed up at important and strategic locations inside Tibet where protests and demonstrations previously took place.

On 25 February 2009, the traditional custom of going for religious visits to important monasteries was curtailed. Strict ban was imposed on get together celebrations and associations during the Tibetan New Year festivities.

In many ways, Tibetan people were not able to celebrate normal New Year, in what appears to be an anticipatory clampdown on any kinds of protest and demonstration as the anniversary of the last year's protest demonstration inside Tibet.

For instance, on 2 March 2009, the central government in Beijing issued 63 combat vehicles to Lhasa Public Security Bureau (PSB) Department with a directive that the 63 combat vehicles were to be distributed amongst the most sensitive and protests prone areas inside "TAR". Earlier the Chinese government issued special combat equipments to Lhasa Security personnel such as special gloves with sharp nails, tear gas, batons and laser torch to deal with protesters and demonstrators on the streets. Moreover, the stipulated 42-day "winter Strike Hard" or "Yanda" campaign declared since 18 January 2008 is currently underway in Lhasa city.

Similarly, the non - "TAR" regions of ethnographic Tibetan areas such as Gansu, Sichuan and Yunan and Qinghai reel under intense clout of security restriction and repression. Unprecedented number of security and military check posts had been set up on major cross roads, highways and important streets.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its utmost concern at the imposition of severe restriction and repression inside Tibet. The centre urges the international community to pressure the Chinese government to respect the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people and their rights to self determination.



A file photo showing 63 combat motor vehicles issued to the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") to deal with the protest and demonstration inside Tibet

Tibetans Protest in Kardze during the Tibetan New Year

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received a confirmed information from reliable sources that local Tibetans in Kardze County refused to celebrate Losar, the Tibetan New Year (February 25-28, 2009) despite exhortation by the local Chinese authorities. The refusal to celebrate the Tibetan New Year was observed in the memory of those Tibetans died in the largest Pan Tibet protests in 2008. Sources told TCHRD that about 20 days prior to the Tibetan New Year, which fell on 25 February 2009, Tibetans in Kardze County held meritorious religious prayers such as reciting Mani and Tara mantras as a gesture of sincere grief and mourning for those Tibetans who gave up their lives for human rights, freedom and justice in Tibet. In most parts of Tibet, the Tibetan New Year was not celebrated in the customary fashion. The meritorious prayers and rituals were intended to help and guide the deceased Tibetans for their safe and happy passage into their future re-births in accordance with the Tibetan Buddhist beliefs.

However, just few days before the Tibetan New Year, the Chinese government officials visited villages, townships, monasteries and nunneries to extort the local Tibetans to celebrate the Tibetan New Year in grand style. The Chinese officials even lured monks and nuns to celebrate "usual Losar" (Tibetan New Year) with monetary rewards. However, none of monks and nuns celebrated the Tibetan New Year.

According to the traditional Tibetan custom, on the third day of the Tibetan New Year, the local Tibetans in all parts of Kardze Prefecture used to celebrate the Tibetan New Year with various festivities, amusements and sports such as Horse racing competition, dances, revelries, incense burning rituals and hoisting flags on mountain tops to please the local deities. However, during this New Year, none of such traditional festivities and celebrations were observed by the Tibetans, something unheard and unprecedented in Kardze region.

In a sheer mockery, the Chinese government directed the retired government officials and cadres to perform "songs and dances" during the Tibetan New Year day. However, not a single Tibetan spectator turned to watch the "songs and dance" at Kardze County Headquarter staged by the higher Chinese authorities. In embarrassment, the County officials later brought the "singers and dancers" to Townships for performance and entertainment. However, once again not a single spectator came out to watch the performance at Kardze Township Headquarter.

On the other hand, for the first time in their cultural history, the local Tibetans went on with normal routines and works on the first day of the Tibetan New Year. Such display of non-co-operation in this form and manner was unprecedented. Sources told TCHRD that the local Tibetans were constructing houses and performing household works on the New Year day.

As a mark of a strong defiance and resistance against the Chinese government, on 28 February 2009, (fourth day of the Tibetan New Year) a huge banned Tibetan National flag was seen being hung on the wall of a police station in Lhoba Township, Kardze County, Kardze Prefecture, Sichuan Province. In addition, a huge graffiti in red paint carrying a slogan, "Independence for Tibet" was written just below the hung Tibetan National flag.

Despite the intense repression, Tibetans still managed to hold protests in Kardze County in what has been seen as continuous cases of dissidence and pro-independence movements inside Tibet. On 1 March 2009, Kardze County witnessed three protest demonstrations in a single day. The protest demonstrations called for "Independence for Tibet". The first protest took place at 10 am in the morning at Su-ngo Township Headquarter, Kardze County, Sichaun Province. It was led by two nuns, Pema Yangtso and another nun whose identity still remains yet to be ascertained. The two nuns were from Shi-lus Hermitage Nunnery, which was located three kilometers away from Kardze County Headquarter.

Few hours after the first protest, it was followed by another protest at 1 pm in afternoon at Kardze County Headquarter. This time it was led by two students and a monk. They were identified as Rinchen Phuntsok, age 15, Tsering Drakpa, age 17 and third was a monk named Achoe, age 22. The two teenage students were Chinese language student at the Chinese Middle School in Kardze County. According to the Chinese Constitution, juvenile below the age of 18 are not entitled to be arrested and placed under custodial detention. However, when it comes to the actual implementation, these laws are often violated and ignored by the Chinese authorities.

Sources told TCHRD that the third protest of the day was carried out by a girl whose identity still remained unknown. There was also an unconfirmed report of a man who staged a solo protest in Kardze County on 6 March 2009.

TCHRD learned that the three protest demonstrations lasted no more than few minutes. They were immediately arrested by the Chinese security forces. They were currently known to be held in detention centres. This elucidates that there is an intense restriction, vigilance and repression in the most parts of Tibet. The security forces are scattered everywhere, so much so that the protesters are arrested within the few minutes of the demonstration. The situation in Kardze Prefecture has been tense and volatile for some time now.

The situation in many parts of Tibet still remains volatile and tense. There has been an unprecedented ~~cover of~~ security presence and vigilance as 10 March draws near and which also coincides with the 50 Years of China's iron clad rule and occupation inside Tibet.

~~Earlier,~~ a monk named Thapey from Kirti Jhepa Monastery, ~~in his~~ mid twenties immolated himself on 27 February 2009 at town's main road. Eyewitnesses reported that he was carrying a picture of the Dalai Lama and was shouting slogans. Reports say he was shot by the Chinese security forces and fell down to ground.

A day before the self-immolation, a thousand of monks gathered at Kirti Monastery to demand the Chinese authorities to allow them to hold the great prayer festival. Meanwhile, a latest report released by Xinhua says that the monk is recovering from the burn injuries. Xinhua's report on 6 March 2009 denies the initial reports claim by some Tibetans that the monk was shot by the Chinese security police as he immolated himself.

21

Self-immolated man told to amputate his legs

According to a confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), Tabey, a monk Kirti Jepa Monastery, Ngaba County, Sichuan Province who self-immolated himself on 27 February 2009 as a mark of protest against the Chinese repression and rule is currently said to be hospitalized in a secret government hospital located in Chengdu city.

Sources told TCHRD that Tabey's mother was permitted to meet him at the hospital by the Chinese authorities. However, they were not allowed to speak to each other. Sources also told TCHRD that their meeting lasted not more than



Self immolated Tabey, a monk of Kirti Jhepa Monastery, surrounded by Chinese security guard (Photo source: Bod-Kyi-Dus-Bab)

few minutes. Tabey is currently placed under huge security cover and protection.

In a sudden twist to Tabey's self-immolation episode, the Chinese officials explained his mother about the need to amputate his legs, which however, was strenuously resisted by Tabey himself.

This apparently points to earlier claims made by eyewitnesses'"that Tabey fell down after hearing three gun shots". Hence, it could be highly likely that Tabey sustains severe gun injuries on both of his legs, apart from severe burnt injuries.

TCHRD considers the Chinese authorities push to amputate Tabey's legs as an attempt to hide and cover up the irreversible injuries inflicted on his leg by bullets. Therefore, TCHRD considers the forcible amputation of Tabey's legs as a denial of basic and fundamental human rights. It would be a condemnable act on the part of the Chinese authorities if they go ahead with the amputation against Tabey's wish.

A website proprietor arrested in Gansu province

According to information received by Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from a reliable source, Kunchok Tsephel, who run a Tibetan language and culture website - Chomei (eng. Lamp) (http://www.tibetcm.com/index.html) was arrested at his home in Gannan "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Gansu Province.

On 26 February 2009, the Chinese security officials in Machu County arrested Kunchok Tsephel Gopey Tsang, a resident of Nyul-ra Township, Machu County, Gannan "TAP", Gansu Province. He is currently said to be detained in one of the Public Security Bureau (PSB) Detention centres in Gannan "TAP". The Centre also learned that Kunchok's house was ransacked, his computer confiscated, and rooms searched for other incriminating materials.

Tsephel was born in 1970, studied Tibetan and Chinese languages from Primary School in Nyul-ra Township and Tibetan Middle School in Machu County. In 1989, he came to exile in India and enrolled at the Tibetan School in Suja, Bir where he studied Tibetan and English languages for three years. After the completion of his studies, he returned to Tibet in 1994.

In the third month of Tibetan lunar calendar in 1995, Security Bureau officials of Gansu Province, arrested Tsephel on suspicious grounds. At that time he was kept under custodial detention for two months and was subjected to torture and forced interrogation.

In 1996, he studied English and Chinese languages from Beijing Nationality University and from 1997, he studied English language from North Western Nationality University in Lanzhou for two years. In 2004, he was recruited as a Tibetan and English language teacher at the Tibetan Nationality Middle School in Machu County.

In collaboration with a young Tibetan poet Kyab-chen De-drol, Tsephel started a website on Tibetan arts and literature in 2005 called Chomei (eng. Lamp). The website was self funded with a mission to protect and promote the Tibetan arts and literature inside Tibet.

Their website was under the official supervision for many years, and was shut



Kunchok Tsephel - who runs Chomei website

down many times between 2007 - 2008, but they remained undaunted. In fact they were able to operate and function their website till now.

This is not a new case, in the past, there, were many cases of censorship, blockage and hacking of websites run by Tibetans highlighting their culture and difficulties face by the Tibetan people inside Tibet.

China arrests a Tibetan civil servant in Mangra County, Qinghai Province

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received a reliable information that a Tibetan civil servant was arrested by the Chinese authorities in Sum-dho Township, Mangra County (Ch: Gui nan Xian), Tsolho "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" "TAP", (Ch: Hainan) Qinghai Province.

Multiple sources told TCHRD that Tashi Dhondup, age 27, was arrested at his home on grounds of suspicion by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel on 12 March 2009. The PSB personnel charged into his house and immediately arrested him without giving any warrant explanation for



Tashi Dhondup, a Chinese government civil servant

the arrest. In addition, his Personal Computer (PC) and mobile phone were seized and forcefully taken away by the security personnel for further investigation. At the time of his arrest, he was a Chinese government civil servant in Mangra County, Tsolho "TAP", Qinghai Province.

Tashi Dhondup had previously served in the People's Armed Police (PAP) for three years and later worked as a school teacher in Sum-dho Township for some time. He was later recruited as a Chinese government civil servant in Mangra County, Tsolho "TAP", Qinghai Province, where he was arrested on 12 March 2009 on grounds of suspicion by the Mangra PSB personnel. He has a wife and two daughters at home.

TCHRD learned that Tashi Dhondup was currently being detained at the Mangra PSB Detention Centre.

Of late Mangra County (Ch: Gui nan Xian) witnessed peaceful protest march staged by the monks of Lutsang Monastery on 25 February 2009, during the first day of the Tibetan New Year (Losar). Since then Mangra County saw a dramatic stepped up of restriction and vigilance by the Chinese security forces such as tapping of telephone conversations and restriction on the freedom of movements. It seems that the ground situation in Mangra County appears volatile and tense.

Tashi Dhondup's younger brother disappeared

According to a reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), Jinpa Gyatso, a younger brother of a Chinese government civil servant Tashi Dhondup disappeared few days before the latter's arrest on 12 March 2009.

Jinpa Gyatso, age 25, also hailed from Sum-dho Township, Mangra County (Ch: Gui nan Xian), Tsolho "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" "TAP", (Ch: Hainan) Qinghai Province. He was a student at a higher college in Xining city, the provincial capital city of Qinghai Province.

Tashi Dhondup's wife Rinchen Tso and her five and three years old daughters were helpless at the face of their family tragedy.



Jinpa Gyatso, a younger brother of detained Tashi Dhondup

Sources told TCHRD that the provincial authorities have deployed a huge contingent of armed security forces in Sum-dho Townships, Tharshul and Gomang Townships under Mangra County. TCHRD also learnt that a huge numbers of the Chinese security forces and informers in civilian dress were deployed in the surrounding areas of Mangra County.

The post offices in Mangra County were being screened and checked. Moreover, telephones and mobile conversations were being secretly tapped by the higher authorities. There appeared to be other unknown cases of prominent Tibetan civil servants of the Chinese government and monks were kept under unconstitutional custodial detentions. The cars and buses were being checked and the movements of local Tibetans severely curtailed. The situation on the ground remains grim and unpredictable in Mangra County and its neighboring areas.

China Sentences four Puru-na Nuns in Kardze County

According to a reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), Kardze Court recently sentenced four nuns of Puru-na Nunnery, Su-ngog Township, Kardze County, Sichuan Province to varying prison terms.

The nuns were part of fifty nuns from Puru-na Nunnery in Kardze County which on 14 May 2008 staged a peaceful demonstration at Kardze County Headquarter against the illegal detentions and arrests of Tibetan people by the Chinese authorities.

The nuns were identified as Tashi Lhamo, sentenced to two-year prison term, Serka sentenced to two-year prison term, Rinzin Choetso sentenced to three-year prison term and Youghal Khando sentenced to two-year prison term.

The four nuns were currently serving their sentences in a prison in Chengdu City, the provincial capital of Sichuan Province. In addition, the whereabouts of seven other nuns of Puru-na Nunnery still remain unknown.

TCHRD deeply regrets the sentence passed by Kardze Court on the four nuns for merely exercising their freedom of expression and self-determination as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as well as in the Chinese constitution. The Centre also expresses serious concern at the continuous disappearance of the seven other nuns of Puru-na Nunnery.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin 23

TCHRD at the 10th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) participated in the 10th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, between 4 - 27 March 2009. The Centre was represented by Mr. Tenzin Norgay, Personnel for UN Affairs, and Mr. Tashi Choephel, Researcher. While in Geneva, they also attended the 17th Geneva Course of 'Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training' (GHR) from 28 February to 20 March 2009.



The Tibetan Delegation for 10th UN Human Rigths Council

During the council, they made oral interventions under the General Debate on Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention. On behalf of the Asian Indigenous and Tribal People's Network (AITPN), Mr. Choephel delivered an oral statement on 17 March where as Mr. Norgay delivered an oral statement on 23 March on behalf of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR).

On 12 March 2009 a press briefing "Human Rights NGOs call for high-level UN engagement on Tibet" was conducted at the press meeting room 2 in the United Nations Office at Geneva. The briefing was convened by Mr. Ngawang Choephel of the Tibetan UN Advocacy, Mr. Stewart Watters of the International Campaign for Tibet - Europe and Mr. Tenzin Norgay of the TCHRD. During the briefing, the NGOs said, "Given the highly credible reports of gross and systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms are being committed by Chinese authorities with impunity, it has now become crucial for UN human rights mechanisms to respond by launching the highest level of engagement with the Chinese leadership so as to ensure access by UN human rights observers to investigates the human rights crisis in Tibet." On the final day of the 10th session of the UNHRC, an "Urgent NGO Appeal for Intervention on Tibet" signed by 79 organisations was submitted to H. E. Mr.Martin I. Uhomoibhi, President of the Human Rights Council. The urgent appeal addressed to the Human Rights Council President and the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures said "We remain deeply concerned that today the Tibetan Plateau has become a huge military garrison with thousands of armed soldiers deployed imposing their might on all aspects of the day-to-day lives of the Tibetan people. With the closure of the Plateau to the outside world, the international community has been prevented from being able to determine the full scale of the violations being committed now with impunity. While Tibetans continue to protest as reports indicated this month, a tense and uncertain situation is developing in the "Tibet Autonomous Region" and other Tibetans areas in Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces."

Centre attends two days Workshop at Surya Hall

Miss. Tenzing Migmar, General Assistant of Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy attended two day workshop on Gender Bias and Women Empowerment, organized by the Social and Resource Development (SARD) under the Department of Finance a Surya Hall at Mcleodganj, Dharamsala from 29-30 March 2009.



Two-day workshop at Surya Hall

Around 40 employees from various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), Tibetan Women's Association (TWA), Gu-Chu-Sum (Association of Former Political Prisoners), Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) and Tibet Charity at Dharamsala attended workshop.

Neeru Vora, Director of Hind Swaraj peeth is the main resource person for the two day workshop.

The major issues covered under two-day workshop are: what is Gender Gender Socialization, Gender Socialization Patterns,

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

24

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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)

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

25

APRIL 2009 — TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY — VOLUME 2 ISSUE 8

CONTENT

-TCHRD condemns China sentencing of three Tibetans (pg 1)
-A solo nun stages protest march in Kardze (pg 2)
-Chinese authorities re-arrest Jigme Gyaltso (pg 2)
-China arrest Tibetan in Kardze over farming boycott movement (pg 3)
-Three more Tibetans arrested in connection with farming Boycott movement (pg 3)
- Ragya Monastery encircled, reeling under severe restriction (pg 4)
-A Tibetan writer-photographer arrested in Gansu Province (pg 4)
-A Tibetan monk beaten to death by Chinese Security Police (pg 5)
-Drango farmers arrested by the Chinese security police (pg 5)
-Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the XI th Panchen Lama turns 20 (pg 6)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-Desktop Publishing workshop for Tibetans (pg 7)



Penkyi sentenced to life imprisonment

TCHRD condemns China sentencing of three Tibetans

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its shock and dismay over the harsh sentences passed on three Tibetans by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court.

According to official Chinese mouthpiece, Xinhua, dated 21 April 2009, the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court sentenced one man to death with a two-year reprieve and two others to long jail terms for setting fire that killed six people in Lhasa riot last year. Penkyi, of Sakya County, Shigatse Prefecture(Ch: Xigaze) "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve, whereas Penkyi, 23, from Nyemo County (Ch: Nimo Xian), Lhasa Municipality, "TAR" was sentenced to life imprisonment and Chime, 20, from Namling County (Ch: Nanmulin xian), Shigatse Prefecture, "TAR" was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The three were sentenced by the Chinese court on alleged charges of arson, setting fire to clothing stores last year during the Lhasa unrest.

The Centre is seriously concerned about the fairness of the legal procedures according to international standards for fair trial and the treatment of the detainees who were held for more than a year in custody prior to their court sentencing. The secretive nature of the court trial and sentencing without providing any detail information on defendants, their argument, date of court trial and sentencing are particularly worrisome. Such secretive nature of the court trial procedure raises many questions on fairness, transparency, effectiveness and independence of judiciary which is cornerstone for ensuring justice. The Centre reaffirms that the right to a fair trial is a basic human rights and it is one of the universally applicable principles recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and still the cornerstone of the international human rights system.



Penkyi,sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve



Chime sentenced to ten years' imprisonment

While the official mouthpiece, Xinhua, report states that trials had been open and strictly abided by the Criminal Procedural Law of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and provided with Tibetan interpreters for the defendants during the trial, however, the rights of defendants to be represented by the lawyer of their choice was ignored by the judicial authorities in other earlier cases, due to politicized nature of the process. Following March 2008 protests, several lawyers from

the Mainland China were threatened to revoke their license if they represent detainees.

Such political patronage in the judicial trials is evident from the past experiences. After a series of protests in Tibet last year, Pema Trinley, Executive Vice Governor of "TAR," who was also a Deputy Secretary, Standing Committee of the 'TAR' Communist Party's Political and Legal Affairs, call on judiciary bodies to act fast and strike hard on 'Dalai clique' during a meeting on 2 April 2008 in Lhasa. He further said that stringent legal action should be taken in tune with the Party policy so that the final verdict would gain political, legal and social dividends referring to achieving social and political stability in the region.

In February this year, Xinhua quoted Nyima Tsering, Vice Chairman of the "TAR" People's Congress Standing Committee as saying that Chinese courts had handed down sentences ranging from three years to life in prison to a total of 76 people over the riots. However, according to the Centre's documentation around 235 Tibetans from "TAR" and Tibetan areas outside "TAR" have so far been sentenced to varying prison terms by court at different levels for their participation in the spring Tibet protest last year.

TCHRD considers the sentencing of Penkyi with suspended death penalty, Penkyi to life and Chime to 10 years jail term as highly arbitrary and summary in nature, which failed to meet the minimal international judicial standards, required for a fair trial. The Centre would like to seek the intervention of the international community and related UN mandates holders to secure justice for three Tibetan defendants. The Centre believes such court sentences are used as intimidation tactic by the authorities to Tibetans who dare show their dissent with the state.

A solo nun stages protest march in Kardze

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) learnt from a reliable source that a nun staged a solo protest march in Kardze County.

According to the sources, a nun Lobsang Khandro, age 21, from Gema Dra-wok Nunnery in Thing-ka Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province had staged a solo protest march at around 10 am on 6 March 2009.

Sources told TCHRD that Lobsang Khandro began her solo protest march from Takchu Bridge till to Kardze government headquarter. She was carrying pamphlets, political literature on Tibet and some prayer flags. While during her solo protest march she shouted slogans such as "No Freedom in Tibet", "Tibetan People Rise Up, Rise Up", "Long Live the Dalai Lama" and "Chinese Authorities Release all Political Prisoners".

Few minutes after her valiant solo protest march, the Chinese security personnel rushed in five police vans and immediately arrested and subjected her to severe beatings on the spot before being taken away to a detention centre.

Sources told TCHRD that Kardze authorities detained her in a new prison recently built near a government hospital in Kardze County. When some of her friends and relatives went to Kardze police station to inquire about her well-being, they were given a response that, "If she has involved in this kind of activity, there is no other way but to die. She has committed a serious offense and crime. There is nothing left for all of you to inquire about her well-being. Moreover, all of you must not contact the outside world on this matter".

The Gema Dra-wok Nunnery is situated 16 kilometers away from Kardze County on the route to a sacred pilgrimage site of Khawa Karpo. In 2008 during the pan-Tibet protests, the nuns of Gema Dra-wok Nunnery participated in the mass uprising for which five nuns are still serving their sentence in the Chinese prison.

Chinese authorities re-arrest Jigme Gyatso

According to a confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), the Chinese authorities re-arrested Jigme Gyatso, who was previously arrested on 23 March 2008 and then later released on 15 October 2008 for providing assistance to the making of the film LEAVING FEAR BEHIND (Tib: Jigdrel).



Jigme Gyatso, who assisted in the making of the film - Leaving Fear Behind

TCHRD learnt from various sources that Jigme Gyatso a.k.a Golog Jigme, age 40, a monk of Amdo Labrang Monastery, was re-arrested by Sangchu County Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel some where around 10 March 2009 from his residence in Sangchu County, Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Gansu Province.

Sources told TCHRD that around 4 am in the morning, around 10 March 2009, the Sangchu County PSB personnel entered Jigme Gyatso's room and arrested him without giving any explanation. Since then there has been no information about his whereabouts.

From October 2007 to until March 2008, Dhondup Wangchen, a Tibetan from Bayen, Tsoshar (Ch: Hualong) "TAP", Qinghai Province and assisted by Golog Jigme (Jigme Gyatso), started filming a documentary film LEAVING FEAR BEHIND. The aim of the documentary film

27

was to gather opinions and feelings of ordinary Tibetan people about the Dalai Lama, China's policies in Tibet and the Olympic Games. The film also provided a glimpse into hearts and minds of the Tibetan people about what they really feel about the Chinese presence in Tibet and the survival of Tibetan culture. The filming was concluded in the early March 2008.

The duo took great risk and danger by making the film and later smuggled it to the outside world on 10 March 2008. Immediately, the documentary film drew immense attention to the plight and suffering of the Tibetan people. On that same day and afterwards, Lhasa city erupted into unprecedented mass protests against unpopular Chinese rule, which was then later spread to many regions of Tibet.

On 23 March 2008, Jigme Gyatso was arrested by the Chinese security forces and detained in Kachu detention centre, (Ch: Lingxia) in Gansu Province. He was later released on 15 October 2008.

Three days later, on 26 March 2008, Dhondup Wangchen was arrested by the Chinese authorities in Tong De in Qinghai Province. He was first detained at Ershilipu Detention centre, in Xining city for three months. He was then later taken to Gongshang Hotel in the middle of July 2008, where he was last seen. He is still being detained in a secret prison. Dhondup Wangchen gave his reason for making the documentary film as under:

"Nowadays, China is declaring that they are preserving and improving Tibetan culture and language. That's what they are telling the world. Many organisations and offices have been set up for these things. What they say and what they do are totally different, opposites. If they really want to preserve and improve Tibetan culture and language in Tibet then they should withdraw Chinese people living in Tibetan areas. Tibetan culture and language has to be practiced in all Tibetan areas. If it is not practiced, how can it be preserved?" (www.leavingfearbehind.com)

The Centre expresses serious concern at the present condition of Jigme Gyatso. During his earlier detention, he was severely tortured and interrogated by the Chinese prison guards. He fainted several times due to the beatings he received in the cells.

China arrest Tibetan in Kardze over farming boycott movement

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has received confirmed information that the Chinese authorities have arrested 27-year-old Jampa Dhondup in the afternoon of 19 March 2009 over his alleged involvement in the farming boycott movement that is gaining momentum in the eastern Tibet region of Kardze in Sichuan Province. Jampa Dhodup is a monk of Tse-Tsang Monastery and originally hails from Phogyis-nang Tseg-leg Village, Lhoe-pa Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", ("TAP"), Sichuan Province.

Tibetans in Kardze region have led a civil disobedience movement of farming boycott that is in defiance of the prevalent repressive policies being initiated and implemented by the Chinese authorities against the Tibetans. In retaliation against the movement, an official announcement was made that **"anyone who defies farming will face arrest and their land will be officially confiscated."**

According to confirmed information received by the TCHRD, several members amongst Jampa Dhondup's family have been involved in peaceful protest march in the spring 2008 in the Kardze region. Tashi Namgyal, Jampa's elder brother has been on the run after he participated in a peaceful protest in Sertha County on 17 March 2008 and a subsequently arrest warrant was issued against him by the county PSB. His elder sister, Lhagha, a nun of Pangri-na Nunnery was arrested for participating in peaceful protest march in Kardze County on 14 May 2008. Though she was released later on, she has to present herself before county PSB officials every week. A 60 year old mother, a sister and a wife and two small children of his elder brother Tashi Namgyal, are the only family currently at home.

Kardze witnessed number of protests against the Chinese authorities since March 2008 and people from different walks of life joined the protests with majority of them constituting youths. The protesters were subsequently detained, arrested and sentenced by the Chinese authorities. Since March 2009, it is believed that at least 28 incidents of protests were reported from the Kardze region and more than 60 Tibetans were detained and arrested for their involvement in the peaceful protest demonstrations.

Three more Tibetans arrested in connection with Farming Boycott Movement

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received confirmed information from multiple sources that three more Tibetans from Kardze region were again arrested by Chinese authorities on 21 March 2009, under the on-going farming boycott movement in the Tibetan region of Kardze in Sichuan Province.

Dhunka Dorjee, age 40, Tsering Wangrak, age 40 and Pachen, age 30, all from Khang-Nyin-Nang Village, Lhoe-pa Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, were arrested by Kardze County Public Security Bureau (PSB) forces on alleged charges for their involvement in the farming boycott movement. Sources also told TCHRD that, an unidentified Tibetan fled towards mountain nearby when PSB forces came to arrest him. Earlier on 19 March 2009, a 27-year-old Jampa Dhondup, a monk of Tse-Tsang Monastery was arrested over his involvement in the same farming boycott movement.

At present, situation in Kardze region is very tense as civil disobedience movement to boycott farming continuous to gain momentum as a defiant protest against China's repressive policies. Streets were filled with posters declaring their vow to boycott farming activities in the region. The local Chinese authorities called a public meeting and warned that "anyone who defies farming will face arrest and their land will be officially confiscated."

Moreover, most of the Tibetan youths in the Kardze region were arrested and detained by the Chinese authorities for participating in the peaceful Pan-Tibet protests, year ago, which spread to all parts of Tibet since 10 March 2008. Even if people in Kardze wishes to till the lands, there is hardly any manpower left behind to do the farming work.

Ragya Monastery encircled, reeling under severe restriction

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) continues to receive numerous reports from Tibet that Ragya Monastery is reeling under unprecedented restriction and vigilance. Earlier, 93 monks and 2 lay Tibetans were arrested in connection with the hoisting of a banned Tibetan National flag episode on top of Ragya Monastery.



File picture of Machu River (Yellow River) where Tashi Sangpo committed suicide on 21 March 2009.

New sources told TCHRD that there were "three principal pamphlets" pasted and distributed in Ragya and Gartse villages, Machen County, Golog "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Qinghai Province. One of the punch lines of pamphlets was that, "It is better to die for Tibet and her people than being duped by the monetary rewards of the Chinese government". (This year, the many parts of Tibet, particularly in Kardze refused to celebrate the Tibetan New Year as a mark of respect and mourning for those Tibetans killed and died in the last year's brutal crackdown on the peaceful protesters. In response, the Chinese government encouraged Tibetans to celebrate the Tibetan New Year with monetary rewards)

Furthermore, news information revealed that Tashi Sangpo who committed suicide on 21 March 2009, was severely subjected to harsh beatings, inhumane torture and long interrogation in a local detention centre since his arrest on 10 March 2009. Sources told TCHRD that continuing torture and interrogation finally took its toll on Tashi Sangpo's mental state, which eventually forced him to take his own life by drowning in Machu River. In addition, the detained monks were currently said to be undergoing severe interrogation and torture in detention centre.

In the late afternoon of 21 March 2009, few moments after the news of Tashi Sangpo's suicide, Ragya monks stormed the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) office. During the storming, the banned Tibetan National flag previously pulled down from the roof top of Ragya Monastery by the local PSB officers on 10 March 2001 was taken back and then handed over to the younger brother of deceased Tashi Sangpo. Holding the banned Tibetan National flag on his hand, Ragya monks and local Tibetans then protested and shout slogans for few hours on streets and the County government headquarter.

Thereafter, the highest ranking government official in Golog Prefecture, head of Golog PSB personnel and People's Armed Police (PAP) came to the protesting site. Unfazed by the intimidating presence of PSB and PAP forces, the Tibetans continued to protest, holding and waving the banned Tibetan National flag and shouted a slogan "STOP MURDERING THE INNOCENT TIBETAN PEOPLE".

TCHRD learnt the deceased Tashi Sangpo was born in Gartse Village in Kaba Sum-dho County, Tsolho "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Qinghai Province. His father's name was Dolma Kyap and mother's name Phagdron He was admitted to Du Kor House, Ragya Monastery in his early years and and learnt the art of recitation, performing puja, rites and ceremonial offerings. Later, he moved to She-rig Norling House in Ragya Monastery to pursue his further vinaya teachings. This year, in 2009 he completed his vinaya studies. The situation in Ragya Monastery and its surrounding areas has been very grim and volatile. A huge contingents of PSB and PAP security forces have completely sealed off and encircled Ragya Monastery. The telephone, mobile and postal services have been cut off, leaving little room for the information to flow to the outside world.

A Tibetan writer-photographer arrested in Gansu Province

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) learnt that a Tibetan monk was arrested by the Chinese authorities from Labrang Monastery on alleged charges for writing political essays on Tibet to a website named as "Jottings" (Tib: Zin-dris), in Gansu Province.

According to multiple sources, Kunga Tsayang, age (unconfirmed), a monk from Amdo Labrang Tashi Kyil Monastery was arrested by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel on 17 March 2009 from his living room during a midnight raid in Labrang Monastery, in Sangchu County, Gannan "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Gansu Province.

Kunga Tsayang was a passionate writer, essayist, chronicler and an amateur photographer who wrote under a pen name "sun of snowland" (Tib: Gang-Nyi). He hailed from Chigdril County, Golog "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Qinghai Province. He was an avid traveler who had previously traveled in various parts of Tibet and China. His travelogues dealt on the special characteristic features of Tibetan topographical landscapes, culture, customs, habits and religious heritage.

A well educated, knowledgeable monk who always take great pride for being a Tibetan as well as his ancestral roots. He was known to be a serious writer and a photographer who always dream of becoming a full fledged photographer.

Although Tsayang had been under the close watch of the Chinese authorities in Sangchu County, Gansu Province for some time now, he hardly stays at his Labrang Monastery except during important prayer ritual and ceremonies as he travels to different places of Tibet and China for his photo journalism work. Unfortunately, on the fateful day of 17 March 2009, he was arrested by the Chinese security forces during a midnight raid at his living room. As of now, TCHRD has no further information about his current well being and whereabouts. It is believed that he is being detained in an undisclosed location in Gansu Province.

A Tibetan monk beaten to death by Chinese Security Police

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) learnt that a Tibetan monk was beaten to death in Drango County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province.

According to a reliable information received by the TCHRD, a monk Phuntsok, age, 27 of Drango Monastery, hailed from Zongpa Village, Drango County, Kardze "TAP" was beaten to death by the Chinese Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel in a ghastly manner.

The source told TCHRD that, on 25 March 2009, Phuntsok pasted leaflets (seven pages) on the walls of a branch office of Drango PSB headquarter, on Shara Thang-do Bridge and on eucalyptus trees of roads and highways in Drango County.

Phuntsok's leaflets campaign was connected with the last years' unprecedented unrest in Tibet, particularly in Drango County when hundreds of Drango monks who took part in a peaceful demonstration against the Chinese government on 25 March 2008. The protest was subsequently quelled down with force, resulted in arrests, torture and detention of hundreds of monks by the Chinese authorities. Phuntsok's defiant protest was not a coincidence but deliberately timed to remember, mourn, express solidarity with those Drango monks tortured, ill-treated and imprisoned during the peaceful demonstration.

Similarly, the Chinese authorities too paid significance to the yearly anniversary of the demonstration in Drango Monastery and had in recent past mobilized and reinforced the streets with paramilitary troops and security forces to deal with any sign of protest and dissidence should they take place.

In commemorating the arrests, torture and detentions of Drango monks, Phuntsok called on the local Tibetans in Drango County to forego crop cultivation and harvest as a solemn gesture of mourning for monks who were tortured, detained and imprisoned by the Chinese authorities. As a form of civil disobedience and non-cooperation movement, the message of his leaflets read: "Let it be, if we die of hunger and starvation, but for those of our brothers and sisters who were tortured, injured, detained and killed in the last year's peaceful demonstration, we must forego planting crops in fields as a gesture of respect, mourning and to express our solidarity with them. Those who had already planted crops in the fields must not tend and reap the harvest. This is a request for all of you. If anyone who still goes on to plant crops in fields and harvest them, I will come with a black scarf to greet them."

However while pasting leaflets on the walls of an automobile service centre in Drango County, he was detected by Drango PSB personnel who came straight to arrest him. Sensing that PSB personnel were coming to arrest him, he fled on a motorbike behind Baatak Nunnery, situated at a base of a hill. Immediately Drango PSB forces pursued him for a while till at a waist of a hill, where his motorbike couldn't climb any further. He was arrested and severely beaten on the spot with batons. He died shortly after receiving inhuman beatings from the Chinese PSB personnel.

In an attempt to conceal the circumstance of his death, the PSB personnel dropped his corpse to a base of hill to conjure up a suicide scene. A day later local Tibetans learnt about his death and body lying at the bottom of a hill. The local Tibetans then cremated the body after three days. Right to the end, the Chinese authorities adamantly maintained that Phuntsok died after committing suicide while the local Tibetans were not convinced.

Sources told TCHRD that there were bruises and cuts on his body which clearly indicated that he was beaten to death by the Chinese security police on 25 March 2009.

Meanwhile on 27 March 2009, the People's Armed Police (PAP) arrested 11 Tibetans from Da-do Village for defying the Chinese authorities order to till their farm lands.

In what has been seen as desperate move by the Chinese authorities to reign in the protesting farmers, on 26 and 27 March 2009, a contingent of Chinese security forces came to Drango Township, carrying sacks full of fertilizers to extort the locals to plant and till their farmlands.

The 11 arrested Tibetans were surrounded by PAP forces and were taken on a parade in the village. They were last seen in a hospital, surrounded by the PAP forces. At the moment, there is no information about their current whereabouts.

Drango farmers arrested by the Chinese security police

According to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), the Chinese authorities are on an arrests and beatings drive of the Tibetan farmers staging a civil disobedience movement by refusing to till their farmlands in eastern Tibet. Earlier a monk Phuntsok, age 27, was beaten to death by the Chinese security forces on 25 March 2009 by the Chinese security forces for postings calling for a boycott of farming.

As reports keep surfacing from Drango County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, sources told TCHRD that the Chinese authorities have arrested and severely beaten a number of farmers who defy authorities' order to till their farmlands. As previously reported by the Centre, a large contingent of People's Armed Police (PAP) has been deployed in Drango County to crush any kind of dissidence and protest. On 27 March 2009, when a group of farmers refused to comply the Chinese authorities order to till their farmlands, they were subsequently arrested and then subjected to severe beatings and ill-treatment. According to sources, fourteen Tibetans sustained injuries, some seriously. They were currently known to be kept in a hospital. The relatives of the injured Tibetans were not allowed to visit them at the hospital.

Sources say, some of the victims became unconscious after being subjected to inhumane beatings. A woman named Khethar from Kya-lam Village is currently said to be in an unable mental state after receiving severe beatings at the hands of Chinese security police. Many of them were forced to sign documents without knowing its contents. The victims of the Chinese police abuses were identified as Pema Lhamo, Yali, Palchen and Choekyi. They were from villages such as Kya-lam, Khang-mar Gang, Do-khor, Sar-bar, Khar-cha and Bar-dha all under Drango County.

The Chinese security forces in Drango were pursuing some Tibetans who eluded arrests. With the tragic death of monk Phuntsok still fresh in their minds, the farmers were refusing to farm their lands despite arrests and beatings. The situation in Drango County is said to be grim and volatile. The TCHRD expresses serious concern at the plight of Drango farmers as impasse continues.

30

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the XI th Panchen Lama turns 20.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the XIth Panchen Lama of Tibet, today turns 20. He has been missing for the past fourteen years since his abduction by the Chinese authorities at the young age of six. There has been no information about his well being and whereabouts and continue to remain under enforced disappearance since 17 May 1995.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was born to Konchok Phuntsok and Dechen Chodon on 25 April, 1989 at Lhari County of Nagchu Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR'). On 14 May 1995, the Dalai Lama announced the then six-year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the reincarnation of the Xth Panchen Lama. Three days after the announcement, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family disappeared from their home. Their whereabouts and well-beings still remain unknown. In November 1995, government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) appointed another boy, Gyaltsen Norbu, as the XIth Panchen Lama and enthroned in December of 1995. Of lately, Chinese authorities have used Gyaltsen Norbu as the mouthpiece for their propaganda campaign against the Dalai Lama. Chinese media assiduously began to promote Gyaltsen Norbu as the face of Tibet's Panchen Lama however, he has failed miserably to win the heart and minds of Tibetans. The actions of the Chinese authorities in the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama represent yet another attempt to weaken the social, moral and religious fabric of Tibetan life to further its exploitation as a colonial possession.

The Dalai Lama recognized and announced Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the XIth reincarnation of the Panchen Lama on 14 May 1995. Beijing authorities were quick to refute the proclamation, and on 24 May 1995, an emergency three-day session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference issued a statement describing the Dalai Lama's proclamation as "illegal and invalid." China's response to the Dalai Lama's selection of the Panchen Lama has been to denounce the legitimacy of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and proclaim another child to be the real incarnation – an unprecedented and bizarre act of the officially atheist state. These actions were taken to serve the political interests of the Chinese government by attempting to undermine the authority of the Dalai Lama and hurting the Tibetan people's religious sentiments

Despite innumerable requests made by the world bodies, concerned governments, and NGOs over the past more than a decade for his release, the Chinese government has refused to provide any verifiable information on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, nor have they allowed independent observers to visit the boy and his parents in order to confirm their whereabouts and well being. While the Chinese government asserts that he is attending school and leading a normal life, China has thus far failed to substantiate its statement on Gedhun Choekyi Nyima with credible evidence for millions of his followers. The continued detention and disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima is not only the deprivation of his rights alone but also a denial of religious guidance for and hurting religious sentiments of millions of followers.

Normally, the Panchen Lama is heavily involved in the selection process for the Dalai Lama's reincarnation and vice versa. China's motivation for interfering in the identification and training of significant reincarnations is to control the political loyalties of these important figures in Tibetan society, weaken the influence of the traditional religious authorities, and use the reincarnates' influence among Tibetans to China's political advantage. Considering the political objective behind the Panchen Lama's abduction and his continued incommunicado detention, it is unlikely that China is fulfilling its obligation to ensure that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima has open access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health. China's abduction of the Panchen Lama and denial of his religious identity violates basic principles enshrined in the general human rights instruments such the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

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.



Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the XIth Panchen Lama of Tibet

TCHRD calls on the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to provide exact information on the current whereabouts, well-being and fate of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents. The Centre considers his continued detention a serious violation of fundamental human rights. The PRC should also ensure that the religious freedom of the Tibetan people be respected including their rights to identify religious leaders.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin 31

Desktop Publishing workshop for Tibetans

On 22 April 2009, Nyimo Computers and the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA) organized the first ever workshop on Desktop Publishing for Tibetans. This was made possible due to kind and generous contribution made by few Tibetan individuals with technical know how and expertise. Their efforts and contribution is highly appreciated. Dawa Tsering, Field Officer and Mr. Yardrong Lobsang Tsultrim, Field Officer attended the five-day workshop at LTWA. Around 25 participants from various departments of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and Tibetan NGOs attended the workshop aimed at providing technical and very essential computer skills for day to day office work and administration.



Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Information Officer is giving basic instruction on Desktop Publishing to the participants

Resource Persons:

1.Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Centre's Information Officer was one of the resource persons for the five-day workshop. He provided technical skills and applications for the workshop attendees in the areas of:

a) Coral Draw
Basic Computer Protection
Basic Principles of Design

2.Mr. Nyima Dhondup of Nyimon Computers, dealt on technicalities such as:
Adobe PageMaker
Microsoft Words
Adobe Photoshop

3. Mr. Gyaltso of Amnye Machen Institute shed his understanding on the application of Adobe Photoshop.

4. Mr. Tseten Namgyal of (LTWA) disseminated technical know-how on the use of the Application of Page Maker and basics of Layout.

5. Mr. Tseten of Department of Education gave a demonstrative know-how on Adobe InDesign

The workshop was part of a larger initiative to upgrade knowledge and expertise regarding the use of various computer applications and Desktop publishing in the Tibetan community.



Workshop inprogress, at the Library of Tibetan Work, and Archives (LTWA) Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamsala

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

32

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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)

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

33

MAY 2009

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 9

CONTENT

-A popular Tibetan religious head puton trial in Kardze (pg 1)
-Tibetan Monks stage sit-in protest in front of Chinese Court (pg 2)
-China arrests two nuns of Dragkar Nunnery in Kardze (pg 3)
-TCHRD condemns the Lhasa Court verdicts (pg 4)
-TCHRD urges China to overturn death senctences (pg 4)
- TCHRD calls for the release of Jigme Gyatso on medical ground (pg 5)
-School Students demonstration in Labrang County (pg 5)
-Tibetan voice gagged at the Durban Review Conference (pg 6)
-China arrests Tibetan Writer in Ngaba (pg 6)
-A Monk who exposed Chinese brutality released (pg 7)
China's possible re-election to the UN Human Rights Council, a question of credibility



Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche

A popular Tibetan religious head put on trial in Kardze

TCHRD Condemns the China framing of Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche on weapon charges

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) condemns in strongest terms the framing of Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche on weapon charges related to last year's peaceful protests in Kardze (Ch: Ganzi). This is the first known case of senior Buddhist leader being tried in court with a serious charge linked to last year's demonstration.

A highly revered religious figure of Kardze, Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche, 52, who headed Pangri and Ya-tseg Nunneries in Kardze was accused of 'illegally possessing weapons', his Beijing based lawyer Li Fangping was quoted as saying to the Associated Press (AP) in a telephone interview on Tuesday. Rinpoche could face imprisonment for up to 15 years if found guilty by the Kardze Prefecture Intermediate People's Court.

There is information coming out from the area that security forces were stepped up in the area during the trial yesterday and no verdict has yet been reached following the court trial. Tulku was reportedly tortured for four days and nights upon detention and forced into making a confession after a police interrogation. Police even threatened his wife and son of detention if Tulku did not comply, according to his lawyer as cited by the AP report.

Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche is a highly regarded reincarnated Tulku (Living Buddha) of Tehor Kardze Monastery in Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Sichuan Province. He is the chief spiritual preceptor and the head of Pangri 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.

It is appalling and condemnable that a prominent and revered religious figure of Kardze who had been arbitrarily detained for nearly a year is framed on untenable charge. The tactic employed by China is not a new one, rather it serves as a dark reminder of her persistent vilification and demonizing campaign against the prominent religious figures inside Tibet who have been viewed as a direct challenge to their authority. In addition, Chinese authorities in order to give a different dimension to the mostly peaceful protests last year are distorting facts with fabricated evidence extracted through torture so as to label the prominent religious leader as someone instigating violence and that is something the authorities had been working so hard over the past months. Such acts are disparagingly worrisome as numerous human rights are violated in the process.

In the past, many of prominent Tibetan religious figures such as Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok of famed Sertha Buddhist Institute, Geshe Sonam Phuntsok of Dargay Monastery in Kardze, Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, the founder of Kham Nalanda Monastery, who championed the welfare of Tibetan people and Bangri Rinpoche, the founder of Gyatso orphanage in Lhasa were all arrested under false and fabricated charges. Many of them are serving lengthy prison sentences whereas few have passed away after their release.

Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche was arrested by Chinese security forces in the early morning raid at his home on 18 May 2008, just days after more than 80 nuns of Pangri

34

Nunnery held a peaceful demonstration voicing their distress at the Chinese authorities' crackdown, killing, torture and arrest of peaceful Tibetan protesters in many parts of Tibet as well as resentment against the forced implementation of the "patriotic re-education" campaign, forcing Tibetans to sign official documents that criticize, denounce and attack the Dalai Lama. Following the protest 55 nuns of the Pangri Nunnery were arrested. Many were severely beaten by the security forces at the site of the demonstration before being bundled away in military trucks. The current situation in Kardze is known to be very tense following court trial of Tulku yesterday.

China has a long and reprehensive history of gross human rights violations abetted by a political culture of impunity towards perpetrators of 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 and case of Tulku here clearly highlights such heinous practice being employed by the Chinese authorities despite PRC signing and ratification of UN Convention Against Torture (CAT). 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.

The government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) practice of using coerced confessions through torture to establish detainees' guilt is great cause of concern and should be subjected to serious international scrutiny. The Centre calls for urgent intervention in this case by the relevant UN bodies and the international community.

Tibetan monks stage sit-in protest in front of Chinese court

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), around six Tibetan monks staged a peaceful sit-in protest on 2 April 2009 in front of the Xining City High People's Court, Qinghai.

The monks staged the sit-in around 8 a.m. in the morning holding a large banner appealing to the court to conduct fair judicial proceedings in accordance with the law. The monks were reportedly led away by the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) officers and their current whereabouts are unknown. The TCHRD will continue to investigate into the incident and details will be updated as additional information surfaces.



The banner reads "appealing to the court to conduct fair judicial preoceedings in accordance wtih the law



Monks staging sit-in front of the Xining City High People's Court

China arrests two nuns of Dragkar Nunnery in Kardze

Chinese security forces in Kardze County (Ch: Ganzi), Sichuan Province, has severely beaten and arrested two nuns of Dragkar nunnery for shouting slogans, according to information received by the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from reliable sources.



Yankyi Dolma

Two nuns, Yangkyi Dolma and Sonam Yangchen, of Dragkar Nunnery in Kardze County, Kardze (Ch: Ganzi)"Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture"("TAP"), Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest at the Kardze County main market square on 24 March 2009. The protest was staged at around 3 PM (Beijing Standard time) at Kardze County shouting slogans calling for"swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet,""human rights for Tibetans in Tibet," and"religious freedom in Tibet."

According to sources, Yangkyi Dolma distributed handful of handwritten pamphlets during the short protest. The Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP) immediately detained both the Tibetan nuns from the site of protest and beaten indiscriminately with rods and electric batons before being thrown into and driven away in a security vehicle. Following the incident, at around 7 PM in the evening, a group of security forces stormed into Yangkyi's family home ransacking the portrait of the Dalai Lama and rebuked the family members for being the supporter of separatist forces. Early next morning (on 25 March), two Chinese security forces arrived at Yangkyi's home and told his brother Tsangyang Gyatso to report at the Kardze County government headquarters. There has been no information on what ensued after that incident.

Yangkyi Dolma was born to Hormeytsang Dargay (father) and Pema Khando(mother) in Roltsa Township, Kardze County, Kardze"TAP"Sichuan Province.

Apart from sporadic incidents of small protests in the past few months, a major civil disobedience movement is taking a firm root in Kardze with farmers continue to boycott tilling their farmland to protest against the Chinese repressive measures in Tibet. According to other sources, the local Chinese authorities in Drango County, Kardze "TAP" have given ultimatum to the Tibetan farmers to till their farmland before 11 April or their farmland be confiscated by the government.

Since March 10, around 28 known incidents of protests were reported from Kardze "TAP" with the arrest of around 60 known Tibetans with many incidents of protests and arrests unaccounted for due to severe restriction put on the flow of information from Tibet to the outside world.

TCHRD strongly condemns the arbitrary arrest of Yangkyi Dolma and Sonam Yangchen for their peaceful exercise of the fundamental human rights of freedom of expression, though and opinion enshrined in the Chinese constitution and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Centre calls upon the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to immediately stop using excessive force against unarmed protesters.

TCHRD condemns the Lhasa court verdicts

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) condemns in strongest terms the death sentences passed by the Lhasa court. This sentencing clearly highlights the current level of repression in Tibet where state agencies freely abuse the human rights of the Tibetan people with impunity. In this latest sentencing by the Lhasa court, the TCHRD sees a shivering message of intimidation being passed to the Tibetans who dare to show their dissent with the state.

The latest verdict passed by the Lhasa court is the harshest till date since spring 2008 uprising in Tibet. Around 230 Tibetans have so far received varying prison terms between six months to life term for their participation in the spring protest last year. The sentencing of Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak to death sentence, Tenzin Phuntsok and Kangtsuk to death sentence with two years reprieve and Dawa Sangpo to life imprisonment term is highly arbitrary and summary in nature which does not meet the minimal international judicial standards.

The TCHRD urges the international community to condemn the Chinese authorities for the gross human rights violations being enacted upon the Tibetan plateau. The international community must ensure the end of the culture of impunity and repressive states like China should be brought to justice.

TCHRD urges China to overturn death sentences

TCHRD welcomes China's First Working Action Plan on Human Rights Protection 2009-2010

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its deepest concern at the first known cases of death sentences passed by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court for two Tibetans in connection to last year's 14 March Lhasa unrest. Two other Tibetans were sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve and another sentenced to life imprisonment in three separate cases of arson, reportedly involving the deaths of seven people.

There is no information on whether the defendants will appeal their sentences as all death sentences had to undergo an additional review and approved by the Supreme People's Court following a reform introduced in 2007. The Centre urges the Chinese authorities to overturn the death sentences passed on Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak and calls for commutation of death sentences.

The Centre is seriously concerned about the fairness of the legal procedures according to international standards for fair trial and the treatment of the detainees who were held for more than a year in custody prior to their court sentencing. While the official mouthpiece, Xinhua, report states that detainees were represented by lawyers and provided with Tibetan interpreters for the defendants during the trial, however, the rights of defendants to be represented by the lawyer of their choice was ignored by the judicial authorities, due to politicized nature of the process. Following the March 2008 protests, several lawyers from the Mainland China were threatened to revoke their license if they represent the detainees.

Political interference in the judicial trials is evident. During a meeting convened by the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') Higher People's Court at Lhasa on 2 April 2008, Pema Trinley, Executive Vice Governor of "TAR," also a Deputy Secretary, Standing Committee of the TAR Communist Party's Political and Legal Affairs (Ch: Xizang zi zhiqu dang wei chang wei zheng fa wei fu shu ji), during a meeting with theme, "Working Commission to adjudicate cases involving 14 March Riot, (Ch: Zi zhi qu gaoji renmin fa yuan zai lasa zhao kai xizhang fa yuan 3.14 an jian shen feng gong zuo hui yi)" call on judiciary to act fast and strike hard on 'Dalai clique.' In addition, he told that stringent legal action should be taken in tune with the Party policy so that the final verdict would gain political, legal and social dividends referring to achieving political and social stability.

The Centre remains unconditionally opposed to the use of the death penalty in all cases, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It should also be noted that the death penalty has never shown to have a special deterrent effect nor should state use it to justify the wrong done by the defendant as in the case of Tibetans where it was stated that Losang Gyaltsen and Loyak "have to be executed to assuage the people's anger." Such eye for eye approach is in no way a justification of giving death sentence.

Apart from the five Tibetans sentenced by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court on 8 April 2009, according to the official report a similar case allegedly involving the deaths of five people in a fire is reportedly "still under trial," without citing the number of defendants involved in that trial, nor were the verdict and sentence. Going by earlier official reports, the Centre fears for the fate of two young women, whom the authorities charged with setting fire to a garment shop that burned five people during the unrest. The verdicts of Penkyi, 23, and Chime Lhazom, 20, are awaited and the Centre fears the two might get a similar court verdict.

TCHRD is gravely concerned for the fate of Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak and would like to seek urgent intervention by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial, Summary, or Arbitrary Executions, governments and the international community. TCHRD calls for prompt and impartial review of the case of five Tibetans by the Supreme People's Court and to commute the death sentences imposed on them.

At the same time, TCHRD finds it encouraging that Chinese government had made the effort to publish "the First Working Action Plan on Human Rights Protection 2009-2010" as stated by the official mouthpiece, Xinhua, on 13 April 2009. In December last year, China's Supreme People's Court issued a new regulation with 7 articles clarifying the conditions and procedure used to halt execution of the death penalty. Although Beijing had vowed to improve its human rights for years but routinely failed to implement human rights protections enshrined in its own constitutions and laws. The Centre hopes that the Action Plan will not remain as mere plan rather authorities at all level would respect, implement and follow them and the perpetrators should be brought to justice.

TCHRD calls for the release of Jigme Gyatso on medical ground

Jigme Gyatso, a 48-year-old Tibetan political prisoner from Amdo Kersul, who is serving 17 years' prison sentence is learnt to be seriously ill following years of torture and ill-treatment in the prison since 1996, according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) from reliable sources.

The Centre expresses its deepest concern at the continued imprisonment of seriously ill Jigme Gyatso and urges the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to order his immediate release on compassionate health grounds. Jigme Gyatso is currently serving his sentence in Chushul Prison (Ch: Quhui), on the outskirt of Lhasa city.



Jigme Gyatso

Background Information:

Jigme Gyatso was born in 1961 at Kersul district in Amdo. Jigme traveled to India in 1985 to receive a religious initiation. He stayed in Drepung Gomang Monastery in south India for a year and then returned to Tibet where he joined Gaden Monastery. In 1991 he became involved in pro-independence activities. He distributed independence leaflets and pasted posters on the walls around Gaden Monastery and nearby Lhasa City. Between 1988 and 1989, Gyatso was the leader of a secret youth organization called the "Association of Tibetan Freedom Movement." In 1992, he organized one of the demonstrations that took place in Lhasa. Many of the demonstrators were arrested and detained by the PSB and the officials of the anti-riot department. He was not arrested at that time although officials of Public Security Bureau (PSB) suspected he was involved and kept him under strict surveillance. Gyatso was finally arrested on 30 March 1996 in Lhasa in front of the Tsuklakhang Temple. He was subsequently sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and 5 years deprivation of political rights on 25 November 1996 by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court for crime of 'endangering national security' in connection with establishing an illegal organization and 'incitement'. He was detained in Gutsa PSB Detention Centre for one year and a month, where he was severely tortured and beaten and he described the treatment at Gutsa 'the worst' to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr. Manfred Nowak, during the latter's 12-day visit to China, Xinjiang and Tibet in November-December 2005.

Jigme was shifted to Drapchi Prison in April 1997 where he served most of his prison terms before his transfer to and incarceration in Chushul Prison in April 2005. He still continues to serve his sentence in Chushul Prison despite being seriously ill.

Jigme took part in the May 1998 protests in Drapchi Prison, prior to the visit of a troika of European Union Ambassadors. These protests were brutally suppressed and resulted in the death of eight prisoners and sentence extensions of at least 27 prisoners. In one incident in March 2004, Jigme shouted slogan, "long live the Dalai Lama," for which he was kicked and beaten, including the use of electric batons on his back and chest. For that act his sentence was extended for an additional two years.

Jigme continued to serve a sentence despite November 2000 UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention statement that he was merely "exercising the right to freedom of peaceful assembly."

There were even reports of Jigme Gyatso having subjected to beatings and solitary confinement by the Chinese security forces following a meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr. Manfred Nowak in Chushul Prison. After the visit, in his report Dr. Nowak recommended for the release of eight individuals including three Tibetan political prisoners. "Since he has been convicted of a political crime, possibly on the basis of information extracted by torture, the Special Rapporteur appeals to the government that he be released," Nowak writes in each of the eight cases. The Chinese government heeded none of his recommendations on the prisoners' release.

The Centre calls for immediate intervention by governments, the UN mandate holders and international communities to secure parole for Jigme Gyatso so that he could receive timely and effective medical treatment.

School students demonstration in Labrang County

A group of Tibetan school students staged a demonstration around 8 a.m. on 24 April 2009, in Labrang (Ch: Xiahe) County, Gannan "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture", Gansu Province, according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).



Students staged a demonstration in Labrang

The students started off the demonstration from their school, Xiahe Tibetan Middle School, and headed towards the county market area raising slogans. Reportedly the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) stopped the students in the outskirts of the main market area. According to sources on the ground, the students were driven back to the school and a strong contingent of Public Security Bureau Personnels and People's Armed Police have surrounded the school barring anyone to go in or come out. The parents of the students have been summoned at the school. The students reportedly demonstrated against the authorities false practice of granting reserved seats for higher education meant for the Tibetan students to the Chinese students.

Tibetan voice gagged at the Durban Review Conference

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its utter disappointment over the de facto expulsion of TCHRD from the United Nations Review Conference on Racism (DRC) being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 -24 April 2009. The Centre is appalled by the decision of its non-accreditation to the DRC by the preparatory committee on procedural ground. TCHRD is one of the several non-governmental organisations whose accreditation was overstepped upon by the preparatory committee due to a procedural matter on 17 April 2009. Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) objected to the Centre's accreditation. The TCHRD believes that objecting to participation of recognized and registered NGOs like TCHRD to the DRC, with the politicization of the process, is a highly discriminatory move by the government of the PRC.

Racism is endemic in the Tibetan areas of present day China. The State is sponsoring racism in Tibet through its population transfer policy. Over the years hundreds of thousands of Chinese settlers have been recklessly brought into the Tibetan areas because of which racism has become a major issue. However, the State overlooks the issue and sweeps it under the carpet in its propaganda machinery. China in its reply to the TCHRD letter states that "violent criminal activities premeditated by separatist group in Lhasa in March 2008 resulting in the death of 18 innocent persons and injuries to hundreds of persons". The statement is biased and in itself highlights the state-practice of racist attitude and policy since there has also been deaths of at least 135 Tibetans according to our independent documentation while the other sources cite death of 210 peaceful Tibetan protesters as a direct result of China's "people's war" military crackdown launched on the Tibetan Plateau since 10 March 2008.

TCHRD received its accreditation to the World Conference Against Racism (WCR) in Durban in 2001 when the General Assembly voted the Centre's accreditation to the World Conference. The Centre's accreditation would have been automatic until PRC raised its second objection and



Durban Review Conferenence

requested 14 days to review TCHRD's latest response when the Prepcom actually had only three working days. Due to the failure to resolve the issue behind closed doors, the Prepcom on 17 April 2009 took a decision "not to take action" on the accreditation of several NGOs which included TCHRD. The European Union which did not act to overturn the decision described the situation as the "de facto explusion" of TCHRD and this view was even shared by Australia.

There have been two rounds of formal exchanges (see the links below) between the TCHRD and the government of the PRC regarding the Centre's accreditation to the DRC. TCHRD believes that the PRC should face the reality and constructively work towards eliminating racism in Tibet rather than blocking the voices of the oppressed raised through NGOs like TCHRD. The Centre request all the governments and the NGOs participating in the DRC to tackle the root cause of racism and to expose the states who practice and encourages racism through its various designs. Victory over complete elimination of racism in the world will be a giant stride for humanity.

Formal communications between the People's Republic of China and the TCHRD

1) *China comment on request for accreditation by TCHRD-20_October_2008.pdf*
2) TCHRD response to PRC communication on DRC accreditation-16_March_2009.pdf
3) Comments by China on TCHRD-07_April_2009.pdf
4) TCHRD response to PRC communication on DRC accreditation-9_April_2009.pdf

China arrests Tibetan writer in Ngaba

A Tibetan monk from Ngaba Gomang Monastery was arrested in the beginning of last month for alleged anti government writings, according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Dokru Tsultrim, a Tibetan monk who recently wrote two articles critical of the Chinese government was picked up by the Chinese security forces from his room at Ngaba Gomang Monastery.



Dokru Tsultrim

Dokru was accused of writing two articles that criticized the Chinese government and supported the "separatist forces of the Dalai Lama," according to the source.

His privately managed publication of Tibetan journal called "Khawai Tsesok" was also ceased and there has been no information on his current whereabouts since his detention by the security forces from Labrang residence.

Dokru Tsultrim was born in Tsolho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') (Ch: Hainan) in Qinghai Province. He had done studies on Buddhist literature and philosophy primarily from Lutsang Monastery, Ditsa Monastery and Ngaba Gomang Monastery.

In the recent past Chinese authorities in Tibet have arrested many Tibetans who have exercised their literary freedom through articles, blogs, poems, essays etc. For instance, on 26 February 2009, Kunchok Tsephel, who run a Tibetan language and culture website-Chomei (Eng: lamp) was arrested at his home in Gannan "TA"P Gansu Province. Kunga Tseyang, a Tibetan monk writer, essayist, chronicler and an amateur photographer was arrested on 17 March 2009 from Labrang Monastery on alleged charges of writing political essay on Tibet to a website name "Zindris" in Gansu Province.

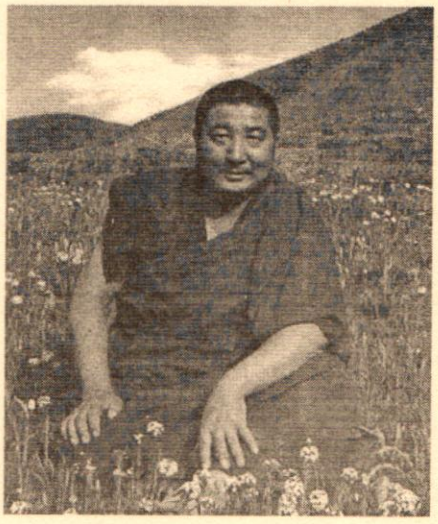
A Monk who exposed Chinese brutality released

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) welcomes the news of the release of Jigme a.k.a Jigme Guri of Labrang Monastery on 3 May 2009

Jigme, a 42-year-old monk was born to a farming family in Lhutang Village, Juicha Township, Sangchu County (Ch: Sangchu Xian) Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Gansu Province. At the age of 13, he was ordained monk in Labrang Monastery. While in the monastery he mastered Thangka Painting (religious scroll painting), art of making butter sculpture and playing various monastic musical instruments. He once heads the Labrang Monastery's vocational training centre and was even a vice-chairman of the Democratic Management Committee (DMC) of Labrang Monastery at the time of his arrest. Jigme was first arrested on 22 March 2008 by four armed forces while returning to his monastery from a market. He was later 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. Jigme was later released on medical ground after months of detention.

Last year, on 3rd September, the Voice of America's Tibetan News service aired a video featuring Jigme giving detail accounts of Tibetan people's aspiration, hopes, torture and inhuman treatment meted out to Labrang Monks who were detained during last year's March Protest in Labrang County. Following his testimony, he went into hiding for almost two months. Finally on 4 November 2008, scores of People's Armed Police (PAP) and Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials in several military trucks came to Labrang and arrested Jigme from a Tibetan home and took him away in a military vehicle to an undisclosed location where he had been detained since then. According to the information received by the Centre, Jigme looks very frail when he reached home after months in detention.

TCHRD calls upon the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to immediately release all the prisoners of conscience arbitrarily detained over peaceful exercise of their fundamental human rights.



Jigme Guri, Photo Courtesy: Woeser

There are still hundreds of Tibetans whose whereabouts and status are unknown to their family members and close associates. The government of the PRC should guarantee, in all circumstances, the physical and psychological integrity of Tibetan detainees and ensured that detainee's family members are informed of their whereabouts and wellbeing.

China's possible re-election to the UN Human Rights Council, a question of credibility

The People's Republic of China's announcement to seek re-election to the UN Human Rights Council is an attempt to completely white wash its poor human rights record. The move also cast serious doubts on the credibility of the human rights body if China is given a second term in the forth coming election on 12 May 2009.

China as a state has failed miserably in terms of its human rights record in the whole of China and particularly in Tibet. This failure is clearly evident in Tibet in light of the Tibetan people's mass uprising against the State in spring last year. The Tibetans, in one voice in all the Tibetan areas in present day China, showed their discontentment and rejection of the Chinese rule which has been marked by gross violations of human rights.

In the aftermath of the spring 2008 uprising in Tibet, thousands of Tibetans still remain missing and scores have been jailed arbitrarily till date. Torture is endemic in the network of Chinese administered prisons in Tibet and used freely to extract confessions and break the nationalism of the Tibetans. At least 130 known Tibetans have been killed by security forces crackdown during the largely peaceful demonstrations. At least 230 Tibetans have been known to be sentenced to various prison terms in secret court trials with two Tibetans receiving death sentence and three others to suspended death sentence. All these court sentences are highly arbitrary and summary in nature, has been delivered quickly, in some cases as few as 45 days, without any due process of law.

Tibet is under virtual lock down and Tibetans inside Tibet live under a climate of fear. The slightest dissent against the state is least tolerated. Tibet currently is a highly militarized zone and is effectively under de facto martial law and completely cut off from the rest of the world. Despite many international calls that have been made so far, China has systematically denied access to the media and international observers in Tibet. Being one of the major players in the world today, China needs to exhibit qualities of moral uprightness and tolerance in order to be given prime responsibilities in global bodies. The UN Human Rights Council replaced the former Commission on Human Rights in June 2006 to better address the human rights issues in the world and to do away with the inadequacies of the previous body. The UNHRC was established on the premise that 'members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.' However, with member states like China, which is amongst the most repressive states in the world today, the council's work and its credibility is seriously questioned. China's human rights record has been consistently worsening since 2008, with the Government tightening its policies of repression of dissidents. For all these reasons and more it is urged that China should not be re-elected to the Human Rights Council unless and until it can demonstrate not only by policy formulation but in practice its commitment to the protection of human rights of the Tibetan people.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

40

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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)

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

JUNE 2009

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 10

41

CONTENT

-The fate of Sertha monk remains unknown year after arrest (pg 1)
-TCHRD commemorates 12th UN International Day in Support of Victims of Toture (pg 2)
-Biography of former political prisoners Ngawang and Topjor (pg 3)
-A setneces three years in prison (pg 4)
-Chinese court sentences six monks in Chamdo (pg 5)
- China sentences a monk to life imprisonment term (pg 5)
-TCHRD fears for the fates of two Tibetans sentencesed to death (pg 6)
-Students Expelled From School in Kanlho (pg 6)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-TCHRD conducts its XXIst workshop in South India (pg 7)
-TCHRD organises public talkl (pg 7)

The fate of Sertha monk remains unknown year after arrest

The fate of a Tibetan Buddhist monk from the famous Larung Gar Buddhist Institute of Sertha in present-day Sichuan Province, who was arrested last year during the pan – Tibet protest, remains unknown year after the incident, according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

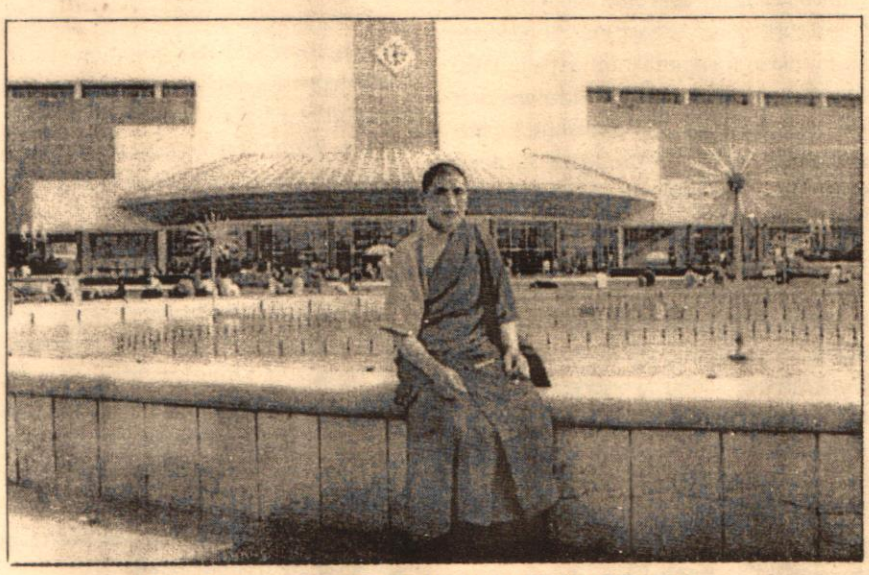
According to the source, Ngagchung (only one name) was arrested by the on 8 July 2008 along with two monks; Taphun and Gudrak of Larung Gar Buddhist Institute of Serthar on suspicious of leaking information about Tibet's situation to the 'separatist forces' outside during the height of the Tibet protests last year. Although Taphun and Gudrak-both brothers- were released after interrogation, Ngagchung continue to remain in detention for almost a year. As per the last communication, he is known to have been detained at Chengdu PSB Detention Centre in Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan Province. The present physical and mental conditions of Ngagchung remain unknown to his family members and relatives as their numerous requests to visit him were turned down by the authorities.

Ngagchung is a nephew of the late Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, a highly –respected Tibetan Buddhist teacher who founded the Larung Gar Buddhist Institute in Sertha County (Ch: Seda), Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP').

Ngagchung studied Buddhist philosophy at the Institute for more than 20 years. Over the years, he had taken various responsibilities of the institute and was respected member of the institute.

The Centre has recorded numerous cases of Tibetans whose fates and whereabouts remain completely unknown to their family members or close associates. Family members were denied visitation right in the detention center even after locating their whereabouts. While in many known cases, families were informed just before the court trial begin denying them of basic legal guarantees.

Larung Gar Buddhist Institute in Sertha County witnessed numerous Chinese crackdowns in 1999 and April 2000 with Chinese authorities sending 'work team' officials to conduct the 'Patriotic re-education' campaign in the institute. Later, on 18 April 2001, the Chinese authorities issued a notice putting ceiling on the number of resident monks the institute could accommodate which resulted in the eviction of over 7,000 students mostly from Mainland China and other East Asian countries. Then in June 2001 fifty trucks and jeeps arrived at the Institute and, under the protection of thousands of security officials who camped on the outskirts of the Institute during the massive demolition, began to destroy the monastic homes. The founder of the institute, Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, passed away at a hospital in Chengdu on 7 January 2004 at the age of 70.



Ngagchung of Larung Gar Buddhist Institute of Sertha

42

TCHRD commemorates 12th UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

International law states that torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment can never be justified under any circumstances

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) commemorates the twelfth 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. The day reminds us that torture is a crime and provides us with an opportunity to stand united and voice our opinion against torture, a cruel violation of human rights.

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1984, the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) 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 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 and regular feature in the Chinese administered wide network of prisons and detention centers across the Tibetan plateau. The Centre is highly concerned about the well-being and safety of the prisoners of conscience and detainees involved in recent spate of protests. 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 voiced their support for 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. 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. Since last March protest, TCHRD has recorded numerous cases of Tibetans having died directly as a result of torture and there were many Tibetans have died shortly after being released from Chinese custody, in which they were subjected to inhumane torture. In recent time, the Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected the U.N. panel's report on the widespread use of torture by Chinese police, calling the report as "untrue and slanderous" in November 2008 and accusing the committee members as "prejudiced" against China.

On contrary, in one of the most shocking video footages ever to smuggled out of Tibet in recent time was that of Chinese security officials savagely beating and manhandling handcuffedand tied Tibetan detainees in Lhasa in the aftermath of the March 14 protest in Lhasa, a wanton violation of international standard minimum rules for the treatment of captives. In the second footage, a young Tibetan, Tendar, a staff in the China Mobile company who was brutally beaten and later subjected to inhuman treatment at the hands of Chinese authorities. The crime of Tendar, he witnessed an elderly monk being beaten by Chinese security personnel during Lhasa protest and reportedly told the security forces to have mercy on elderly monk. He did so at a time that armed police were opening fire on the protesters. Tendar was shot and fell to the ground. Still conscious, he was taken away by police to the Lhasa General Hospital that is run by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). While he was at the hospital, he was fired at, burned with cigarettes butts, pierced with a nail in his right foot and beaten with iron rods. He was tortured repeatedly and his condition deteriorated rapidly. The wounds and the bruise marks visible on his body is a testimony of the brutality he was subjected to by the Chinese authorities. The rotten wounds and bruise marks on his body when he was shifted to the "TAR" People's Hospital proves that he was even denied basic medical care at the hospital. He died on 19 June 2009 due to his injuries. A nail was found in his right foot while his corpse was offered to the vultures during the traditional sky burial.

As partly illustrated by abovementioned case, the use of electric prod, pricking cigarettes on the body, beating, hand or thumb cuffs, feet manacles, aerial suspension, exposure to extreme temperature, long period of solitary confinement, sleep deprivation, violent beating, forced labour and forced exercise drills are few of the commonly used techniques employed by the Chinese authorities from the time of arrest to the detention centre. 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 prisoners in Tibet. In the past, a more cases of suicides due to excessive mental humiliation and psychological trauma had surfaced.

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".

The PRC should eradicate the widespread culture of impunity and perpetrators of gross human rights abuses should be brought to justice.

On this specific day dedicated to the victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, TCHRD recall that the victims concerned must be ensured the right to an effective remedy for the human rights violations suffered as well as the right to full redress, including compensation and rehabilitation. In the present repressive situation, however, which is characterized by a climate of persisting impunity, victims of such practices fail to obtain justice. Yet justice is instrumental for the victims' dignity to be restored.

For purposes of remedying this situation of injustice, the Centre calls on the Government of the PRC to take the necessary steps to sign without delay, and thereafter effectively implement, the Optional Protocol ot the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Centre expresses its support for the universal prohibition against torture and ill-treatment and respect for the human rights.

profile **POLITICAL PRISONERS** 43

Biography of former political prisoners Ngawang and Topjor

A former political prisoner, Ngawang was born on 17 June 1979 in Pelnam Village, Khartse Township, Lhandup County, Lhasa, Tibetan Autonomous Region "TAR".

When he was 6 year old he studied at the primary school in his village. After six years in school he was ordained in the Na Li Da Monastery under the guidance of his parents.

During his stay at the Monastery in 1993, he distributed in the Khartse Township and Lhandup County both Tibetan and Chinese language versions of block print pamphlets which mainly contained the words of Independent Tibet.



Former political prisoner Ngawang

With the help of his friends Namgyal and Losel Norbu removed the name of Mao-Tsedung from a pillar stone which was erected in his village after 1959 in remembrance for the people of Tibet by the Chinese local government. They carved "Independent Tibet" on the pillar stone instead.

On 2 March 1995, twenty nine monks were arbitrarily arrested during the evening raid in the monastery by five hundred military forces and one hundred fifty public security bureau officer after failed scuffles between monks and military forces during the prior raid in the monastery on 29 February 1995.

5 March 1995, Ngawang was arbitrarily arrested with a monks and a nun and put in the Shegatse prison. He was beaten and tortured without inquires any reasons by the Chinese security armed polices.

"Chinese security armed police shifted us Gutsa prison where we were beaten and tortured with beaten and torturing after spending three days in Shetse detention Centre, they then carried me alone in the same military truck to another secret prison in Lhasa", Ngawan reported.

On 9 October 1995, he was sentenced to six years in prison by the Lhasa intermediate people's court on charges of being a Tibet independence activism and counter revolutionary against state.

After 10 months harsh treatment in Dutsa prison, He was transferred to the 5th unit of Drapchi prison which is the No 1 and the most dreaded prison centre in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

During his stay in Drapchi prison he organized with other political prisoners to reject the Chinese official announcement that all prisoners must assemble on prison grounds for the hoisting of the Chinese national flag. The Chinese let those who were political prisoners return to their respective units after they shouted slogan "Free Tibet, Long Live the Dalai Lama". Those in charge of that event refused to inform the news of the prisoners defiance to the authorities.

According to Ngawang, after the flag hoisting event the Chinese official in the prison gave a terse that prisoners were not allowed to go outside. That day he had been seated all day in the prison yard, Kelsang Choephel a monk from Khammar Monastery, Dhamshung, Tibetan Autonomous Region "TAR" said good bye to him as he was passed by after returning from the bathroom. After a moment, some of the prisoners screamed and shouted that kelsang Choephel had committed suicide by hanging himself in the narrow street between prison buildings. "I saw a note paper on his chest saying that he die for sake of six million Tibetans who are suffering under the Chinese regime", Ngwang said.

All the prisoners assembled on the ground and organized prayer offerings and mourned for his death, but later prison guards dispersed the crowd and put the prisoners in their respective prison cell with big locks on the door.

After facing challenges of being torture, beaten and subjected to cruel, intimidation, inhuman or degrading treatment, in the prison for six long years he was released with deprivation of three years political rights on 4 March 2001.

Although he was released after completing six years in prison, he was denied the right to go to Lhasa, to attend any meeting and gathering, and from moving to one place to another by Chinese local authorities. He had no rights to move one place to another without obtaining permission from various authorities such as the Village leader, Township Head, County Head and Public Security Bureau.

In March 2008, he was also involved in the massive demonstrations and protest that spreads throughout the whole region of Tibet, This was the biggest uprising against the Chinese regime after the failed uprising against Chinese occupation in 1959, and there was no way for him to live in Tibet after that.

On 9 January 2009, he began treacherous journey from Tibet to India with the help of a guard who charged them 1, 3000 Yuan to reach in Nepal.

On 2 February 2009, he was able to safely reached Dharamsala, home of the exile government and the resident of the Dalai Lama of Tibet. He is currently studying in Tibetan Transit School after an audience with Dalai Lama.

Topjor was born in 1973 in Gyalden Village, Jara Township, Meldrogungkar County, Lhasa Municipality "(TAR)". He lived with his parents, Anu father and Lhamo (mother).

When he was eight years-old, he studied in a Public school in his Village and then helped his parents. At the age of 16, he enrolled in the Gaden monastery to study Buddhism and he work in the reconstruction of monastery buildings.



Former political prisoner Topjor

On 12 March 1993, Topjor participated in the demonstration with six other monks of Ghaden monastery, in Bhakor Street, (Tsuglakhang Temple). They shouted slogans such as "Free Tibet", "China quit Tibet", "Tibet belongs to Tibetans," and "Long Live the Dalai Lama"

Topjor and the other monks were beaten and physically tortured by the Chinese police in front of TsugLakhang Temple after they had circumambulated around it during the demonstration.

In 1993, he was sentenced to five years in prison with deprivation of political rights for three years by the Lhasa intermediate people's court after a short period of time in the Detention Centre.

On 19 March 1998, he was freed after serving five years in prison including three years deprivation of political rights. He was not allowed to rejoin the monastery so he lived with family and did errands with his parents.

In 2002, he was living in Lhasa with his sister who worked in an alcohol factory.

He worked as a street hawker by selling cloth on a push cart in and around the Tsuglakhang temple.

On 14 March 2008, he joined in the massive demonstration against the Chinese regime in Lhasa which was led by a group of monks from Tsepa Lhakang (Temple) located in front of the Ramoche Temple. The demonstrators marched around the Barkhor Street with Tibetan national flags and shouted slogans such as "Dalai Lama return to Tibet, No Human Rights in Tibet and Chinese quit Tibet".

Immediately after the protest, a group of around 20 Public Security Bureau officers came to the spot and blocked the marchers by beating some of the protesters. Shortly thereafter ugly confrontation or (scuffles) occurred between public security bureau officers and protesters. Hundreds of armed police were visible on the street of Ramoche Temple these security forces engaged in the crackdown on the demonstration. One unknown tall monk fell down slowly after Chinese armed police fired gun shot indiscriminate into the large crowd of demonstrators.

He escaped from the demonstration site after People's Armed Forces used tear gas and fired gun shots into the crowd. He stayed in Meldrugungkar County after treacherous night journey from Lhasa.

After joining in the protest against the Chinese local authorities which led was by a group of monks in Meldrugungkar County on 18 March 2008, he ran in the midst of demonstration towards the nomad's area of Nyiyul and hide for several months.

On 7 January 2009, he fled to India with his friend by paying 13,000 Yuan to the guide who helped them reach border between Nepal and Tibet.

He was able to fulfill his aim having audience with the Dalai Lama and at present he is studying at the Tibetan Transit School.

A guide sentenced to three years in prison

A previously unknown case of a Tibetan guide sentenced to three years of imprisonment on the charges of sending information outside Tibet during the March 14 protests in Lhasa has come to light with Dui Hua foundation obtaining the documents of the indictment and verdict and producing it in English.

The Tibetan identified as Gonpo Tsering, 32, a well respected expedition guide who has trekked with foreign celebrities and participated in high profile mountain rescue efforts under has been convicted for allegedly "inciting



A well Known expedition guide Gonpo Tsering

splittism" by sending a series of emails and text messages over three days to acquaintances outside China following the protests in Lhasa. The verdict read that the "defendant Gonpo Tsering used the internet to deliberately fabricate rumors, distort the true situation and incite separatism" and such acts are deserving of severe punishment.

However the content of the messages were not specified and it is also questionable whether the individuals who are not located in China are even capable of carrying out acts that would "split the nation or undermine unity", said Dui Hua foundation which doubted that the charges of 'inciting splittism" could be hence properly applied.

It also appears that Gonpo Tsering was not represented by a lawyer at his appeal hearing which could be the result of the reluctance of most lawyers to take on criminal defense work in political cases in addition to threats of serious consequences to lawyers who volunteer to defend Tibetans, it said.

Dui Hua said his case "illustrates both the extent to which Chinese police were engaged in monitoring communications between Tibetans and outsiders" during the widespread unrest in Tibetan areas of China last spring.

Many such trial courts are held in secrecy not allowing media report to the public and the judges normally take minutes to approve state prosecution. This severe monitoring and the potential severe consequences explain the caution of many Tibetans who are discouraged from reporting to the outside world what they have witnessed and experienced thereby allowing official Chinese narrative of events to become dominant, it added.

Dua Hua which is a non profit organisation dedicated to improving universal human rights reports that it compels observers to wonder what punishments might be handed down to Tibetans who have been detained for reporting events to outside world or doing even more.

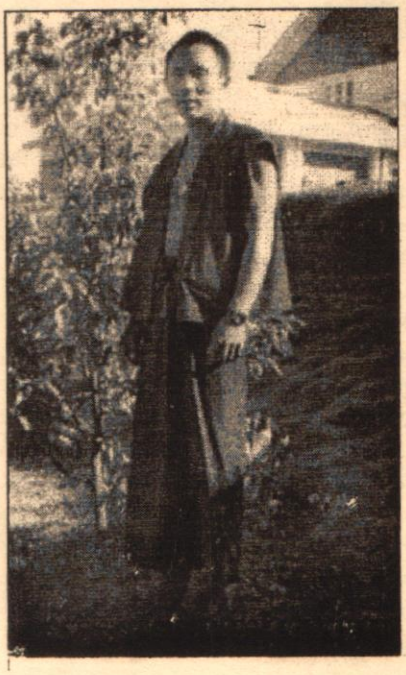
45

Chinese court sentences six monks in Chamdo

27 May 2009: According to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), Chinese authority in Chamdo sentenced six Tibetan monks to varying prison terms on 22 May 2009.

Earlier on 5 January 2009, a bomb blast took place in Choekor Township, Jomda County, Chamdo Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR"). The bomb blast incident was followed by few sporadic protests in the area. Few days later, six monks of Dhen Choekor Monastery were arrested on 9 and 10 January 2009 in Jomda County for staging protest demonstration.

Sources told TCHRD that the prime reason for monks' arrest was their suspicious role in the bomb blast. The court trial commenced in Jomda County People's Court on 22 May 2009, the court convicted monks with various offenses of the bomb blast, taking part in protests, committing political crimes and the refusal to sign document denouncing the Dalai Lama as a "separatist and anti-China force".



Nyima Gyatsen

On 22 May 2009, Jomda County People's Court sentenced the six monks with varying prison terms. Six monks were identified as abbot Tenzin Gyaltsen, 37, Nyi-chig, 50, ex-treasurer Ngawang Tashi, 51, Tashi Dorjee, 30, all received 15 years



Tadhor

of rigorous imprisonment. Chant Master Jamyang Sherab, 42 was sentenced to 13 years and Tsering Palden, 36, was sentenced to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Little is known about the court proceedings, as whether the accused received free and fair trials as well as getting adequate legal representation and defense. The TCHRD expresses serious concern about the sentencing of the monks and urges the Chinese government to undertake a fresh look at the harsh sentences handed over to the monks.

China sentences a monk to life imprisonment term

The Kanlho Intermediate People's Court today sentenced a Tibetan monk to life imprisonment term, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Numerous sources informed TCHRD that Gannan (Tib: Kanlho) Intermediate People's Court sentenced Tsultrim Gyatso, a monk of Labrang Monastery for life imprisonment term under the crime of "endangering the state security". Tsultrim Gyatso, 37, hails from a village called Yig-jang, in Labrang (Ch: Sangchu) County, Gannan "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Gansu Province.

Tsultrim Gyatso was involved in a peaceful protest that took place on 15 March 2008 in Sangchu County. He immediately left Sangchu County after the demonstration to avoid arrest but was eventually tracked down and arrested by Drugchu County Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel on 22 May 2008.

Tibet witnessed massive and unprecedented demonstrations and pro-Tibet agitations in various parts of Tibet which were clamped down by violent crackdowns and suppression. Consequently hundreds and thousands of Tibetans were detained and imprisoned for peaceful exercise of their fundamental human rights and self-determination.

TCHRD expresses its serious concern over the secretive and closed nature of trial under which Tsultrim Gyatso was tried. TCHRD urges the Chinese government to honour the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people.

46

TCHRD fears for the fates of two Tibetans sentenced to death

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its serious concern for the fates of two Tibetans, Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak, who were sentenced to death by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court on 8 April 2009.

There is no information on whether the duos have appeal to the higher people's court for review after the death sentence verdict by the Lhasa Intermediate people's court. If no appeal is presented, then the sentence is automatically review by the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') Higher People's Court and submitted to the Supreme People's Court for approval. As the intermediate period of review draws near, TCHRD is seriously concern about the prospects of their imminent execution as it was earlier reported that the two "have to be executed in order to assuage the people's anger" as quoted saying by the court spokesman in the state media.

The Centre remains unconditionally opposed to the use of the death penalty in all cases, as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It should also be noted that the death penalty has never shown to have a special deterrent effect nor should state use it to justify the wrong done by the defendant. Since the court trial took place in complete secret, almost nothing has been known of the circumstances under which the defendants, detained for more than a year, were tried. It is highly doubtful whether the defendants received anything remotely like international standard for fair trial such as whether defendants were adequately represented by defense lawyers of their choice or to challenge the evidence brought against them in the court. The absence of due legal process is matter of great concern for the Tibetans inside Tibet who continue to face detention and are waiting farce trial.

TCHRD, therefore, appeals to the authorities of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to rescind the death sentence of Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak, and commute their death sentences. The Centre also calls for the authorities to provide them with an opportunity to be re-tried in a judicial process that is more in tune with the international standards which China claims she adheres to.

The series of protests that erupted across Tibetan areas since last spring, saw hundreds of Tibetans being detained arbitrarily, died, disappeared and imprisoned many with harsh prison sentences. According to TCHRD, there are at least 235 known cases of Tibetans having been sentenced so far for varying prison terms. Of which 5 Tibetans were sentenced to death (three with two-year reprieve), 10 Tibetans with life imprisonment and around 130 Tibetans were slapped with 10 years or more of jail terms. The Chinese official statements over the past have revealed only 74 Tibetans sentenced to various prison terms in the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR') for their involvement in the 'March 14 Lhasa riot.' Ngaba, Sangchu, Kardze region in the eastern part of Tibet in particular witnessed one of the most sustained protests and the highest number of arrest, however, the official Chinese newspaper, Garze Daily, dated 15 May 2009 acknowledged only 28 Tibetans having been sentenced so far in Kardze by the Kardze Intermediate People's Court. The Centre has recorded at least 60 Tibetans from Kardze receiving court sentences so far for their participation in last spring protests.

This week China was re-elected for another three-year term to the 47-members UN Human Rights Council with promise of promoting and protecting human rights. In addition, the Information Office of the China's State Council on 13 April 2009 published "the First Working Action Plan on Human Rights Protection 2009-2010", promising citizens more legal protection, better livelihoods and greater civil and political rights that include rights of detainees and the right to a fair trial. Though it was encouraging that the government of the PRC had made the effort to put the document out but China has routinely failed to implement protection enshrined in its own laws. Therefore, it is high time China make sincere effort to respect, follow and implement all the pledges made in the Action Plan which includes death penalty and improvement in judicial procedures for review.

Students Expelled From School in Kanlho

Two students of Kanlho Tibetan Middle School were expelled from their school on 19 June 2009 for their involvement in peaceful protest on 24 April 2009

According to confirm information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

The expelled students were identified as Dolma Tashi a.k.a. Dolta, 21 years old and Dolma Bum a.k.a. Dolbum, 22 years old, both hailed from Sangkhok Township, Sangchu County, Kanlho "TAP" Gansu Province.

On 24 April 2009, the students of Kanlho Tibetan Middle School took to streets of Sangchu County, the peaceful and non-violent demonstration engulfed because of malpractice in allocating reserved seats of Tibetan students to Chinese students in higher education by the school authorities, according to reliable sources.

According to the latest information obtained by the Centre, other factor for the students taking to street was accrued to the article published under the pseudonym of Yidor entitled "Deception and Meanness of Dalai Lama" and "No Escape for the Dalai" published in bilingual Kanlho Daily, the latter article was not only published in newspaper but it had also been put up on the school notice board.

According to the source, unable to tolerate the smear campaign carried out against their beloved leader, the students started off the demonstration from their school, Kanlho Tibetan Middle School, and headed towards the county main market area raising slogans.

Reportedly the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) stopped the students in the outskirts of the main market area. According to sources on the ground, the students were driven back to the school and a strong contingent of Public Security Bureau Personnels and People's Armed Police (PAP) have surrounded the school barring anyone from entering or leaving. The parents of the students have been summoned at the school and they were asked to ensure that no such demonstration will take place in future.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin

TCHRD conducts its XXI[st] workshop in South India

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) conducted its XXI[st] workshop on Human Rights and Democracy at the Lugsam Tibetan Settlement Hall, Bylakupee, Karnataka, South India from 23-26 June 2009.



workshop inprogress at Lugsam Tibetan Settlement Hall

A total of 75 participants attended the 4-day workshop on "Human Rights and Democracy" from five different Tibetan Settlement in South India, including, Bylakupee Lugsam, Bylakupee Dekyi Lharsoe, Mundgod Tibetan Settlement, Kollegal, and Hunsur.

The 4-day workshop was attended by 75 participants who represented the local groups such as Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (RTYC), Regional Tibetan Women's Association (RTWA), Local Assembly, Tibetan Freedom Movement, Administrators from Monasteries and Nunneries, Co-operative Society and Camp Leaders.

TCHRD received tremendous response from the audience during the feed back session after the workshop.

Resource persons and related topics

Mr. Urgen Tenzin Centre's the Executive Director gave a talk on the history of the Tibetan democratization process in Exile

Mr. Jampa Monlam covered a detailed account of Current Human Rights Situation in Tibet.

Mr. Pema Jugney gave a comprehensive a talk on role of parliamentary systems and administration functions. He also delivered a talk on local assembly and its important role.



The local people pay close attention to the speaker during the public talk

Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, the chief election commissioner gave a detailed account of the participatory democracy in exile by discussing statistical data, facts and figures of past elections. Moreover, he urged and stressed how important it was for the Tibetan people to pay special attention to electoral politics, which has been considered as the backbone of any democracy.

Ven. Geshe Kelsang Damdul, the assistant Director of Institute for Buddhist Dialectics delivered a gripping talk on relationship between "Tibetan Buddhism and Human Rights.

Mr. Thupten Lungrig, the minister of the Department of Education delivered two seminal talks on the topics of "Non Violence Activism and Middle Way Approach" as well as the function of the Executive Body (Kashag)".

TCHRD organizes public talk

On 27 June 2009, the TCHRD) organized a public talk at Dekyi Lharsoe Hall, Bylakupee. More than 600 local Tibetans were attended the talk and the Centre's Executive Director, Mr. Urgen Tenzin gave a brief introduction into the Centre's main process of functioning and works on Human Rights Situation in Tibet. Mr. Thupten Lungrig, Minister of Education and Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, election commissioner delivered comprehensive talks on how the importance of the Tibetan people to pay special attention to electoral politics, which has been considered as backbone of any democracy. They also emphasized about the need to know about the candidate's background, proceeding, their rights, duties and most importantly the people's involvement in electing their representatives to the Tibetan Parliament in Exile.

In keeping with upcoming election of the Kalon Tripa, they both urged and called upon the participants to start to elect the right candidate for the next Kalon Tripa.

The Centre provided special time for a question and answer session for the public before conclusion.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

48

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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 - 2008) •*Uprising in Tibetan 2008* • *Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet*

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastgur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

JULY 2009

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 11

49

A Tibetan monk sentenced to 3-years in jail for opposing 'Patriotic education' Campaign

A Chinese court in Kardze County, Sichuan Province, sentenced a Tibetan monk to three years in jail for his involvement in protest against the "Patriotic Education" campaign launched in Lithang in 2007, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Jamyang Tenzin, a 35-year-old monk of Yonru Geyden Rabgayling Monastery was sentenced to three years in jail by the Kardze Intermediate People's Court around 3 July 2009. According to source, Jamyang Tenzin was arrested on 3 October 2007 for opposing the "work team" from conducting "Patriotic re-education" Campaign in the Yonru Monastery in Lithang County. The lengthy detention of Jamyang Tenzin since his detention in October 2007 until his court sentence in July this year is a matter of great concern and was a clear violation of the Chinese constitution and the international laws. Almost nothing is known of the circumstances under which Jamyang Tenzin was tried. Moreover, there is no information on whether he was provided with any due legal process, representative of his choice as his family members were completely kept in limbo for the past more than 21 months since his detention in 2007.

A massive "patriotic education" campaign was unleashed in all the monastic institutions in Lithang County following a series of protests in Lithang led by Ronggye A'drak during the annual horse race festival on 1 August 2007. Subsequently, the Chinese authorities summoned leaders of townships and monasteries in and around Lithang to commence the 'patriotic education' campaign in the first week of September 2007 which lasted for three months. During one of those "patriotic education" campaigns in Yonru Geyden Rabgayling Monastery in Lithang on 3 October 2007, Jamyang Tenzin confronted the 'work team' from carrying out campaign which required monks and nuns to write essays denouncing the Dalai Lama and demonstrate their allegiance to the Chinese government. Jamyang Tenzin even raised the question on the arrest of Ronggye A'drak and other Tibetans and expressed his concern on their whereabouts. He later concluded by shouting, "May the Dalai Lama live for thousands of years." Jamyang was arrested right away by the local PSB officials after the conclusion of the 'Patriotic education' session at the monastery and his status remained unknown until the court trial in the beginning this month.

Jamyang Tenzin, a 35-year-old born to Thinley Tsering(father) and Tsering Dolma(mother) and was a native of Youru Sakhor Village, Lithang County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Sichuan Province. Jamyang was a monk of Yonru Geyden Rabgayling Monastery, a small branch monastery under the umbrella of Lithang Monastery. Jamyang visited India in 1995 and studied at Gaden Jangtse Monastery in South India until his return to Tibet in 2004. While returning to Tibet, he was detained at the Nepal-Tibet border and later detained for three months.

TCHRD strongly condemns the sentencing of Jamyang Tenzin as his freedom to opinion and expression does not violate any of the constitutional components of Chinese law. TCHRD is gravely concerned for the fate of Jamyang Tenzin and like to seek immediate intervention by the governments and the international community. Since his activity constitute nothing more than an expression of opinion, thought and exercise of his basic human rights peacefully, TCHRD calls upon the Chinese authorities to release him unconditionally

CONTENT

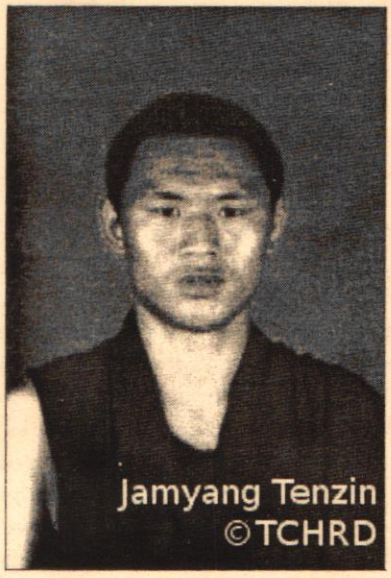
-A Tibetan monk sentenced to 3-years in jai for opposing "Patriotic education" campaign

(pg 1)

-Monk suicides on the rise in Buddhist(pg 1)
Biography of former political prisoners Tsewang Dhondup and Lobsang Thupten (pg 3)
-China denies family access to two Labrang monks serving lengthy prison sentences(pg 6)
-China expels disciplinary head of Amdo Jaqung Monastery (pg 6)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-New Chairperson at the TCHRD Board of Director (pg 7)
-TCHRD briefs full bright Scholars (pg 7)
Talk to Tibetan students from U.S.A (pg 7)



Jamyang Tenzin
©TCHRD

Monk suicides on the rise in Buddhist Tibet

A report submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Religion or Belief on the factors and circumstances leading to the occurrences and increase of suicides by Tibetan monks and nuns in Chinese occupied Tibet since 10 March 2008. The Tibetan Buddhist worldwide is currently observing this month as the holy Buddhist month of Saka Dawa. 7 June 2009 (a full moon day), Sunday, will be observed as the most important day of the holy month according to the Buddhist belief due to the significance of the day being Buddha Shakyamuni's birth, enlightenment and parinirvana falling on the same day. While the Tibetan Buddhist - both the civil and monastic community - worldwide spend the day with various religious activities and rituals according to the faith, however, Tibetans inside Chinese administered Tibet face severe religious repression enacted by the State and its agents. Restrictions and prohibitory orders to the government officials and students from visiting temples this month have already been issued. Reinforcement of security forces and intelligence officials have been deployed across Lhasa city to maintain "stability" during the holy month.

Religious freedom has been a distant dream for the Tibetan people since the advancement of Communist China in 1949-50. The various restrictions and conditions put forward by the Chinese authority in pursuit of one's religion were not only unacceptable but also contempt to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations. The atrocities that the Chinese authority commit on Tibetan people, particularly monks and nuns while pursuing their beliefs and religious practices, are not only the victim of their power but it is also a failure of a sovereign state to protect its people's basic human rights. Freedom of religion is severely curtailed in the Chinese occupied Tibet. The monastic community has been the prime target of the authority's crackdown under a pretext to "reform" monks to achieve the so called "stability" in the region. The monastic community has come under repeated attacks through the government's various nefarious campaigns to bring them under control and to forge "loyalty to the motherland". Hundreds and thousands of Tibetan people especially monks and nuns were tortured in prisons and detention centres for practicing their religion. They were required to denounce their own spiritual guru, to abuse their highly respected lamas and had to perform all those acts, which are not permitted under monastic vows and code of conduct, in name of "patriotic re-education" initiated by the Chinese authority as a requisite to continue as monk and nuns. Though suicide is a rare case among the Tibetan monks and nuns since they consider the human life as precious, to acquire merits for the next lives and eventually to attain enlightenment. However, under the ongoing persecution of monks and nuns in Tibet's religious institutions, they were subjected to extreme psychological traumas and impositions of irreconcilable demands, which eventually force them to commit suicide. The suicide has been on the rise in Tibet's monastic community since the spring 2008 protests in Tibet. Tibetan Buddhist believes that suicide is one of the heinous forms of sins that violate the cardinal precepts of the doctrine. Buddhist monks and nuns are 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. The monks and nuns are left with no option but to embrace death since the requisites laid down by the Chinese authority are beyond sanity. Though they can withstand the torture and abuse to some extend but after a certain point, pushes them to the extreme end of taking their own lives.

16 out of the 17 known cases of suicides and two cases of attempt to suicide documented since March 2008 can be attributed to monks and nuns. This pattern is alarming and clearly indicating to the level of religious repression in Tibet. Some of the factors that caused the suicide are 1) psychological trauma during "patriotic education" campaign 2) heavy crackdown upon the monastic community in the aftermath of pan-Tibet protests beginning from March 2008 and 3) Anti-Dalai Lama campaign.

Psychological trauma during "patriotic reeducation" campaign

In the aftermath of mass uprising by the Tibetan people beginning from March 2008, the Chinese authorities have yet again singled out the monastic community to direct their notorious patriotic reeducation campaign. The campaign has earned notoriety in the past for its lethality and adverse psychological traumas on monks and nuns. As a direct counter measure to the spring 2008 pan-Tibet protests, the Chinese authorities immediately unleashed a reinvigorated "patriotic reeducation" in the monastic community. With fresh wounds in the minds of the Tibetan monks and nuns after witnessing brutal crackdown in the form of indiscriminate shooting and killings of Tibetan demonstrators, the monks were further subjected to humiliation and mental agony during the "patriotic education" sessions. The extreme humiliation and psychological trauma causing content of the campaign led to the suicides of several monks and nuns.

Heavy crackdown upon the monastic community

Heavily armed security forces stormed monasteries across Tibet to crush the strong voice of freedom by the monks. Monks and nuns were brutally beaten at gun points in front of fellow monks to "filter" out the leaders and initiators of the demonstrations. The monastic community has been vociferous in the pan-Tibet protests as they came out in the street in huge numbers. In order to make strong cases against the monks, the authorities reconstructed scenes of monks committing crimes in the monastery to be recorded on video which were to be later used as propaganda material.

continues.....4

profile **POLITICAL PRISONERS** 51

Biography of former political prisoners Tsewang Dhondup and Lobsang Thupten

Tsewang Dhondup, a 39-year-old hailed from Chokri Gorong Village, Tehor, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" (TAP) Sichuan Province. He spent most of his early age helping his parents on their farm.

At the age of 20, he went to Lhasa to work in a small business, and in 1993 he was involved in the demonstration that took place there.



Tsewang Dhondup

On 24 March 2008, he was involved in the massive uprising against the Chinese regime which was sparked by 49 years of repression and suppression against the people of Tibet under the Communist rule of China.

Twenty nuns from Ngadon nunnery led the demonstration, and they were later joined by 300 bystanders. After a while, the Chinese security armed police begin to clamp down on the on-going protest, using tear gas and indiscriminately firing into the crowd.

In the aftermath of the protest, Tsewang Dhondup tried to save the life of an injured, 20-year-old monk of Chogri Monastery named Kunga. Kunga fell down on the ground when he was shot by the Chinese people's armed police (PAP), but Tsewang failed to save the monk's life because he was also hit by two bullets. One penetrated from back to front near his kidney and another hits his left elbow. He failed to grab the monk's body on his lap since he himself felt down on the ground after getting two bullets. With the help of his cousin Lobsang Thupten and friends, Tsewang was brought on a bike to a family in the village, to avoid the risk of arbitrarily arrest by the Chinese police forces. The Chinese authorities were particularly interested in arresting those people injured in the protests, so that the injured could not serve as eye witnesses to the outside world. The Chinese government never wants the outside world to know that any anti-government protest occurred in the country and of course the government never releases information related to suppression and oppression of the Tibetans to the outside world. For instance, Tibetans are not allowed to claim even their relative's dead body or injured persons following a protest.

Later, Chinese police forces started to raid every house in the village to arrest those escapees whose image were caught by the surveillance cameras during the demonstration.

Tsewang ran away to hide in the mountain immediately after regaining his consciousness.

In the moment of life and death

Tsewang was able to run in the mountain area, thanks to the unwavering support from his relative who brought him on his bike to the mountain area without any knowledge of the Chinese security forces.

For one year and seven months they struggled to survive in the mountains during the harsh winter, rather than die at the hands of Chinese security forces. It was very hard to get proper medical assistance for his wound because the office of Public Security Bureau of Kardze County had issued an arrest warrant in that listed their names. Chinese local authorities made public announcement offering reward of 1,500 yuan for information on the where about of the escapees after they failed to arrest the protesters. It was impossible to get medicine for his wound from the public hospital and pharmacy stores.

"I felt it would be better to die, rather than live any longer with the intense pain in my body. I also could not bear to see how much my relative Lobsang Thupten sacrificed to left behind his wife, children, and parents. I was encouraged to survive so that I could serve as an eyewitness for the victims in Tibet who are suffering intimidation and atrocities under the Chinese. My family told me there could be an opportunity to express the whole story to the outside world after we escaped from Tibet to India, said Tsewang Dhondup.

"I promise not keep silent, and to serve as a voice for freedom and human rights in Tibet. When given the opportunity. It is vital to disclose the human rights violation occurring in Tibet to the outside world for voicing on freedom and human rights in Tibet when opportunity comes because this is vital to disclose the human rights violation in Tibet by the Chinese government to the outside world".

On 20 April 2009, we started treacherous journey from home area to Lhasa (Tibetan Capital) by motor cycle. During the long journey we faced a lot of challenges such as a shortage of fuel for the bike, food, cloth and we also faced the problem of having to travel for the night due to the constant danger of arrest by the Chinese security guards.

After arriving in Lhasa, it was so hard to find a guide who would help us to reach Nepal; most of them are very expensive as they demanded more than 1,500 Yuan for each of us.

Later, we decided to give guide 1,500 Yuan to take us to Nepal, and he accepted our request to give him the payment after

52

Lobsang Thupten

Lobsang Thupten was born to father Gyurgha and mother Tsering in 1978 in Chokri Gorong Village, Tehor, Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture "TAP" Sichuan Province.

He attended a local public school at the age of eight. Later he was compelled to drop out of school due to a lack of quality teachers and facilities. Since then he worked as herdsman for many years before taking up the role of a small businessman in his family.



Lobsang Thupten

On 24 March 2008, he took part in the peaceful protest which was led by 20 nuns of Nyagon nunnery of Chokri Tehor Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture "TAP" Sichuan Province. The demonstrators shouted slogans such as a "Return the Dalai Lama to Tibet, Freedom in Tibet, free Tibet" while heading toward the main market in Kardze County.

Kunga, a 20 year-old monk from Chokri Monastery was shot dead by the Chinese armed forces during the sporadic protest on 24 March 2008. Lobsang Thupten's cousin Tsewang Dhondup hailed from Gangrong village. Tsewang was fallen on the ground after he was twice shot by the Chinese armed force while he was helping the injured monk in the midst of protest.

Lobsang Thupten tried to save his cousin with taking him on his bike to a safer place with the help of his friends.

Following this demonstration, many Tibetans, including monks, nuns, and lay people, were severely beaten up and mistreatment on baseless charges steaming from the protest. Many Tibetans were arbitrary arrested and jailed with prison terms varying from 3-12 years.

Lobsang Thupten had unwaveringly supported four Tibetans including his cousin Tsewang Dhondup to escape from arrest by hiding them in different locations in the mountain area. They hid for past one year and seven months after the Chinese local authorities announced a monetary award of tens of thousands of Yuan for those with information concerning the whereabouts of the hiding places of the protestors.

"I left my dearest wife, children, mother and everything behind in Tibet with conviction and hope of alleviating the suffering of Tibetans living inside Tibet", Lobsang Thupten said.

On 20 April 2009, we started treacherous journey from our home area to Lhasa (Tibetan Capital) by motor cycle. During the long journey we faced a lot of challenges such as a shortage of fuel for the bike, food, cloth; we also faced the problem of having to travel during the night due to the constant danger of arrest by the Chinese security guards.

After arriving in Lhasa, it was so hard to find a guide who would help us to reach Nepal; most of them are very expensive as they demanded more than 1,500 Yuan for each of us.

Later, we decided to give guide 1,500 Yuan to take us to Nepal, and he accepted our request to give him the payment after we arrived at Tibetan Reception Centre, Nepal.

By the grace of Dalai Lama on 18 May 2009, we safely reached at Tibetan Reception Centre, Nepal without having any problems.

continued from page 2

In eastern Tibet, especially in Ngaba region, the security forces were searching for the Tibetans who have sent pictures to the outside world which became crucial evidence of the brutal crackdown by the security forces in quelling Tibetan protests. The pictures cornered the government in huge embarrassment as it has been claiming "restraint" on the demonstrators. The monasteries in the region came under heavy scrutiny by government officials looking for computer equipments etc from suspected activities by the monks in sending pictures to the outside world through the internet. In search of this evidence and also in video recording reconstruction of scenes of monks committing crimes, the monks were subjected to extreme cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment.

Anti Dalai Lama campaign

At the Third Tibet Work Forum held in 1994, the Chinese authorities identified the Dalai Lama as a "serpent's head". Anti-Dalai Lama campaigns were initially implemented in 1996 with monasteries and nunneries as initial targets. Monks and nuns in Tibet are subjected to political indoctrination wherein they have to denounce the Dalai Lama. The campaign later spread into the lay community as well. Since 10 March 2008, the campaign was reinvigorated and intensified gravely in the monastic institutions either alongside "patriotic reeducation" or as an individual campaign. Tibetan people revere the Dalai Lama as their spiritual guru as well as the temporal head despite the fact that the Dalai Lama has been in exile for several decades. The authorities launched vitriolic attacks on the persona of the Dalai Lama and demanded the lay as well as the monastic community to denounce him as a "separatist" and the sole instigator behind the spring 2008 protests in Tibet. This turned out to be the ultimate push for many monks and nuns to commit suicide as they had already witnessed brutal crackdown on the demonstrators which included family members and colleagues, and to denounce the Dalai Lama was beyond their reason to live.

Case Studies

1) Lobsang Jinpal committed suicide on 27 March 2008. He was a monk at the Ngaba Kirti Monastery, Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. 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."

2) Legtsok2, 75 years old, committed suicide on 30 March 2008. He was a monk at the Ngaba Gomang Monastery in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province. Days before committing suicide, 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 their monastery, Ngaba Gomang Monastery, to quell the protesting 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.

3)Thoesam3, 29 years old, committed suicide on 16 April 2008. He hailed from Mehu-ru-mah Village and was a monk at the Ngaba Kirti Monastery, Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. He committed suicide for being unable to bear the pressure and repression that was being imposed by the Chinese govt.

4)Trangma4 committed suicide on 18 June 2008. He was a monk at Drapa Yangden Monastery, Minyag Township, Nyagchuka County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan. During the "patriotic reeducation" at the monastery, the authorities made the monks denounce the Dalai Lama and perform other sacrileges according Buddhist faith. Unable to bear the circumstances, he cut short his life to escape the religious blasphemy and denunciation of his spiritual guru, the Dalai Lama. The deceased monk's aged mother and other monks in the monastery were threatened with consequences if they speak to the outside world about his suicide. As part of the "patriotic reeducation" the school under the monastery with around 30 novice monk students was closed down by the Chinese authorities.

5)Thokmey a.k.a Tsangpa Thokmey5 (prefix name used of his origin place) committed suicide on 22 March 2008. He was a monk at the Ramoche Temple in Lhasa. He committed suicide following massive crackdown by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) forces in Ramoche Temple.

6)Namdrok Khakyab 6 committed suicide on 19 March 2008. He was a visiting scholar at Samye Monastery from the Dorjee Drak Monastery. He hailed from Nyemo County, Lhasa Municipality, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR"). He left behind a suicide note that accused of unbearable suppression by the Chinese authorities and cited innocence of other monks of the monastery and took full responsibility for the demonstrations.

(7)Tashi Sangpo7 committed suicide on 21 March 2009. He was severely subjected to harsh beatings, inhumane torture and long interrogation in a local detention centre since his arrest on 10 March 2009. Extensive torture and interrogation finally took its toll on Tashi Sangpo's mental state, which eventually forced him to take his own life by jumping into Machu River.

(8)Tusong 8 committed suicide on 16 April 2008. He was a 19-years-old blind monk at Kirti Monastery and originally hailed from a village nearby Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. Reportedly he told his family that just as those with eyes cannot endure what is happening, "even I, a blind person, cannot endure it".

(9)An unnamed nun9 in her thirties from Cholung nunnery committed suicide on 12 April 2008. She was traumatized by the beatings she witnessed by armed security forces after a demonstration in TashigangTownship, Meldrogungkar, Lhasa.

(10)Three unnamed monks10 from Dugu Monsatery committed suicide in an act that may have been in protest against the crackdown and subsequent pressure to denounce the Dalai Lama.

11) Lobsang Tsultrim 11 committed suicide on 3 July 2008. He was around 16 years old and a monk at the Kirti Dhongri Monastery in Mehu-ru-ma Village, Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. His elder brother testified that Lobsang Tsultrim came home from the monastery and said, "the Chinese official work-teams have again arrived at the monastery. They have ordered the monks to assemble for the "education". Again, they will not let us stay in peace". With these words, he walked out from the room. After around 15 minutes, when his brother looked for him, he was found strangled with a rope in the nearby storeroom where they kept their firewood.

12) Shedup 12 committed suicide on 2 April 2009. He was around 40 years old and was a monk at a monastery in Rebkong (Ch: Tongren) County, Malho "TAP", Qinghai Province. He was first arrested for his alleged role in the protest in Rebkong in March 2008. He was then severely beaten and tortured in custody before being released. However, his name appeared in the wanted list announced by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) around March 2009. Instead of being rearrested, he killed himself to escape humiliation and torture.

13) An unnamed nun13, 21 years old, from Choekhor Nunnery committed suicide 12 April 2008. Earlier in the day many monks monks from Pangsa Monastery, Tashi Gang township, in Balab sub-district; nuns from Choekhor (colloquially known as Choekhook) Nunnery, Sibook Township, and monks from Dhomo Monastery led a peaceful protest also joined by laypeople in Meldro Gungkar County. Numerous monks and laypeople were arrested during the protest.

14) Lobsang Tsomo14, a nun at Chokhor Nunnery, committed suicide on 12 April 2008. She hailed from Meldrogungkar County, Lhasa Municipality.

15)Attempt to Sucide- Two Drepung Monastery monks, Kelsang and Damchoe15, both originally from Kirti Monastery in Sichuan Province, in Drepung Monastery stabbed themselves in the chest, hands, and wrists in an attempt to commit suicide out of desperation amid protest on 12 and 13 March 2008 in the monastery.

16)Attempt to Sucide- Tapey16, a monk at Kirti Jepa Monastery, Ngaba County, Sichuan Province, attempted suicide by self-immolation on 27 February 2009 as a mark of protest against the ban of Monlam religious festival and the Chinese repression and rule in Tibet. Apparently when he was on fire, eyewitnesses said Tabey was fired upon three gun shots by the Chinese police.

54

China denies family access to two Labrang monks serving lengthy prison sentences

Two Tibetans who were earlier sentenced on 21 May 2009 by the Kanlho Intermediate People's Court to life and another to 15 years' imprisonment terms were denied access to family members since their detention more than a year, according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Tsultrim Gyatso, a 37-year-old from Yigjang Village in Labrang (Ch: Xiahe) County, and Thabkhay Gyatso, 34, from Sangkag Village in Labrang County were detained for their participation in the 15 March protest that took place in Labrang last year. Both Tsultrim and Thabkhay are monks of Labrang Monastery in Sangchu County, Gannan "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Gansu Province. Tsultrim Gyatso immediately left Sangchu County after the demonstration to avoid arrest but was eventually tracked down and arrested by Drungchu County Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel on 22 May 2008. There is no clear information on Thabkhay Gyatso's place and date of detention.

Last Thursday, on 21 May 2009 Gannan (Tib: Kanlho) Intermediate People's Court sentenced Tsultrim Gyatso to life imprisonment whereas Thabkhay Gyatso was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment term on charges of 'endangering the state security."

According to sources, both Tsultrim and Thabkhay were not only denied access to their family members but also their family members were not informed about the court trial that took place last Thursday. Family members are known to be very worried about their well being as they have not seen their sons for more than a year, sources told TCHRD.

It is highly condemnable that like many other detainees in Tibet, both Tsultrim and Thabkhay were completely denied access to their family members. Under such circumstances it is highly doubtful whether the defendants ever received anything remotely like international standard for fair trial such as adequate legal representation of their choice. According to the latest information, Thabkhay Gyatso who is known to be suffering from severe appendicitis is recovering in Tsoe Government hospital after successful minor surgery. No family members were allowed to meet him in the hospital.

TCHRD calls on the Chinese authorities to allow immediate access to their family members and to ensure in all circumstances to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of the two in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international human rights instruments that People's Republic of China is a state party.

China expels disciplinary head of Amdo Jaqung Monastery

A disciplinary head of Amdo Jaqung Monastery in Bayen County, Tsoshar Prefecture, Qinghai Province has been expelled for failing to comply with the officials of "patriotic education" campaign, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 27 June, a team of officials from Religious Affairs Bureau of Bayen (Ch: Hualong) Hui County under Tsoshar (Ch: Haidong) Prefecture, Qinghai Province and the County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials arrived at Amdo Jaqung Monastery to carry out "patriotic education" campaign now euphemistically called by the name of "Legal Education" session. According to source, the officials ordered the disciplinary head of Amdo Jaqung Monastery, Lobsang Tsultrim, to call for monks to assemble for the "legal education" to be conducted in the monastery.

However, Lobsang Tsultrim after making formal announcement, not a single monk turned up for the "legal education" session. Subsequently, the officials put the blame squarely on the disciplinary head of the monastery lashing tirade for the lack of discipline in the monastery and failure to properly 'educate' the monks. Lobsang Tsultrim, a 36-year-old monk was later sacked from his position as disciplinary head, stripped of privileges entitled for religious heads and expelled from Amdo Jaqung Monastery and ordered that he cannot join any other monasteries. Amdo Jaqung Monastery house around 400 monks.

The "patriotic education" campaign which was launched since April 1996 across religious institutions in Tibet, requires monks and nuns to denounce their religious leader, oppose 'splittist' forces, study text materials and pledge their allegiance to the communist party, was responsible for a high number of monks' arrests, expulsions, deaths and even closure of monasteries for defying or challenging the official line. The campaign has been one of the primary obstacles or impediments for the normal practice of religious tradition and was responsible for the repression of religious freedom in Tibet.

Since the major protests erupted across Tibetan plateau last March, a renewed 'patriotic education' campaign was launched across every section of Tibetan communities with more rigor and intensity with new term of giving "legal education" to the monastic communities. The campaign which was earlier concentrated primarily in the monastic institutions, long considered as the bastions of political dissidence, was launched for government employees, security forces, farmers, nomads, private entrepreneurs and educational institutions. The "legal education" session was launched last year in Drepung Monastery on 11 April 2008 and later carried out in other monastic institutions.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) condemns in strongest term the expulsion of Lobsang Tsultrim and calls for the immediate end to the practice of conducting 'patriotic education' campaign or 'legal education' in Tibet and allows the normal religious practice to flourish in the monastic institutions.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin 55

New Chairperson at the TCHRD Board of Director

Mr. Lobsang Dhargyal, Chairman of the TCHRD Board of Director resigned from his post on 12 May 2009, after the approval from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the patron of the Centre. On 25 May 2009, His Holiness the Dalai Lama appointed Mrs. Rinchen Khando Choegyal, as the Chairperson of the TCHRD Board of Director. The Centre's staff members congratulate for her appointment. Mrs. Rinchen Khando Choegyal has worked tirelessly during her varied and successful career to promote the importance of education along with the preservation of Tibetan culture and language. She is the second woman in the history of Tibet to be elected as a Cabinet Minister in the Tibetan Government-In-Exile, a position she held from 1993 to 2001. She is one of the founding members of the Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) and served as its President from 1984 to 1993. She is currently the Director of the Tibetans Nuns Project (TNP), a position she has held since its inception in 1987. After finishing her studies, she taught teaching in the newly opened Tibetan Homes Foundation School in Mussoorie. From there she moved on to work as the sponsorship secretary in the Tibetan Children's Village school in Dharamsala, India.

Over the years, Rinchen Khando Choegyal has travel throughout the world, speaking for the government department, the TWA and the TNP. In her speeches, she has emphasized the importance of her primary objective: the preservation of Tibetan culture and ideals through education, improving conditions for the elderly and the very poor and the development of religious studies for women. She was honored for her efforts on behalf of Tibetan women and children by the New York based Women's Commission on Refugee Women and Children, which in 1998 presented her with their "Women of Courage" award.



Rinchen Khando Choegyal

During her talks, she shares with audiences the vision of religious education for Tibetan women and the means by which this vision is being brought into reality. She speaks with poignancy about the conditions these nuns endured in Tibet, including torture, imprisonment, and constant absence of political and religious freedom. She eloquently communicates the strength and ability of these courageous women as they seek to establish themselves, their religious traditions, and their values in exile.

TCHRD briefs full bright Scholars

On 9 July 2009, Mr. Jampa Monlam, delivered a talk on current Human Rights Situation in Tibet to a group of Tibetan students who have been selected for full bright Scholar in America, at Lhakpa Tsering Hall Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR).

Talk to Tibetan students from U.S.A

On 14 July 2009, Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director was invited to give a talk on the Human Rights Situation in Tibet to 70 Tibetan students from America during their summer camp holiday at TCV Peace Hall, Dharamsala, India.



Jampa Monlam gives talk at Lhakpa Tsering Hall,DIIR

Mr. Jampa Monlam emphasized the current Human Rights situation in Tibet before providing the stage for a question and answer session.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

56

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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 - 2008) •*Uprising in Tibetan 2008* • *Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet*

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

57

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

AUGUST 2009

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 12

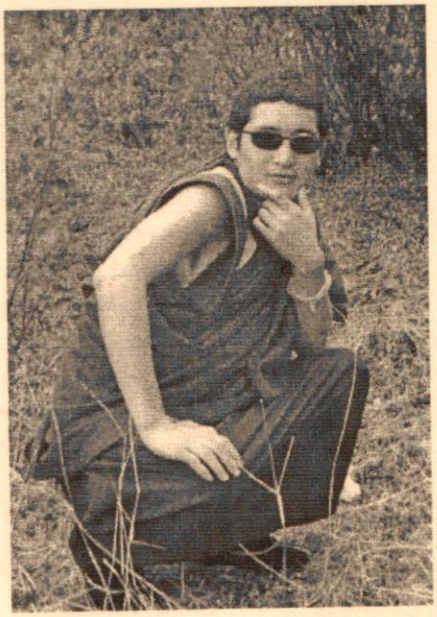
China sentences eight Tibetans to varying prison terms in Tibet

CONTENT

-China sentences eight Tibetans to varying prison terms in Tibet (pg 1)
- China arrest brothers on run (pg 2)
-Tsering gyurmey and Tsering Dhargyal (pg 3)
-Local Authorities confirm 3 Tibetans who were killed during the 2008 up rising in Tibet pg 4)
-A Tibetan sentenced 5 years prison-term for 2008 uprising in Tibet (pg 4)
-Mining project in Meldro-Gungkar put Tibetan livelihood and envornment in jeopardy (pg 5)
-Two monks disappeared after raid in Labrang Monastery (pg 5)
-A monk of Labrang monastery abducted in a raid (pg 6)
-China displaces tens and thousands of Tibetans in Tawo County (pg 6)

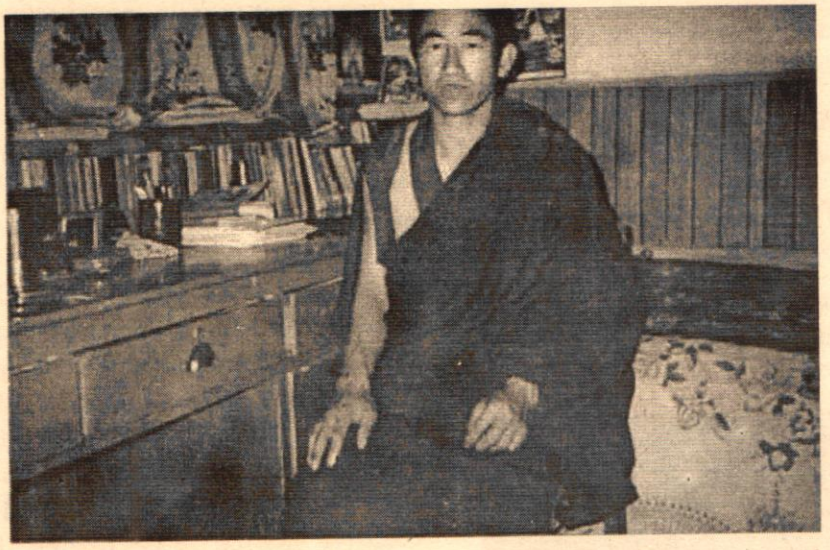
TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-A video appeal from a Tibetan inside Tibet to the international community (pg 7)



Jamyang Khedup

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), a Chinese court on 13 August 2009 in Golog "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") sentenced eight Tibetans to varying prison sentences. The People's Court of Machen County, Golog "TAP", Qinghai Province sentenced six monks and two lay Tibetans to varying prison terms for taking part in a peaceful protest on 21 March 2009.

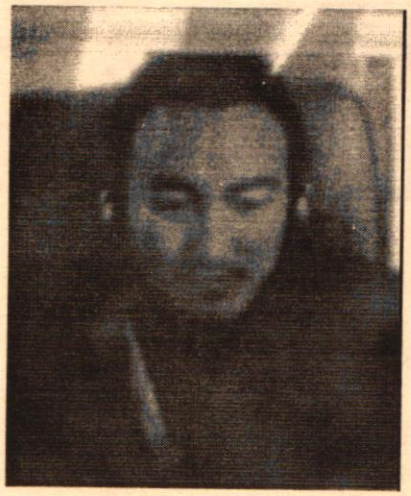


Sopa Sanpo

Machen County People's Court found them guilty of inciting protests and demonstrations against the Chinese government following the suicide of Tashi Sangpo, who took his own life by drowning into Yellow River [Tib: Machu River] on 21 March 2009. The suicide of monk Tashi Sangpo was blamed for the prolong detention coupled with harsh beatings, inhumane torture and long interrogation he suffered at the local detention centre since his arrest on 10 March 2009. Subsequently, by late afternoon of 21 March 2009, few moments after the news of Tashi Sangpo's suicide, Ragya monks stormed the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) office to demand answer for Tashi Sangpo's death. In response the Chinese authorities arrested many monks of Ragya Monastery and other ordinary Tibetans, of which eighth of them were tried by the People's Court of Machen County, Golog "TAP", Qingahi Province and sentenced to varying prison terms on 13 August 2009. The eight indicted Tibetans were identified as:

1. Monk Palden Gyatso, a disciplinarian at Ragya Monastery, sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment.

2. Monk Tsultrim, a former disciplinarian of Ragya Monastery was given four years of rigorous imprisonment. He was also a former Chant master, well trained in performing ritual prayers and a scholar on vinaya teachings (monastic code of conduct).



Sherab Sangpo

3. Monk Sangpo was given three-year prison sentence. He was a former treasurer of Ragya Monastery.

4. Monk Jamyang Khedrub was sentenced to two-year prison term. He was the secretary of the Board of Directors of Ragya Monastery.

5. Monk Gendun was given one-year prison sentence.

6. Monk Sherab Sangpo, 27, was sentenced to two-year prison term.

7. Hu-lo from Gya-sa Village (lay person) was given one-year prison sentence.

8. Yang-kyab from Gya-sa Village (lay person) was given six-months prison sentence.



Gendun Ralo

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) expresses its serious concern over Chinese authorities' manhandling of the case and awarding lengthy prison sentences to what was a mere and ordinary exercise of the freedom of expression and opinion guaranteed by the Chinese Constitutions and other International Conventions to which China is a state party. In the light of this, the Centre urges the Chinese government to reverse the verdict imposed by Machen County People's Court and ensures fair and free trial to the eight Tibetans. The Centre appeals to the international community to intervene in the unfair sentencing of six Ragya monks and two Tibetans.

China arrests brothers on run

China arrested two Tibetan brothers from Kardze who were involved in last year's 18 March protest against Chinese rule in Kardze County (Ch: Ganzi/Garze). They were on the run for more than a year until got arrested from Jyekundo at the beginning of this month, according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Tenpa, a 30-year-old and his younger brother, Jamdo, 25, are farmers from Rapa Village, Zakhog Township, Kardze County, Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province. Brothers were actively involved in last year's 18 March protest in Kardze County which was joined by hundreds of Tibetans and left at least three people dead.

They managed to avoid arrest following massive protest marred by large number of arbitrary detentions of protesters in Kardze region. Tenpa and Jamdo had been hiding in the nearby hills and moving from one place to another over the year to avoid being arrested. However, after more than a year on the run, both were known to have been arrested by the Security forces at the beginning of May 2009 in Jyekundo (Ch: Yushu/Jiegu), Jyekundo "TAP", Qinghai Province, according to information received by the Centre. There is no information on where the duos were currently held and their current condition. TCHRD condemns in strongest term over the arbitrary arrest of Tenpa and Jamdo and calls for their immediate release.

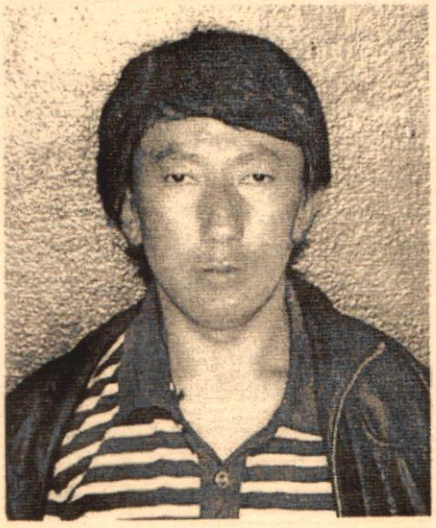
In the past week, few former Tibetan protesters involved in the last year's protests in Tibet, have escaped and arrived in India, including two Tibetans from Kardze who were present along with Tenpa and Jamdo during 18 March protest in Kardze.

According to the official report given in the Garze Daily dated 19 May 2009, Kardze People's Procutorate announced that 73 Tibetans have been arrested under the crimes of endangering state security, inciting to split the country and espionage. Of which 34 Tibetans have appealed for a trial in the court. Similarly, on 15 May 2009, the same official daily quoted the Kardze Intermediate People's Court as saying that 28 Tibetans have been sentenced and another 19 Tibetans have been interrogated in accordance with law so far in Kardze on cases involving endangering state security. However, according to information gathered by the Centre, around 98 Tibetans were known to have been sentenced to varying prison terms for their participation in protests since March 2008.

profile **POLITICAL PRISONERS** 59

Tsering Gyurmey and Tsering Dhargyal

Tsering Gyurmey was born in Palyul, a remote village in south eastern Tibet, in Lhopa Township, Kardze County, Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province.



Tsering Gyurmey

After his elementary education at the village school, he was admitted to Tsi Tsang Monastery at the age of sixteen. Subsequently after ten years of monastic education, he became relatively well versed in Buddhist scriptures and rituals.

Life at Tsi Tsang Monastery was one of quiet contemplation; however, on 18 March 2008 most parts of Tibetan inhabited areas were gripped by unprecedented protests and demonstrations against the unpopular rule of the Chinese government. Hundreds and thousands of Tibetans actively took part in protest demonstrations which was clamped down with heavy handed security crackdown and repression.

A twenty six-years-old frail and weak Tsering Gyurmey was one of the protesters in Kardze County. During the demonstration, he and other protesters came across Chinese security personnel armed with automatic guns. Within few moments, he and other protesters were surrounded and trapped. Except for few protesters, all of them were arrested by Chinese security personnel.

When interviewed by TCHRD, Tsering Gyurmey testified, "For long I thought about the treatments of Chinese government towards our Tibetan brothers and sisters in Tibet. We were denied of fundamental human rights, and reeling under repression. We were not given freedom to worship and study religious teachings in religious institutions as they were subjected to intense regulation and control. In monasteries, monks and nuns were subjected to difficult ideological campaigns called "patriotic education". Under this campaign, monks and nuns were repeatedly demanded to show allegiance to communist party and to denounce the Dalai Lama in many ways. Those who defied government orders either disappeared or were imprisoned. Those of us who follow teachings of the Dalai Lama were branded "separatist" under the sway of hostile international forces. In all those years, the pressure was building within us and it exploded on 18 March 2008 when entire Tibet was protested.

On 18 March 2008, around 2 pm (Beijing standard time) we started our protest in Kardze County and at that time there were only one hundred Tibetans. As we marched on the road, we shouted slogans such as "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "Dalai Lama return to Tibet", "Free Tibet", "No human rights in Tibet", "No freedom of expression, religion and the government must release the XI Panchen Lama and all other political prisoners". Pamphlets listing demands were distributed during the demonstration and as we went on with the march more and more people joined us. When we were marching on "Liberation Highway" (named after the route through China's first People's Liberation Army which invaded Tibet), there were about 1000 marchers and protesters.

We continued and went past the head office of Kardze Public Security Bureau (PSB) and it was where the first encounter with the Chinese security personnel took place. Within minutes, Chinese security forces fired indiscriminately at protesters. There was chaos, tear gas smokes and protesters fleeing in all directions. It has been now one year and two months since the first demonstration erupted but small protests still erupt in Kardze County. Few months ago Tibetans in Tehor forego cultivating their farms as a gesture of mourning for those many Tibetans killed and died in the last year's crackdown.

My young brother Tenzin Youden participated in a demonstration on 20 May 2008, two months after the first major protest where he was arrested and later sentenced to three years of rigorous imprisonment. His own uncle Sonam Nyima was later branded as a ring leader. He is still being kept under custodial detention."

Tsering Dhargyal

"My name is Tsering Dhargyal. I was born to Thupten (father) and Sandhup (mother) in Rotsa Township, Kardze County, Kardze "TAP" Sichuan Province.



Tsering Dhargyal

We have six members in our family. Due to financial problem I was forced to drop out of the school at age of 18, I was ordained as monk in Kardze Monastery. After that I campaign for the cause of Tibet at Kardze, campaign includes human rights for the Tibetan people, freedom for Tibet, Swift return of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, release of Panchen Rinpoche, unfurled the Tibetan National flag and distributed leaflets.

"In year 2002, the people of Kardze headed by the monks of Kardze Monastery and Jomo Monastery offered (Tib: Tenshung) Long Life Prayer Offering to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the ringleaders of the Long Life Prayer Offering were arrested gradually by the Chinese authority from the spring of that year. On 26 October 2002 (Tibetan Lunar Calendar) three Public Security Bureau PAB official of Kardze (PSB) arrested me. The PSB official called on the DMC member (Democratic Management Committee) of the monastery to inspect my room. The DMC member informed the PSB official that I was under medical treatment because of my ill health. The PSB official told that since I was involved in separatist activities; I have to be imprisoned despite very poor health problem"

In prison, I was subjected to harsh treatment for three months; despite very poor health that coupled with deteriorating health condition that I was fainted on few occasions. On one occasion after I fainted , I woke up to realized that I was admitted in a hospital with PSB official and medical staff around me.

Later PSB official and the medical staff of the hospital conspired and informed my family members about my admission in hospital. The PSB officials even threatened me drive conceive if I ever disclose anything about torture, reason for my poor heath and fine of Chinese RMB 7000 to any of my family memebers.

In People's hospital, the treatment doesn't yield any result after several days of medication and have to shift to another hospital on my own expense, and gradually my health started to improve. After that with the help of my teacher and relatives; my treatment was continued at Dartsedo and Threntue city in Dartsedo County, Kardze "TAP" Sichuan Province and I am still on medicine.

In March 2008, the people from three region of Tibet stood up against the Chinese government; and the general public of Kardze County protested with same vigor as that of rest of Tibetan people and other Tibetan Region or Area. The slogans were same as that of other protestors namely "swift return of Dalai Lama", "human rights for Tibetan people", "freedom for Tibet", "religious freedom" and "release of Penchen Rinpoche"Like any other Tibetans in Tibet, I have a strong desire to have an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. With that dream and great desire, I search for a guide who could take me to the other side of border. I left my Fatherland on 14 May 2009 and head towards Nepal Capital and safely reached the Tibetan Reception Centre based in Kathamdu Nepal. From then I reached to Dharamsala.

Local authorities confirm 3 Tibetans who were killed during the 2008 uprising in Tibet

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy received confirmed information that the Chinese local authorities confirmed the names of 3 Tibetans who were killed during the Chinese government clamped down on peaceful demonstrators on 14 March 2008 in Lhasa.



Shayshay

The three Tibetans identified as Gyaltsen, 25 from Yakde village, Phuntsok Tsering, 20 from Yakde Lude and Mingyur, 20 from Yakde Khangsar. They were known to be doing small income jobs in Lhasa for their livelihood.

Moreover, 46-year-old Shayshay from Bathang County was shot dead during the crackdown in Lhasa in March 2008. He is survived by his wife and four children.

On 14 March 2008, many Tibetans were killed when the Chinese armed forces indiscriminately fired in to the protesting crowd and many of those arrested continue to receive arbitrary and harsh prison sentence. According to the information received by the Centre, more than 120 Tibetans were killed, over 5,600 were arrested and more than 1000 simply disappeared during the 2008 uprising in Tibet.

A Tibetan sentenced 5 years prison-term for 2008 uprising in Tibet

On 5 April 2009, a Tibetan who identified as Sangyal Tashi was sentenced for five years in prison term for involving in last year peaceful demonstration against the Chinese government's repression and suppression in Kardze County, Kardze Tibet Autonomous prefecture, Sichuan Province, by the Chinese Intermediate People's Court in Kardze County according to the confirmed information received by Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

On 21 June 2008, Sangyal Tashi, 38 walked in the Street of Kardze County with emblazoned a Tibetan national flag on his face and displaying independence slogans on his head.

Sangyal Tashi distributed leaflets reiteration that "Tibet belongs to the Tibetans" and "demanded the Chinese government to invite His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet" and "to stop the Olympic torch relay through Tibet" during the Chinese government imposed heavy security in and around the Streets of Lhasa Capital of Tibet to crackdown the protestors before Olympic torch relay reach in the Capital at time the whole County was under heavy surveillance of military pour in the area.

Mining project in Meldro Gungkar put Tibetan Livelihood and environment jeopardy

According to the information received by Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Chinese government mining project in the Meldro Gungkar County Lhasa Municipality "TAR" endangered human lives and environment due to the toxic waste dump from the mining work.

Local residents from Gyama Township have filed a petition calling the Chinese authorities to take immediate step for stopping the mining project because of the drying up of spring water, water poisoning and extermination of flora and fauna of the region. In Recent time more than 1000 domestic animals had died due to toxic water.

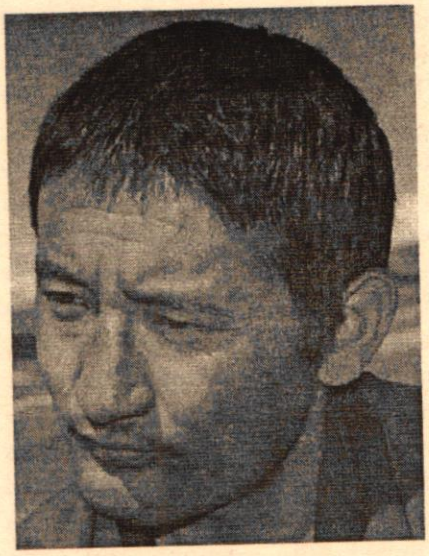
But the local government has not yet responded to the petition and deliberately overlooked the genuine concerns of the local residents. The whole region is under heavy military surveillance, with imposition of severe restrictions on communication to outside world and people visiting the region.

On 20 June 2009, Three Tibetans were seriously injured in a clash between the local Tibetans and Chinese miners after the miners tried to divert irrigation water to a working site on 20 June 2009.

The residents later approached a group of visiting officials of "Tibet Autonomous Region" and demanded the complete withdraw of mining activities. After withdrawing the miners from mining site on the following day, the authorities sent work teams to warn the local Tibetans not to oppose the mining project and threatened them to be charged with engaging in political activities. The local people have now little hope on international environmental and health organizations to pressurize the Chinese government to bring an immediate end to the mining activities in their locality.

Two Monks disappeared after raid in Labrang Monastery

The Chinese security forces arrested two monks from Labrang Monastery on 14 May 2009 during a raid in their residences. The



Tsondi Gyatso

whereabouts of the arrestees remain unknown to their family members till date. This is the fourth time they were arrested by the Chinese authorities since last year's protests in Labrang which saw one of the biggest and most sustained protests, according to information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

The two monks of Labrang Monastery; Tsundue Gyatso, 35 years old, hailed from Gyengya Village, Labrang County (Ch: Sangchu/Xiahe xian), whereas Sonam Gyatso, 38, was from Sangkok Village, Labrang County, Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Gansu Province.

The two monks were earlier arrested and released thrice by the Chinese security forces for their participations in a series of protests that took place in Labrang last year. The latest arrest came when a sudden raid was carried out inside Labrang Monastery's residence quarter by a large number of Chinese Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials on 14 May 2009. There is dearth of information on where the duo was taken to.

Following their arrest, the family members and close associates of Tsundue and Sonam Gyatso approached the local Public Security office to ascertain their status as well as to deliver foods and clothing to the detainees. The concerned security officials reportedly told the family members that a fresh interrogation is needed to clarify on certain things related to last year's protests in Labrang and that they would be released shortly. However, they continue to face detention without any knowledge of their status to the family members.



Sonam Gyatso

There are cases of Tibetans having been re-arrested for their participation in last year's protest. Among those, the most prominent case being Labrang Jigme a.k.a Jigme Guri, who was first arrested on 22 March 2008, later detained and tortured for two months in the detention centre for his suspected role in 14 March 2008 protest in Labrang. He was later released on medical ground. Jigme was re-arrested on 4 November 2008 for exposing Chinese brutality to the international media. He was finally released on 3 May 2009.

A Monk of Labrang Monastery abducted in a raid

A Tibetan monk of Labrang Monastery in Sangchu County (Ch:Xiahe Xian) Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Gansu Province was arbitrarily abducted from his residence during a raid in May this year, according to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Tsayul Kelsang Gyatso was hailed from Tsayul Village in Sangchu County, Kanlho "TAP" Gansu Province. He was ordained as a monk at Labrang Monastery at an early age. He was a student of the dialectics school of Labrang Monastery at the time of his abduction. Tsayul Kelsang Gyatso was abducted from his residence when a sudden raid was carried out by a large number of Sangchu County Public Security Bureau (PSB) forces in the evening of 22 May 2009.

According to sources, he was taken with his head covered with black cloth by the security forces during the raid. The exact reason for his abduction was not known at the moment, but sources told the Centre that he could have been abducted under the suspicion of his past involvement in political activities. Labrang County in particular witnessed one of the biggest and most sustained protests last year. Tsayul Kelsang Gyatso was known to have been closely watched and followed by security forces before being arbitrarily abducted in a raid in his Labrang Monastery's residence quarter. There is no information on his current whereabouts and physical well being.

This is not the first known case of the abduction of a Tibetan monk in the Labrang Monastery. On 14 May 2009, two monks of the same monastery were arrested during a raid. The whereabouts of the arrestees still remain unknown to their family members.

TCHRD strongly condemns the arbitrary abduction of Tsayul Kelsang Gyatso from his residence. TCHRD also calls upon the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to immediately release all the Tibetan prisoners of conscience arbitrarily detained over the peaceful exercise of their fundamental human rights. It is matter of great concern that monastic institutions in particular have come under a severe clampdown in the recent past. There are still hundreds of Tibetans whose whereabouts and current status remain unknown to their family members and close associates. The government should guarantee, under all circumstances, the physical and psychological integrity of Tsayul Kelsang Gyatso and ensure that his family members are informed of his whereabouts and wellbeing.

China displaces tens and thousands of Tibetans in Tawu County

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) received reliable information that the Tibetans in Tawu County protested against a construction of a major hydroelectric dam that resulted in a displacement of tens and thousands of local Tibetans.

Currently the Chinese government is undertaking a construction of a major hydroelectric dam between Nyag-chu and Tawu County, which is resulting in a large-scale displacement of local Tibetans in Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, much against their wishes.

The local Chinese authorities on 24 May 2009 issued orders to local Tibetans to assemble at Tawu County headquarter for a public announcement. During the meeting, the local Tibetans were told about Chinese government's plan to re-settle them to some other place so as to clear the way for the construction of hydroelectric dam.

Just moments after the announcement of dam construction, local Tibetans in the gathering immediately broke up into major protest against the government plans. They were reportedly shouting slogans to the local authorities that, " this place has been our ancestral dwelling place for countless generations and therefore we don't want to leave our homes. We are not going to move away to any other places come what may."

Within moments, Chinese security personnel consisting of both Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) lobbed tear gas and carried out violent means to disperse the agitating crowd. During the crackdown, six Tibetans including a 70-year-old woman, Guru Dolma, Rigzin Dolma and others sustained serious injuries at the hands of Chinese security personnel. The seriously injured Tibetans were taken away in a van to a nearby hospital but there was no information about their well-being and health condition.

Since the commencement of the dam construction in last year in Tawu County, the Chinese authorities had been forcing local Tibetans to re-locate and abandon their ancestral homes and those who defy official decree were beaten and tortured. Of late, 5 May 2009, the Chinese security forces as well as construction workers have been stationing in Wara town to push ahead the construction of the dam.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin 63

A video appeal from a Tibetan inside Tibet to the International Community

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), on 28 August 2009 at 3:00PM organized a press conference at Lhakpa Tsering Hall, Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) on the fresh videotaped information received from Tibet that appeal to the International communities to act swiftly on behalf of the Tibetan people who are victims of human rights violations in Tibet.



TCHRD's press confernece on the video appeal

Kalsang Tsultrim also known by pseudonym of Gyitsang Takmig is a monk of Gyitsang Gaden Choekorling Monastery in Sangchu County (Ch:Xiahe), Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP'), Gansu Province, one of the main focal points of last year's protests in Tibet. Kalsang Tsultrim took a great personal risk of recording and distributing video testimony giving detail account of Tibetan history since the flight of Dalai Lama into exile, lack of human rights in Tibet, suffering of Tibetan people, struggle, hopes, aspirations of Tibetan people inside Tibet and his appeal to the outside world. The hour long video testimony was recorded on 18 July 2009 and was later edited with the input of related video footages and snaps for the final version in a VCD that was widely distributed in many Tibetan areas in Gansu, Qinghai and Sichuan Province. Kalsang is well versed in writing essays, composing lyrics etc. He had even authored a book.

According to the source who delivered the video testimony told the Centre that, " Kalsang Tsultrim wishes to distribute this video as widely as possible inside Tibet notwithstanding a great personal risk involved so as to educate primarily the illiterates and general Tibetan public who were fed with daily dose of government-sponsored propaganda with the true history of Tibetan struggle for freedom, the Dalai Lama's call for the genuine autonomy through middle way approach, human rights situation in Tibet. He dealt in length with the Tibetan people's hope and aspiration of the Dalai Lama's return to rightful place, lack of human rights including religious freedom that led to the flight of many religious leaders including Karmapa, Arja Rinpoche and others who could have easily chosen luxury and privileges under the Chinese government rather than coming into exile."

Kalsang Tsultrim video testimony also touches many recent events in Tibet and Chinese government policies which led to the displacement of a large number of Tibetan nomads in the name of development, and thereby completely altering their nomadic way of life, extraction of Tibet's natural resources, destruction of fragile environment, economic marginalization and social exclusion of Tibetans, lack of freedom etc. He further elucidates on recent farming boycott movement in Tibet, self-immolation bid by Lobsang Tashi a.k.a Tapey of Kirti Monastery, suicide by a monk of Ragya Monastery, arbitrary arrest, detention of thousands of Tibetans post 2008 March protests in Tibet.

The video message also appeals to the United Nations and International communities that they have moral obligation to speak on behalf of the Tibetan people inside Tibet who are living in constant fear and under severe repression.

Kalsang went on to retort the Chinese law on National Regional Autonomy by saying, "the laws on national regional autonomy stipulated under the Chinese Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of minorities including Tibetans. But in reality it is a completely different scenario where our fundamental rights are not being respected at all. Tibet is governed as just another territory or region in the People's Republic of China, but nothing is done to build the harmonious society that the government promises."

"We do not have freedom of religion and politics because most of the religious and political websites are full of propaganda that distorts the situation. We do not hate the Chinese, but we respect truth and justice. We were protesting against Chinese rule because the local authorities are not acting according to China's Constitution and autonomy laws. The Premier of the People's Republic of China said that China respects truth and justice. But Tibetans don't have equal religious, political, and economic rights. So, many Tibetan people sacrificed their lives to protest against Chinese rule [over the past year], including myself here today, because we want equal human rights and freedom. We will never give up our fight for freedom and truth until Chinese policies change regarding the implementation of the Constitution," Kalsang concluded.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) consider the video message and view conveyed by Kalsang Tsultrim purely as general exercise of the fundamental freedom of expression and right to opinion enshrined in the Chinese constitution and other major international covenants that China is party to. The Centre believes that the message and views conveyed by Kalsang is widely shared by people inside Tibet. Kalsang's outburst is a sign of China's continuing repression inside Tibet and a manifestation of widespread human rights violations. His initiative in this expose under such risky circumstances indicates the deep seated helplessness that pushes Tibetan people's endurance to the very edge of human capacity.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

64

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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 - 2008) •*Uprising in Tibetan 2008* • *Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet*

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

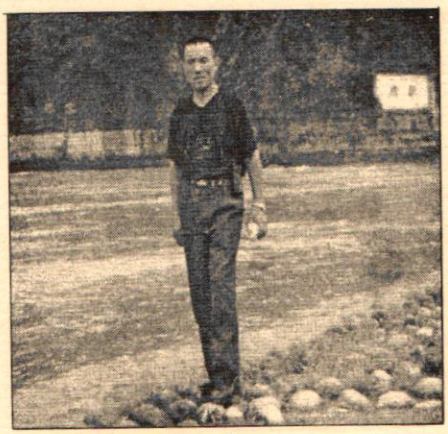
SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

65

A Tibetan monk died from torture whilst in Chinese detention

According to reliable information received today by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), a Tibetan monk from Drepung Monastery has died from torture in a Chinese detention center,



Samdup

Lhasa. He is alleged to have died in August 2009.

The monk was identified as Kalden, 32, from village No.8, Tso-doe Township, Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa Municipality City, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR").

In 10 March 2008 Kalden, along with 300 monks from Drepung Monastery, participated in a march where they intended to protest in the Lhasa's city centre against the Chinese government, when they were stopped and arrested by Chinese security forces. He was one of many monks arrested on that day.

Since his arrest on 10 March 2008 till present time, his whereabouts has remained unknown. No one, including his relatives and monks from Drepung Monastery, were informed of his detention in Lhasa.

According to multiple sources he died in a detention centre in mid-August 2009, due to prolonged period of confinement, torture and maltreatment. His corpse was handed over to his distant relative in Lhasa City in mid-Aug 2009.

According to the same sources, his elder monk brother, Samdup from Drepung Monastery was also arrested by Lhasa Public Security Bureau (PSB) on the 10 March 2008. Samdup's whereabouts also remains unknown.

CONTENT

-A Tibetan monk died from torture whilst in China detention (pg 1)
- China launches the "Strike hard" campaign in Tibet ahead of major anniversary (pg 1)
-Secretariat of the UN committee against discrmination censor TCHRD report(pg 2)
-Testimony of Tashi Namgyal and other five Tibetan monks who recently escaped from Tibet (pg 3)
-Four Tibetans sentenced to various prsion terms for March Uprising in Tibet 2008 (pg 5)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-TCHRD conducts its 22nd workshop at the college for the Higher Tibetan Studies, Sahar (pg 7)

TCHRD organised a Public Talk to commemorate the 49th Anniversary of Democracy Day (pg 7)



Kalden, undated photo taken at Shigatse area, in layman's dress

China launches the "Strike hard" campaign in Tibet ahead of major anniversary

The Chinese authorities in "Tibet Autonomous Regions" ('TAR') has decided to launch a new "Strike Hard" campaign ahead of the 60th Anniversary of the National Day Celebration (starting 1 October) according to the official report posted on Xizang Re bao (Tibet Daily) dated 8 September 2009.

Since last year's major protests across the Tibetan areas, Chinese authorities have steadily stepped up repressive restrictions on the Tibetan people, with the increased presence of huge

military forces that have consolidated greater control. This process will be accelerated by the launch of this "Strike Hard" campaign. According to the official newspaper the "TAR"



Zhang Qingli

Communist Party headed by "TAR" Party Secretary, Zhang Qingli held a videoconference with other Party members, government officials and security forces of the region. The primary goal of the video conference was cited to be "proper delegation of roles of the concerned officials at all levels to strengthen cooperation, work closely together to maintain stability in the region and to ensure the smooth operation of the National Day celebration."

Mr. Zhang lauded the Party members and security forces on the success in suppressing 'riots' and securing stability post March 14, 2008 and to take heed from last year's success in putting more efforts in 'checking and defeating the 'Dalai clique' and 'separatists' forces outside'.

Though the main objective of the "Strike Hard" campaign is cited as securing stability in the region ahead of the 60th National Day Celebration, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is deeply concern that under the guise of this campaign as they did in the past, State law enforcement agencies will abuse the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people by enforcing arbitrary arrest, detention, interrogation, the targeting and forced expulsion of former political prisoners from the capital prior to the anniversary. State agencies will also keep close surveillance on the monastic populations and impose restrictions on the movement of monks and nuns. TCHRD condemns the launch of "Strike Hard" campaign and questions the motive ahead of this major event.

The last "Strike Hard" campaign that took place for 42-days, was launched on 18 January 2009, during which a total of 5,766 Tibetan suspects were rounded up and questioned. No official figure has ever been released regarding the number of suspects released or detained so far.

"Strike Hard" (Ch: Yanda) campaign which was initiated in China in 1983 as an attempt to reduce crime and fight corruption within China, but which evolved into a political tool of oppression. In Tibet the campaign is implemented with the single aim to stifle political dissent.

Secretariat of the UN committee against discrimination censors TCHRD report

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) welcomes the 75th session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Today, the experts examine the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th state report of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

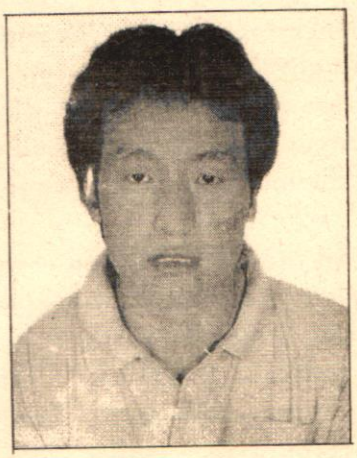
While the TCHRD expresses its full faith in the CERD experts, the Centre is disappointed at the selective censorship of non governmental organization reports by the Secretariat of the CERD serviced by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). TCHRD's alternate report to the CERD was subjected to conditions to be made public on the official web page of the CERD (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds75.htm). The Secretariat demanded the removal of the phrases "China's occupation of Tibet", which occurs six times in the report, and "cultural genocide" in the concluding paragraph. The Secretariat's directive is unacceptable to the TCHRD as it deems that not only would it be a tremendous factual error but also acceptance of indirect diktats of the PRC. It is universally accepted that Tibet is a land under foreign occupation and it is also a universally accepted truth that discrimination is inherent in colonized land. The uprising by the Tibetan people in spring 2008 in the so-called "Tibet Autonomous Region" and other Tibetan areas under the present day China clearly revealed that systematic and institutional discrimination is one of the biggest factors behind the uprising. China's occupation of Tibet is at the root cause of the

continue on page 4

Testimony of Tashi Namgyal and other five Tibetan monks who recently escaped from Tibet

67

Tashi Namgyal, 30 years old, was born in Tsaklen Village, Lhoepa Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province. Early in his life, he went to a local Village school for 3 years and thereafter carried on business between Sertha and Kardze Counties for his livelihood.



Tashi Namgyali

In 2001, the residents of his village initiated a long life prayer for the Dalai Lama in collaboration with monks of nearly ten monasteries and he took part in the prayer ceremony. The people celebrated the event with Tibetan folk dance and songs. He also wrote down some Lyrics. In 2002, the Chinese police started to arrest many of the people who took part in ceremony, though Tashi Namgyal escaped the arrest as he had returned to Sertha.

From year 2006 to 2008, Tashi Namgyal tried to provide Voice of America television program to nearly 60 households in his native place. The people were generally looking for Tibetan section program. This work continued for nearly two years.

On 14 March 2008, Tashi along with his friends stayed in their usual hotel at Sertha County. On 17 morning, a monk from Sertha Larung Gar staged a demonstration calling for "Long Live Holiness the Dalai Lama" and "Free Tibet". The Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) arrested the monk. Tashi Namgyal on seeing this was unable to bear the injustice and gathered around 500 people, and headed towards the Local Police Station. They demanded the release of the monk and shouted slogans. On that, the police promised to release the monk but after waiting for more than half an hour, the police failed to meet their demand. The crowd's emotion ran out and they demonstrated outside the police station with "free Tibet" "human rights in Tibet" etc. As the demonstration heated up, the PAP came to the scene and threw tear gas and started to beat up the protesters. Chaos prevailed and the crowd ran away from the scene, Tashi Namgyal took shelter in one of his friend's house. The PAP and PSB set on to hunt the protesters and went on to door to door search. Many people were arrested and detained later on. As the situation started to cool down and the presence of the armed forces dwindled, he planned to return to his native place. On his arrival, he was informed by one of his friend through phone call that a notice of arrest warrant has been issued against him.

Left with no choice, in January 2009, on payment of 1300 Yuan to a guide he was able to reach Nepal and ultimately reached Dharamsala (HP) India.

Five Tibetan monks, who staged protests against Chinese rule last year in Amdo Labrang and managed to escape Tibet, arrived in Dharamsala



Five escapee monks

on 10 May 2009. Two of the five identified as Gedhun Gyaltso and Kelsang Jinpa, were instrumental in organizing a major peaceful protest where thousands of people took part in Labrang (Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe) Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Region "TAP", Gansu Province) on 14 March 2008, as parallel protests in the Tibetan capital Lhasa were being violently crushed by Chinese security forces on the same day. They continued protest even the next day, the People's Armed Police (PAP) dispersed protesting crowd by use of force and many people were injured and arrested. Gendun Gyaltso along with his friend Tsultrim escaped arrest and fled to their native place. On 20 March 2008, at their arrive native place Sangkhok, a large contingent of PAP arrived to arrest them and somehow Gyatso escaped while his companion was arrested. Nearly for more than a year, he went on hiding from one place to another. The other three monks- Jamyang Jinpa, Lobsang Gyaltso and Jigme Gyaltso were among a group of 15 monks who protested in front of a state-managed media tour of the Labrang Monastery on 9 April 2008. They highlighted the true situation

in Tibet through their protest. After the incident the PAP stormed the monastery to arrest protesters, whilst many were arrested Jamyang Jinpa and a few others managed to flee and hide in nearby mountain until their escape to India.

continue from page 2

systematic violations of human rights currently taking place in Tibet. The TCHRD's report focuses on the denial of the following rights on the basis of the racial distinction of Tibetan as a people and as a land; denial of Civil and Political Rights, Environment and Resource Exploitation, Forced Evictions and the survival of the Tibetan nomadic lifestyles and Discrimination in Education. It is interesting to note that while the Secretariat bars the TCHRD report, it ironically published a report by a Chinese government NGO, Research Centre for Ethnic Issues in China, on the official web page.

The TCHRD considers the directive by the CERD Secretariat as a regression of rights of the civil society groups including the TCHRD. The Centre maintains its position that Tibet is a land under foreign occupation and hence would not be able to comply with the directive. However, the Centre extends its full faith in the CERD experts' competence and authority in a just examination of the state party report of the People's Republic of China.

Issues of concern in the state report of People's Republic of China to the 75th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

1) The government of People's Republic of China (PRC) in its state report to the Committee Against Torture (CAT) during its 41st session held in November 2008 stated that "...the public security organs in Lhasa ... arrested more than 900 suspects.". The PRC in its report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in August
2009 states that "In the wake of the March 14 riots in Lhasa and elsewhere the public security authorities in Tibet Autonomous Region arrested 953 suspects..." According to our records, there were at least 1865 known Tibetan arrestees between March – December
2008. This documentation is published in our Annual Report 2009 (available at http://www.tchrd.org/publications/annual_reports/2008/ar_2008.pdf) and is enclosed with this submission for your perusal. The statements to the CAT and the CERD are ambiguous and raise the following two fundamental questions.

a) Were 953 Tibetans arrested from Lhasa only or does that include other areas in the "Tibet Autonomous Region"?

b) Were 953 Tibetans arreseted on the day 14th March 2008 only or were they arrested over other dates also?

2) The government of PRC in its report states "Seventy seven accused were sentenced for the crimes of arson, robbery, burglary...assault state organs." According to our records, there are atleast 110 known Tibetans who have been sentenced to various terms. Enclosed is the document tittled "list of Tibetans sentenced" . We request the government to release the names and terms of those sentenced as a basis for good will to the international community.

3) In the aftermath of the mass scale protests by the Tibetans in spring 2008, the authorities in the so called "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") particularly the "TAR" Communist Party chief, Zhang Qingli, called for a "swift and quick judicial process to strike back at the "separatists" and the "Dalai clique"". In light of the government as well its top leaders call for hastened judicial probes, due process has been circumvented and sentences were handed down arbitrarily and summarily. In several cases lengthy sentences and upto life imprisonment terms were handed down in about three months duration. As per the state report, 77 Tibetans have been given sentences. However, the state fails to give the details on the figure revealed.

4) The government of PRC states "Seven defendents were sentenced for espionage..." We maintain the fact that there are

many more Tibetans who have been arrested and sentenced to lengthy prison terms for reporting human rights violations to the outside world. We are concerned that the government fabricated charges of "espionage" on the Tibetans who were essentially human rights defenders and reported human rights abuses to the outside world for help and in order to save lives.

5) The data (arrests and sentences) provided by the state does not include Tibetan areas outside the "TAR". Since the majority of the over 300 protest incidents recorded during the 2008 uprising in Tibet took place in the Tibetan areas outside the "TAR", there is deep concern about the Tibetans arrested in these regions namely; Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan. The state party is requested to reveal the figures of arrestees and sentenced in these areas.

6) While it is widely known that the Tibetans were sentenced for showing their political dissent, the state has downplayed the whole nature of their activities as petty criminal offenses by projecting the cases as that of "beating, smashing, looting and arson" rather than acts of expression of political dissidence. 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". However, most of the Tibetan arrestees have been sentenced to over ten years prison term and on several occasions to life imprisonment and death sentence. 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 deliberately fails to mention. We call on the state to acknowledge the political nature of the Tibetans protest and thereby not deny the Tibetan prisoners of the dignity of being political prisoners instead of labelling them as petty criminal prisoners.

Four Tibetans sentenced to various prison terms for March Uprising in Tibet 2008

According to confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), four Tibetan men were sentenced to various prison terms between two-and a half to fifteen years by the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court in the beginning of this year with involving their participants in the peaceful protests in Lhasa last year.



Lhakpa Tsering

The four indicted Tibetan were identified as1. Lobsang Wangchuk, age 26, son of Sonam Tsering, belongs to Dechen Township in Taktse County, sentenced to 15 years for his involvement in the peaceful protests in Takts last year. He worked as taxi driver after study at Sangage monastery in Dechen Township.



Lobsang Wangchuk

2. Tsultrim, age 23, and Choephel, age 24 were sentenced to two-and-half years in jail.

3. Lhakpa Tsering, age 22, who was painter by profession before he was arrested for participated in the peaceful demonstration in Lhasa. He received five years imprisonment.

2008 riots in Lhasa sparked sporadic protests and a large uprising across the Tibetan regions, but which went largely unreported due to a virtual media black-out by the Chinese government. To date TCHRD knows of a current 1385 prisoners, over ...a thousand have disappeared and 112 deaths in police custody. The number of known suicides is also on the increase.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES

Bulletin 70

TCHRD conducts its 22nd workshop at the College for the Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah

TCHRD conducted its 22nd workshop at the College for the Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah, Dharamsala from 3-8 September 2009.



Group photo session after the worskhop at Sahar

Monks and nuns play an important role in Tibetan society and this workshop was exclusively for 48 monks and nuns from 30 monasteries and nunneries in India and Nepal. The Centre invited monks and nuns from Bhutan who unable to attend. The Prime Minister Samdhong Rinpoche, Chief Justice Commissioner Mr. Namgyal Tsering and other important government ministers spoke about human rights, the grass roots of democracy in exile, environmental issues, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) policies and the also upcoming Kalon Tripa election in 2011.

The Honorable Kalon Tripa Professor Samdhong Rinpoche spoken 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"

Due to the significance of the upcoming election to the Tibetan people at these critical times, the Centre invited Mr. Tashi Phuntsok, Chief Election Commissioner, to give a talk on the important subject of "Essence of Election in Democracy Form of Government"

Mr. Thupten Lugrik, Minister of Department of Education, spoke on administrative functioning and its vital role.

Ms. Gyari Dolma, Deputy Speaker of The Tibetan Parliament in Exile, delivered a talk on the topic of "Present Status of Tibet on International Platforms".

Mr. Pepa Tsering, Speaker of Member of Parliament in Exile, delivered a talk on "Concept and Types of Autonomy and Tibetan Perspectives".

Mr. Tsewang Rigzin, the president of Tibetan Youth Congress spoke on their organization's important role and contribution to Tibetan society and their daily activities.

Mr. Kungthar, Tibetan Pen Centre, went into detail of how the CCP was established and the rights enshrined in its constitution for autonomous regions and how they are implemented.

Mr. Tenzin Norbu, Director of Tibetan Environment Desk, discussed the importance of the environment in Tibet, how the Chinese are destroying and transporting mineral resources back into mainland China and the challenge of global climate change.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES Bulletin 71

TCHRD organized a Public Talk to commemorate the 49th Anniversary of Tibetan Democracy Day

On 2 September 2009 Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) organized a public talk to commemorate the 49th anniversary of "Tibetan Democracy Day" at Bhagsu Club House, Mcleod Ganj.



Samdhong Rinpoche, delivering talk on Democracy day at Bhagsu Club House

The Honorable Kalon Tripa Professor Samdhong Rinpoche delivered a talk on the "Ways to Approach the Challenges Faced by Modern Democratic System" at the Club House.

More than 300 people attended the public talk which lasted for three hours. The Centre provided an open stage for questions and answers from the audience.



Samdhong Rinpoche during the public talk at Club House

Two former political prisoners Mr. Ngawang Dripsel and Mr. Dawa Tsering, gave first hand accounts of the human rights struggle inside Tibet which captivated the audience.

The TCHRD's Executive Director Mr. Urgen Tenzin addressed the workshop on the "Democratization of Tibetan Government in Exile". The Centre's Assistant Director Mr. Jampa Monlam gave a talk on the " Current Human Rights Situation in Tibet".

On the second to last day of the workshop, TCHRD arranged a guided tour of seven departments of the Tibetan Government in Exile for the many participants who had come from far-flung Tibetan communities and settlement, and who had never had the opportunity to see for the physical and administrative structure of the government. Participants were provided with the rare opportunity to witness live proceedings inside the 14th Tibetan Parliament in Exile.

The six day-workshop and discussion concluded with Geshe Tsering Phuntsok, Minister of Department of Religious and Culture of the Tibetan Government in Exile (DoRC), gave a brief on policies and the functioning of the Centre for Tibetan Administration (CTA) and gave the conclusion speech before distributing certificates to each participant.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

72

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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 - 2008) •*Uprising in Tibetan 2008* • *Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet*

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS update

HUMAN RIGHTS *update* is a monthly newsletter of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. www.tchrd.org

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

OCTOBER 2009

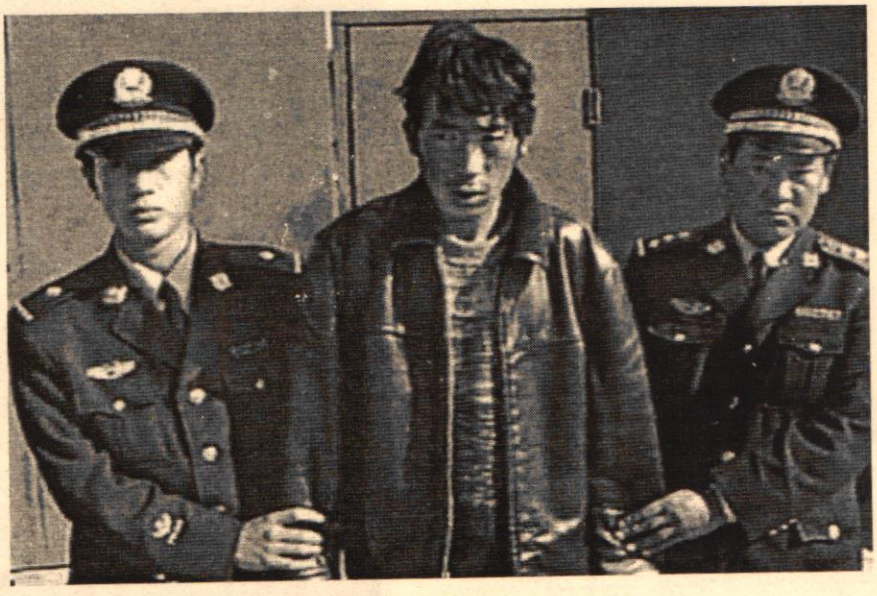
VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

73

China Executes Four Tibetans In Lhasa Over Spring 2008 Protest

TCHRD condemns in strongest term China's execution of four Tibetans

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has received confirmed information from reliable sources that Lobsang Gyaltsen, Loyak, Penkyi and an unnamed Tibetan were executed on Tuesday, 20 October 2009 under the supervision of the Lhasa Municipality Intermediate People's Court for their alleged involvement in last year's mass protest in the Tibetan capital. Further information is awaited. No information on their execution was reported anywhere in the Chinese state media.



Loyak executed on 20 Octcober 2009

According to sources, the dead body of Lobsang Gyaltsen, from Lubug on the outskirt of Lhasa city, was handed over to his family and his dead body was later known to have been immersed in Kyichu River. There is no information on whether the defendants appealed their sentences to the Supreme People's Court after Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court sentenced Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak to death on 8 April 2009.

According to the Chinese official mouthpiece dated 8 April 2009, Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court sentenced two people to death (Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak), two to suspended death penalties (Tenzin Phuntsok and Kangtsuk) and another (Dawa Sangpo) to life imprisonment on charges of arson causing death. The five were convicted of torching five

CONTENT

-China Execute Four Tibetans In Lhasa Over Spring 2008 Protest (pg 1)

- Tibetan Schools closed down in Tibet (pg 2)

-A Tibetan returnee from India sentence to 15 years in prison(pg 4)

-Eleven missing monks of Pangsa Monastery (pg 3)

-Three Tibetans arrested in sog County during the 60th Founding Anniversay of PRC (pg 5)

-Three Tibetans sentenced in Kardze Prefecture, Sichuan Province (pg 5)

-Tibetans arrested after participating in an insene burning ritual (pg 5)

-Another Tibetan returnee sentenced to 14 years in prison (pg 6)

- Three Tibetan monks sentenced to various prison terms (pg 6)

-A Tibetan monk arrested after raid his resident (pg 6)

TCHRD ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

-TCHRD organised talk series on Human Rights and Democracy in South India (pg 7)

-TCHRD briefs Nobel Laureates (pg 7)

shops in Lhasa, killing seven people, during the March 14 riot.

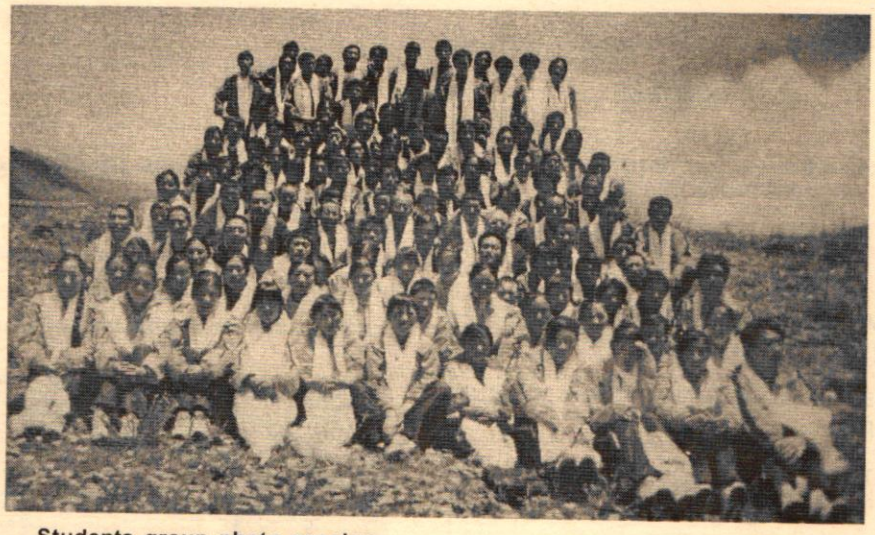
On 21 April 2009 the same court, according to the State media, sentenced three Tibetans (Penkyi of Nyemo County and Penkyi of Sakya County and Chime of Namling County) to suspended death, life and 10 years' imprisonment respectively for setting fires that allegedly killed six people in Lhasa last year. The Centre is highly concerned about the fate of Tibetans who were on suspended death sentences.

The PRC government currently sentences more people to death each year than any other nation in the world. TCHRD condemns the executions of four Tibetans and urges PRC government to show restraint and to grant its citizens fair trials and to abide by the basic human rights of all of its peoples, regardless of their ethnicity.

TCHRD remains unconditionally opposed to the use of the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the fundamental right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It should also be noted that the death penalty has never shown to have a special deterrent effect nor should state use it to justify the wrong done by the defendant. For instance in the case of two Tibetans (Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak) the state media earlier reported that both "have to be executed to assuage the people's anger." Such eyeball for eyeball approach is in no way a justification of giving death sentence. The execution of four Tibetans are further proof of China's unwillingness to abide by the United Nations Global Moratorium on the Death Penalty, adopted in 2007, which establishes a suspension on executions with the view to abolish the death penalty.

Tibetan schools closed down in Tibet

The Chinese authorities in Driru County, Nagchu Prefecture ('TAR') shut down schools run by Tibetans on alleged grounds of political activism



Students group photo session

in early 2009. Nyima Dhondup from Dhar village (Penka Township, Driru County, Nagchu Prefecture ('TAR') was a former student of Vocational Education School who testified to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) after coming into exile in India.

He tesified to TCHRD, "earlier in 2007, a local Tibtean teacher Tenzin Thapkhey built a Vocational Education School with financial assistances from International Red Cross society. There were around 250 students and 20 teachers and staffs in the school. The primary aim of the school was to empower large number of Tibetan populace who lacks basic modern education to lead a better life. It was on these very reasons Tibetans like Tenzin



Graduates students posing for the group photo

Thabkhey established the school with foreign monetary assistances.

The education in the school was given free of cost, except for the mid day lunch. In addition, one of the primary aims of the school was to preserve the Tibetan culture, tradition and heritage passed down for the last many centuries, which has been facing serious threats of discontinuity amidst the fast changing socio-economic conditions inside Tibet owing to large influx of Chinese migrants into Tibet. A wide range of subjects were taught in the school varying from Tibetan, English and Chinese languages, linguistic, chemistry, physics, medicine, art and mural paintings."

The school was also open for anyone interested in learning traditional Tibetan arts and sciences like medicine and thangka painting. The students can study in the school for a period up to six years. In a short period of time, the school earned much praise and admiration from the local Tibetans in the area about its curriculum and educational standards. There had been cases of the parents rushing in to admit their children in the school by withdrawing their children from schools run by Chinese government.

The school earned its reputation in Nagchu County as one that truly dedicated itself towards the propagation of education and the dissemination of knowledge. In Nyima Dhondup's case, his vocational education suddenly ended when the Chinese authorities ordered the closure of the school alleging that the school was linked to subversive political activism.



Teachers and Graduates students during group photo session

Thereafter he came to India to seek and pursue his modern education. And he did so according to his wish.

Afterwards the Chinese authorities converted the school into one of Chinese government run schools in the area. The former teachers and staffs of the school were expelled. The founder teacher Tenzin Thabkhey was retained to work as a teacher but at a demoted position.

In aftermath, the vocational education in the school was removed and discontinued by Chinese authorities. Today teachers and staffs of the school just while away their time and no serious learning takes place in the school. In its appalling state of affairs, the local Tibetans who once looked upon the school as model learning centre was now filled with grief and remorse.

Other cases of School closure:

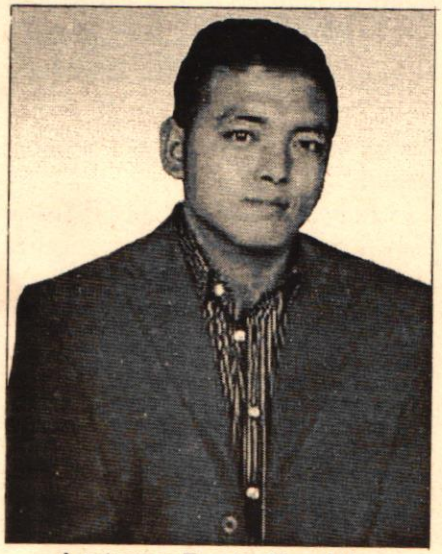
Similarly, there were other reported cases of school closures similar to vocational education school in Nagchu County. In another case of school closure, nun Ngawang Choezom testified to TCHRD about the closure of Pad-kar School founded by a monk Lobsang Nyandrak from Pad-kar Monastery in Nagchu County, Nagchu Prefecture "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR").

Pad-kar school was established in January 2007 and had about two hundred students. Lobsang Nyandrak built the school by mortgaging his own personal property and estate as well as donations he raised from the local Tibetans. The curriculum in the school was very much similar to ones taught in Nagchu Vocational Education School. The education in Pad-kar school was given free of cost. The school also provided uniforms and other stationeries to the students. As it was in the case of many other students, nun Ngawang Choezom's training in the practice of traditional Tibetan Medicine suddenly ended in 2009. Moreover, the Chinese authorities also closed a similar school in Sog County, Nagchu Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") citing similar reasons stating the school harboured and nurture Tibetan nationalistic sentiments and teach "splittist" ideas and curriculum.

Regardless of the allegation levelled by Chinese government, the school teaches a true version of Tibetan history and culture which once prevailed across entire length and breadth of Tibet prior to the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950.

A Tibetan Returnee from India sentenced to 15 years in prison

Tenzin Choedak a Tibetan returnee from India was sentenced to 15 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 10,000 Yuan in September 2009 following his participation in the last year's spring uprising in Lhasa on 14 March 2008 according to reliable information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

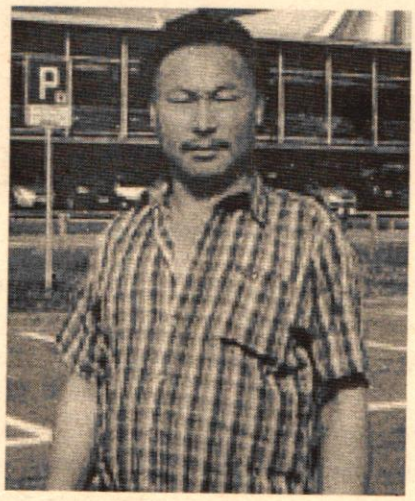


A returnee Tenzin Choedak

Tenzin Choedak, 23, participated in March 14 protests in Lhasa last year which then spread across many parts of Tibet. He was arrested on an undefined date after his images were caught on CCTV footages, showing him protesting in the streets. Given the secretive nature of Chinese court system, little is known about the nature of indictment, however, according to the available information, it points to arbitrary detention and persecution based on his family members who were previously involved in many of political activities in the past.

As a Tibetan returnee from India and being educated in one of the schools run by the Tibetan government in exile, his case was treated on a far more sensitive note by the Chinese authorities. He was born in Lhasa in 1986 and later fled to exile to receive modern education. After receiving an elementary education in India, he returned to Tibet in 2003 and since then he had been working with Panam Integrated Rural Development Project (PIRDP) which was initiated under an agreement between the European Union and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. The Project is located in Panam County of Shigatse Prefecture in the "Tibet Autonomous Region" ('TAR').

Tenzin Choedak's case took a serious turn when the Chinese authorities learnt about his father Khedup who had previously initiated number of political activities in 1987 uprising in Lhasa such as setting up of



Khedup, Tenzin' s father

underground secret organizations inside Tibet. Moreover, on March 14 2008 his own aunt Sonam was shot during the demonstration but later recovered from gun wound.

Sources told TCHRD that Tenzin Choedak was beaten, tortured whilst in the detention center. In his case, both domestic and international norms, particularly the proceedings of the Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) were violated and overlooked. There was no information whether Tenzin received fair hearing or was able to hire his own council lawyer or legal representations. Lhasa Intermediate People's Court sentenced him to fifteen years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of 10,000 Yuan.

Tenzin Chodrak is currently serving his prison term in Chushul Prison, Lhasa, "TAR". He is due to be released in 2024.

Eleven missing monks of Pangsa identified

TCHRD received reliable information about the missing eleven monks of Pangsa Monastery. The monks were disappeared in the middle of 2008. They were identified as:

1. Khenpo Thupten Lungrig
2. Nyima Tenzin
3. Lobsang Tendar
4. Pema
5. Lhakpa Tsering
6. Tenpa Thinlay
7. Lhakpa
8. Kangtsuk
9. Thupten Nyima
10. Gyatso
11. Kalsang.

However, the whereabouts of the monks still remains unknown to their relatives and to the outside world. Pangsa Monastery housed several hundreds monks, of which many of them staged a peaceful protest march against China's crackdown of peaceful Tibetan protesters in March 14 protest in Lhasa and other protests in Tibet.

Three Tibetans arrested in Sog County during the 60th founding anniversary of PRC

Three Tibetans were arrested in Sog County during the 60th Founding Anniversary of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 2009.

The Tibetans were arrested by the local Chinese authorities for allegedly pasting pictures of the Dalai Lama and writing subversive literatures in a popular online chat website called qq.com. All three arrested Tibetans were from Rada village Sog County,Nagchu Prefecture. They were identified as Gyalseng, 25, Yeshi Namkha, 25 and Nima Wangchuk, 24.

The Chinese authorities branded the three arrested Tibetans as "foreign separatist forces". It was only recently that the news of the three arrested Tibetans surfaced. Of late, the Chinese government has been maintaining strict censorship and restriction on the content of the on-line chat rooms and forum sites.

China sentenced three monks in Kardze

In April 2009, Chengdu People's Intermediate Court in Sichuan Province sentenced three Tibetan monks to varying prison sentences for taking part in protest demonstrations in spring last year.

On 6 June 2008, the three monks, Tsewang Drakpa, Thupten Gyatso and Gyatso Nyima staged a peaceful protest in Drango County, Kardze ('TAP') calling for more freedom and human rights for the Tibetan people. They also condemned China's harsh crackdown of the Tibetan protesters in 14 March 2009 in Lhasa.

Within minutes of their protest, the Chinese security forces rounded up and arrested the protesting monks. On the way to the detention center, the monks were severely beaten up by Chinese security forces. Until the official announcement, the relatives of three monks had no idea about their whereabouts and detention.

Speculations were rife that Tsewang Drakpa died in Chinese prison. However his relatives recently came across tangible evidence indicating that he is still alive in a detention center in the outskirts of Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan Province contrary to the rumour.

Tsewang Drakpa's father and a relative were denied any visitation rights by Chinese security guards in a detention center in Chengdu city.

China arrests Tibetans for participating in religious ritual

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) learnt that Soetop, 50, a local Tibetan from Kargang Township, Jomda County, Chamdo Prefecture, ('TAR') was arrested on 6 June 2009 for participating in an incense burning ritual during the auspicious Tibetan month of Saka Dawa, a month during which the historical Buddha Sakyamuni attained enlightenment, taught his first sermons and passed away in the same month.

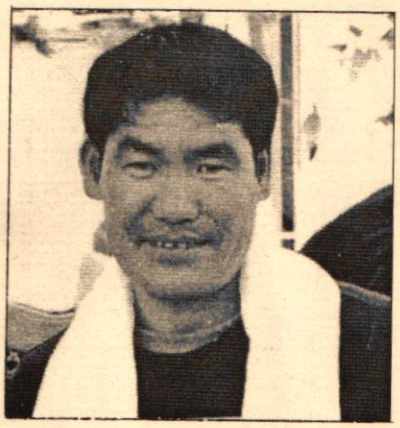


Soetop

Soetop's detention surfaced after Chinese authorities released other Tibetans detained along with him. It was from those released detainees that Soetop's relatives learnt about his continued detention in Lhasa.

A Tibetan returnee sentenced to 14 years in prison

In a case similar to that of Tenzin Choedak, a Tibetan social worker Migmar Dhondup, 36, was sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment in a Chinese administered prison in Lhasa. Migmar Dhondup was born in 1973 in Toe Dingri County, Shigatse Prefecture "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR"). In 1982, at the age of nine he left Tibet to receive modern education in India and was subsequently admitted to a Tibetan school run by the Tibetan government in exile. He later graduated from a Commerce and Business college in southern India. After the completion of college education, he returned to Tibet to serve his fellow Tibetan nomads and farmers in the field of health and education, a progam supported by western charitable societies based in Nepal. In the past many years he had been working in Lhoka and Lhasa region with Tibetan nomads and farmers.



Migmar Dhondup

There were no reliable information on the nature of his indictment and sentencing; however, his arrest by Chinese authorities may have been due to his background in education in India as well as working directly for the emancipation of Tibetan people. After months of secret detention, on 27 October 2009, Lhasa People's Intermediate Court sentenced him to fourteen years of rigorous imprisonment and deprivation of Political rights for five years.

China sentenced Three Tibetan monks

TCHRD learnt from relaible sources that Kardze Intermediate People's Court sentenced two Tibetan monks from Penri Monastery, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", (TAP) Sichuan Province for staging peaceful protest against the local Chinese authorities.

Earlier in the past, Kardze region used to be rife with protests and demonstrations. Last year when massive uprising and protests broke out in Lhasa, the capital of ("TAR"), Kardze region too was swept by series of massive uprisings which was suppressed with severe crackdown by the Chinese security forces. The protests and demonstrations persisted in Kardze region although they subsided in other parts of Tibet. Many experts on Tibet attributed last year's uprising to the deep-rooted resentment against the Chinese government's unpopular rule in Tibet. In ensuing months tens and hundreds of Tibetans were arrested, many of whose fates still remained unknown to their relatives.

Hence in 2009, Lobsang Palden was sentenced to 9 years imprisonment and Lobsang Gelek sentenced to 4 years prison terms allegedly for participating in the last year's demonstration in Kardze on 15 March 2008.

They are currently said to be serving prison term in Xendu Qaio in Dartsedo (Ch: Kanding) Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province.

Similarly, monks, Tashi Ngodup and Kadrak Dorjee from Penri Monastery were arrested from their residence by Chinese police. He was accused of sticking independent posters on the County Bridge and on the wall of a police station in Kardze County.

Tashi Ngodup was released after the few months in detention Centre but Kadrak Dorjee was later sentenced to 8 years imprisonment.

A Tibetan monk arrested after a raid

Sangpo, 30, a monk from Lhora Monastery, Markham County, Chamdo Prefecture, Tibet Autonomous Region ("TAR") was arrested by the Chinese Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials on 8 August 2009 after surprise raid in his residence. The Chinese police found scroll painting of Dalai Lama and a half sack full of Video CD of Dalai Lama's speech in his room. Since then information on his whereabouts and well being remain unknown to his mother and relatives.



Sangpo

According to multiple sources, Sangpo was arrested from his residence by the Chinese "PSB" during the surprise evening raid when he returned home after performing a religious ritual in a Tibetan family. The Chinese police ordered him to take off his rob and took him away in the evening.

H returned to Tibet after completing his pilgrimages in India.

TCHRD ACTIVITIES

Bulletin 79

TCHRD Talk Series this month

TCHRD briefed Tibetans in Manjnu-ka Tilla

On 28 September 2009, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) organized a talk series in Tibetan School Hall, Majun-Ka-Tilla, Delhi.

Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Centre's Executive Director delivered a talk on *"history of democratization process in exile"* and Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director gave a briefing talk on the *"current human rights situation in Tibet"*.

The TCHRD shown with video footages entitled "Uprising in Tibet 2008" to the participants of the evening talk series. Later the Centre and audience had a hearty discussion and interaction on a wide range of topics and subjects related to human rights and Tibetan political struggle in exile.

TCHRD organized talk series in Bylakuppe, south India

On 1 October 2009, Mr. Urgen Tenzin give an elaborated talk on how the democractisation process evolved in exile Tibetan communities in India. On the same day, Mr. Jampa Monlam had a face to face interaction and discussion with several hundreds students at Bylakuppe TCV Hall, South India.

Several hundred students attended the talk and video screening. It was followed by question and answer series.

On 5 October 2009, again Mr. Urgen Tenzin had a similar talk Tibetan college students at TCV Youth Hostel about the historical origin of democractisation process in Exile. It was followede by Mr. Jampa Monlam's discussion current Human Rights situation in Tibet with the undergraduate students.

Banglore RTYC invited TCHRD for a talk



Mr. Urgen Tenzin briefing Tibetan college Students in Bangelore



Mr. Jampa Monlam, delivering a talk on Human Rights situation in Tibet to Tibetan Youths at Bangelore

On 7 October 2009, Bangalore Regional Tibetan Young Congress during its 40th founding Anniversary of Tibetan Youth Congress invited Mr. Jampa Monlam to TCV Youth Hostel to deliver a briefing talk on current human rights situation in Tibet. Over several hundred Tibetans attended the talk.

Later in the afternoon of the same day, Mr. Jampa Monlam set aside a special rendezvous with those college who missed the talk in the morning of the same day.

TCHRD participated in a discussion forum

On 15 October 2009, the Tibetan Parlaiment in Exile (TPiE) invited TCHRD to participate in a dicussion forum organized by New Delhi based Tibetan Parlaimentary Policy and Research Centre (TPPRC) here at Snow Hermitage Resort Centre, Dharamsala. The topic of the discussion forum was on " Tibetan Political Strategy". TCHRD was represented by Mr. Jampa Monlam who presented his talk from the perspective of human rights and democracy as a way to explore the future status of Tibet. The talk was attended by the members of Tibetan Parlaiment in Exile.

TCHRD presided over candle light vigil

On 25 October 2009, the Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (RTYC) invited TCHRD to address Tibetans who participated in the candle light vigil which took place at the main Temple, Mcleodganj, Dharamsala to remember and mourn the four Tibetans recently sentenced to death by the Chinese court in Lhasa, "TAR", Tibet. The Centre's representative Mr. Jampa Monlam presented the entire account of Tibetans executed in Tibet by the Chinese court.

TCHRD briefs Nobel Laureates

Nobel laureates who Joddy Williams from USA, Mairead Maguire fom Ireland, Shirin Ebadi from Iran and members of Peace Jam who were on a four day visit to Dharamsala, the headquarter of Exile Tibetan government, to participate in Peace Jam Youth Conference with the Dalai Lama and to offer their support to the Tibetan cause.

On the sideline of the event, on 27 October 2008, Noble Laureates and the Peace Jam members were briefed by the Tibetan civil society groups. Mr. Chukora Tsering Agloe on behalf of the Centre briefed the Noble laureates on current human rights situation inside Tibet at Lhakpa Tsering Hall, DIIR. Mr. Agloe fielded questions from the member of the audience.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010 80

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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 - 2008) •*Uprising in Tibetan 2008* • *Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet*

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS *update*
is a monthly newsletter of the
Tibetan Centre for
Human Rights and Democracy.
www.tchrd.org

HUMAN RIGHTS update

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

NOVEMBER 2009

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3

81

CONTENT

-A Tibetan writer-photographer sentenced (pg 1)

-Tonkhor shooting survivor reaches exile with harrowing tale(pg 4)

-Testimony of Tongkhor Dorjee Rinchen (pg 5)

-The list of 14 death Tibetan prosters (pg 6

-List of arrestees (pg 7)

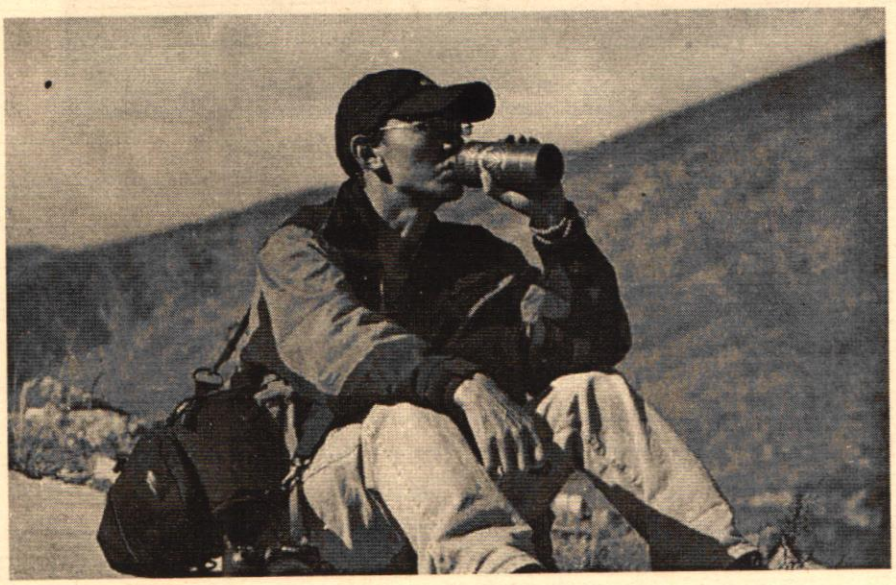
-Tibetan New Year Boy cott (pg 7)

-Farming boycott movement (pg 7)

-Reasons for my coming into exile (pg 7)

A Tibetan writer-photographer sentenced

Kunga Tsayang, a Tibetan writer-photographer arrested on 17 March 2009 has been sentenced last week to five years in prison on charges of disclosing state secrets, according to a Tibetan human rights watchdog had cited a sentencing of Kunchok Tsephel, a Tibetan official and founder of Tibetan literary website Chomei (Tib: butter Lamp), to 15 year's in jail on charge of disclosing state secret by the same court on 12 November 2009.



Kunga Tsayang

information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). He was arrested on alleged charges of posting political essays on Tibet on a website name as "Jottings" (Tib: Zin-dris) in Gansu Province.

According to source, in a closed door trial on 12 November 2009, Kunga Tsayang was sentenced to 5 years in prison by the Kanlho Intermediate People's Court in Gannan "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ('TAP') Gansu Province. An earlier report by

Kunga Tsayang, a monk of Amdo Labrang Tashikyil Monastery, who wrote under a pen name "sun of snowland" (Tib: Gang-Nyi) was an amateur photographer, a passionate writer, essayist, chronicler of the new Tibetan generation. He hailed from Chigdril County, Golog "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Qinghai Province.

An avid traveler, Kunga had traveled widely in Tibet and photographed the environmental degradation taking place on the Tibetan plateau and its impact on the people. His travelogues dealt on the special characteristic features of Tibetan topographical landscapes, culture, customs, habits and religious heritage. Kunga Tsayang had also worked at Nyenpo Yutsae Kyekham environmental protection group. He is the author of several brave and compelling essays on Tibet including, "Who Is the Real Splittist?" "Who Is the Real Disturber of Stability?" and "Who Is The Real Instigator of Protests?" The Chinese authorities over the years have targeted, detained and sentenced Tibetan writers, bloggers and publishers who did not engage in overt protest activity, but who sought to explore and express Tibetan views on issues that affect Tibetan people's rights, culture, religion and Tibet's fragile environment.



Kunga Tsayang's book, entitled "An Appeal"

He was under the close watch of the Chinese authorities in Labrang County, Gansu province following major protests that gripped the region last year. Unfortunately, on the fateful day of 17 March 2009, he was arrested during a midnight raid at his living room. His family and close associates had no idea where he was detained since his arrest in March this year until he was brought to the court hearing last week.

TCHRD expresses its serious concern over the secretive and closed nature of trial under which Kunga Tsayang and Kunchok Tsephel were tried and sentenced. TCHRD urges the Chinese government to honour the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people.

One of the essay written by Kunga Tsayang has been published by Tibetwrites.org on its website:

WHO ARE THE REAL SEPARATISTS?

Information dissemination is the most important tool in carrying out any kind of action or campaign. However, if one's ways of spreading information crosses the standard norms then that campaign is bound to become a meaningless stammer of a drunken man.

This year the peaceful Tibetan protesters were infiltrated and were misled to a wrong path. The China Television, Lhasa TV and others, while ignoring the truth, have excessively branded all Tibetans as separatists. This has caused an incurable communal injury between the Chinese brothers and sisters, and Tibetans leading to Chinese disliking the Tibetans and Tibetans holding animosity towards the Chinese. I, as a person, am forced to accept the fact that this was the biggest factor caused split among the nationalities.

Tibetans are driven to a desperate position because of them being accused of doing things, which they never did, and small incidents were exaggerated and paraded before the world. Even Tibetans who worked for the party for over two to three decades were accused and the Chinese news media, the experts that they are in fabricating lies, went to schools and universities where there are only a handful of Tibetan students to accuse them and to witch hunt them. Such excessive misinformation and wrongful acts have caused a huge chasm and disturbance in the minds of Tibetan officials and students who have absolute love for Chinese brothers and sisters and liking for the Communist Party of China. This has left a feeling of 'racial hatred' in their minds. This is the negative consequence of their incompetent reporting.

Under these circumstances our freedom of movements are restricted by roadblocks, checkpoints and ever-

present military personals with guns pointed at us. I must strongly assert that confiscating the photographs of our beloved leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama, by burning them, and stamping them under the soldiers' boots are the real causes of splitting the people. Detention of Tibetans for possessing His Holiness the Dalai Lama's photographs, disparaging them for



Who is real separatist?

putting His Holiness' pictures on their altars are the real causes of split amongst the nationalities. Unless you [the Chinese Government] are able to break our love and respect in our hearts, all your fruitless campaigns and activities will only strengthen our unity and love for one Tibetan brother to another.

I have always believed that soldiers are heroes protecting national security, building harmony amongst people and helping economic developments. However, this year all these proved wrong because of their biased actions, killing of innocent people, their plundering and ransacking of properties and shops, their expertise in suppressing dissents and their lawless marauding style. I state this based on facts and the actual events as it happened in Ngaba regions of Amdo and Kanlho regions [in Eastern Tibet.] If these things happened because of a few military officers and officials in local administration, then I can strongly say that you are the real agents splitting the nationalities.

Moreover, people at the local Public Security Bureaus, military and regional Communist Party cadres piled a large amount of fabricated, negative information and petitions in front of the Central Government in order to obtain huge sums of money to fund their so-called victories against protests and to continue their suppressive actions. How are these actions not meant to split the nationalities? A series of large-scale policy mistakes were made because the local level cadres were busy trying to please their bosses in the higher levels.

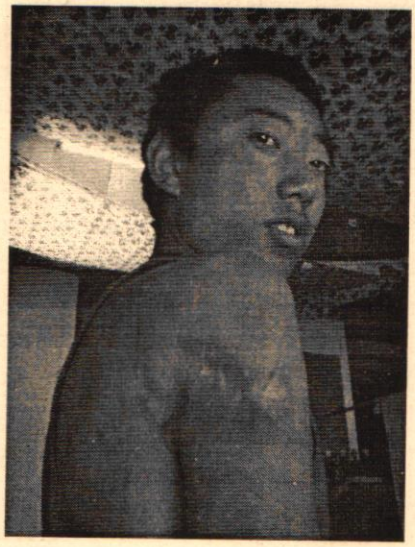
Why is the Communist Party of China silent like a man with one eye closed and ears gone deaf in face of such unlimited actions carried out to harm the unity of the nation and stability of the country? Lamas may make mistakes, leaders may make mistakes and the government too can make mistakes. But the time has come for those people responsible for causing harms and disunity be paraded before the public and be made answerable for their mistakes. If this can be done, we will still have some faith in improving our relationship with other nationalities and to build a harmonious society.

An image is built in the minds of both the Chinese people and Tibetan brothers and sisters of the other side as someone who is to be scared of and to have hatred towards each other. We ask: Why must they beat and torture our brothers and sisters this way? And by lying and fabricating wrong views, we have come to a state where even a Tibetan truck driver is scorned. The general impression being created is that of Tibetans as people who are not even worth to look at.

When we talk in more general terms, Tibetan and Chinese people have a long tradition of helping each other and have deep mutual respect and admiration. However, the portrayal of Tibetans in Chinese official media this year has left an image of Tibetans as enemies. Has this become a factor that would improve harmony or has it become a cause for its destruction? This is an issue that the leaders must think about; this is an issue that is worth thinking about because the harmony of the nation will be build on this foundation by taking positives actions on it. This is something that is never too late to pursue.

Tongkor shooting survivor reaches exile with a harrowing tale

Dorjee Rinchen, 18, a monk survivor from last year's Tongkor Monastery shooting incident recently came into exile, testified to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) about his harrowing near death experience when a huge contingent of Chinese security forces indiscriminately fired at peaceful protesters in Tongkor, Kardze County on 3rd April 2008.



Dorjee Rinchen

Last year on 2nd April 2008, a protest flared up in Tongkor Monastery (Ch: Donggu) in Zithang Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, with the arrival of official "work team" to conduct "patriotic education" campaign in the monastery. Under the "patriotic education" campaign, it requires monks to denounce the Dalai Lama, to oppose "hostile separatist forces", signing documents displaying their allegiance to the Communist Party and its policies inside Tibet.

On 3rd April 2008, a huge contingent of People's Armed Police "PAP" and Public Security Bureau ("PSB) in about hundred military trucks arrived at Zithang Township, where Tongkor Monastery is located. Chinese security forces along with "patriotic education" work team raided residences of monks, vandalized the photos of the Dalai Lama, Tongkor Shabdrung Rinpoche and Panchen Lama. The actions by the "work team" triggered protest by monks who refused to undergo "patriotic education" session. In ensuing moments, the protest broke out when two Tibetans, one a senior monk and another a lay man were detained following their opposition and refusal to adhere and undergo "patriotic education" campaign.

Subsequently in the same evening, hundreds of strong monastic community, also joined by local Tibetans marched towards County government headquarters to demand the immediate release of Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin and layman Tsultrim Phuntsok. The protesters left the scene after being assured by Chinese officials that the two detained Tibetans would soon be released by 8 PM of 3 April 2008.

However, when Chinese authorities failed to honour their promise, the protesting Tibetans returned for the protest march but on the way they were confronted by a heavy presence of "PAP" and "PSB" officials, which later developed into a scuffle. Soon Chinese security forces fired live ammunitions at the protesting Tibetans, resulting in the death of at least 14 known Tibetans and injuring scores.

The official mouthpiece, Xinhua, admitted the incident having being taken place but described it as a "riot", mentioning only about an injury of one government official all together skipping the deaths, arrests and injuries inflicted on Tibetans. One of the survivors, an eye-witness of the Tongkor massacre who previously sustained and now recovered from a severe gunshot injury had recently arrived at Dharamsala, testified to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) on 27 November 2009.



Scar left by bullet wound

TCHRD believes that there are hundreds of Tibetans, who have similar accounts of horrifying human rights abuses and violations like one underwent by Tongkor Dorjee Rinchen trapped inside Tibet. In the light of this, TCHRD appeals to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), international community and civil societies to take urge the Chinese government to secure their releases, provide injured with much needed medication, and respect the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people.

85

TESTIMONY OF TONGKOR DORJEE RINCHEN

My name is Dorjee Rinchen. I am 18 years old, born in Tsera Village, to a father Dhondup Palden and mother Jamyang Lhamo, in Tongkor Township, Kardze County, Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province.

Last year on 2nd April 2008, a protest flared up in Tongkor Monastery (Ch: Donggu) in Zithang Township, Kardze County, Kardze "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan Province, with the arrival of official work team to conduct "patriotic education" campaign in the monastery.

On 3rd April 2008, the "work team" along with a huge contingent of People's Armed Police ("PAP") and Public Security Buearu ("PSB") officials arrived in Tongkor Monastery and raided our residences, stamping on and vandalizing the photos of the Dalai Lama, Tongkor Shabdrung Rinpoche and Panchen Lama in our Tongkor Monastery. The actions by Chinese patriotic education "work team" triggered a protest by our monks who refused to undergo "patriotic education" campaign session. Under the "patriotic education" campaign, it required us to denounce the Dalai Lama, to oppose "hostile separatist forces", signing documents by displaying our allegiance to the Communist Party and its policies inside Tibet. In ensuing moments, the protest broke out when two Tibetans, one a senior monk and another a lay man were detained for their refusal to adhere and undergo "patriotic education" campaign.

Subsequently in the same evening, hundreds of our monks from our community, also joined by local Tibetans marched towards County government headquarters to and demanded the immediate release of Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin and layman Tsultrim Phuntsok. Thereafter we left the scene after being assured by Chinese officials that the two detained Tibetans would soon be released by 8 PM of 3 April 2008. However, when Chinese authorities failed to honour our promise, we returned but on the way we were confronted by a heavy presence of PAP and PSB officials, which later broke into a scuffle.

We were calling for the release of two monks who were earlier arrested by Chinese security forces for objecting the Chinese government's enforced "patriotic education" campaign in Tongkor Monastery which brought much misery and discomfort for us. We chanted slogans such as "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "Independence for Tibet", "Tibet belongs to Tibetans", "Swift Return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", and the "Release of all the Tibetan Political Prisoners".

Shortly after in the heat of protest, the PAP forces fired live ammunition rounds on the protesting Tibetans, resulted in the death of about 14 known Tibetans, and at least 83 Tibetan peaceful protesters sustained severe gun injuries. Later, the Chinese security forces arrested around 12 Tibetans branded as ring leaders of the Tongkor protest. We were arbitrarily arrested, detained, tortured for almost a year.

Since 10 March 2008, Tibetans across the Tibetan plateau participated in a series of popular demonstrations against the Chinese government, and one such protest demonstration such took place in Tongkor Monastery. In response, the Chinese authorities dispatched a large contingent of armed security forces to quell the popular demonstration in Tongkor Township. The Chinese security forces were stationed at a ground close to Tongkor Monastery, and displayed anti-demonstration military drill to intimidate the local Tibetans.
Every household was ordered to provide 100 Gyama, (1 Gyama = 500 grams) of fire wood, however only few households complied the order. Later on 1 and 2nd April 2008, Chinese Democratic Management Committee (DMC) "work team" arrived at Tongkor Monastery to enforce "patriotic education" campaign, which involved the monks to denounce the Dalai Lama, to conform to Chinese government political indoctrination, signing documents containing the denunciation of the Dalai Lama as a splittist leader, and hostile separatist force. However, we refused to sign and comply with the indoctrination session enforced by DMC work teams. Lobsang Jamyang, the chief monk of Tongkor Monastery defied the authorities' writ to undergo "patriotic education" session. The DMC work team members demanded assurance from Tongkor DMC members that no such kinds of demonstrations would ever take place in future and with that DMC returned to their offices. Moreover on that very evening, the Chinese authorities cut down telephone and mobile lines and all other communication channels in order to ensure that no information leak to the outside world regarding the implementation of "patriotic education" campaign in Tongkor Monastery.

On 3 April 2008, around dawn 4 am in morning, a large contingent of PAP, and PSB of around 4000 Chinese soldiers in around 98 armor vehicles surrounded Tongkor Monastery from all directions. The order to shoot at sight was also announced in and around Tongkor Monastery. At around 8 o clock in the morning of 3 April 2008, separate groups, consisting of five to six Public Security Bureau "PSB" ransacked and raided residences of the monks searching for the photos of the Dalai Lama, Tongkor Shabdrung Rinpoche, the chief

patron of Tobgkor Monastery, and other incriminating materials. The security forces stamped on the photos of the Dalai Lama and Shabdrung Rinpoche and some monks were even beaten by Chinese security forces for complaining. An elderly monk, a 75-year-old Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin and lay person Tsultrim Phuntsok were arrested in the raid. Later they ransacked the Prayer Hall of Tongkor Monastery, and seized all the scroll paintings of the lineages of successive Shabdrung Rinpoches, the Dalai Lamas and Panchen Lamas of the past. During the raid the Chinese authorities burnt confiscated 22 sacks of the copies of scroll paintings of successive lineages of Tongkor Shabdrung Rinpoches, the Dalai Lamas and Panchen Lamas seized from all the residences of Tongkor monks. Some school teachers who lived near by Tongkor Monastery were made to carry the 22 sacks of confiscated scroll paintings to Buthok Ground, located near Tongkor Monastery, where they were burnt. Making mockery of the sacred scroll paintings, Chinese soldiers gathered around burning sacred scroll paintings to draw comfort from the cold weather.

Scenes of the stamping of the photos of Tongkor Shabdrung Rinpoche, the Dalai Lama and Panchen Lamas were captured on video camera and still images by Chinese security forces. Helpless local Tibetans were reduced to mere spectators and then around 4 o clock in the evening, the monastery's gongs were sounded to call monks for a meeting.

During the meeting, the head of the monastery spoke at length about incidents surrounding 1st and 2nd April 2008. He suggested monks to contemplate over the next course of actions. During the meeting, few monks rose up and shouted, "if we were not allowed to remain in our own place, we will not have any regrets if we lose our lives, then suddenly in fits of emotions, the monks forego their daily prayers, and marched towards the Chinese government office at Buthok Ground, where they chanted numerous slogans such as "Long Live the Dalai Lama", "Release all political prisoners including Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin". The Chinese authorities appealed to the monks to stop the protest march by promising them that they will release Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin and layman Tsultrim Phuntsok after having a brief conversation with them.

The monks halted their protest demonstration at a bridge making slew of slogans and chants which continued till 8 'o' clock in the night. Still then Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin had not been released by the Chinese authorities. Once again the monks pitched up their protest slogans at which numerous PAP and PSB surrounded the protesting monks and fired machine guns at the peaceful protesters.

In horrifying moments, few monks standing in rear fell down after sustaining bullets injuries. I was not able to recognize and identify those fallen monks in the darkness, the peaceful protesters fled in all directions, Chinese security forces continued to pound bullets on fleeing protesters. At that point of time, I was shot by a bullet on the back of my right arm, which slashed a big chunk of flesh from my rear shoulder arm. I gathered my energy and then hid myself behind a tree trunk and remained there for a while. I even saw a woman being hit by bullets and her sister wailing on a ground out of helplessness. Although I wished to help the wounded lady but I couldn't do so because of my severe injuries. A horrifying scene still haunted me when a monk name Lobsang Rinchen out of anger burst and charged into Chinese security forces firing hails of bullets at protesters and shouted, "hit me! Hit me! And then a single shot found it mark on his temple and fell down on the ground with thud." Also in another incident, Tsering Kyi was shot down and his brother tried to carry her on his back and after taking several steps she died on the spot. The situation was fast becoming too terrible to bear and witness. Hence I immediately made my moves to leave the killing field.

Later I learnt that at least 14 Tibetan protesters were shot dead by Chinese security forces. The dead Tibetan protesters were:

1. Tsewang Rinzin from Juruda Village, (Tongkor Monastery)
2. Kunchok Sherab (monk Tongkor), 30, from Khasung Village
3. Lhungo, 35 (earlier spelled as Lhego from Walanda Village)
4. Tsering Kalden from Walanda Village
5. Thupten Sangden, 27, from Tsera Village
6. Lobsang Rinchen, 25, from Nyatri Village
7. Choezin (monk) from Sothok Da Village
8. Bhu Bhu Delek, 30 (lay man) from Sothok Da Village
9. Tsering Dhondup, (monk) from Khasung Village
10. Tsering Dhondup (lay man) Druyak Village
11. Druklo Tso, 34 (female) Kugra Village
12. Tseyang Kyi, 23, (female) from Tsang Ngoe Village
13. Sonam Tsultrim, 22, (lay man) from Nyatri Village
14. Kunsang Choedon, 35, from Mokrin Village

Kunsang Choedon's father Tsanggon later became mentally insane after the death of her dotted daughter. Little afterwards he died in misery and sorrow. I heard from many people that around 83 protesters sustained serious gun injuries. Out of which I was able to identify 14 protesters. I was denied of access to medical care in the government run hospital, due

to which I underwent intolerable suffering and hardships for the past more than a year.

LIST OF ARRESTEES:

Later I also learnt about the arrest of 12 Tibetan protesters by Chinese security forces. The arrestees were identified as:

1. Thugche Tso from Druk-yak Village, (male)
2. Tsering Dolkar (female)
3. Tenam from Kugra Village, (female)
4. Dorjee Gyaltsen from Druk-yak Village (Male, lay person)
5. Yonten Norbu from Druk-yak Village (Male, lay person)
6. Lobsang Jungney from Druk-yak Village (Male, lay person)
7. Yonten Lhundup from Nyatri Village (male)
8. Pema Namgyal from Nyatri Village (male)
9. Thupten Sherab from Mokren Village (male)
10. Lama Dhondup from Tsera Village (male)
11. Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin Tongkor Monastery
12. Tsultrim Phuntsok (lay) from So-thok-dha Village

Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin who was earlier detained inside the Tongkor Monastery by Chinese authorities, while being arbitrarily taken out of Tongkor Monastery had to be taken via his native village Bala-da. However the residents of Bala-da village blocked the road by lying down on the road, due to which Chinese authorities were forced to take him back to Zithang Township, where he was detained for around 15 days, after which he was released.

Moreover, Tsultrim Phuntsok who was earlier detained along with Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin was later detained at Kardze prison for few months, after which he was released.

TIBETAN NEW YEAR BOYCOTT

Following the last year demonstrations in Kardze region, the Tibetan people initiated a farming boycott movement to mourn the deaths of Tibetan protesters across the three traditional provinces of Tibet and to show solidarity with those Tibetans still languishing in the Chinese administered prisons, who have been undergoing unspeakable suffering and torture. For instance, a leaflet calling for the boycott of Losar (Tibetan New Year) was distributed, circulated and pasted on walls in the various places of Kardze region. Superficially the Chinese authorities staged managed the celebration of Tibetan New Year celebration, such as bursting huge quantity of fire crackers at Buthok Ground, near Tongkor Monastery displaying normalcy of festive mood in the area. However, it was other way round.

FARMING BOYCOTT MOVEMENT

Regarding the farming boycott movement, the Tibetan people across entire Kardze region forego cultivating farms to mourn the deaths of Tibetan protesters. In response, Chinese authorities called the meeting of Tibetan farmers from different villages and issued them with a warning stating that, "if anyone of you does not till crops in your farmland by March 11, then all of your farms will be confiscated by the government". However, we still refused to conform to the orders of the Chinese government.

Ironically, the local Tibetans immediately started cultivating our farms once we learnt about the earnest appeal made by the exiled Tibetan Prime Minister Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche, exhorting us to go back to fields and start tilling them. As a sign of adherence and respect to the exiled Tibetan Prime Minister Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche, we go on tilling our lands although it had been late by one month of entire cultivation season. Due to the late start, some cash crops like potatoes and other vegetables failed to yield properly propelling a considerable loss to us.

The Chinese government in an attempt to win the hearts of Tibetan people went forward to reward those Tibetan families who did not participate in the demonstration with huge monetary gifts.

REASONS FOR MY COMING INTO EXILE

Since massive protests that swept Tibetan plateau, mostly led by monastic community, the Chinese government reinforced the implementation of "patriotic education" campaign, leading to large scale arrests, demonstrations and detentions of Tibetan people. For instance, in Tongkor Monastery Chinese authorities announced numerous rules and regulations, thereby enforcing expulsions of monks who engaged in anti-Chinese government activities. For those who wanted to remain in monastery must fulfill Chinese government demand to oppose "hostile separatist forces" outside Tibet as a prerequisite. The ceiling on the strength of the monks was imposed on monasteries. Such harsh measures forced us to speak our minds. Unlike my friends who were arrested during the protest, it was pure luck that I was not arrested. I felt that I was on a borrowed time waiting for an eventual arrest by Chinese authorities, and hence I immediately made my mind to escape Tibet. On the one hand I have had a strong wish to have an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and on the other hand I wish to pursue my monastic studies on Buddhist canonical texts. With clear conviction, I departed my homeland with heavy heart towards Lhasa where I found a guide who helped me to escape into Nepal. I paid 15,000 Yuan for the guide to take me to Nepal. On 7 November 2009, I reached the Tibetan Reception in Dharamsala.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

83

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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 - 2008) •*Uprising in Tibetan 2008* • *Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet*

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Mastpur, Gaggal # 94180-44708

HUMAN RIGHTS update

HUMAN RIGHTS *update* is a monthly newsletter of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. www.tchrd.org

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

89

CONTENT

-Lithang and Nyagchuka County Tibetans seek release of their spiritual teacher(pg 1)

-The content of petition(pg 2)

-Unfair trial and sentencing (pg 3)

-TCHRD press statement on the 61st anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights (pg 5)



Tulkul Tenzin Delek

Lithang and Nyagchuka County Tibetans seek release of their spiritual teacher

On 15 July 2009, the people of Nyagchuka County wrote a powerful petition which called for the release of Tulku Tenzin Delek, their beloved teacher who had been wrongly convicted by the Sichuan Higher People's Court in December 2002 in a bomb explosion incident in Chengdu. The petitioners who were ardent followers of their spiritual teacher signed the petition and marked in blood their fingerprints against their name. Unfortunately, the authorities never took the petition seriously and dismissed it.

With strong determination to seek Tulku's release, seven lay Tibetans departed to Chengdu on 5 December 2009 to appeal the provincial government. However, their journey was intercepted and the officials detained them at a hotel. The next day, three women; Dolker, Dechen Dolma and Youdon, who were proceeding to the central government to appeal were also detained mid way. Upon hearing the arrest of the group of the seven men heading to Chengdu, groups of Tibetans, mostly youth from Othok township, upper and lower Golog, proceeded to Nyagchuka County government headquarter. Thereafter Tibetans from the neighbouring areas had also been flocking to Nyagchuka County government. However Chinese security forces on the way stopped them from reaching the County Headquarter. Meanwhile a fairly large contingent of People's Armed Police (PAP) was brought to a location called Thang Karma (White Open Field) practicing martial arts and military drills to intimidate the local Tibetans. Despite the block, hundreds of Tibetans gathered from all over the neighbouring areas. Some had to walk over the mountain to reach the spot. Many children and elderly Tibetans also joined in. Despite all the blocking attempts by the authorities, the crowd grew to around 400 and vociferously demanded the immediate release of Tulku Tenzin Delek. During the demonstration seven women collapsed and became unconscious. The protesting Tibetans were running out of food and warm clothes and blankets to brace the chilly winter nights and relatives and supporters were denied access to the protesters and petitioners for delivering food and clothes.

It was on the night of 5 December 2009, around 60 petitioners out of the crowd who gathered at the County government headquarter for the entire day were rounded up and taken to a military garrison. The next morning, motorbikes and clothes belonging to petitioners were left

unattended with bloodstains. Meanwhile the petitioners began fasting and refused to eat any food served to them unless and until Tulku is released from the prison. Following were identified among the 60 petitioners arrested:

Dukkar Tsering, Jili Jamtrin,Gawa Lodhon, Ngawang Choedrak,Gawa Tsering Dhondup, Lugtsi Aphi, Gyame A-sher, A-ka Dorjee, Sherab Dolma (nun), Depo (nun), Dra-be (nun), Me-tha Wangyal, Ga-je Wangchuk, Khewo Tsering, Dorjee Khedrup, Druk Gaythar, Nga-de, Lhama Dhondi, Nyendak, Tsetra Bhubhu, Ngawang Sherab, A-pha Norbu, Woeser, A-pha Au Bho, Tenzin Dawa, Jinpa, Tashi Choephel, Nyendak, Lobsang Dhondup, Kelsang Lhakyi, A-she, Bhumo, Tenzin Trinley, Nyendak, Lobsang Dhondup, Kelsang Lhakyi, A-she, Bhumo, Tenzin Trinley, Lhama Choedruk.

The remaining Tibetans which had by now swelled to over a thousand continued to sit at the county government making their appeal to release Tulku. The authorities set 3 pm on 9 December 2009 as a deadline for the Tibetans to return to their respective villages. However, the Tibetans continued to press the County government officials even after the deadline.

The authorities then brought over the seven detained petitioners back to the County for talks. Offcials from the County as well as Prefecture level held talks with the petitioners to disperse the crowd. They in turn replied that until the authorities release Tulku, the Tibetans won't go back to their homes. The county officials threatened the petitioners of dire consequences, however, they held their ground that Tulku was innocent and they have made their mind to seek his release, and they won't return until he is released.

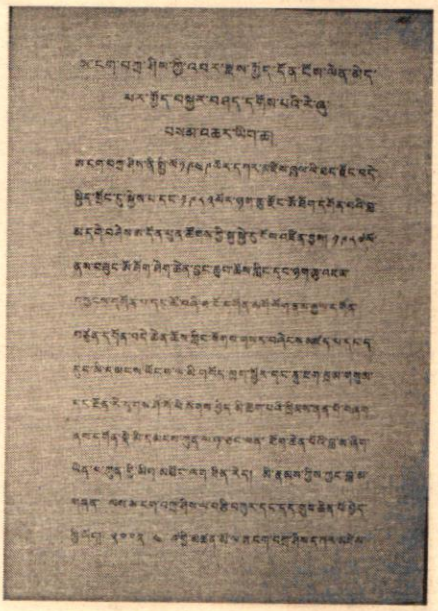
On 10 December 2009, the authorities called the religious figures and elderly monks of the area for a meeting. The officials asked the monks to diffuse the crowd as they might listen to them. The monks replied that if the authorities are serious in settling this dispute and listen to the masses opinion, they can ask the masses to disperse. The authorities promised the masses monthly visits to Tulku in prison. They also released some of the Tibetan detainees immediately and promised to detain others after a week.

On 11 December, a meeting was held where in officials from the township, county, prefecture, court, representatives of the public and the village heads were present. After hours of meeting where in both the public and the government sides made their opinions, it was decided to allow monthly visits to Tulku in prison and to repair all the motorbikes damaged by the authorities crackdown on the Tibetans and also to provide monetary compensations to those with financial losses. The general public was left in doubts as to whether the authorities will ever keep their promises as they were known to always sway the public in the wrong direction. After the meeting, army vehicles with microphones were doing round of the area warning the people to return by 9 'o' clock or face law enforcement. Moreover,there was increase in the presence of military in the county areas. Sensing major bloodbath, the spiritual figures and elderly monks advised the public to retreat to their respective homes.

On 13 December 2009, around ten detainees were released by the authorities, however, around 20 were still kept in custody. The released detainees had bruises all over their body due to beatings in the detention centre. Despite the cold, they had not been provided any blanket or food while in detention.

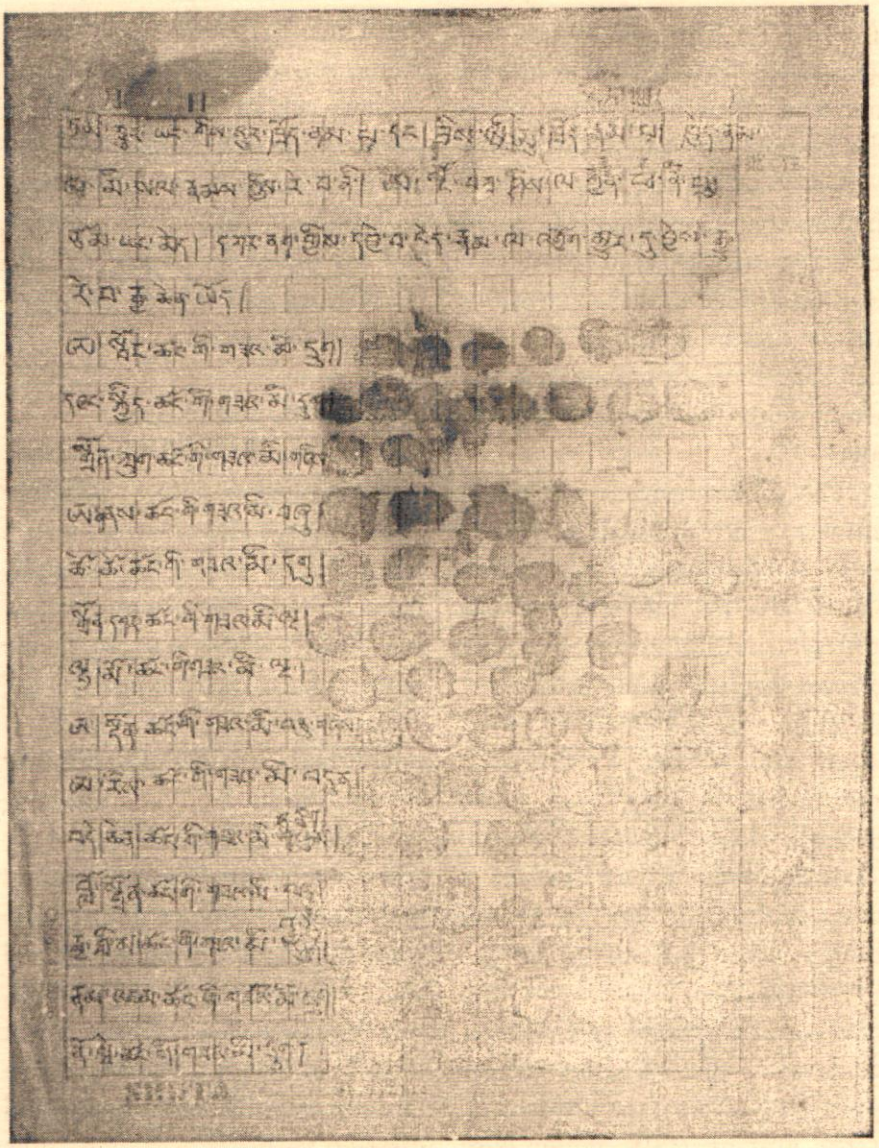
THE CONTENT OF PETITION

The main content of the petition dealt on describing Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche as their much loved and revered spiritual teacher, immensely important to the local Tibetans. Tulku also being described as a guide, teacher, father figure to



The content of petition

them, particularly local Tibetans sought his advice on a range of matters concerning their livelihood. In their appeal they stated that Tulku used to mediate in many land and pasture disputes amongst the local nomads. In his absence in the last seven years, there have been many disputes over land and pasture ownerships, which led to deaths of several Tibetans. They also described that Tulku's absence has been keenly



Signature

felt and that they are too eager to feel the spiritual presence of Tulku. They also described that they need a spiritual guide who could perform religious rites for Tibetan devotees, particularly to perform Phowa (transferring of consciousness) rite related to guiding the consciousness of dead people in their journey to the next lives. They also explained that to regain peace and harmony once existed in the locality, Tulku must be released and once again be amongst them.

UNFAIR TRIAL AND SENTENCING

Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche born in 1950 in Lithang, Tibet, is a highly revered local spiritual figure. In 2002, series of bomb blasts incident took place in Chengdu, which the Chinese officials later charged him of his carrying out the bomb blasts. His relative Lobsang Dhondup charged along with him was immediately executed after a closed trial. Tenzin Delek was granted a two-year reprieve, which was later commuted to life imprisonment on 26 January 2005. Tulku Tenzin Delek also worked for the welfare of local Tibetans in Lithang, in health, education and religious institutions for Tibetan nomads in eastern Tibet. He was also an ardent advocate for the conservation of environment in the light of China rampant logging and mining, and a mediator of all kinds of disputes amongst the local Tibetans. He was known to be an outspoken admirer and follower of the Dalai Lama, whom he previously had an audience in India. He was immensely popular for his unassuming personality and relating to the everyday needs and problems of ordinary Tibetans in Lithang. Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, now 59, is currently serving life sentence.

Following is full text of the petition translated into English, note that Tenzin Delek Rinpoche is referred to in the Chinese name A'an Zhaxi.

Source: http://www.highpeakspureearth.com/2009/12/from-woesers-blog-people of-yajiang-in.html

We Do Not Recognise the Verdict Against A'an Zhaxi We Want to Have a New Hearing with Regards to the Charges in the Explosion Case

A'an Zhaxi (A-ngag Tashi, Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche) was born in 1949 in the village of Degu, Lithang County in the Ganzi Prefecture.

In1983 he was identified as the reincarnation of the Yajiang County's Orthok Monastery's Lama Adong Phuntsok. Starting in 1987, he constructed Orthok Monastery, Nyagchukha Jamyang Choekhorling, Tsochu Ganden Choeling, Golog Tashikyil, Tsungon Dechen Choeling and many more monasteries. A'an Zhaxi always taught people not to kill, not to steal, not to tell lies, not to shoot animals,

not to gamble, and he also formulated religious tenets. This embodied a great benefit for the people in the monasteries and in the area. Hence, in comparison to other Lamas, the local people particularly trusted and respected A'an Zhaxi.

On 7 April 2002, A'an Zhaxi was arrested by Ganzi Yajiang County Police accused of being one of the hidden instigators responsible for the explosion on Tianfu Square in Chengdu. On 2 December 2002, Ganzi Prefecture's Intermediate People's Court sentenced A'an Zhaxi to death with the sentence suspended for two years. Two years later, some said that his sentence had already been changed to life imprisonment and others said that there was no sentence at all, opinions were widely divided. But his family and religious followers had never seen the official court verdict or any notice concerning his case. Hence, there was no way of verifying the details.

The case against Lobsang Dhondup installing the explosives on Tianfu Square and A'an Zhaxi being the wirepuller is a set-up, it is an act of retaliation by the evil officials and lacks any proof or confessions.

No proof

Nowhere and at no time have there been any witnesses confirming that A'an Zhaxi actually worked out a plan for Lobsang Dhondup to set off an explosion, and neither has there been any witness who has heard anything about such plans. Moreover, Lobsang Dhondup has never admitted or confessed that A'an Zhaxi worked out a plan for him to set off the explosion. The reason for this is: one of Lobsang Dhondup's fellow prisoners, who used to share a cell with him, recalls Lobsang Dhondup once saying to him that A'an Zhaxi has never planned anything for him and he has also never officially declared or confessed that A'an Zhaxi had worked out a plan for him. The reason why Yajiang County accused A'an Zhaxi is because they say that he excavated a cave to store the explosives and they also came up with groundless accusations such as that he is not a real monk but they have not provided the people with anything proving his guilt.

A'an Zhaxi himself refuses to admit his guilt Although there have been many false stories claiming that A'an Zhaxi has already candidly confessed everything, it is still rather obvious that he does not at all admit his guilt. On 2 December 2002, when the Ganzi Prefecture's Intermediate People's Court spoke the verdict, in the presence of all, A'an Zhaxi shouted out "don't say that I set up explosives, I have never ever thought about this sort of thing". Afterwards, A'an Zhaxi wrote in a letter to Zirui's people and his close relatives: "I am not guilty, please appeal for justice for me". Moreover, at the end of 2008, when A'an Zhaxi's younger sister Dolkar Lhamo together with Zengtar and Tsering Dekyi went to pay him a visit in prison, they also heard him say: "I absolutely did not work out any plans; I don't even know of any explosion, it would be very kind if you can appeal for justice." Especially on 11 July 2009, when Apapumu went to see A'an Zhaxi, he said: "I am not responsible for these explosions or any other illegal actions, they have pinned this on me, I have always taught people that one should not harm any life, not even that of an ant, how could I then possibly be responsible for such an action? If it is possible to appeal, there is hope that I may be cleared of all charges. When you leave please go to Zirui for me, tell my relatives and all people of the six Orthok groups, tell everyone that I hope to be cleared of all charges. So, you are in charge, call all people together and do everything possible to help me overturn the verdict.

Officials plotted to frame

Even before the verdict in the case of the explosion, Ganzi Prefecture and Yajiang County had often arrested A'an Zhaxi. For example, from 1998 to 2000, twice in a row A'an Zhaxi had to flee to the remote mountains to take refuge. In the very beginning when he first established Orthok Monastery and Nyagchukha Jamyang Choekhorling, some officials of the Ganzi Prefecture, Yajiang County and Lithang District deliberately made things difficult and obstructed the construction of the monasteries, but because A'an Zhaxi went directly to the great Panchen Lama for help, the prefecture, county and district authorities had to give permission. Also, during the time when A'an Zhaxi fled to the mountains for refuge, thousands of people signed or put their fingerprints on a petition to the authorities to prove his innocence. The appeal went all the way to the county, even to the central government and in the end the authorities' attempt to arrest him failed. When A'an Zhaxi returned to his home town he was happily welcomed by thousands of people, who could not be pushed off the stage by local authorities. Through this, mutual apprehension sharpened by the day, the local authorities harboured more and

more resentment against A'an Zhaxi, he became the thorn in their side waiting for an opportunity to retaliate. One 2 April 2002, they then arrested A'an Zhaxi accusing him of being the mastermind behind the explosions on Tianfu Square in Chengdu, but it is obvious that this is not true.

In conclusion, there does not exist any proof with regards to A'an Zhaxi's sentence, there exists no confession, it is only an act of retaliation of the local authorities against A'an Zhaxi. It is a set-up, a frame-up and an entirely fabricated case. If you are out to condemn somebody, you can always find a charge. If this case is not solved justly, our Zirui region, A'an Zhaxi's relatives and all the people who follow him, regardless of whether the poor turn into beggars, whether men or women, they will definitely not stop appealing for justice. Thus, we sincerely hope that the impartial law of the central government will make its way into this place which is shrouded in the dense fog of conspiracy.

15 July 2009

By the people of Yajiang County, Ganzi Prefecture, Sichuan Province

TCHRD Press Statement on the 61st Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Today, 10 December 2009, we celebrate the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a solemn occasion for all of us about the great importance of this day and virtue of this document to people across the globe. It is once again a solemn reminder for us to redeem our pledge and commitment to promote dignity and justice for all human beings.

Since the birth of this historic document, we have made many positive progresses on non-discrimination, freedom of movement and association, freedom of expression and opinion, freedom from torture and arbitrary detentions. Yet there are many justice yet to be delivered and more freedom to be redeemed and hence let it be our firm pledge that we shall work in this direction, led by courage and our belief in universal rights.

We, the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) in last more than one decade has championed the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people, as they continue to suffer greatly under the deplorable conditions imposed by the communist regime in China.

10 December, is also an important occasion for Tibetans, not just as International Human Rights Day but also the day on which the Dalai Lama received his Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, who is regarded as a talisman of justice, freedom and human rights across the globe as well as the greatest influencer of our times.

TCHRD will continue to work for promotion of the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people as guided by our two "twin missions", to monitor and report the violation of human rights of the Tibetan people inside Tibet and to educate our Tibetan community about human rights, democracy and rule of law.

TCHRD hopes that the global nations through their diplomatic and economic ties will press China on its poor and deplorable human rights track record. It is also our hope that nations never give up dialogue on human rights in the face of more assertive and bully China with its growing economic and military might.

China continues to lack behind in human rights field, she still does not honour her citizens basic and fundamental human rights. For Tibetans, the recent years have been the most difficult times as they continue to reel under tremendous tragedy and misery.

In the last eleven months of 2009, TCHRD has documented, among others, the following few events:

Strike Hard campaigns:

This year the Chinese government launched the "strike hard" campaigns on two occasions. First, a stipulated 42-day winter "Strike Hard" Campaign was launched in Lhasa city on 18 January 2009. The

campaign was to serve many political purposes inside Tibet to forewarn Tibetans from taking part in any of protest and demonstration during coming important political dates like 10 March Tibetan uprising anniversary as well as on the first anniversary of the last year's 14 March protest riot in Lhasa city. State run media claimed, Lhasa City Public Security Bureau (PSB) office deployed 600 officers, around 160 police vehicles and conducted raids on 7 housing blocks, 2922 rented houses, 14 guest house and hotels, 18 bars and 3 internet cafés in Lhasa. It said PSB rounded up 5766 suspects in raids. Under the campaign, the State law enforcement bodies abuse the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people through arbitrary arrest, detention, interrogation and torture, dismissal from jobs and expulsion from religious institutions. During this campaign, at least 81 suspects were detained.

The second "strike hard" campaign of the year was launched on 9 September 2009. The main objective of the "Strike Hard" campaign was to ensure stability and security in the "TAR" ahead of the 60th National Day Celebration. Under such circumstances, overwhelming restriction on daily life of ordinary Tibetans was order of the day. Monasteries and religious institutions were particularly hit hard during both campaigns. The "strike hard" campaigns were launched inside China to fight off crimes and other social ills but inside Tibet they were launched to quell protests and rein in Tibetan nationalistic sentiments.

Executions and suspended death sentences:

This year also saw the executions of four Tibetans Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak, Penkyi and unnamed Tibetan on Tuesday, 20 October 2009 for their alleged involvement in last year's mass protest that broke out on 14 March 2008. Moreover 3 Tibetans were given suspended death sentences and 11 other Tibetans with life imprisonment.

For entire one-year period, they were not given any access to legal representations, legal council, free, fair and open trail. They were tried behind a closed-door court and faced prosecution. No tangible evidences and explanations were given to outside world about their "crimes". The standard legal stipulations enshrined in China Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) were not followed. Despite numerous appeals by human rights activists and international organizations, the Chinese government went ahead with the executions, as if showing a lesson of "killing chickens to scare the monkeys".

Persecution of writers, environment activists, bloggers, musicians and photographers:

The year is particularly so harsh for Tibetan writers, photographers and civil societies. This year TCHRD documents 23 known cases of arrests of writers and civil society activists.

Kunga Tsayang, a Tibetan writer-photographer was arrested on 17 March 2009 and given five years in prison sentence on charges of so-called "disclosing state secrets". He wrote under a pen name "sun of snowland" (Tib: Gang-Nyi) was an amateur photographer, a passionate writer, essayist, chronicler of the new Tibetan generation. Kunga's case goes to show the length of difficulties Tibetans undergo for mere expression of opinions.

. Similarly Kunchok Tsephel, another Tibetan who run a Tibetan language and culture website - Chomei (eng. Lamp) was arrested at his home in Gansu Province. The website was dedicated to the propagation of Tibetan arts and literature and was self-funded.

· Other civil society activists arrested by the Chinese authorities were: Dhondup Wangchen (documentary film maker), Drokru Tsultrim, Kang Kunchok, Tashi Dhondup (musician and singer), Nyima Wangchuk (blogger), Yeshi Namkha, Gonpo Tsering and Passang Norbu.

Losar and farming Boycott:

· This year Tibetans in Kardze region in Sichuan Province organized boycott of Losar (Tibetan New Year) and farming boycott to protest against China's massive crackdown of peaceful Tibetan protesters in all parts of Tibet in Spring 2008. The Chinese government arrested many Tibetans who boycott farming and forego Tibetan New Year celebration. The local Tibetans filled their streets with posters declaring their vow to boycott farming activities and the Chinese authorities calling for a public meeting and issuing warning that "anyone who defies farming will face arrest and their land will be officially confiscated." There had been scores of arbitrary arrests; detentions, interrogations, tortures and many even disappeared for a year. Kardze is still one of the most volatile regions of Tibet and where human rights violations were mostly reported.

95

Suicide cases:

In recent times, TCHRD has been documenting a rising number of suicides in Tibet, particularly in its religious institutions. For several decades the monks and nuns inside Tibet have been persecuted in the name of "reform" and "patriotic education".

They were forced to denounce their own spiritual guru and to abuse their highly respected lamas highly objected under monastic vows and code of conduct. In doing so, they were subjected to extreme psychological traumas and impositions of irreconcilable demands, which eventually force them to commit suicide. The monks and nuns are left with no option but to embrace death since the requisites laid down by the Chinese authority are beyond sanity. The suicide has been on the rise in Tibet's monastic community since the Spring 2008 protests in Tibet. TCHRD documents 14 suicides and 2 attempted suicides since Spring 2008 protests.

The people who committed suicides were:

(1) Lobsang Jinpa committed suicide on 27 March 2008, (2) Legtsok, 75 years old, committed suicide on 30 March 2008, (3) Thoesam, 29 years old, committed suicide on 16 April 2008, (4) Trangma committed suicide on 18 June 2008, (5) Thokmey a.k.a Tsangpa Thokmey committed suicide on 22 March 2008, (6) Namdrok Khakyab committed suicide on 19 March 2008, (7) Tashi Sangpo committed suicide on 21 March 2009, (8) Tusong committed suicide on 16 April 2008, (9) An unnamed nun in her thirties from Cholung nunnery committed suicide on 12 April 2008, (10) Three unnamed monks from Dugu Monsatery, (11) Lobsang Tsultrim committed suicide on 3 July 2008, (12) Shedup committed suicide on 2 April 2009, (13) An unnamed nun, 21 years old, from Choekhor Nunnery committed suicide 12 April 2008, (14) Lobsang Tsomo, a nun at Chokhor Nunnery, committed suicide on 12 April 2008, (15) Attempt to Sucide- Two Drepung Monastery monks, Kelsang and Damchoe, both originally from Kirti Monastery in Sichuan Province, (16) Attempt to Sucide- Tapey, a monk at Kirti Jepa Monastery, Ngaba County, Sichuan Province, attempted suicide by self-immolation on 27 February 2009.

Persecution of Religious leaders:

This year also saw horrifying level of restriction and persecution of Tibet's religious institutions in the name of "patriotic education" and "national security". The trends were of persecutions were often surprise raids at monks' residences at nights, conducts "patriotic education" campaigns for months, breaking down monastic order and discipline by conducting political education on "socialism" and forcing monks and nuns to study the constitution of China. The Chinese authorities also enforced the monks to denounce the Dalai Lama, to stamp on the pictures of their revered spiritual teachers. Those who failed or refused to comply the authorities' orders were arrested, detained, interrogated, tortured, disrobe and then expelled from the monastery as a kind of ex-communication. Often charismatic head lamas were persecuted by fabricating false charges.

The classic case was that of Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche, a popular and charismatic spiritual figure in Kardze region of Tibet, who was arrested on alleged weapon charges related to last year's peaceful protests in Kardze, Sichuan Province. According to many sources, he was reportedly tortured for four days and nights upon detention and forced into making a confession after a police interrogation. Police even threatened his wife and son of detention if Tulku did not comply, according to his lawyer.

Following his arrest, his monk and nun followers and disciples staged protests; many of them were arrested, detained and tortured. Several of them were still being involuntarily disappeared.

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.

PRINTED MATTER • AIR MAIL

Reg. no: HP/DMA/105/2008-2010

96

If undelivered, kindly return to:

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
Top Floor, Narthang Building
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamsala 176215
H.P. INDIA

E-mail: yardrong@tchrd.org, office@tchrd.org; Website: www.tchrd.org;
Ph: 0091 1892 223363/225874, Fax: 225874

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 - 2008) •*Uprising in Tibetan 2008* • *Briefing paper for travellers to Tibet*

Join hands with TCHRD

Human Rights begin with you. Your concern and participation make a difference. Your support could instill faith and hope in those who have been stripped of their human dignity.

Join hands with TCHRD
BECOME A MEMBER

Your benefits and responsibilities

- ✔ You'll receive free of cost our Human Rights update
- ✔ All our publications will be sent for free upon request
- ✔ You'll receive a membership card
- ✔ You can join our campaigns
- ✔ Annual membership fee:

Rs. 100/- for members within India
US$ 20/- for student members outside India
US$ 40/- for non-student members outside India

Please e-mail us at *office@tchrd.org* or write to us on our postal address for further information.

Arpit Printers, Gaggal # 94180-44708