



HUMAN RIGHTS *update*  
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# HUMAN RIGHTS

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*update*

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## 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

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.

## 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

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



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

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 censures 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

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

**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.

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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](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 arrested 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 at least 110 known Tibetans who have been sentenced to various terms. Enclosed is the document titled "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 defendants 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



Lhakpa Tsering

participants in the peaceful protests in Lhasa last year.

The four indicted Tibetan were identified as 1. 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*

## TCHRD conducts its 22<sup>nd</sup> workshop at the College for the Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah

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

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.



Group photo session after the workshop at Sarah

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

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

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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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Tibetan



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

Democracy Day" at Bhagsu Club House, McLeod Ganj.

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

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 Institute: 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](mailto:office@tchrd.org) or write to us on our postal address for further information.