



Priority list: Tibetan Political Prisoners at Risk

International Campaign for Tibet - October 2016

Druklo (Shokjang)

Name: Druklo (pen-name Shokjang)

Chinese: 雪江

Status: Sentenced to 3 years in February 2016

Druklo, more widely known by his pen name Shokjang, is known for his reflective and thought-provoking articles on issues of contemporary concern such as ethnic policy and settlement of nomads. There was widespread dismay when he was detained by security police in Rebkong (Chinese: Tongren) on March 19 2015, with numerous netizens expressing their sadness. On 17 February 2016, he was sentenced to three years in prison in a court in Xining, the provincial capital of Qinghai. Details of charges are not known, although one source in exile said that he believed it was connected to ‘separatism’. In the days leading up to his arrest, Druklo wrote a blog post about an intense build up of Chinese security forces in the Rebkong area.



More information at:

<https://www.savetibet.org/popular-courageous-tibetan-blogger-sentenced-to-three-years-in-prison/>

<http://www.savetibet.org/popular-tibetan-blogger-asserts-his-innocence-in-letter-from-prison/>

Tashi Wangchuk

Name: Tashi Wangchuk

Chinese: 扎西旺秀

Status: Detained since January 2016

Tashi Wangchuk, 31, has been detained by police in his home area of Jyegudo (Chinese: Yushu) in Qinghai since 27 January 2016, following an interview with the New York Times on Tibetan culture and language, published as an article and video in November 2015 (the video is available at:http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/29/world/asia/china-tibet-language-education.html?_r=1). He faces charges of ‘separatism’, although he has not advocated Tibetan independence, and has said that Tibet should have greater regional autonomy, especially in



the issue of language, under Chinese governance. According to information from the lawyer cited by the New York Times, the police concluded an additional investigation at the prosecutors' request on 25 August 2016, and handed over those results. Prosecutors must now decide whether the case should go to court. Tashi Wangchuk is being held at the main detention center in Yushu (in the Tibetan area of Kham), where he lives with his elderly parents.

More information at: <https://www.savetibet.org/imprisoned-tibetan-language-advocate-tashi-wangchuk-faces-false-separatism-charges/>

Thamkey Gyatso

Name: Thamkey Gyatso

Chinese: 坦科加错 (Tan-Ke-JiaCuo)

Status: Sentenced to 15 years in



Tibetan Buddhist monk Thamkey Gyatso, from Labrang Tashikyil monastery, is serving a 15-year sentence following his involvement in peaceful political protests in 2008 and possibly also linked to his writings for literary journals. Thamkey Gyatso, who is in his early thirties, was arrested on April 29, 2008 in Labrang, following the major protests in March, 2008. Although he was known to be in good health before his detention, the right side of Thamkey's body is now paralyzed and he can no longer walk. *"His right eye, ear, hand and leg are no longer functional,"* said a Tibetan source. *"He has received some medical treatment but nothing that has helped him to recover. He is unable to move and he just sits on a wheelchair. He can still speak slowly and recognize people."*

Lobsang Kunchok and Lobsang Tsering

Name: Lobsang Kunchok

Chinese: 洛桑贡觉

Sentence: Sentenced to life in January 2013



In January 2013, a Tibetan monk named Lobsang Kunchok was given a death sentence suspended for two years (normally converted to life), and his nephew Lobsang Tsering sentenced to ten years for "intentional homicide" connected to the self-immolation of eight Tibetans in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) - although five of the self-immolations never occurred. The two Tibetans were caught up in a new drive by Chinese authorities to criminalize the self-immolations in Tibet, and the severe sentences were the first to be imposed against individuals who have allegedly 'incited' or 'coerced' Tibetans to self-immolate. The sentences were handed down by the Intermediate People's Court of the Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture. On January 28, Xinhua had acknowledged that the two Tibetans were not represented by their own lawyers. Despite an assertion by a judge who told the Global Times that: *"authorities obtained sufficient evidence showing it [the alleged crimes] had been instructed by 'forces from abroad',"* no evidence was presented to justify the sentencing.

Konchok Tsephel

Name in Tibetan (Wylie): Dkon mchog tshe ‘phel

Chinese: 贡觉次白, 贡却才培

Status: Sentenced to 15 years in November 2009

Konchok Tsephel, born in 1970, in Machu (Ch: Maqu), Gannan TAP, Gansu province. He was an official in a Chinese government environmental department and founder of the influential Tibetan literary website, *Chodme* (‘Butter-Lamp’, www.tibetcm.com), detained on February 26, 2009 and sentenced in November 2009 to 15 years of imprisonment after a closed-door trial at the Intermediate People’s Court of Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu province. From February to early November 2009, his family had no idea where he was. He was sentenced “on charges of disclosing state secrets,” according to reports from Tibet received by Tibetan exiles. Some of the charges are believed to relate to content on his website, which aims to protect Tibetan culture, and passing on information about last year’s protests in Tibet.



Topden

Name: Topden

Chinese: 刀登

Status: Sentenced to 5 years

Topden, a 30-year old nomad and writer who writes under the pseudonym Dro Ghang Gah, was sentenced to five years in prison for "keeping contacts with Dalai clique and for engaging in activities to split the nation". He was detained following unrest in the Driru region in Nagchu. Tibetan sources believe that his imprisonment was to punish him for writing a poem detailing the suffering of Tibetans in the county. The poem gives details of the crackdown including the incommunicado detention of a 69-year old layman, mining at a local sacred mountain, and the early years of Chinese rule in the late 1960s when thousands of Tibetans were starved, imprisoned and killed.



Wangdu

Name in Tibetan (Wylie): Dbang‘dus

Chinese: 旺堆

Status: Sentenced to life in December 2008

Wangdu, who worked for an international public health NGO, was sentenced in December 2008 to life imprisonment after he allegedly shared information about the situation in Tibet. Wangdu, a former Project Officer for an HIV/AIDS program in Lhasa run by the Australian Burnet Institute, was charged with ‘espionage’ by the Lhasa City Intermediate People’s Court after he was detained on

March 14, 2008, the day that demonstrations turned violent in Lhasa. Wangdu was accused of collecting “*intelligence concerning the security and interests of the state and provid[ing] it to the Dalai clique...prior to and following the ‘March 14’ incident*”.



Migmar Dhondup

Name in Tibetan (Wylie): Mima Dunzhu

Chinese: 米玛顿珠

Status: Sentenced to 14 years

Migmar Dhondup, who was also arrested in connection with the March 14 (2008) protests and has been sentenced to 14 years imprisonment, is in his early thirties and also worked for an NGO doing community development work. He is originally from Tingri (Chinese: Dingri), in Shigatse (Chinese: Xigaze), Tibet Autonomous Region. Migmar Dhondup, who speaks fluent English and is very well educated, also used to work as a tour guide. Like Wangdu, he was accused of collecting “*intelligence concerning the security and interests of the state and provid[ing] it to the Dalai clique...prior to and following the ‘March 14’ incident*”.



Yeshe Choedron

Name: Yeshe Choedron

Chinese: 益西曲珍

Status: Sentenced to 15 years in November 2008

Yeshe Choedron was arrested in March 2008. On November 7, 2008, the Lhasa Intermediate People’s Court sentenced Yeshe Choedron to 15 years imprisonment after being convicted for “espionage” for allegedly providing “intelligence and information harmful to the security and interests of the state” to “the Dalai clique’s security department,” according to the Lhasa Evening News (an official party newspaper). She was 53 years old at the time of her arrest. In 2016, Yeshe Choedron was awarded the inaugural ‘Tenzin Delek Rinpoche Medal of Courage’ a new international Tibetan human rights defenders award created in memory of the late popular monk Trulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, who died in Chinese prison in July 2015.



Gartse Jigme

Name in Tibetan (Wylie):

Chinese: 嘎孜久买

Status: Sentenced to 5 years in 2013

A respected Tibetan monk, Jigme Gyatso (also known as Gartse Jigme based on the name of his monastery in Amdo) was sentenced to five years in prison on January 3, 2013, after writing two books on the situation in Tibet and the suffering of Tibetan people. Gartse Jigme's third book, which was seized by police from the publishers' before printing, includes a discussion on the self-immolations in Tibet and Chinese policy. The sentencing of Gartse Jigme followed the screening of a new Chinese state media documentary seeking to blame exile Tibetans for the self-immolations in Tibet since 2009 (<http://www.savetibet.org/resource-center/maps-data-fact-sheets/self-immolation-fact-sheet>). The new propaganda video is part of a more aggressive and formalized drive against the self-immolations that has involved the imposition of long prison sentences to Tibetans accused of 'inciting' these actions. Gartse Jigme Gyatso was detained by police in his room at Gartse monastery in Tsekhog (Chinese: Zeke Xian) county in Malho (Chinese: Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture), Qinghai on January 3 (2013) and taken to Xining.



OTHER CASES OF CONCERN

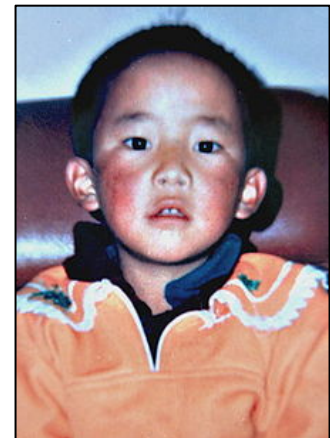
Gedhun Choekyi Nyima (11th Panchen Lama)

Name: Gedhun Choekyi Nyima

Chinese: 更登確吉尼瑪

Status: Detained since May 1995 – Whereabouts unknown

Gedhun Choekyi Nima was just six years old when he was recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama, one of Tibet's most important religious leaders. Shortly after, on 17 May 1995, he and his family were taken into custody by the Chinese authorities. While they have admitted taking him, they have continually refused to divulge any information about him or his whereabouts, making his case an enforced disappearance.



Dhondup Wangchen

Chinese: 顿珠旺钦 also 当知项欠

Status: Sentenced to 6 years, released, request family reunion by allowing him out of Tibet

Dhondup Wangchen was detained in March 2008, soon after he completed filming a documentary

(“Leaving Fear Behind”) featuring Tibetans in a Tibetan area of Qinghai expressing their views on the Dalai Lama, the Olympic Games, and Chinese laws. Police detained filmmaker him on March 26, 2008 in Kawasumdo (Chinese: Tongde) county, Tsolho (Chinese: Hainan) TAP, Qinghai province, and his assistant Jigme Gyatso, a Labrang (Chinese: Xiahe) Tashikhyil monk, on March 23 (Jigme Gyatso later escaped from prison to India, and is now living in Switzerland). The men filmed more than 100 Tibetans, most of whom chose to speak on camera without concealing their identities. The film was smuggled out of China prior to the film-makers’ detention. The documentary, featuring 20 of the Tibetans, was screened in August 2008. Police held Dhondup Wangchen for 3 months at Ershilipu detention center, near Xining city, and then in a hotel. He is believed to be still in Ershilipu, but there is currently no news on them.



The film “Leaving Fear Behind” can be viewed in its entirety (around 25 minutes) at <http://woeser.middle-way.net/2008/09/leaving-fear-behind.html>

ICT United States
 1825 Jefferson Place,
 NW
 Washington, DC 20036
 United States of
 America
 Phone: +(1) 202-785-
 1515
 Fax: (202) 785-434
info@savetibet.org
www.savetibet.org

ICT Europe
 Vijzelstraat 77
 1017HG Amsterdam
 The Netherlands
 Phone: +31 (0)20
 3308265
 Fax: +31 (0)20 3308266
icteurope@savetibet.nl
www.savetibet.nl

ICT Germany
 Schönhauser Allee 163
 10435 Berlin
 Germany
 Telefon: +49 (0)30
 27879086
 Fax: +49 (0)30 27879087
info@savetibet.de
www.savetibet.de

ICT Belgium
 11, rue de la linière
 1060 Brussels
 Belgium
 Phone: +32 (0)2 609 44 10
 Fax: +32 (0)2 609 44 32
info@savetibet.eu
www.savetibet.fr