

URGENT ACTION

TIBETAN MONK IMPRISONED AFTER PROTEST

Tibetan monk Lobsang Drakpa is reported to have been sentenced to three years imprisonment in an undisclosed trial after being detained by police while staging a solo protest. He has had no access to family nor legal counsel and is at high risk of torture or other ill-treatment.



Lobsang Drakpa, 21, a Tibetan monk from Kirti Monastery in the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province (Ngaba County, Amdo Province) is said to have been sentenced to three years imprisonment for unknown charges at an undisclosed trial, according to a Radio Free Asia report on 5 August 2016.

According to a monk from the Kirti Monastery in exile (India), Lobsang Drakpa staged an individual protest on 10 September 2015 in the main street of Aba County, shouting slogans like "Freedom for Tibet" and "Long live the Dalai Lama". Police on patrol beat Lobsang Drakpa on the spot and took him away immediately. Another monk of the same monastery was reported to have been arrested for a separate solo protest in the afternoon of that same day.

In the second half of 2015 reported incidents of self-immolation protests in Tibetan areas have decreased while reported cases of solo protests appear to have increased. Chinese authorities have punished individuals allegedly associated with those who self-immolate, such as Tibetan woman, Dolmo Tso, who was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in 2014 and tortured in detention for moving the body of a man who had set himself on fire.

Please write immediately in Chinese, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Lobsang Drakpa if he has been imprisoned solely for exercising the right to freedom of expression, or grant him a retrial in accordance with international standards and on charges made public of an internationally recognizable criminal offence;
- Pending his release, urging the authorities to ensure Lobsang Drakpa has regular and unrestricted access to family and lawyers of his choice, and is protected from torture and other ill-treatment.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 October 2016 TO:

Governor

Yang Kening
Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous
Prefecture People's Government Office
37 Daerma Jie, Maerkang Zhen
Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous
Prefecture, Sichuan Sheng 624000
People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Governor

Director

Chen Mingguo
Sichuan Provincial Department of Justice
24, Shangxiang Jie
Chengdu Shi, Sichuan Sheng 610015
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 028 8674 7716(in Chinese only)
Fax: +86 028 8662 2243
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Premier
Li Keqiang Guojia Zongli
The State Council General Office
2 Fuyou Jie
Xicheng Qu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China
Fax: +86 10 659611

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR LIU XIAOMING, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 49-51 Portland Place W1B 1JL, 020 7299 4049, press_uk@mfa.gov.cn

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ethnic Tibetans in China face discrimination and restrictions on their rights to freedom of religion, expression, association and assembly. Tibetan monks, writers, protesters and activists are regularly detained as a result of their peaceful activities.

Since the Tibetan mass protests in 2008 against Chinese policies in Tibetan areas, the Chinese government has imposed intrusive military and security controls in Tibetan populated areas. The authorities continue to subject Tibetans to "patriotic education", which forces them to denounce the Dalai Lama and express support for the Chinese Communist Party. Tibetan monasteries and nunneries have been a particular target of the Chinese authorities' patriotic education campaigns.

At least 145 Tibetans have set themselves on fire since February 2009 in Tibetan-populated areas in protest against repressive policies by the authorities, among them 13 monks of Kirti Monastery in Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture (Ngaba). Lobsang Drakpa is a native of Soruma village, Qiujima Township, Aba County (Choejema Township, Ngaba County), where three Tibetans self-immolated in 2012.

In recent years the Chinese government has enacted or drafted a series of sweeping laws and regulations under the pretext of enhancing national security. There are fears that they could be used to further silence dissent and crack down on human rights defenders through expansive charges such as "inciting separatism" and "separatism".

Amnesty International has documented the misuse of "separatism" charges, which have resulted in violations of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and religion. Tashi Wangchuk (AI index: ASA 17/3793/2016), a man who advocates for Tibetan language education, has been detained since 27 January 2016 for "inciting separatism", with no access to his family. He could face up to 15 years in prison if found guilty. Tibetan writer and blogger, Druklo (pen-name Shokjang) (AI index: ASA 17/3908/2016), was sentenced to three years imprisonment in February 2016 for "inciting separatism", due to his online posts on religious freedom; the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan issues.

Name: Lobsang Drakpa

Gender m/f: Male

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