

Teenage monk and model student self-immolated in Tibet



A photo of Losang Lozin, the 3¹st Tibetan to self-immolate inside Tibet in 2012.

On 17 July 2012, 18-year old Tibetan monk Losang Lozin from Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) set fire to himself and died in front of his monastery's main assembly hall, Gedhen Tashi Choeling, an affiliate of Kirti monastery.

When security personnel despatched from Barkham (main town in the country) and arrived at the monastery after the self-immolation, local people attempted to block them from

entering the monastery. According to Lobsang Yeshe, a Kirti monk in exile in Dharamsala, India, monastery management personnel successfully prevented a tense situation from escalating when they "promised the Chinese police that they would cooperate to keep the situation under control and asked the police to go back and the locals to return home."

According to monks from Kirti monastery in Dharamsala, India, who reported about this event, Lobsang

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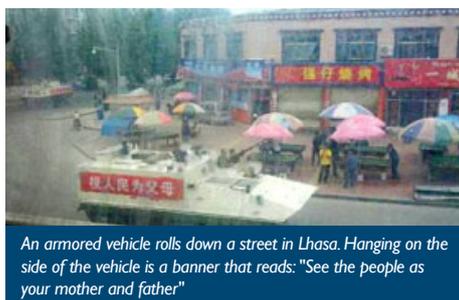
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Yeshe and Kanyag Tsering, he was "a model student in both his studies and his personal conduct." He was given water-burial in the river near Tsodum monastery on the evening of 17 July. ■

See also:

- ▶ ICT report: <http://tinyurl.com/bmv42ah>

Human Rights Watch's new report: "China: attempts to seal off Tibet from Outside Information"



An armored vehicle rolls down a street in Lhasa. Hanging on the side of the vehicle is a banner that reads: "See the people as your mother and father"

Human Rights Watch has reported that restrictions on news, media, and communications in Tibet have been stepped up by Chinese authorities in the lead-up to the 18th Party Congress, due to take place in late 2012.

The new restrictions reflect a broader and deeper strategy by the Chinese authorities not only in an attempt to prevent continuing unrest and self-immolations in Tibet, but also to strike at the roots of Tibetan allegiances to the Dalai Lama and their national and cultural identity.

According to the report, measures involve significantly increased controls, particularly in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), on internet use, text messages, phone ownership, music publishing, and photocopying, as well as intensified government propaganda through new TV channels, village education sessions, film showings, distribution of books, and the provision of satellite television receivers with fixed reception to government channels. As a result, Tibetans have virtually no access to independent news, are being subjected to intensifying political education and propaganda in villages, schools, and monasteries, and face increasing limitations on travel into the TAR from other provinces. ■

You can read the full report at: <http://tinyurl.com/cuqtv6r>

Europe, US, Canada raise Tibet at UN Human Rights Council; call on China to grant rights and access to outside observers

On 28 June 2012, government delegations to the U.N. Human Rights Council spoke publicly about the worsening human rights situation in Tibet as part of Item 4 on the Council's agenda (20th session), "Human rights situations that require the Council's attention." The countries raising Tibet were: Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Sweden and the United States. Denmark's statement on behalf of the European Union was also supported by non-EU members Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Liechtenstein.

Governments expressed specific concerns about the current crisis in Tibet. They condemned the severe repression of Tibetan demonstrations by Chinese authorities and expressed concern about the news of mass arrests and detentions following self-immolations in Lhasa and elsewhere. Moreover, governments denounced Chinese government's policies restricting religious activities and regarded Tibetan self-immolations as an expression of a belief that their cultural and religious rights are not being fully respected. They called on the Chinese government to bring a halt to policies that undermine Tibetan linguistic, religious and cultural traditions. Finally, governments asked the Chinese government to allow unhindered access to all Tibetan areas for independent monitoring, including by diplomats and journalists.

In addition to government's statements tackling Tibet, representatives from ICT were active at this session of the HRC, delivering oral statements to the Council and meeting with UN officials regarding the situation in Tibet. ICT-Germany's Executive Director, Kai Mueller delivered a statement condemning China's use of force against peaceful protesters earlier this year, while Ngawang Choephel, ICT staff in Geneva, delivered a statement highlighting the PRC's marginalization of the Tibetan language and a statement under Item 4 presenting different aspects of the worsening of the situation of human rights in Tibet. The Chinese delegation's common response to these statements was that they represented a "distortion of the facts" and that "China is a country of rule of law." ■

See also:

- ▶ ICT report: <http://tinyurl.com/d9xz9yf>
- ▶ Statement by ICT-Germany Executive Director, Kai Mueller: <http://tinyurl.com/ca5eblo>
- ▶ Statements by ICT staff, Ngawang Choephel: <http://tinyurl.com/ctu9vnr> and <http://tinyurl.com/cmgr6fv>

ICT Report on Cultural Genocide presented in Brussels and UN Human Rights Council in Geneva



From the left, José Elías Esteve Moltó, Alan Cantos, Andrew Swan, Mary Beth Markey, Kelley Currie and Jean-Marie Rogue.

On 20 June 2012, the ICT office in Brussels organized an expert panel discussion on cultural genocide in Tibet at the Brussels Press Club Europe. On the same day, ICT President Mary Beth Markey spoke at the European Parliament's Sub-Committee on Human Rights on the occasion of the Sub-Committee's hearing on the situation of human rights in China.

ICT's new report *"60 Years of Chinese Misrule: Arguing Cultural Genocide in Tibet"* was presented to the audience. ICT President and Kelley Currie, Senior Fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, discussed the report's approach to the notion of cultural genocide, the report's methodology and key findings, including that there are elements of cultural genocide currently taking place in Tibet. Moderator was Mr. Andrew Swan, Programme Manager at Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), and other panelists included Jean-Marie Rogue from FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights), Alan Cantos, Director of the Tibet Support Group "Comite de Apoyo al Tibet" in Spain (CAT) and José Elías Esteve Moltó, international lawyer and Tibet legal expert. Mr. Rogue gave an assessment of the 31st round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue (May 2012), while Mr. Cantos and Mr. Esteve Moltó explained the two cases in the Spanish Courts against Chinese authorities for crimes committed in Tibet, in which genocide, crimes against humanity and torture are foremost. In the context of ICT's report, panelists also tried to clarify and discuss the application of International Law and Universal Jurisdiction as peaceful methods for resolving conflicts and seeking

Tibetan Monk Tortured, Dies in Custody

According to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), 36-years old Nyagrong Monastery monk Karwang has died after being tortured in police custody in Nyagrong (Chinese: Xinlong) County, Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province.

According to the same source, in May 2012, posters calling for freedom were posted on the walls of a Chinese government building in Nyagrong County. Few days later Karwang was arrested on suspicion of hanging those posters. He was taken to Dartsedo (Chinese: Kangding) County where he was detained for approximately eight days. The authorities tried to force him to confess but Karwang denied posting the posters. It is believed that Karwang was then beaten and tortured and died in detention a few days later.

Karwang's relatives in Nyagrong County were contacted by the police and told to collect Karwang's body. Seven relatives of Karwang, including his uncle and brothers, went to Dartsedo and came back with the body, accompanied by police vehicles. ■

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accountability and reconciliation in emerging democracies during or after severe trauma. The following day, 21 June, ICT President Ms. Markey and Senior Fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, Ms. Currie, presented the same report in Geneva at the UN Human Rights Council.



ICT President Mary Beth Markey presents ICT's report "60 Years of Chinese Misrule | Arguing Cultural Genocide in Tibet".

The panel discussion, entitled "Human Rights in the People's Republic of China (PRC): Report Finds Elements of Cultural Genocide against the Tibetan People", was attended by representatives of official member delegations, NGOs and at least one self-proclaimed "private individual" from the People's Republic of China. Moderated by international human rights lawyer and scholar, Dr. Michael Van Walt van Praag, the panel was a timely opportunity to bring the subject of cultural genocide to the UN Human Rights Council and to present the issue directly with governments, NGOs and "individuals" working with the People's Republic of China to improve its human rights record. ■

Land seizure protests prompt Tibetan woman's self-immolation in Kyegudo

A Tibetan woman in her forties, identified as Dickyi Choezom, a mother of two, set herself on fire on 27 June, at around 2PM (local time) in Kyegu town near the Dhondupling Monastery. Chinese security personnel at the scene of the protest doused the flames and took her away, reportedly to a hospital in Siling, but no further information is available. An exile monk with contacts in the region said that police arrested two of Choezom's relatives. Many Tibetans then gathered and threatened to set themselves on fire if the two relatives were not released. They were reportedly released later in the day but carried injuries from severe beatings. Tibetans from Kyegudo have been protesting China's redevelopment plans in the region following the devastating earthquake in April 2010. Dickyi Choezom's self-immolation is the 42nd Tibetan self-immolation since 2009. ■

See also:

▶ Article on Phayul: <http://tinyurl.com/c6b5f5b>

China's second National Human Rights Action Plan released

In June 2012 China released its second National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) covering the period from 2012-2015 (the first spanned 2009-2010). According to an analysis by Dui Hua Foundation published in the Human Rights Journal (see: <http://tinyurl.com/dxg2f2h>), the new NHRAP signals a cooling of human rights exchanges with the United Nations and Western countries, a shift towards cooperation with developing nations, and little movement on ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

It is particularly interesting to notice that although China had previously indicated its willingness to host the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay, by early 2012, that enthusiasm seems have vanished. China was among those countries that refused to endorse the extension of Pillay's mandate for four years and only agreed to a two-year extension. This may be in response to Pillay's public and straightforward way to address human rights concerns, including in China. China has been often the subject of the High Commissioner's and Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council's statements since late 2011. For example, High Commissioner Pillay wrote a letter to Tibetan hunger strikers camped outside the UN building in New York and Special Rapporteur (SR) on the Right to Food Olivier De Schutter mentioned Tibetan nomadic herders as a "vulnerable group" while praising China for "lifting several hundred millions out of poverty." Dui Hua concludes that perhaps in light of the sensitive topics raised by different SRs and the High Commissioner, China's 2012 NHRAP does not specify how many SRs it will consider inviting, despite having about a dozen requests pending. ■

Tibet Brief

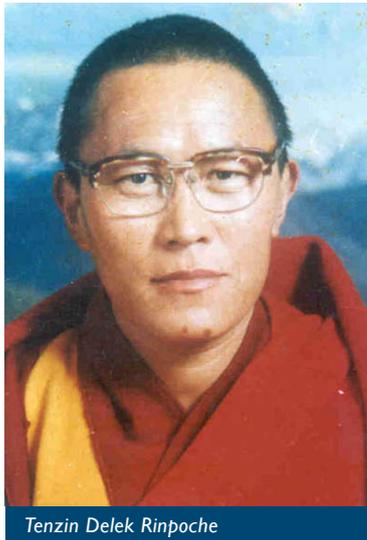
A report of the International Campaign for Tibet



July 2012

Political prisoners focus

Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche



Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

There are serious fears for the health of a prominent Tibetan lama, Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, serving life imprisonment in Tibet. Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche is a highly respected Tibetan religious teacher and community leader. Before his detention on 7 April 7 2002 on alleged bombing charges which he denies, Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche (Chinese: 阿安扎西, A'an Zhaxi) founded schools for nomad children, set up elderly people's homes, worked with local officials to protect forests and was well-known for his efforts to preserve Tibetan culture.

According to recent reports received by the International Campaign for Tibet, Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche's relatives fear for his life. He is believed to have a serious liver condition and cannot walk. He is extremely weak and is not receiving necessary medical treatment in prison.

It is an indication of the importance of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche to both Tibetans and also to Chinese Buddhists that in 2009, despite the crackdown in Tibet, hundreds of Tibetans held peaceful protests in his support. Following the demonstrations, on 5 December 2009, a group of local lamas appealed to the county government to allow local people to see Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, fearing that if this request was not granted, Tibetans in the area might "rise up in protest," according to a Tibetan in exile who is in contact with several local Tibetans. At least 20 Tibetans were detained after the unrest and according to sources in the area, all detainees were "mercilessly beaten," leaving many injured and hospitalized (see ICT report : <http://tinyurl.com/yd6tn2x>).

Feelings about Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche's imprisonment continue to run high in the area. ICT recommends that given the grave concerns about his health, the international community urgently seeks medical parole for Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche. ■

(Further details on this case: Congressional-Executive Commission on China report at <http://www.cecc.gov/pages/news/lobsang.php>)

The Brazilian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet launched

On 13 June 2012 the Brazilian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet was formally launched at the National Congress of Brazil by the initiative of Deputy Mr. Walter Feldman and with support signatures of 215 parliamentarians (see: <http://tinyurl.com/ctxh8zd>). The newly formed group also endorsed the Ottawa Declaration, a resolution adopted by the participants of the 6th World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet held in Ottawa from 27 to 29 April 2012, where Deputy Feldman was also present.

Brazil is the third BRICS country (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to launch a parliamentary group on Tibet after India and South Africa. Some deputies of these countries are also member of the International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet (INPaT, <http://inpatnet.org>).

This number's reading suggestion

"Cultural genocide behind self-immolation" by Emily-Anne Owen

In this article published in Asia Times on 26 June 2012, Emily-Anne Owen illustrates that Chinese crackdown on Tibetan culture represents the underlying cause behind self-immolations by Tibetan monks, nuns and lay people and argues that a form of cultural genocide is happening in Tibet. To read the full article: <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/NF26Ad01.html> ■