

A LIST OF TIBETAN WRITERS, ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS DETAINED, 'DISAPPEARED' OR HARASSED FOR THEIR WORK

**ACCOMPANYING THE REPORT:
'A RAGING STORM'**



WRITERS/BLOGGERS/WEBSITE FOUNDERS

Tashi Rabten (Pen name: The'u rang)



བཀྲ་ཤིས་རབ་བརྟན།

Tashi Rabten (Pen name: The'u rang)

Tibetan (Wylie): bkra shis rab brtan

Chinese: 扎西绕登 (Pinyin: Zhaxi Raodeng)

Status: Detained, whereabouts unknown

Tashi Rabten (pen name: The'urang), a student at the Northwest Nationalities University in Lanzhou, was detained on April 6 and is believed to be held in Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan. Tibetan sources reported that around 16 security personnel arrived in the university hostel and ransacked students' rooms.

Tashi Rabten, who is from Dzoerge (Chinese: Ruo'ergai) county in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba), Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan province in the Tibetan region of Kham and is due to graduate this year, was detained temporarily in July last year. He is the editor of a banned literary magazine on the 2008 protests in Tibet and author of a new collection of work called 'Written in Blood.' One of his friends said: "He has won great respect and popularity among students, intellectuals and ordinary readers in Tibet as an outstanding and brave young thinker." (see: <http://www.khabdha.org/?p=3484> and <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/fears-missing-tibetan-writer-continued-crackdown-writers-and-artists.>)

Druklo (pen name: Shokjang)

འཇུག་ལོ། (ཞོགས་ལྷང་།)

Tibetan (Wylie): 'Brug lo, Zhogs ljang

Status: Released after detention



Druklo (pen name: Shokjang) a Tibetan student at Northwest Nationalities University in Lanzhou, was detained on April 6, 2010, along with Tashi Rabten (pen name: The'urang) (see: <http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=27066>). Security officials confiscated their computers, cell phones and books.

Kunchok Tsephel



ད་ཀོན་མཚོ་ག་ཚེ་འཕེལ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Dkon mchog tshe 'phel
(Pinyin: Gongjue Cibai or Gongque Caipei)
Status: Sentenced - 15 years

Kunchok Tsephel, an official in a Chinese government environmental department and founder of the influential Tibetan literary website, Chodme (མཚོ་ཕེ། 'Butter-Lamp', www.tibetcm.com), was sentenced to 15 years in prison 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 possibly to passing on information about protests that took place in Tibet in 2008.

Thirty-nine year old Kunchok Tsephel was detained in the early hours of the morning on February 26, 2009. His house was ransacked and his computer, camera and mobile phone seized. His family had no idea where he was until November according to the same sources. They were summoned to court on November 12, 2009, to hear the verdict of 15 years imprisonment after a closed-door trial at the Intermediate People's Court in Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu province.

Kunchok Tsephel, who was born into a nomadic family in 1970 in Machu (Chinese: Maqu) county, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan), the eastern Tibetan area of Amdo, is fluent in Tibetan, English and Chinese. He studied English and Chinese languages at Beijing Nationality University, and from 1997-99 continued to study English at Northwest Nationalities University in Lanzhou. In 2004, he was recruited as a Tibetan and English language teacher at the Tibetan Nationality Middle School in Machu, in addition to his work for the Chinese government environmental department. He founded his website on Tibetan arts and literature in 2005, together with a young Tibetan poet Kyabchen Dedrol. The website, which was shut down by the authorities several times over the past few years, was self-funded with a mission of promoting Tibetan arts and literature. (See: <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/founder-tibetan-cultural-website-sentenced-15-years-closed-door-trial-freedom-expression-c>; and www.internationalpen.org.uk/index.cfm?objectid=264A6A72-3048-676E-26881BFF062C1C43.)

Kunga Tseyang (pen name: Gangnyi)



ཀུང་པེ་ལང་གི་དབྱེད་ལྷན། (གལ་ཉི།)

Tibetan (Wylie): Kun dga' tshe dbyangs,
Gangs nyi

Chinese: 贡噶擦央 (Pinyin: Gong'ga Cayang)

Status: Sentenced - 5 years

Kunga Tseyang, pen name Gangnyi (gangs nyi: 'Sun of the Snow') is a leading intellectual, blogger, photographer and environmental activist of the intellectual “new generation” movement. A Labrang monastery monk, Kunga Tseyang was educated in Labrang and Beijing. He traveled widely in Tibet and photographed the environmental degradation taking place on the plateau and its impact, and he also worked with the Nyenpo Yutsae Kyekham environmental protection group. He was arrested on March 17, 2009 and sentenced to five years in prison on November 17, 2009 by a court in the Golog (Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province. Full details of charges against him are not known but are likely to be connected to his writing, which include a piece entitled “China must apologize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.”

In a powerful essay entitled 'Who are the Real Splittists,' Kunga Tseyang wrote about the aftermath of the March 2008 protests:

“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 causing a 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.” (Translated by Bhuchung D Sonam and published on High Peaks Pure Earth together with other writings.) <http://www.highpeakspure-earth.com/2009/04/remembering-honourable-gangnyi-la.html>.)

Tragyal (pen name: Shogdung)



བཀྲ་རྒྱལ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Bkra rgyal (Zhogs dung)

Status: Detained

Tragyal, pen name Shogdung (“Morning Conch”) is the author of “The Line between Sky and Earth” (gnam sa go 'byed). He was detained by the police on April 23, 2010. The bookshop run by his wife was ordered to close on April 12th, 2010, and 35 copies of his book were confiscated (see interview with his wife Lha 'tsho: <http://www.tibettimes.net/news.php?showfooter=1&id=2636>). According to the same interview, Tragyal is being held at Ershilipu detention center in Xining; his wife went there but was not allowed to give him food.

Kirti Kyab

ཀི་རི་སྐྱའབས།

Tibetan (Wylie): Kirti skyabs

Status: Detained



Kirti Kyab, from Dzoegé (Chinese: Ruo'ergai) County, Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan province, was a teacher at the Nationalities Teachers Training College in Barkham (Chinese: Ma'erkang) County, also in Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture. Kirti Kyab was also the vice-editor of the literary magazine *Shar Dungri* (Eastern Snow Mountain; extracts translated in ICT report “A Great Mountain Burned by Fire,” www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/a-great-mountain-burned-fire-chinas-crackdown-tibet). He was detained in March, 2010 and his whereabouts are unknown.

Khang Kunchok

གངས་དགོན་མཚོག

Tibetan (Wylie): Gangs dkon mchog

Pinyin: Kang Gongque

Status: Detained in March, 2008 - release could not be confirmed

Khang Kunchok, founder of the magazine Nanjia was detained on March 20, 2008, when protesting against the killing of Tibetans by security forces, and was sentenced to two years in prison. Khang Kunchok is from Drotsang village in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) County in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan province, and studied at Barkham Nationalities Teachers Training College. Khang Kunchok had previously edited Kangsel Metok, the Kirti monastery magazine. (See: www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/fears-missing-tibetan-writer-continued-crackdown-writers-and-artists.)

Sungrab

གསུང་རབ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Gsung rab

Chinese: 松绕 (Pinyin: Songrao)

Status: Detained

Sungrab, a computer student, recently compiled an English-Tibetan dictionary. He was detained on April 24, 2010, and his current whereabouts are not known. He is from Machu (Chinese: Maqu) County, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province, the Tibetan area of Amdo.

Trintse

འཕྲིན་ཚེ།

Tibetan (Wylie): 'Phrin tshe

Status: Sentenced - nine years

Trintse, a 29-year old monk from Kirti monastery, is from Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan province. He is an active blogger and writer. His Tibetan calligraphy is said to be the best in the area and he won awards at a prefecture-level calligraphy competition. He was arrested on March 29, 2008 and was sentenced to nine years imprisonment in November 2008 by Ngaba Prefecture People's Intermediate Court. According to sources in contact with Tibetans in the area, he faced charges of revealing state secrets, although details could not be confirmed.

Gedun Tsering

དགེ་འདུན་ཚེ་རིང་།

Tibetan (Wylie): Dge 'dun tshe ring

Chinese: 根敦次仁 (Pinyin: Gendun Ciren)

Status: At risk

Nineteen-year old Gedun Tsering from Mewa Serthi village, Rongtha Monastery in Zungchu (Chinese: Mao'ergai) County in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, published a book called 'Tears' on January 12, 2010. Although he has not yet been detained he is in grave danger. Security personnel have questioned his family and detained a fellow monk called Tsepa; it is not known whether he has been released or not.

RESEARCHER/FILM MAKER

Dhondup Wangchen



དོན་འགྲུབ་དབང་ཚེ་ན།

Tibetan (Wylie): Don grub dbang chen

Chinese: 顿珠旺钦 or 当知项欠 (Pinyin: Dunzhu Wangqian or Dangzhi Xiangqian)

Status: Sentenced - six years

Dhondup Wangchen and Jigme Gyatso (see below) were detained in March 2008, soon after they completed filming interviews for 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 Dhondup Wangchen on March 26, 2008 in Kawasumdo (Chinese: Tongde) County, Tsolho (Chinese: Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (TAP), Qinghai Province, and filmmaker's assistant Jigme Gyatso, a Labrang (Chinese: Xiahe) Tashikhyil monk, on March 23, 2008, in Linxia City, Gansu province. The men had 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 completed documentary, featuring 20 of the Tibetans, was screened in Beijing in August 2008 and can be viewed in its entirety (approx 25 minutes) at <http://woeser.middle-way.net/2008/09/leaving-fear-behind.html>

Li Dunyong, from the Beijing Gongxin law firm, was blocked from taking on the case by the Xining judicial authorities, who informed Dhondup

Wangchen's family that the court would designate a court-appointed lawyer for the trial. This is in violation of China's criminal procedure law and its obligations under international human rights law, which guarantee criminal defendants the right to choose their own defense counsel and to meet with their counsel while in detention (Human Rights Watch, www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/08/03/china-ensure-fair-trial-tibetan-filmmaker). In March 2010, Chang Boyang, a lawyer representing Dhondup Wangchen was threatened with the closure of his law firm if he did not drop the case (Amnesty International, April 21, 2010). According to a further report, at least one government was refused permission to have access to any trial or hearing of Dhondup Wangchen. Various western governments have raised concerns about Dhondup Wangchen's case, including the UK, when Foreign Minister David Miliband raised his case directly with the Chinese leadership during a trip to Beijing.

Tibetan exile writer and poet Anjam, who is based in Dharamsala, India, highlighted the unique nature of Dhondup Wangchen's work, saying: "His strategy is unique in Tibetan history; no one else has done this sort of work. He belongs to the new Tibetan generation of intellectuals and has made a great contribution to his country and people."

Jigme Gyatso



འཇིགས་མེད་ལྷ་མཚོ།

Tibetan (Wylie): 'Jigs med rgya mtsho

Chinese: 晋美加措 (Pinyin: Jinmei Jiacao)

Status: Detained/released

Jigme Gyatso worked as assistant for Dhondup Wanchen (see above). He was detained on March 23, 2008 and released on October 15, 2008. He was again detained on March 10, 2009 and released April 22, 2009. In common with other released prisoners, he is likely to be in an insecure and difficult situation, and under particular surveillance. See: <http://cpj.org/2009/03/two-tibetans-arrested-amid-ongoing-media-restricti.php> and www.ifex.org/china/2008/09/18/two_tibetan_documentary_film_makers/

INTELLECTUALS/TIBETANS WHO SHARED INFORMATION

Norzin Wangmo

ནོར་འཇིན་དབང་མོ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Nor 'dzin dbang mo

Chinese: 龙真旺姆 (Pinyin: Longzhen Wangmu)

Status: Sentenced - 5 years



A Tibetan female cadre in her thirties, Norzin Wangmo, was sentenced to five years in prison for passing on news over the phone and internet about the situation in Tibet to the outside world, according to two sources including the Tibetan government in exile. Norzin Wangmo, from Trochu (Chinese: Heishui) County in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (TAP), Sichuan province, was convicted on November 3, 2008. Exact details of the charges against her are not known. In a letter written upon receiving the news about her imprisonment, a friend of hers, singer and writer Jamyang Kyi (see below) wrote: "In your thirties, the prime of life, the critical juncture when your child needs educating, you and other heroes and heroines like you parted ways with your parents, split up with your spouses, and made orphans of your children for the sake of truth, and had to take the path alone. Five years is 1,825 days. It is 43,800 hours. To have to spend the best years of your life in a dark prison cell, what misery!" www.highpeakspureearth.com/2008/11/letters-to-norzin-wangmo-by-jamyang-kyi.html, <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/disappearances-continue-across-tibet-tibetan-woman-sentenced-talking-telephone>

Wangdu



དབང་འདུལ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Dbang 'dus
Chinese: 旺堆 (Pinyin: Wangdui)
Status: Sentenced to life

Wangdu, who worked for an international public health NGO, was sentenced to life imprisonment after he allegedly shared, or attempted to share, 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." (<http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/ngo-worker-sentenced-life-imprisonment-harsh-sentences-signal-harder-line-blocking-news-ti>.)

Forty-one year old Wangdu is a former Jokhang monk from Dechen Township, Taktse (Chinese: Daxi) County, around 25 kilometers east of Lhasa. He previously served eight years in prison after detention on March 8, 1989, the day martial law took effect in Lhasa after three days of protest and rioting. His three-year sentence to "re-education through labor" was extended to eight

years' imprisonment after he and 10 other political prisoners signed a petition stating that the 1951 17-Point Agreement was forced on an independent Tibet. Wangdu, who speaks fluent Chinese and once worked as a guide for Chinese tourists at the Jokhang, is still listed as a member of staff on the website of the Melbourne-based Burnet Institute, one of the leading medical research and public health Institutes in Australia. Wangdu worked on the HIV Prevention in Lhasa Project, which commenced in 2001 with AusAID and Burnet Institute funding, and aimed to develop resources to be used to educate Tibetans about HIV.

A former political prisoner who shared a cell in Tibet Autonomous Region Prison (Drapchi) and carried out labor with Wangdu in the prison's greenhouses during his previous sentence told ICT: "During that time in prison [the early 1990s] I became very close to [Wangdu] and he started learning English with me from [another prisoner]. He is such an open-minded, talented, easy-going guy and got on really well with other prisoners while he was in Drapchi. He is very good at Tibetan literature and painting and Chinese language as well. He used to worry about the new generation in Tibet because they are losing their culture and their language, and he often criticized people for not being interested in anything other than money. The last time I saw him, when we said goodbye to each other, I was very sad."

Migmar Dhondup



མིག་དམར་དོན་འགྲུབ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Mig dmar don grub

Chinese: 米玛顿珠 (Pinyin: Mima Dunzhu)

Status: Sentenced to 14 years

Migmar Dhondup, who was also arrested in connection with the March 14 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) County in Shigatse (Chinese: Xigaze) Prefecture in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Migmar Dhondup, who speaks fluent English and is very well educated, also used to work as a tour guide. Both Migmar Dhondup and Wangdu were 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”. A translation of the official news report is at: <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/ngo-worker-sentenced-life-imprisonment-harsh-sentences-signal-harder-line-blocking-news-ti>

Migmar Dhondup is a well-educated Tibetan passionate about nature conservation, who worked for the Kunde Foundation in Tibet, an NGO committed to helping marginalized and impoverished communities. Migmar Dhondup was educated in exile and on his return to Tibet some years later, he began wor-

king as a tourist guide for, among others, an American archaeologist who has surveyed over 700 ancient pre-Buddhist archaeological sites in upper Tibet. Migmar accompanied him on several fieldwork trips traveling for many weeks in the remote northwest. The experience of seeing ancient rock art in caves and learning about Tibet's rich history gave Migmar great pride in his native heritage and in his people, according to friends.

According to the same Tibetan and Western friends, Migmar was always happiest out in the field - conducting health trainings in villages, planting trees, or building food gardens to enable nomads to grow vegetables throughout the year. On his trips, however, the increasing levels of poverty in southern and northwestern Tibet demoralized him. He felt that he could never do enough to help those less fortunate than himself. He also cared a great deal about the preservation of Tibetan culture and encouraged other Tibetans to remember their mother tongue and wear traditional dress. He is a great reader, with one close friend saying that he was never seen without a book in his hand. One of his favourite books is Ma Jian's 'Red Dust', an account by a Chinese dissident writer of his travels through Tibet.

Tashi Gyatso



བཀྲ་ཤིས་རྒྱ་མཚོ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Bkra shis rgya mtsho

Chinese: 扎西加措 (Pinyin: Zhaxi Jiacao)

Status: disappeared/detained

Tashi Gyatso, a monk at Sarma monastery, ‘disappeared’ after he went to make a phone call. According to Phayul.com, Tashi Gyatso was detained on April 8, 2010 in Machu (Chinese: Maqu) County in Kanlho (Chinese Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province. A Tibetan source with contacts in the area told Phayul.com that the authorities allegedly found equipment to receive the Tibetan-language service of Voice of America radio in his room at the monastery. (See: www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=27104&article=China+arrest+2+in+Nyagrong+and+Machu%2c+students+protest+in+Sertha&t=1&c=1)

Yeshe Choedron

ཡེ་ཤེ་ཅོ་སྐྱེན་

Tibetan (Wylie): Ye shes chos sgron

Chinese: 益西曲珍 (Pinyin: Yixi Quzhen)

Status: Sentenced - 15 years



Yeshe Choedron was arrested in March 2008, and on November 7, 2008, the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court sentenced her 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 official Lhasa Evening News. (See: www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/ngo-worker-sentenced-life-imprisonment-harsh-sentences-signal-harder-line-blocking-news-ti)

HARASSED AND/OR NO LONGER DETAINED

Tsering Dhondup



ཚེ་རིང་དོན་གྲུབ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Tshe ring don grub

Chinese: 次仁顿珠 (Pinyin: Ciren Dunzhu)

Status: Fired from job

Tsering Dhondup lost his government job as the head of the Bureau of Historical Editors of Malho (Chinese: Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province, the Tibetan area of Amdo, in October 2009, a few months after privately publishing his novel *Rlung dmar 'ur 'ur* (“The Red Wind Howling”). (See: www.khabdha.org/?p=4619#more-4619.)

Jamyang Kyi

འཇམ་དབྱངས་སྒྲིད།

Tibetan (Wylie): 'Jam dbyangs skyid

Chinese: 江央吉 (Pinyin: Jiangyang Ji)

Status: Detained/released



Jamyang Kyi, a writer and singer, was detained on April 1, 2008. Her release was reported by RFA on May 20, 2008 (www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet_bail-05202008174657.html). After her release she wrote an account of her detention entitled “Stages of Torture.” (See: www.highpeakspureearth.com/2008/11/they-by-jamyang-kyi.html.) Jamyang Kyi described her detention on her blog, a partial English translation of which was published in “Like Gold that Fears no Fire,” www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/gold-fears-no-fire-new-writing-tibet).

Chamdo Rinzang/Rinchen Zangpo

བྱ་མདོ་རིན་པམ་དམ་རིན་ཆེན་པམ་པོ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Bya mdo Rin bzang

Status: “Disappeared” and released

Chamdo Rinzang published two important books about history *Nga'i pha yul dang zhi ba'i gcing grol* “My home and peaceful liberation” and *Nga'i pha yul dang gzab nyan* (“My hometown: listening carefully”) in autumn 2008. The books focus on the Chinese invasion of the villages in the Bya mdo area of Amdo, Tibet from 1958 through the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). In the first book, the author wrote eleven chapters based on interviews conducted with about 20 elderly people.

Rinzang was detained by police on July 19, 2006 and released later that year. He was detained again in July 2009, and returned to his family in August 2009, but suffering serious mental trauma. He was released into the care of his family by the police who said he had a serious disease. According to sources in contact with Tibetans in the area, he has “become crazy and cannot eat, or drink nor move by himself,” according to information posted on Khabdha.org (<http://www.khabdha.org/?p=4334>). Also see: http://www.tibettimes.net/blogs.php?id=64&post_id=2936

Tibetan exile scholar Gedun Rabsal wrote after he read the books: “The stories [in Chamdo Rinzang's books] are nothing new to my ears, as I had heard them over and over again during my childhood. But, it is rare for these stories to be published and distributed widely. The books that just landed in my hands were full of these stories. These all too common stories told by people, who suffered during the time of the invasion: mass-killings, tortures, imprison-

ments and so on. I wonder about this courageous person--the writer Rinchen Zangpo. I think he is literally risking his life by doing this project. Yet, he did it--whether out of nationalism, or out of compassion to those who suffered, but not dare to tell the very story until now.”

Go Sherab Gyatso

སྣོ་ཤེས་རབ་རྒྱ་མཚོ།

Tibetan: Sgo Shes rabs rgya mtsho

Chinese: 喜绕加措 (Pinyin: Xirao Jiacao)

Status: Detained/released

Go Sherab Gyatso, a monk at Kirti monastery in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan province, and author of *Nga tsho sad ran*, ("It is time for us to wake up") (Gansu Nationalities Publishing House, 2007). Imprisoned in 2008, news of his release was given by High Peaks Pure Earth in January 2009 www.highpeakspureearth.com/2009/01/to-go-sherab-gyatso-laby-jamyang-kyi.html.

Rangjung

རང་འབྲུང་།

Tibetan (Wylie): Rang 'byung

Chinese characters: 让穹 (Pinyin: Rangqiong)

Status: Detained/released



A 28-year old father of two and journalist at Sertha (Gser rta) TV, Rangjung was detained on September 11, 2008 by the Sertha (Chinese: Seda) County Public Security Bureau in Kandze (Chinese: Kanzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan province (the Tibetan area of Kham) and released one month later. Reasons for his detention remain unknown, but authorities confiscated two computers from his home, according to the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy (www.tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080924.html).

Woeser (or Weise or Oeser)



འོ་དེ་ཟེ་ཅི།

Tibetan (Wylie): 'Od zer

Chinese: 唯色 (Pinyin: Weise)

Status: Restrictions, no passport

Woeser, born in 1966, has remained under careful watch and had her movements restricted by authorities over the last few years. She continues to write, on her blog “Invisible Tibet” (<http://woeser.middle-way.net/>). She lost her job in Lhasa after her book “Notes on Tibet” (*Xizang biji*) was banned in 2003. (See: www.tibet.ca/en/newsroom/wtn/archive/old?y=2004&m=3&p=16_2.)

In “The two types of imperialism Tibet encounters” (Woeser & Wang Lixiong, *Unlocking Tibet*, 2005), Wang Lixiong has described Woeser's case in some detail: Following her voluntary resignation, Woeser was removed from the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Literature Association and deprived of income; her assigned housing was confiscated; medical and retirement insurance suspended; and she is restricted from “applying for a passport”. Wang concludes: “So, in spite of not being thrown into prison, she has been deprived of everything that can be taken away from her.” Despite her relatively high profile, her situation remains uncertain, and in a recent interview Woeser said that she felt as though she was “sitting on the edge of a cliff and I could fall down any moment.”

In the same interview, a profile in the New York Times, Andrew Jacobs described Woesser as : “A graceful, soft-spoken woman whose disquieting tales are often punctuated by nervous laughter, Ms. Woesser has become an accidental hero to a generation of disenfranchised young Tibetans. Like many of her peers, she was schooled in Mandarin, part of a policy of assimilation that left her unable to write Tibetan, and she grew up embracing the official version of history - that the Communist Party brought freedom and prosperity to a backward land.” (<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/25/world/asia/25woesser.html?pagewanted=all>)

Woesser's poetry book, “A True Heart” and translation of her poems are at: www.raggedbanner.com

Translations of her blogs : www.highpeakspureearth.com

Drokru Tsultrim



འབྲོཀ་རུ་ཚུལ་ཁྲིམས།

Tibetan (Wylie): 'Brog ru tshul khrim

Chinese: 卓楚楚臣 (Pinyin: Zhuochu Chuchen)

Status: Detained/released in 2009

The monk Drokru Tsultrim edited a magazine called “Life of Snow”, which has been banned. He is thought to be from Mangra (Chinese: Guinan) County in Tsolho (Chinese: Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (TAP), Qinghai province, studied in Loktsang monastery in Chabcha (Chinese: Gonghe) County, also in Tsolho TAP, and at Detsa monastery in Tsoshar (Chinese: Haidong) TAP, Qinghai province. Drokru Tsultrim was detained on April 2, 2009 from another monastery where he was studying, Gemo, in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) County in Sichuan province, on suspicion that his writing was “reactionary.” An image of Drokru Tsultrim can be seen at www.highpeakspureearth.com/2009/05/in-name-of-human-rights-set-free-all.html. See details: www.savetibet.org/media-center/jct-news-reports/fears-missing-tibetan-writer-continued-crackdown-writers-and-artists

ARTISTS, PERFORMERS AND MUSIC AND FILM PRODUCERS

Tashi Dhondup

བཀྲ་ཤིས་དོན་འགྲུབ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Bkra shis don grub

Chinese: 扎西顿珠 (Pinyin: Zhaxi Dunzhu)

Status: Sentenced - 15 months of “re-education through labor”



Copies of official documents detailing the investigation, detention and eventual sentencing to “re-education through labor” of the popular singer Tashi Dhondup confirm that Dhondup was sent to a labor camp for 15 months in early January 2010 following his detention in December 2009 on suspicion of “incitement to split the nation.” (See enclosed report, “A Raging Storm”)

Tashi Dhondup, a popular Tibetan singer from the Tibetan region of Amdo, was detained by police on December 3, 2009 at a restaurant in Xining, the capital of Qinghai province. Tashi Dhondup had been under intense political pressure for several weeks following the October 2009 release of a CD containing songs which in Tibet's current political climate were regarded by the Chinese authorities as highly charged, including lyrics calling for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet and lamenting that “There is no freedom in Tibet.” Copies of music videos of his songs and translations of his lyrics are at: www.highpeak-spureearth.com/2010/03/torture-without-trace-five-songs-by.html.

Palchen Kyab



班钦加

Tibetan (Wylie): Dpal chen skyabs
Chinese: 班钦加 (Pinyin: Banqian Jia)
Status: Detained, then released

Palchen Kyab, head and founder of a Tibetan literacy project for nomad children, who was also a singer and helped local singers produce DVDs/CDs, was detained on April 25, 2008, and was believed to be released in 2009. (www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet_crackdown-04182008081004.html). Palchen Kyab, who is in his early thirties, is from Golog (Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province (the Tibetan area of Amdo). Palchen Kyab was arrested together with Dabe (see below) and singer Drolmakyi (see below), who were later released after paying a heavy fine, but the welfare and whereabouts of Palchen Kyab remain unknown. (See: *-G.yu zhun dra ba*, dated February 21, 2009, <http://youshun12.com/?p=665>; Tibet Times, April 4, 2009: <http://tibettimes.net/news.php?cat=49&cp=23&id=967>). According to a source in contact with Tibetans in the area, the reasons for arrest were as follows: “The Chinese government considered his association was bad (*mi bzang ba*); his songs had political content; and he is thought to have a relation with a person who printed Tibetan flags during the peaceful protests in 2008 in Golog. He started his association in 2008 with his personal funds. He taught Tibetan and Chinese to nomad children not going to school;

protected and developed traditional arts and culture, including the training of singers, production and distribution of CDs.” In 2007, Palchen Kyab recorded a DVD with Lhundrup (see below). Their song Skar ma'i 'og gi skyo sgug (“Sadness/suffering under the stars”) was accused of being political. At that time Palchen Kyab escaped arrest, although Lhundrup did not.

Lhundrup



ལུན་ལྷུ་བཀྲ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Lhun 'grub
Chinese: 伦珠 (Pinyin: Lunzhu)
Status: Detained/released in 2008

Lhundrup, from Golog (Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province, is a musician and singer. Together with Palchen Kyab, in 2007 he recorded a DVD, and their song Skar ma'i 'og gi skyo sgug ('Sadness/suffering under the stars') was accused of being political. (See also: <http://articles.latimes.com/2008/jun/08/world/fg-singer8/3>.)

Drolma Kyi

ལྷོ་ལ་ས་སྐྱིད།

Tibetan (Wylie): Sgrol ma skyid

Chinese:卓玛吉 (Pinyin: Zhuomaji)

Status: Detained/released



Amdo singer Drolma Kyi was detained on March 30, 2008. According to family and friends, Drolma Kyi was permitted to return home in late May after nearly two months in custody. <http://articles.latimes.com/2008/jun/08/world/fg-singer8>

Dabe (Dawa Thar)



མགོ་ལོག་ལྷ་མོ། (ལྷ་བ་ཐར།)

Tibetan (Wylie): Zla bhe

Status: Detained/released in 2008

Dabe, a comedian from Golog (Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province (Amdo), was held for approximately one month before being released in late April 2008. See: <http://articles.latimes.com/2008/jun/08/world/fg-singer8/3>. *Spyi tshogs me long* ("Mirror of Society", Tibetan PEN newspaper) of January 2010 carried an interview with Dabe after he arrived to India.

Tenzin

བསྟན་འཛིན།

Tibetan (Wylie): Bstan 'dzin
Chinese: 旦增 (Pinyin: Danzeng)
Status: Detained/released



Amdo singer Tenzin, detained in Lhasa for downloading illegal music
www.highpeakspureearth.com/2009/01/what-kinds-of-songs-are-reactionary.html

Tibetans detained after songs about Dalai Lama and March 2008 repression

Eleven Tibetans, mainly monks, were detained on December 4, 2009, following the production and distribution of the VCD *Chag krum dmar po* (ཆག་ཀུམ་དམར་པོ།) (“Bloody Omen”; the literal translation is ‘red fragments’), which featured images of Chinese repression and Tibetans killed after the March, 2008 protests. Songs on the VCD express devotion to the Dalai Lama and feelings of sadness and helplessness about the deaths of Tibetans following the protests.

According to the same source, the VCD was jointly produced by five monks from two different monasteries in Tsakho township in Matoe (Chinese: Maduo) County, Golog (Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province. Around 5000 copies of the VCD were distributed free of cost by six other Tibetans in and around Matoe County, according to the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). TCHRD reported that according to one Tibetan source, all 11 people involved in the production and distribution of the VCD were detained by Matoe County PSB officials on December 4, and that the five monks who produced the VCD remain in custody. It could not be confirmed whether the five monks still remain in prison or whether they have been released.

According to several Tibetan sources, five people are still being held in prison. Six other people who distributed the VCD and were arrested at the same time were released after paying a fine of 10,000 RMB (\$1,146) each, and made to give 10,000 RMB each as ‘security’ (*gta' ma 'jog tu bcug*). They were warned they would be arrested again if they failed to recall all the copies of the VCD. The same sources said that if the Tibetans did not denounce those who direc-

ted the enterprise, the case would be handed over to higher authorities. Another source stated that all 11 people have been released, without giving details. (See: www.dawakarpo.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=863:2010-01-28-20-57-44&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=129; and also RFA's Tibetan-language service report : www.rfa.org/tibetan/chedi-klaytsen/khamlaytsen/kham-stringer/china-arrested-11-tibetan-in-amdo-golok-12102009122011.html?searchterm=None).

The five monks who created the VCD from Tsakho (Thswa khol) Monastery are named as: Abbot Ngagsung (མཁན་པོ་སངས་སྤྱང་། Mkhan po Sngags srung, 23), Nobay (ནོབ་བློ་ Nor bhe), Sherab Nyima (ཤེ་རབ་ལྷི་མ་ལྷོ་གཤམ་པ་ལྷི་མ། sngags pa Shes rab Nyi ma, 25) and two monks from Khakor (Mkhar skor) Monastery : Trulku Tsepak (སྤྱུལ་སྐྱའོ་བཤམ་ sprul sku Tshe dpag, 28) and a monk whose name is not known.

The six other Tibetans in and around Matoe County who distributed the VCD have been named as:

Gaybo (དགེ་བོ། Dge bho, 41) a former abbot at Tsakho Monastery;

Gowang (23), a monk at Tsakho Monastery;

Tashi Nyima (དགེ་བོ་ལྷོ་མ་ལྷོ་གཤམ་པ་ལྷི་མ། dge bskos Bkra shis nyi ma, 33), Disciplinary head of Tsakho Monastery;

Markyi (མཁན་པོ་དམར་སྐྱི། Mkhan po Dmar skyi , 40), abbot of Khakor Monastery

Khenpo (མཁན་པོ། Mkhan po , 25), a monk at Khakor Monastery

Garab Dorjee a.k.a. Garkho (དགའ་རབ་རྗེ་ལྷོ་མ་དགའ་ལོ། Dga' rab rdo rje, 46), a layman from Tsakho Township.

MASTER PRINTER/CRAFTSMAN

Paljor Norbu



དཔལ་འབྲུ་རོ་ནོ་བུ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Dpal 'byor nor bu

Chinese: 班觉罗布 (Pinyin: Banjue Luobu)

Status: Sentenced - 7 years

Paljor Norbu, a traditional Tibetan printer who is highly respected as an elder by other printers in Lhasa, was 81 when seized. On October 31, 2008 he was arrested and in November was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. His whereabouts are unknown.

Paljor Norbu ran a family printing business in the Barkhor in Lhasa which has printed and published Buddhist texts for monasteries for some generations. The business was shut down by the Public Security Bureau, which also took many of the wooden printing blocks. This suggests that he was not accused of involvement in any protests from March 10 onwards in Lhasa, but possibly in providing publications.

Paljor Norbu is known to be a “very modest, quiet person.” According to High Peaks Pure Earth, before 1959, he traveled to various important monasteries such as Tashilhunpo, seat of the Panchen Lama, and Narthang in order to supervise printing of Buddhist texts.

In Narthang, he supervised the printing of one set of the 224-volumes of the famous Narthang Tengyur (*Snar thang Bstan 'gyur*), an order from the Fifth Jamyang Shepa (1916-1947), the famous head of Labrang Monastery and book collector.

See: <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/disappearances-continue-across-tibet-tibetan-woman-sentenced-talking-telephone>; **see also:** www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/05/china-free-prominent-tibetan-cultural-figure.

EDUCATORS, STUDENTS AND THE MACHU PROTESTS

Despite intensive security and a stepped-up military presence, Tibetans marked two significant anniversaries on March 10 and 14, 2010 and called attention to restrictions, with protests involving hundreds of people in Amdo, eastern Tibet. Two of the protests, in Machu (Chinese: Maqu) county town and Tsoe City (Chinese: Hezuo), both in Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province, involved teenage students, and their schools are now under lockdown.

Tibetan middle-school students in Machu staged a peaceful protest on April 3 after their headmaster and two of his Tibetan assistants were fired, according to a Tibetan source based in Dharamsala, India (see: www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=27072). The school's headmaster Kyabchen Dedrol, and his two assistants – Do Re and Choekyong Tseten – were fired by Chinese authorities following the protests during the March anniversary period (see: www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetans-mark-uprising-anniversaries-despite-crackdown-lhasa-war-zone). The situation has deteriorated further, with 21 teachers from the school being fined 20 to 60 thousand *yuan* (\$8,785) for failing to “give the student a good education on daily basis and supervising well their daily activity,” according to sources in contact with Tibetans in the area. The military presence has been stepped up and teachers and students are undergoing intense political education.

On May 3, Phayul.com reported that the students had started a hunger strike, asking for the re-instatement of their sacked headmaster, the release of Choekyong Tseten and two other arrested students, and a stop to political education (see: www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=27230&article=Machu+middle+school+students+go+on+hunger+strike%2c+demand+sacked+teachers'+reinstatement).

Choekyong Tseten

ཚོས་སྐྱོང་ཚེ་བཟན།

Tibetan (Wylie): Chos skyong tshe brtan

Chinese: 曲炯次旦 (Pinyin: Qujiong Cidan)

Status: Fired and detained

Choekyong Tseten, vice-head of the Machu Tibetan Middle School in Machu (Chinese: Maqu) County, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province, was fired from his position and disappeared on March 17 following several peaceful protests by students at the high school in March and April 2010. According to a Tibetan source in exile with contacts in the area, he is believed to be detained by authorities at an unknown location. Also see: www.tibettimes.net/news.php?showfooter=1&id=2625. According to Tibetan sources, he was accused of: “failing to supervise well” his department.

Students at the Machu Tibetan Middle School began a hunger strike on April 22, 2010, demanding the release and reinstatement of Choekyong Tseten, along with the reinstatement of Kyabchen Dedrol and Do Re.

Kyabchen Dedrol



ལྷུབས་ཆེན་བདེ་གྲོལ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Skyabs chen bde grol

Status: Fired from job

Kyabchen Dedrol was demoted from his position as Headmaster of the Tibetan Middle School in Machu (Chinese: Maqu) County, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province. He is also a famous writer and blogger. Born in Machu in 1977, Kyabchen Dedrol is regarded as one of the most promising Tibetan writers of his generation.

Students at the Machu Tibetan Middle School began a hunger strike on April 22, 2010, demanding the release and reinstatement of Choekyong Tseten, along with the reinstatement of Kyabchen Dedrol and Do Re.

Do Re

ར་རེ

Tibetan (Wylie): Rdo red

Status: Fired from job



Do Re was fired from the position of teacher/vice-head of the Tibetan Middle School in Machu (Chinese: Maqu) County, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu province.

Students at the Machu Tibetan Middle School began a hunger strike on April 22, 2010, demanding the release and reinstatement of Choekyong Tseten, along with the reinstatement of Kyabchen Dedrol and Do Re.

Ngulra Tobden



དངུལ་རའི་སྟོབས་ལྷན།

Tibetan (Wylie): Dngul ra'i Stobs ldan

Chinese: 土登 (Pinyin: Tudeng)

Status: Detained

Tobden, a 40-year old Tibetan language teacher from Machu (Chinese: Maqu) County Tibetan Primary School, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu province, was arrested by the Machu County police on March 28, 2010. Tobden is still in detention according to Tibetan sources and his current whereabouts are unknown. According to Phayul.com, Tobden was ordained as a monk and joined Ngulra Monastery after completing his primary schooling. He studied for some years in India before returning to Tibet in 2006.

Tobden's detention followed several peaceful protests by Machu Tibetan High School students in March and April 2010. www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=27072. Following these events, the head of Machu Public Security Bureau, Sonam Tse (Bsod nams tshe), was also removed from his position (see: www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=26932).

Tsering Dhondrup and Thubten Nyima Gyalpo

ཚེ་མིང་དོན་འགྲུབ་དང་ཐུབ་བསྟན་ཉི་མ་གྱུ་ལ་པོ།

According to the exile website *Tibet Post*, these two students from the Machu Tibetan High School were detained at the same time as their teacher, Tobden. Further details are not known (see: www.thetibetpost.com/en/news/tibet/818-21-tibetan-teachers-fined-for-qteaching-subversive-topicsq).

Sonam

བསོད་ནམས།

Tibetan (Wylie): Bsod nams

Chinese: 索朗 **or** 索郎 (Pinyin for both variants: Suolang)

Status: Detained

Sonam, a teacher at the Nationalities Teachers Training College in Barkham (Chinese: Ma'erkang) County in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan province. He is from Dzoegé (Chinese: Ruo'ergai) county in Ngaba. He was a monk at Kirti monastery in Dharamsala for some years and after returning to Tibet he studied at the Northwest Nationalities University in Lanzhou, Gansu Province. He is currently in Barkham (Chinese: Ma'erkang) County detention center, according to a Tibetan source in exile.

Dolha

ར་ལྷ།

Tibetan (Wylie): Rdo lha

Status: Detained

A teacher at the Nationalities Teachers Training College in Barkham (Chinese: Ma'erkang) County, Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, who was detained in March 2010.

Unknown

Status: Fired from job

The headmaster of the Tibetan Middle School in Tsöe (Chinese: Hezuo) in Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province, was fired in the wake of student protests at the school.

Agya

ཨ་རྒྱལ།

Tibetan (Wylie) : A rgya

Status : Demoted

Agya was demoted from her position as head of the Nationalities Teachers Training College in Barkham (Chinese: Ma'erkang) County, Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. She is presently working in another government department.

PRE-MARCH 2008 IMPRISONMENT

Dolma Kyab



ལྷོ་ལ་མ་སྐྱེ་བ་སྐྱེ་བ་

Tibetan (Wylie): Sgrol ma skyabs
Chinese:卓玛加 (Pinyin: Zhouma Jia)
Status: Sentenced/imprisoned: 10.5 year
sentence

Twenty-nine year old Dolma Kyab, who is known among his friends for his passionate concern for Tibet's environment, was detained in March 2005 and is serving 10 and a half years on charges related to his unpublished manuscript, *Lhing 'jags med pa'i Hi ma la ya* (originally written in Chinese under the title: *Sao dong de Ximalayashan*, "Restless Himalaya"). According to recent information, Dolma Kyab, who is originally from Amdo, has been transferred from Qushui (Tibetan: Chushur) County prison in Lhasa Municipality to a prison in Qinghai province.

In a letter from prison smuggled out by friends, Dolma Kyab appeals for help from United Nations committees on human rights, and says that he was imprisoned because of the ideas expressed on Tibet in his unpublished manuscript. A group of well-known Tibetan and Chinese writers have written a letter calling for his release.

An extract of Dolma Kyab's manuscript in English, translated by ICT, is available in the report, "Like Gold that Fears no Fire," at: www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/gold-fears-no-fire-new-writing-tibet.

A Tibetan version is being distributed by Tibetan PEN: www.tibettimes.net/news.php?cat=14&id=1849. See also: <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetan-scholar-sentenced-ten-years-prison-after-writing-book-history-and-culture>.

Kalsang Sonam (aka Sonam Kunphel)



སྐལ་བཟང་བསོད་ནམས། (མིང་གཞན་བསོད་ནམས་ཀྱི་འཕེལ།)

Tibetan (Wylie): Skal bzang bsod noms aka
Bsod noms kun 'phel

Chinese: 格桑索朗 (Pinyin: Gesang Suolang)

Status: Detained

Kalsang Sonam was detained having relayed messages from Drolma Kyab (see above) that detailed prison conditions in Chushur (where Drolma Kyab was being held at the time) and the reasons for his imprisonment. Further information about his whereabouts and sentence is not known.

The International Campaign for Tibet is a non-profit membership organization that monitors and promotes internationally recognized human rights in Tibet. ICT was founded in 1988 and has offices in Washington, DC, Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels.

A 'Raging Storm' **The Crackdown on Tibetan writers and artists** **after Tibet's Spring 2008 Protests**

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