

## Teenage girl sentenced to three years for peaceful protest

[13 September 2012] A Tibetan teenage girl has been sentenced to three years imprisonment for staging a peaceful protest in eastern Tibet. The Chinese authorities in Kardze, accused 17 year-old Jigme Dolma of undertaking 'splittist activities' after a protest in June where she distributed leaflets and shouted slogans calling for freedom for Tibet and the return of the Dalai Lama.

According to sources quoted by Radio Free Asia, Jigme Dolma (pictured right), 17, was sentenced on 25 August by the Kardze Intermediate People's Court, Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi), Kham (now part of China's Sichuan province). One of the sources said she was accused of "committing actions aimed at 'splitting China'". Further details of the court case are not known and there are fears it was held without due legal process. It is also not clear where Jigme Dolma is serving her sentence, though it is thought she may have been transferred to a distant Chinese prison.

Jigme Dolma was arrested on 24 June in Kardze by Chinese police during her solitary protest. Jigme Dolma had walked towards the town centre throwing leaflets in the air and shouting slogans. Reports said she called for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet, freedom for Tibet and for the authorities to release the Panchen Lama and release all political prisoners.

Witnesses said Jigme Dolma was beaten by the police as she was taken away. Family members who managed to visit her in hospital shortly after her detention said that she had been seriously injured and she had an arm in a sling. Relatives were only allowed to visit Jigme Dolma once during her detention. There is no information on her current condition.

Further reading: RFA | Phayul | Tibet Society (13 July)

### Take Action

Write to Mr Liu Xiaoming, the Chinese Ambassador to the UK, urging the Chinese government to:

° immediately release Jigme Dolma who has been imprisoned for exercising her basic rights to freedom of expression as recognised under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

° clarify the condition and whereabouts of Jigme Dolma, ensure she is allowed visits from her family and that she receives any necessary medical treatment.

° release all the monks, nuns and lay-people who have been detained and imprisoned for peacefully protesting or arbitrarily arrested, provide independent legal counsel for all those facing charges and allow family visits;

° respect the fundamental rights of the Tibetans, in particular the freedom of expression and to freedom to practice their religion;

° open Tibetan regions to international scrutiny, in particular allow access to foreign media, humanitarian agencies and independent observers.

Address: Ambassador Liu Xiaoming

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Email: [ambassador@chinese-embassy.org.uk](mailto:ambassador@chinese-embassy.org.uk)

Note: The Embassy occasionally disables this email address (so your email is returned). If that is the case please try [political@chinese-embassy.org.uk](mailto:political@chinese-embassy.org.uk) and/or [press@chinese-embassy.org.uk](mailto:press@chinese-embassy.org.uk).

If you receive a reply from the Ambassador please send a copy to Tibet Society.

Tibet Society, the world's first Tibet support group, was founded in 1959. Funded by its members, it has been working for over 50 years to seek justice for Tibet through parliamentary lobbying, campaigns and actions. Help keep Tibet alive by joining Tibet Society today. (Annual membership £24; Overseas £36; Life £500).

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