

## Four Tibetans jailed for assisting protests and leaking news

[2 October 2012] China's crackdown in Tibet continues with heavy sentences being handed down to those associated with protests against Chinese rule. Four Tibetans received sentences in September, of between seven and 11 years; two for supporting a self-immolation protest and two for passing information to contacts outside Tibet.

**TAKE ACTION:** please write to the Chinese Ambassador to the UK calling for the release of all four Tibetans (details below).

### Two Kirti monks imprisoned for assisting with protest

In early September a Chinese court sentenced two young Kirti monks on charges of helping a fellow monk with a self-immolation protest. Lobsang Tsultrim (pictured right), 19, was given a prison sentence of 11 years, and Lobsang Jangchub, 17, was sentenced to eight years.

The young monks from Kirti monastery were accused of assisting Gyepo, who self-immolated on 10 March 2012, the anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan National Uprising. Gyepo's protest took place next to a Chinese military office in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba), Amdo (now incorporated in China's Sichuan province). Gyepo died at the scene.

Lobsang Tsultrim and Lobsang Jangchub were detained at the end of March and their whereabouts were unknown until they appeared in court. The trial was held behind closed doors and it is feared the young monks did not receive due legal process. Their families were only notified after the sentencing had been carried out.

Precise details of the charges and the location of where the two are currently imprisoned are not known.

### Two Tibetans jailed for leaking news

On 18 September, two Tibetans were jailed for "leaking news from inside Tibet to outside contacts", according to sources quoted by Radio Free Asia. Lobsang Tashi (pictured right) and Bu Thubdor were sentenced to seven years and seven and a half years respectively.

Lobsang Tashi, a 26 year-old monk from Kirti monastery in Ngaba was detained in November 2011. Lobsang's whereabouts and condition throughout his detention were unknown. Bu Thubdor, a 25 year-old layman was also detained in November last year.

The trial, held at Barkham People's Middle Court in Barkham (Ch: Ma'erkang) county, Ngaba prefecture, Amdo (Ch: Sichuan province), is believed to have been held without due legal process. Sources reported that Lobsang Tashi and Bu Thubdor were not allowed lawyers of their own choice. Their families were only notified two days before the impending trial, but without sufficient information to organise any legal help.

No further details are known on the charges or the nature of the information the two men are accused of passing on to the outside world. Both men are serving their sentences at Mianyang Prison in Sichuan.

In June, Yonten Gyatso, a senior monk from Khashi monastery in Ngaba, was given a seven year sentence on charges of sharing pictures and disseminating information of the self-immolation protest by nun Tenzin Wangmo, which took place in Ngaba town on 17 October 2011.

Further reading: RFA | TCHRD (1) | TCHRD (2)

Background information to self-immolations and protests

Take Action

Write to Mr Liu Xiaoming, the Chinese Ambassador to the UK (or the Ambassador in your country), urging the Chinese government to:

- ° immediately release Lobsang Tashi and Bu Thubdor, who have been unjustly imprisoned for exercising their basic rights to freedom of expression as recognised under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- ° provide details of the charges against Lobsang Tsultrim and Lobsang Jangchub, to clarify the legal process and the location of the court where they were sentenced, provide reassurance they are being allowed family visits in prison, and to release them immediately if there is no evidence that they committed a criminal act.
- ° open the Tibetan Autonomous Region and surrounding Tibetan prefectures to foreign media, humanitarian agencies and independent observers.

In the UK write to:

Name: Ambassador Liu Xiaoming

Address: Embassy of the People's Republic of China

49-51 Portland Place

London W1B 1JL

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).

Outside the UK: check the Chinese government's webpage listing embassies for contact details of your nearest ambassador and embassy.

If you receive a reply please send a copy to Tibet Society; this helps us to monitor the situation.

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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