

Monk arrested for promoting Tibetan language

[1 November 2012] A monk and Tibetan language activist was arbitrarily arrested on 25 October by the Chinese authorities in Machu, eastern Tibet. The arrest is suspected to be in connection with the monk's work promoting the Tibetan language.

Jinpa Gyatso (pictured right) was arbitrarily arrested on 25 October in Machu (Ch: Maqu) county, Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) prefecture, Amdo (now part of China's Gansu province). Though it is not clear on what grounds Jinpa Gyatso was arrested, it is suspected to be in connection with his efforts to preserve and promote the Tibetan language.

Jinpa Gyatso is a 38 year-old senior monk from Mayul Samten Choekorling monastery in Machu. In 2009, he founded "Bhoe Amay Rangkey Lasor", an organisation dedicated to preservation and promotion of Tibetan language. The organisation arranged language classes for local children and published a journal called "Rewei Kanglam" (translation: "Path of Hope").

Jinpa (pictured left with a group of children) has been detained and interrogated at twice before, most recently in March this year. Both detentions are believed to have been in relation to his language work. The Chinese authorities have banned the journal for its supposed political content.

The current whereabouts and condition of Jinpa Gyatso is not known.

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