



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Written statement\* submitted by Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAP), a non-governmental organization on the roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[8 February 2010\*\*]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

\*\* This statement was printed late and out of numbered sequence due to a technical problem.

## **Heavy repression on Tibetans in the People's Republic of China**

Despite the intense repression, Tibetans in Kardze County in the Eastern of the Tibetan Area have continuously staged non-violent protest. On 1 March 2009, Kardze County witnessed three protest demonstrations<sup>1</sup> in a single day. The first protest took place at 10 am at Su-ngo Township Headquarter, Kardze County, Sichuan Province. Two nuns, Pema Yangtso and another nun whose identity yet to be ascertained, led the protest. They were from Shi-lus Hermitage Nunnery located three kilometers from Kardze County Headquarter.

Within few hours another protest took place at 1 pm at the Kardze County Headquarter. Two Tibetan students at the Chinese Middle School in Kardze County identified as Rinchen Phuntsok, age 15, Tsering Drakpa, age 17 and a monk named Achoe, age 22 led this protest.

According to different concordant sources the security forces arrested three protestors. The Chinese Constitution forbids arrest and keeping juvenile below the age of 18 under custodial detention. This arrest appears to be a clear violation of the Chinese constitution.

### **Monks and nuns commit suicide under political pressure**

Since widespread protests in all Tibetan areas starting 10 March 2008, the Chinese authorities have reinvigorated and intensified "patriotic re-education" and "strike hard" campaigns in monastic and lay communities. The authorities launched personal attacks on the Dalai Lama and demanded the lay as well as the monastic community to denounce him as a "separatist" and the sole instigator behind the spring 2008 protests in Tibet. However, the Dalai Lama has denied China's accusations.<sup>2</sup>

Since spring 2008 protests, 14 suicide cases<sup>3</sup> were documented, especially in religious institutions. Over several decades the monks and nuns inside Tibet have been persecuted in the name of "reform" and "patriotic education". The Chinese officials forced them to denounce their own spiritual guru particularly the Dalai Lama and to abuse their highly respected lamas, which are highly objected under monastic vows and code of conduct. In doing so, they were subjected to extreme psychological traumas and impositions of irreconcilable demands, which eventually force them to commit suicide.

1. Lobsang Jinpa<sup>4</sup> from Ngasib Village in Amdo Ngaba committed suicide on 27 March 2008. He was a monk at the Ngaba Kirti Monastery, Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. In his signed suicide note, Lobsang stated, "the Chinese government has leveled false allegations against the monks of Kirti Monastery for leaking State Secrets to the outside world, leading and organizing the protests and for keeping the dead bodies of Tibetan protesters shot dead by the Chinese security forces."

2. Legtsok<sup>5</sup>, 75 years old, committed suicide on 30 March 2008. He was a monk at the Ngaba Gomang Monastery in Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP", Sichuan Province. Days before committing suicide, Legtsok accompanied by two other

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2009/pr20090307a.html> (para.8)

<sup>2</sup> <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7302021.stm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2009/pr20091210.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080404a.html>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

monks while on their way to perform prayer rituals at a house of a Tibetan family encountered a large contingent of Chinese security forces heading towards their monastery, Ngaba Gomang Monastery, to quell the protesting monks at the monastery. The forces brutally beat Legtsok and detained him for a few days.

3. **Toesam**<sup>6</sup>, 29 years old, committed suicide on 16 April 2008. He hailed from Mehu-ru-mah Village and was a monk at the Ngaba Kirti Monastery, Ngaba County, Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province. He committed suicide for being unable to bear the pressure and repression that was being imposed by the Chinese authorities.

4. **Trangma**<sup>7</sup> committed suicide on 18 June 2008. He was a monk at Drapa Yangden Monastery, Minyag Township, Nyagchuka County, Kardze "Tibet Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Sichuan. During the "patriotic reeducation" at the monastery, the authorities made the monks denounce the Dalai Lama and perform other sacrileges according Buddhist faith. As part of the "patriotic reeducation" the Chinese authorities closed down the school under the monastery with around 30 novice monk students.

5. **Thokmey a.k.a Tsangpa Thokmey**<sup>8</sup> (prefix name used of his origin place) committed suicide on 22 March 2008. He was a monk at the Ramoche Temple in Lhasa. He committed suicide following massive crackdown by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People's Armed Police (PAP) forces in Ramoche Temple.

6. **Namdruk Khakyab**<sup>9</sup> committed suicide on 19 March 2008. He was a visiting scholar at Samye Monastery from the Dorjee Drak Monastery. He hailed from Nyemo County, Lhasa Municipality, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR"). He left behind a suicide note that accused of unbearable suppression by the Chinese authorities and cited innocence of other monks of the monastery and took full responsibility for the demonstrations.

7. **Tashi Sangpo**<sup>10</sup> committed suicide on 21 March 2009. He was severely subjected to harsh beatings, torture and long interrogation in a local detention centre since his arrest on 10 March 2009. Extensive torture and interrogation finally took its toll on Tashi Sangpo's mental state, which eventually forced him to take his own life by jumping into Machu River.

8. **Tusong**<sup>11</sup> committed suicide on 16 April 2008. He was a 19-years-old blind monk at Kirti Monastery and originally hailed from a village nearby Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. Reportedly he told his family that just as those with eyes cannot endure what is happening, "even I, a blind person, cannot endure it".

9. **Lobsang Tsultrim**<sup>12</sup> committed suicide on 3 July 2008. He was around 16 years old and a monk at the Kirti Dhongri Monastery in Mehu-ru-ma Village, Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. His elder brother testified that Lobsang Tsultrim came home from the monastery and said, "the Chinese official work-teams have again arrived at the monastery. They have ordered the monks to assemble for the

<sup>6</sup> <http://tibet.net/en/index.php?id=559&articletype=flash&rmenuid=morenews>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.tibet.net/en/flash/2008/0708/21C0708.html>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.tchrd.org/publications/hr\\_updates/2008/hr200809.html](http://www.tchrd.org/publications/hr_updates/2008/hr200809.html)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2009/pr20090210.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2009/pr20090323b.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/mass-detentions-monks-suicides-and-despair-enforced-condemnation-dalai-lama-provokes-disse>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.tibet.net/en/index.php?id=285&articletype=flash&rmenuid=morenews>

"education". Again, they will not let us stay in peace". He was found strangled with a rope in the nearby storeroom where they kept their firewood.

10. **Shedup**<sup>13</sup> committed suicide on 2 April 2009. He was around 40 years old and was a monk at a monastery in Rebkong (Ch: Tongren) County, Malho "TAP", Qinghai Province. He was first arrested for his alleged role in the protest in Rebkong in March 2008. He was then severely beaten and tortured in custody before being released. However, his name appeared in the wanted list announced by the Public Security Bureau (PSB) around March 2009. Instead of being rearrested, he killed himself to escape humiliation and torture.

11. **Lobsang Tsomo**<sup>14</sup>, a nun at Chokhor Nunnery, committed suicide on 12 April 2008. She hailed from Meldrogungkar County, Lhasa Municipality.

### **A monk beaten to death**

According to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), a monk Phuntsok, aged 27 of Drango Monastery, hailed from Zongpa Village, Drango County, Kardze "TAP" was beaten to death by the Chinese Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel<sup>15</sup>.

The source told TCHRD that, on 25 March 2009, Phuntsok pasted leaflets (seven pages) on the walls of a branch office of Drango PSB headquarter, on Shara Thang-do Bridge and on eucalyptus trees of roads and highways in Drango County.

### **Nun died under mysterious circumstances**

On 24 March 2009, two nuns, Yangkyi Dolma and Sonam Yangchen from Lamdrag Nunnery in Kardze County, Kardze (Ch: Ganzi)"Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture"("TAP"), Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest at the Kardze County main market square. The protest was staged at around 3 PM (Beijing Standard time) shouting slogans calling for the "swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet," "human rights for Tibetans in Tibet," and "religious freedom in Tibet." Around 50 Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP) and PSB officials immediately detained both the Tibetan nuns from the site of protest and beaten with rods and electric batons before being thrown into and driven away in a security vehicle.

A Tibetan nun Yangkyi Dolma, from Kardze had died in the early morning of 6th December 2009 at Chengdu hospital, according to confirmed information received by TCHRD<sup>16</sup>. Yangkyi Dolma's body has not yet been handed over to her family and there is no information on whether a post mortem was carried out to ascertain the cause of her death or not.

Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAP) calls upon the People's Republic of China to:

1. Conduct prompt, impartial and effective investigation into increasing number of suicide and death cases of monks and nuns following spring 2008 protests due to "patriotic re-education campaign";

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.tibet.net/en/index.php?id=846&articletype=flash>

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.tibet.net/en/pdf/tibetans\\_killed\\_2008.pdf](http://www.tibet.net/en/pdf/tibetans_killed_2008.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2009/pr20090330.html>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2009/pr20091207.html>

2. Allow free access for international media to visit whole Tibetan areas;
  3. Invite UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as requested for a visit to Tibet in April 2008;
  4. Implement the CAT's recommendations<sup>17</sup> – “to conduct investigations or inquests into the deaths, including deaths in custody, of persons killed in the March 2008 events in the Tibetan Autonomous Region and neighboring Tibetan prefectures and counties”;
  5. Invite UN Special Procedures mandate holders particularly SR on Religious Freedom or belief who had invitation since 2004;
  6. Release all those Tibetan protestors detained/arrested/disappeared/sentenced solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and freedom of religion, or for peacefully exercising their human rights.
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<sup>17</sup> <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/457/10/PDF/G0845710.pdf?OpenElement>