

UPRISING IN TIBET 2008

Documentation of protests in Tibet



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Tibetan Centre for Human Rights & Democracy

**This report is dedicated to all the
Tibetans who lost their lives in the
2008 Uprising in Tibet**

Content

1. Introduction	5
2. A Chronological Review of the Events	9
3. Conclusion	101
4. Testimony by a Tibetan Youth in Lhasa	103
5. TAR Party Committee Discipline and Inspection Department issue “Regulations to decide the issue of children of Party members and state employees taken abroad for education in schools run by the Dalai Clique”	108
6. Measures for dealing strictly with rebellious monasteries and individual monks and nuns	109
7. Urgent Appeal	113
8. EndNotes	114



Hundreds of protesting Drepung monks on a peaceful march towards the Barkhor Street, Lhasa on 10 March 2008

Introduction

It's been almost fifty years since China occupied Tibet, crushing its people, government and its religion, and forcing the Dalai Lama into exile. Since then, tens of thousands of Tibetans have fled to all parts of the world. However, they have not given up hope. Continued human rights abuses and lack of democratic freedom have been a constant feature for the last 49 years of its rule in Tibet. On the contrary, Beijing authorities' have indulged in the age-old rhetoric of remarkable achievements made in the field of human rights protection and enjoyment of human rights and freedom in accordance with the law in China at every opportune time. In March 2004, the People's Republic of China (PRC) amended its Constitution to include the clause: "the State respects and protects human rights" and cited it as the "first time ever".

Despite the guarantee in the Chinese Constitution to uphold rights to freedom of expression and religion, the Chinese government tightly controls all religious activities in China as well as in Tibet and severely represses those perceived as politically dangerous. Often, this kind of repression is aimed specifically at the monastic communities, who are seen by the Chinese government as the primary cause of civil unrest in Tibet. 70% of the political prisoners in Tibet are nuns and monks.¹ Many spiritual leaders were forced to flee under threat of enforced or arbitrary detentions.² Those who remain are forced to undergo "Patriotic re-education", to live with the fear of arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearance, torture³ and inhuman treatment⁴. The "Patriotic re-education" Campaign's official objective is to educate monks in patriotism but the real aim is to eradicate support for the independence movement mainly by forcing the Tibetans to denounce the Dalai Lama and to deny the whole Tibetan tradition that goes with it. These patriotic re-education campaigns initially intended for the monastic communities and started in 1996 were heavily reinvigorated in the aftermath of major protests across Tibet since the beginning of 1 April 2008 for a period of 2 months and today are imposed on all sections of Tibetan society.⁵

In addition to restrictions on their freedom of religion and culture, the Tibetans have suffered an evidently increasing marginalization in access to health care, to work and to education.⁶ The number of unemployed people in Tibet has increased considerably and been further exacerbated by a massive influx of Chinese migrants facilitated by the launch of Qinghai-Tibet railway in July 2007.⁷ This situation is further aggravated by the Chinese policy of forcing Tibetan nomads to abandon their traditional way of life for more sedentary lifestyles that they have never known and for whose inherent difficulties they find themselves seldom prepared.⁸

This situation could only lead to the events of 10 March, with the Olympic Games creating an unexpected occasion to draw the international community's attention to the ongoing crackdown in Tibet. Still, nobody could have predicted what followed the

commemoration of the forty-ninth anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising in Lhasa on 10 March 2008, especially not the International Olympic Committee, when in July 2001 it decided to give China the honour of hosting the Olympic Games in 2008. The surprise grew evermore pronounced when demonstrations quickly overwhelmed the traditional area of Lhasa and rose to a scale unprecedented in the history of Tibetan protests.

Today, it can incontrovertibly be said that the events of that day constituted the largest Tibetan uprising since 1959. The most striking element of the recent protests across Tibet was their spontaneous nature, and the manner in which they completely defied a repressive regime supported by heavy military forces. Unlike the September 1987 protest in Lhasa, and others that have followed in subsequent years, this year's protests erupted across all traditional provinces of U-Tsang, Amdo and Kham, covering scores of counties. In most cases, the starting point of the demonstrations was a prayer session or a peaceful demonstration, primarily lead by monks or nuns and generally joined by civilians. Progressively, the movement incorporated all strata of Tibetan society, including students from middle schools to universities, religious institutions and civilians from small villages to big cities. The messages are the same each time: "long live the Dalai Lama; independence and freedom for Tibet; let the Dalai Lama return; democracy and human lives are precious; Tibetans should be granted freedom and independence through peaceful dialogue; may the exiles and Tibetans inside Tibet be reunited".

The initial reaction of the Chinese authorities was surprisingly measured, but it rapidly became bloody and exaggerated. Currently, Tibet is completely cut off from the rest of the world. Foreigners were expelled from the early days. Despite all the international calls that have been made so far, China has systematically denied access to the media and international observers in Tibet. It has allowed only three "guided tours" by a few selected international media under strictly monitored and controlled conditions on 27 March⁹ in Lhasa, on 9 April 2008¹⁰ in Labrang and on 3 June 2008¹¹ in Lhasa. Two monks, Thabkhey and Tsundue, who defiantly spoke out in front of the government-managed media tour in Sangchu County on 9 April 2008, have disappeared. The family members of the two monks have tried to obtain information from the local PSB, but the authorities have feigned ignorance about them. TCHRD believes that this is a case of enforced and involuntary disappearance enacted by the state law enforcement bodies.¹² The total lack of independent media in Tibet is aggravated by the fact that most of the telephone lines are cut and the conversations intercepted. Moreover, all Chinese websites,¹³ as well as several foreign websites¹⁴ likely to carry the information about the Chinese crackdown in Tibet, are censored.

With the outbreak of a series of major protests in various regions of Tibet since March 10, massive reinforcements of PAP and PSB officials were deployed and military tanks rolled into the protest sites. Although Martial Law is not officially imposed, all the elements of the Martial Law imposed in 1989 by the then "TAR" Party Secretary Hu Jintao, currently the President of People's Republic of China, are present.

There is a pervasive presence of the military and the movement of citizens is strictly controlled.

Furthermore, since 10 March the law enforcement authorities have issued several ultimatums to protesting Tibetans to surrender, but each time the arrests have begun days before the deadline.”TAR” PSB Headquarters also issued a wanted list of 93 Tibetans¹⁵ involved in the 14 March Protest in Lhasa. According to the Chinese government, 3635 Tibetans from various parts of Tibet have “surrendered” to the Chinese authorities following the official issuance of the surrender notices: 362 from the “TAR”¹⁶, 2204 from Gansu Province (Kanlho “TAP”)¹⁷, 57 from Lhasa City (Tartse County, “TAR”)¹⁸ and 1012 from Ngaba County, Sichuan Province.

Given China’s past record in dealing with suspects in custody, it is highly probable that those who have “voluntarily surrendered” or were arrested following demonstrations in various parts of Tibet will face torture and extremely inhuman treatment inflicted by Chinese authorities in order to obtain confessions. The risk is even higher for those suspected of being the “ringleaders”. Torture is endemic in the network of Chinese-administered prisons and detention centers and several cases of torture and inhuman treatment have already been reported since 10 March 2008.

Thabkhey, one of the monks arrested from Labrang Monastery in Sangchu County on 1 April 2008, was released after several days’ detention in a mentally unstable condition with bruise marks all over his body. This clearly indicates that the monk was brutally tortured in police custody. It is also highly probable that the authorities have released Thabkhey in order to shun responsibility for his current condition. It is regular practice for prison authorities in Chinese-administered prisons in Tibet to release Tibetan detainees and prisoners in near-death or unstable condition.

A nun named Tsering Lhathog, arrested after protests on 15 April in Lhasa Municipality, and who normally has hearing problems, was brutally beaten and tortured. Her head has been badly injured and she was admitted to Jang Ga-shang Hospital. In another instance, a 38 year-old Nechung, mother of four children who was arrested after the protests on 16 and 17 March in Ngaba County and was held in detention for 9 days, died after being subjected to brutal torture. At the time of her release from prison, her health was in an extremely critical condition. There were many bruise marks on her body, she was unable to speak or eat, she was constantly vomiting and could hardly breathe properly. After her release, her relatives immediately took her to the county government hospital for treatment. However, the county government hospital refused to admit her. Unfortunately, these cases are not the only ones.

The pressures to which Tibetan protestors are being subjected have sometimes driven them to commit suicide. Legtsok, from Ngaba Gomang Monastery, committed suicide on 30 March 2008; Lobsang Jinpa, from Ngaba Kirti Monastery, committed suicide on 27 March 2008; and Thokmey from Ramoche Temple, committed suicide on 22 March 2008. According to Tibetan Buddhist doctrine, suicide is one of the gravest forms of sins, violating the cardinal precepts of the doctrine. Buddhist monks of Tibet are known for their patience and resilience in the face of adversity. The

suicides are an indication of Tibetan monks being pushed to the extreme limits of their endurance and of their helplessness in the face of oppression and repression by the Chinese authorities in Tibet.

Chinese authorities stated that by 1 May 2008, the Lhasa law enforcement bodies would hand over the cases of 1,000 Tibetan arrestees to all three levels of courts in “TAR” for formal trials and convictions. Considering the closed nature of trials under the Chinese legal system, as well as the absence of due legal processes, TCHRD expresses its grave concern over the fate of Tibetan arrestees, and over whether they will be tried according to domestic and international legal norms. The first 30 sentences for Tibetan protestors released on 29 April, are proving our fears, as three of them were punished with life imprisonment, seven with fixed terms of 15 years and above, and the rest were sentenced to differing fixed terms of between three years and 14 years.

According to information received by TCHRD, a death toll of more than 120 can be currently confirmed (15 July 2008) and there were 6,500 arrested Tibetans, many of them still being held in detention centers located in townships, counties and prefectures in various administrative regions of Tibet, and hundreds have disappeared without any news.

Despite all of the difficulties concerned with acquiring information from Tibet, due to various circumstances, such as censorship of information, lack of immediate and on the ground assessments, absence of a third party fact-finding mission and the obstructions to free media reporting in Chinese-administered Tibet, TCHRD has been able to filter considerable information based on eyewitnesses’ accounts, and other evidence and information given to the Centre by brave and conscientious Tibetans inside Tibet.

In order to highlight the magnitude of the protests, TCHRD has compiled a list of events and subsequent arrests in a chronological order from 10 March 2008 till 31 July 2008. To give an image as complete as possible of what is currently happening in Tibet, the compilation includes information from our own sources and those of others, but TCHRD disclaims that this documentation has a complete list of all the relevant events that have taken place in Tibet since 10 March 2008.

The articles containing information from specific sources of TCHRD were not accompanied by footnotes in order to not to overload the document, but the vast majority of items can be found on the TCHRDs website (www.tchrd.org) under the Press Release heading. On the other hand, considering the large amount of information that we have received and the lack of resources, it was impossible for us to publish all information on our website. Therefore, some of the information contained in this document is published for the first time only. All the other sources were quoted using by footnotes, and these can be found on the concerned websites.

A Chronological Review of the Events

10 March 2008



Demonstration at Drepung Monastery cut short by heavy police presence

On the evening of 10 March, about three hundred monks from Drepung Monastery began a planned march to peacefully protest on the outskirts of Lhasa, but Chinese authorities soon halted their progress. The march, initially set to move from Drepung monastery to Barkhor Street, was blocked from its intended destination by a large contingent of armed police. Apparently, many additional PAP forces were deployed in advance to assist local police in dealing with the protestors. A few monks from the group suspected to be the ringleaders were believed to be arrested by PSB officials.

Following the demonstration at Drepung Monastery, deployments of Chinese armed forces, plain clothes police and agents have also been reported in and around Barkhor Street in Lhasa, presumably to deal with any further protests.

According to the report of the Radio Free Asia (RFA) authorities detained between 50 to 60 monks at a checkpoint where 10 military vehicles, 10 police vehicles and several ambulances were parked. The report also mentions that, following the march, access to Drepung monastery by road was also blocked.¹⁹



Demonstrating monks from Sera Monastery severely beaten and arrested

On 10 March as about fifteen monks from Sera Monastery and two other individuals, participating in a peaceful pro-Tibet march from Tsuklakhang Temple, reached the busy marketplace at Barkhor Street in Lhasa, PSB officials severely beat and then arrested them, according to reports. The group, consisting mainly of visiting student monks from the Amdo and Kham regions, was reportedly raising the banned Tibetan national flag, shouting pro-independence slogans and distributing pamphlets at the market just before their arrests.

Following the arrests, Chinese authorities also ordered the surrounding shops and vendors on Barkhor Street to close. Additional armed forces were also deployed to monitor the area, respond to any resulting unrest and issue explicit warnings against further protests.

Government show forced to an end as protesters crowd county assembly hall

On 10 March, in the traditional area of Amdo in Mangra County Tsolho, (Ch: Hainan) “TAP”, Chinghai Province, a government sponsored show was cut short when about 337 protesters reportedly converged on the County Assembly Hall where it was taking place. At the hall, Mangra County PAP forces were met and blocked by the protesters, consisting of 137 monks from nearby Lutsang Monastery and around 200 civilians from the area. Despite the police presence, however, protesters continued shouting “Long live Dalai Lama”, “The Dalai Lama should return to Tibet” and other pro-Tibet slogans. Following the demonstrations, Chinese authorities are known to be investigating those involved.

On the same day in Kardze County, Kandze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, there were also reports of civilians pasting pamphlets calling for Tibetan independence.

Former political prisoners’ homes raided

According to sources, on the evening of 10 March, sudden raids were being conducted in the homes of former political prisoners by the authorities looking particularly for any incriminating CDs, such as the US Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama ceremony, which have covertly been in circulation recently, or electronic goods particularly computers, phones and internet connections.

At Ditsa Monastery, a meeting turns to protest

On 10 March in one incident, around 20 local Chinese officials convened a meeting of monks at Ditsa Monastery, Bayan County, Haidong Prefecture, Qinghai Province. However, around 70 monks walked out of the meeting carrying the portrait of the Dalai Lama and shouted pro-independence slogans. Later the monks proceeded towards a small hill behind the monastery to offer Sangsol Prayer (incense burning ritual), and were joined by onlookers. Open calls for solidarity with “the peace marchers from

Dharamsala to Lhasa,” initiated by leading exile Tibetan NGOs, were even reportedly raised by the monks. A total of around four hundred people gathered for the prayer that day.



Tibetan writer under house arrest in Beijing

The Tibetan writer Tsering Woesser and her Chinese husband, Wang Lixiong, were put under house arrest “since the beginning” of the recent protests in Tibetan regions, according to a report released by RFA. “Whatever movements we plan to make, we must first ask for approval. Only when it’s approved by higher-ups can we make a move under surveillance”, Wang said.²⁰

According to TibetInfoNet on 10 March small protests were also reported from the following counties: Jyekundo²¹, Nagchen²² and Dzatoe.²³



11 March 2008

Chinese troops use tear gas to quell protests at Sera Monastery

On 11 March, a Chinese force of about 2,000 troops responded to hundreds of protesting monks from Sera Monastery by firing tear gas into the crowd to force them to disperse. Contrarily, the move by the People’s Armed Police to seal off of both Sera Monastery and nearby Drepung Monastery beforehand, however, hindered movement in and out of the area. As a result, the exit of monks and other protesters, calling for the release of fellow monks and shouting pro-Tibet slogans, was also stifled.

Incidents of police removing pamphlets calling for Tibet’s independence on 11 March were also reported from Labrang Tashikyil Monastery in Sangchu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province.



Recall of government employees

On 11 March, the authorities of Lhasa City recalled all the employees of various government departments who were on leave to return to work immediately and issued a restraint order banning taking leave.

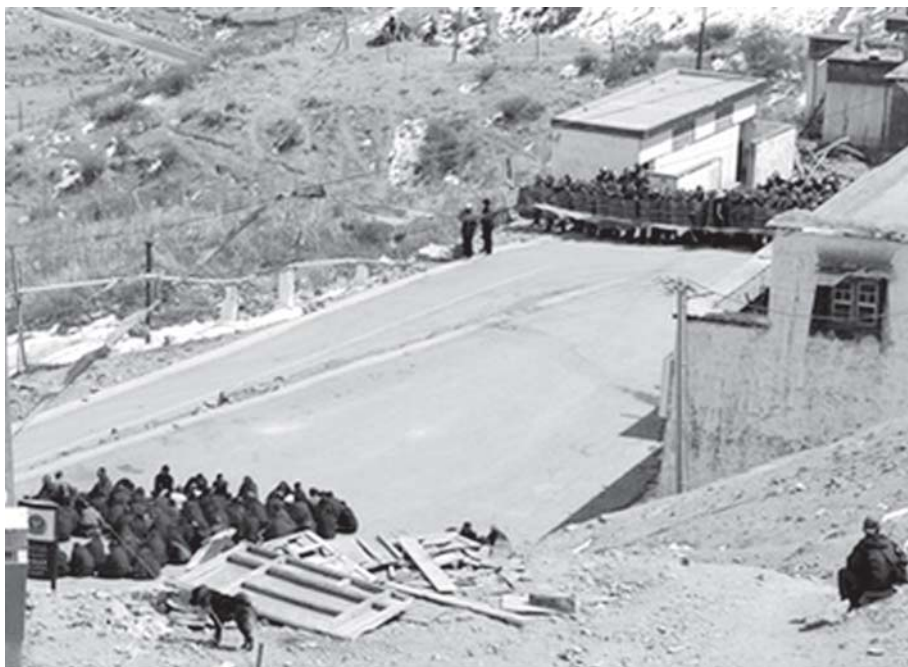
Three dead, ten injured in Dabpa County as police open fire on protestors

In Dabpa County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, according to the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), three Tibetans were killed and at least ten more were injured, when Chinese Police received orders to shoot protestors, following the belief by higher Chinese authorities that the protestors were engaging in “splittist activities.”²⁴

12 March 2008

Gaden Monastery surrounded and sealed

Gaden Monastery (about 50 Kms east of Lhasa City) in Takse County, Lhasa Municipality “TAR” was sealed off and surrounded by People’s Armed Police following the protest by monks on 12 March. Contact with the outside world was cut off.





Nuns from Chutsang Nunnery stoped from peaceful march

On the morning of 12 March, coinciding with the Tibetan Women's Uprising Day in 1959, an estimated 100 Tibetan nuns from Chutsang Nunnery, to the west of Lhasa, peacefully demonstrated by marching towards Barkhor Street, at the center of Lhasa. Although Chinese PAP soon blocked them and sent them back to the nunnery, the nuns successfully completed their protest march to Lhasa on the following day. No arrests or detentions were reported on either occasion.

13 March 2008



Tibet University Students arrested in Lhasa

PSB officials arrested five Tibet University students on 13 March in a confirmed report amidst increases in the number of surveillance and security personnel. There are also accounts of widespread restrictions on the movement of students, including those of Tibet University in Lhasa, with authorities recording student entrance and exit of the university at the main gate.



Authorities threaten NGOs

On 13 March the local Foreign Bureau Office in Lhasa issued a warning to NGOs that anyone caught circulating information to foreigners about the current protests in Tibet will face strict legal action that could lead to the permanent closure of their organization. The only information that NGOs are supposed to give to the foreigners is that the situation in Tibet will be soon stabilized. The Foreign Bureau Office also said that the entry of foreigners into Tibet will be blocked. Prior to this warning, complete background information of foreigners involved with local NGOs was collected by the local Foreign Bureau office.



14 March 2008

PAP forces surround Ramoche Temple

On 14 March, PAP forces surrounded Ramoche Temple, in northern Lhasa, “TAR”, in response to a peaceful protest in the city that morning led by monks from the temple. The large security force also reportedly cordoned off Ramoche Temple and roads in the vicinity, restricting movement in and out of the area. There were also confirmed reports that a scuffle broke out between PAP forces, protesting monks and civilians, and one account of agitated protestors setting fire to a vehicle and numerous shops.

Following protests by Tibetans in Lhasa, a meeting was convened among the concerned Department heads of surrounding districts adjoining Lhasa City, to restrict and control people’s entry into the city. The police cordoned off all roads leading in and out of Lhasa with armed paramilitary forces patrolling the streets.

According to RFA another Tibetan source reported: “We Tibetans had no weapons to fight back. When the Tibetans were gathered in front of [the] Jokhang, the Chinese fired at us. I have personally seen more [than] 100 Tibetans killed when the Chinese fired at the Tibetan crowd”.²⁵

Another witness said: “We saw two dead at Ramoche temple, two in the garden, two at the Ganden printing house, and those Tibetans who went to take food to prisoners in Drapchi Prison saw 26 Tibetans shot after they were brought in on a black vehicle”. Protests occurred simultaneously in several locations, with hundreds marching in different directions including the Barkhor area and Rangshong Jong Road. Protesters ran through the streets with traditional white scarves in their hands, shouting “Free Tibet”.²⁶

Protests peaked early Friday amid a reduced police presence on the streets. Several hundred armoured personnel carriers and tanks were shooting into the crowds and firing tear gas shells. Residents were warned to stay indoors. The curfew took effect at around 1pm but protests continued until about 3:30 pm when large numbers of paramilitary PAP were mobilised.²⁷

As large protests erupt in Sangchu County, police beat demonstrators

On 14 March, at 2:00pm (Beijing Time), about 50 monks from Labrang Tashikyil Monastery, Sangchu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province, staged a demonstration in which they carried the banned Tibetan national flag and called for “Tibetan Independence”. Later, 500 monks from the same monastery also joined the demonstration, and it eventually grew to thousands as additional laypeople began to participate. When the protests neared Sangchu County Public Security Bureau headquarters, however, police aggressively intercepted those involved, fired live ammunitions into the air and beat up demonstrators.



According to RFA there were small protests in the Luchu and Machu Counties in Gansu Province, Kanlho “TAP” (Chin: Gannan).²⁸ In the same Province, in Chone County monks were killed by Chinese troops on 14 March, a Tibetan woman told to RFA.²⁹

15 March 2008



Mounting Death Toll marks continuing unrest in Tibet

On 15 March, Chinese authorities’ imposed a curfew in the entire Lhasa city with entry into the city completely cut-off by posting many new check posts at all the entry points into Lhasa. All the roads and shops remained closed in the city with heavy presence of armoured military vehicles and additional contingents of PAP - paramilitary troops sent into the city to suppress people from demonstrating again. However, certain parts of Lhasa, especially Karma Kusang in the east and Nangdren Road on the north side of Lhasa, witnessed a pocket of protests in the morning.

The Chinese state news agency, Xinhua, said seven to ten people had been confirmed dead in rioting in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa on Friday. However, according to TCHRD around 25 deaths of Tibetans were reported from the 14 March demonstration at Ramoche Temple, Jokhang Temple and Thomsigkhang Market. Confirmed information indicates that hundreds of Tibetans injured in the same protest were hospitalized in various hospitals for treatment. Telephone lines and internet connection remained cut-off in many areas in the city and other parts of Tibet.

On the morning of 15 March the Higher People’s Court, Regional People’s Procuratorate and the regional Public Security Bureau of the so-called “TAR” issued a notice de-



manding that protestors surrender themselves by midnight on Monday, in return for increased leniency. The notice further stated that those who surrendered and informed “would be exempt from punishment”, while warning that “Those who cover up or shelter the lawbreakers would be punished in accordance with the law.” On the same day that the notice was issued, however, arrests began in house-by-house raids, a full two days before the 17 March deadline. Around 500-600 Tibetans are believed to have been arrested before the deadline.

Protests in Amdo Labrang, Sangchu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province

A demonstration erupted at around 10 AM (Beijing Time) on 15 March in Labrang, Sangchu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province in the eastern part of the Tibetan area, as a follow-up to demonstrations staged by monks of Tashikyil Monastery, which was later joined by thousands of Tibetans in the area.

Thousands of people including monks from Labrang Tashikyil Monastery staged a peaceful demonstration at the county government’s headquarters. The demonstration was started by monks of Labrang Tashikyil Monastery and was later joined by common citizens at a place known as Choeten Karpo (White Stupa) where people offered Sangsol Prayer (an incense burning ritual). After the prayer session, people shouted “pro-independence” and “Long live the Dalai Lama” slogans while heading towards the Sangchu County Government headquarters. The PAP fired tear gas and live ammunition into the air to disperse the demonstrators. An uncertain number of demonstrators were arrested and beaten up by PAP forces and PSB officials from the area. Communication lines were cut off during the early morning with little information coming out from the area.

Heavy troop deployments in response to protests in Dzoge County

On the same day following a similar protest by the monks of Taksang Lhamo Kirti Monastery (a branch of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery), Dzoge County (Ch: Zoige) Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province in the afternoon, truckloads of troops were sent into the area to disperse the protesting crowd and to get the situation under control. The prompt deployment and violent response of PAP forces dealing with peaceful protestors finally resulted in injury to five people and the arrest of more than ten monks.

In protest, teacher blocks military convoy

On 15 March 2008, Barchog Lopoe, a 37 year-old teacher and manager of Lithang Nyingma Monastery (one of the 113 branches of Lithang Gonchen Monastery) in Lithang County, Kardze “TAP” stopped a convoy of military trucks from marching forward by standing in the middle of the road. Barchog Lopoe shouted slogans calling for a free Tibet and the Dalai Lama’s long life, and he was later joined by others. Barchog Lopoe was arrested soon after his act by the PSB officials and taken away to the County PSB Detention Centre. The bystanders and local public followed him towards the detention centre and demanded his release. Sensing more protests by the public, the PSB officials released Barchog Lopoe the same evening.

RFA released reports of two demonstrations in Lithang, one by nomads from Othok Nyakchuka (home of detained lama Tenzin Delek Rinpoche) and another by nomads from the same area as (jailed nomad) Ronggyal Adrak. After the protests, each of which resulted in the arrest of one individual, Tibetans were also seen gathering in Lithang town.

Demonstrations were also reported from Sershul (Chin: Shiqu), Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province (Chin: Ganzi) and around 1,000 Tibetan independence flyers were distributed.³⁰

Outside of Toelung County, military transport seen shuttling dead bodies

A reliable source has confirmed the report of a military truck heading to Toelung County full of an unidentified number of dead bodies on 15 March, according to CTA. In Lithang, Kardze County, “TAP”, Sichuan Province, there were also confirmed reports that at least two protestors were arrested and detained after minor protests in several villages of Lithang and areas of Othok, to the south. Protests in Sershul Monastery in Tawu County were also reported.

According to CTA, there have been also reports of people demonstrating on the same day in the streets of Karma Kunsang (North of Lhasa near the Sera Monastery) and in Nyangden (East of Lhasa) where over 200 people took part in protests according to sources. Tear gas was forcibly used against the peaceful demonstrators.³¹



De facto martial law imposed in Lhasa

According to RFA on 15 March at 10pm, Chinese police backed by PAP personnel raided Tibetan homes in Lhasa area. Those without residence permits and those suspected of any wrongdoing were taken away without explanation.

Police searched the house of a family from Tsawa Pasho, Kham who were running a small stall in Lhasa; police confiscated 10,000 yuan [approximately US\$1,418]; the father, Kalsang Gyaltzen, and his two sons, Lochoe and Jampa, were all arrested because they did not have residence permits, even though their applications were pending. The daughter does have a permit, was left alone in the house without money, and does not know where her father and brothers are detained.

Six members of a family originally from Dege, Kham, were arrested in the courtyard of their Lhasa home. The Chinese authorities arrested almost all young Tibetans, both male and female, and their whereabouts are completely unknown. Tibetans were also reportedly being arrested for trying to leave their own courtyards.³²



16 March 2008

Protest by Amdo Ngaba Kirti monks

On 16 March at around 11.30 AM (Beijing Time), the monks of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery, a monastery housing around 2,800 monks, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province after morning Mani Dungdrup prayer session, erupted into spontaneous protest by raising the banned Tibetan national flag, joined by lay Tibetans, shouting slogans calling for “Bod Gyalo” (Victory to Tibet), “Long Live the Dalai Lama”. Within moments, the Chinese security police burst into the Monastery campus and used tear gas on the Tibetan protestors, while also blocking them from marching off of the Monastery premises. Hundreds of people were injured in the incident following PAP crackdown on the protestors.

Fifteen dead bodies were brought into Ngaba Kirti Monastery. The bodies were brought in from the scene of protest scene in Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. Sources say at least “30 Tibetans fell” after armed troops shot indiscriminately into the peacefully protesting Tibetans. The monks in Kirti Monastery offered prayers for the deceased. At least 23 people were confirmed dead following the Chinese Armed police shooting. The names of those identified are, Tashi Wangchuk, Ghegyam, Norbu, Lotse, Ghepan Thalo, Ngudrup Tso, Atisha, Sangye, Tsezin and Lhundup Tso. Lhundup Tso, 16 years-old was born to Mr. Jigshe (father) and Mrs. Sherab Tsomo a.k.a Shetse (Mother).

She was a brilliant student of Ngaba County Tibetan School, Ngaba County, Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province.

More reinforcements from Mainland China were sent into the area to check the spread of protests to neighbouring counties and to bring the situation completely under control but the mass protests lasted for several days despite heavy military presence.

Protest in Rebkong County, Malho Prefecture, Qinghai Province

On 16 March 2008, another protest broke out in Rong Gonchen Monastery, Rebkong County (Ch: Tongren xian), Malho Prefecture (Ch: Huangnan) “TAP”, Qinghai Province. Around 300 monks of Rong Gonchen Monastery conducted Sangsol Prayer (an incense burning ritual) on the hill just behind the monastery during the early hours of the day. It was known that the monks performed a Long Life Prayer Ceremony for the Dalai Lama. Shortly after the end of the prayer ceremony, the monks started a peace march towards the government headquarters of Rebkong County in the downtown market area, where civilians from the county later joined them.

Within minutes, however, security personnel confronted and blocked them from continuing the demonstration. A source says that the monks were stranded at the monastery courtyard surrounded by a heavy presence of paramilitary troops. Over time, more and more ordinary people flocked to join the monks protesting inside the monastery courtyard. The source also said that the security personnel fired tear gas on the crowds to disperse them.



Students staged a protest in eastern Tibet

Around 500 Tibetan students from the Tibetan Studies Department in the North Western Nationality University, Lanzhou City, Gansu Provincial Capital, Lanzhou staged a peaceful demonstration inside the University campus in the afternoon (Beijing Time) on 16 March.

Confirmed information says that students circulated leaflets containing information about the Lhasa demonstrations inside the University campus. The sources confirmed that there are about one thousand Tibetan students studying in the university, of which 300 were holed up in the campus by the security forces. The students were known to be carrying banners with slogans “The Tibetan people stay together through happy and sorrowful times” and “Democracy and human lives are precious”. The Tibetan students also raised slogans calling for an immediate end to the brutal crackdown on the Tibetan people and the ongoing reports of arrests in Lhasa city.

Following the circulation of leaflets, local PAP forces and PSB personnel stormed the university and cordoned off the entire campus area. Movement of students was known to have been strictly controlled under a heavy presence of PAP and PSB at the University campus gate.

The students also staged a twenty-four hour hunger strike as a protest against Chinese Government violent crackdowns on peaceful Tibetan demonstrators in all parts of Tibet.



Meanwhile in another incident, at around 6 PM (Beijing Time), about 1,500 local Tibetans from Machu County (Ch: Maqu xian), Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province staged a peaceful demonstration in the main city of the county. Protestors shouted “Independence for Tibet”, “Long Live the Dalai Lama” and other slogans. The agitated protestors also set one police vehicle alight during the demonstration. Additional large-scale contingents of PAP and PSB were brought in to crackdown upon the protestors.

Around 250 Tibetans of Nyulra Township, Machu County (Ch: Maqu xian), Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province destroyed the doors of County government offices during the protest. The protestors also took down the Chinese national flag and hoisted the banned Tibetan flag in its place. The protestors later shouted pro-independence slogans. There was a large-scale mobilisation of truckloads of paramilitary troops in the area.



Sporadic protests reported from Meldrogungkar and Phenpo Lhundup

Multiple sources confirmed that on 16 March a fresh demonstration was spearheaded by the monks of Gaden Choekhor Monastery, Phenpo Lhundup County (Ch: Linzhou Xian), Lhasa Municipality, “TAR” which was later joined by common citizens. Monks, nuns and common citizens of Phenpo Lhundup County, east of Lhasa, staged a peaceful protest at the County government headquarters in a continuation of a previous protest on 15 March. PAP and PSB officials in the area severely restricted the movement of civilians.



Sit-in protest in Lithang County

On 16 March, a 52-year-old monk, Akyi, originally from Youru Village, Lithang County, and of Lithang Gonchen Monastery, started a sit-in protest on the main road of Lithang which civilians of the county later joined. Akyi was known to have been arrested while demonstrating and released soon after a brief detention in the county PSB Detention Centre following intervention from village and county heads. The authorities of Lithang County are known to have circulated a notice telling people not to venture out of their homes in the coming days as more military trucks would be brought into the area. Schools, offices and shops in the area also remained closed.

Former political prisoner arrested

Around 16 March 2008, Lhasa PSB officers arrested Ngawang Namgyal, a former political prisoner and a former monk of Drepung Monastery, at his residence during a midnight raid. He was arrested on charges of allegedly ‘inciting and supporting the Lhasa protest’. There is no further information on his condition at the moment.

Mass abductions in midnight raids by Chinese security forces in Lhasa

Chinese security forces in Lhasa arbitrarily arrested hundreds of Tibetans in house-by-house raids beginning on 15 March 2008. The security forces have rounded up all former political prisoners and thrown them into prison.

With streets filled with patrolling Chinese armed troops and tanks in Lhasa city, the security agencies combed each and every house in Lhasa and picked up all suspected Tibetans, especially youths, from their homes. Many of those arrested were also severely beaten by security forces. In testimonies received by TCHRD, mothers and elders in the families helplessly pleaded with security forces upon seeing their sons and loved ones being beaten and dragged away. Although Martial Law was not officially imposed in Lhasa, this had all the elements of the Martial Law imposed in 1989 by the then “TAR” Party Secretary Hu Jintao, currently the President of the People’s Republic of China.

Officials warned not to take part in protests

According to CTA, higher Chinese authorities instructed Tibetan officials inside Tibet not to take part in any of the protests. Their movement was also restricted and they were required to sign in and out if they wished to leave their homes, according to a reliable source.³³

Protests in Ragya, Achok, Rongpo and Pangsa Monasteries

According to CTA, on 16 March monks of Ragya Monastery, Machen County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province held a protest. Local people performed a puja (prayer cer-

emony) for those killed at nearby Kirti Monastery. Police surrounded Ragya (Rabgya) Monastery and while threatening the use of force, asked the senior monks to stop the religious ceremony; the lamas then requested the monks to stop.

Protests also held at Achok Monastery located in Sangchu County, Kanlho “TAP”

Moreover, monks of Rongo Monastery held a major protest in the field in front of their monastery. PSB officials arrived to suppress the protestors. There was an attempt by the monastery head to placate the situation through dialogue with the Chinese officials who arrived at the scene. After the discussions the PSB personnel may have left the scene, although this cannot be confirmed. The monks of Rongpo Monastery were determined to continue with the protest.

Protests were also held by the monks of Pangsa monastery in Meldro Gungkar County, east of Lhasa (Lhasa Municipality). Some of the monks were arrested, but were later released due to pressure from civilians. Some of the protesting monks were able to run for safety towards a hill close by.³⁴

Protests in Lithang and Kawasumdo Counties

According to CTA, monks and civilians held a major protest in Lithang County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan province on 16 March. All schools, shops and offices were forced to shut down for the next three days. On the morning of 17th March, heavily armed police and army personnel in very large numbers were seen patrolling throughout the area.

The Tibetans of Kawasumdo County, Tsolho “TAP”, Qinghai province held a protest on the same day in which they carried the portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the banned Tibetan National flag. The army arrived at the scene to suppress the protest.³⁵

3000 protesters in Luchu town

According to TibetInfoNet on 16 March at around 2pm in Luchu town, Luchu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province monks proceeded with a second march but were halted by local Tibetan cadres and senior Lamas who pleaded with them to stop because of

predictable reprisals. Townspeople and nomads from the surrounding tribes (Pagur, Gyagur, Ma-ngi and Hongkor) continued to protest for about an hour carrying “Independence for Tibet” banners and portraits of the Dalai Lama.

Over 300 monks from Shetsang Garsar Monastery (8 km from the county town) organised a ‘peace march’, carrying Tibetan flags and portraits of the Dalai Lama and Gendun Choekyi Nyima (the Panchen Lama). Townspeople and nomads joined the protest and reached the town at about 3pm. Protesters went to the Minority (Tibetan) Middle School for students to join in, but students were barred from leaving. The protesters tore down the Chinese sign at the school gate but left the Tibetan sign intact. They proceeded to the government headquarters, removed the Chinese flag and broke the flagpole. There were about 3,000 participants shouting: “Let the Dalai Lama return! Long Live the Dalai Lama! Release Panchen Gedun Chokyi Nyima! Tibet belongs to Tibetans! Tibetans should be granted freedom and independence through peaceful dialogue! May the exiles and Tibetans inside Tibet be reunited!” The atmosphere was described as “fervent and fraternal”, and emotional. The signs and symbols of Chinese government along the main street were removed; prayers for the Dalai Lama and for religion and the welfare of Tibet were recited. The crowd was dispersed and monks headed back to the monastery. In the night, students from the Minority (Tibetan) Middle School took to the streets. School authorities closed the school.

Protests were reported on the same day from Alle and Laring Township, Luchu County (Ch: Luqu Xian) and also from Chone and Gyagar monasteries in Lintan County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province ».³⁶



Demonstration in front of the government offices in Ngora Township

According to TibetInfoNet on 16 March in Ngora Township, Machu County, around 200 monks and civilians held demonstrations in front of government offices, shouting pro-Dalai Lama, pro-independence slogans. The Tibetan flag was raised outside government offices and the Chinese flag was burned, and then a speech was made: “From today we are free and we no longer need to suffer under the Chinese rule!” Another source added that Tibetan protesters set fire to a local police station and government headquarters.³⁷



2000 demonstrators in Machu County

According to TibetInfoNet, a demonstration was reported on the main street of Machu County town, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province at about 4pm with around 2,000 participants. Initially, the demonstrators were mostly nomads, but large numbers of monks, townspeople and local students later joined them. The protestors shouted pro-independence and pro-Dalai Lama slogans, while carrying Tibetan flags and portraits of the Dalai Lama and the late 10th Panchen Lama. Some demonstrators threw stones at government offices and Chinese businesses. Seven government limousines and one motorbike were set on fire. Protestors also threw stones at a local police station, burned five police cars and a motorbike. Security reinforcements from Dingxi city (near Lanzhou) reportedly arrived with eleven trucks full of security forces, to re-establish order.³⁸

17 March 2008

Around 40 middle school students arrested in Marthang County

Around 40 Tibetan middle school students were known to have been severely beaten before being arrested at around 8:30 AM (Beijing Time) on 17 March 2008, following the students’ call for the Dalai Lama’s return to Tibet.

Around one hundred Tibetan students of Marthang Nationality Middle School in Marthang County (Ch: Hongyuan xian), Ngaba (Ch: Aba) Prefecture, “TAP”, Sichuan

Province, erupted into a spontaneous demonstration inside the school compound calling for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet during the morning school hours. According to witnesses, the PAP and Marthang County PSB officials blocked and immediately crushed the students' protest as they left school premises shouting slogans calling for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet. Students were severely beaten and manhandled before being dragged into waiting police vehicles. Around 700 students of the Marthang Nationality Middle School in a solemn gesture of solidarity with the arrested students staged a protest outside Marthang County PSB office.

Protests reported from Meldrogungkar County

A protest was reported from Meldrogungkar, Meldrogungkar County (Ch: Mozhu Gongka Xain), "TAR". In the morning on 17 March, monks and nuns from various clusters of monasteries and nunneries situated in Meldrogungkar County gathered for a peaceful demonstration in the County headquarters. Like other peaceful protests in Tibet, they were barred from proceeding with their demonstration by the county PAP and PSB officials. Reinforcements were called in to the area from nearby Lhasa city to contain the demonstration and prevent them from gaining momentum of a scale and intensity reached in other parts of Tibet in the past few days.

Demonstration in Amdo Mangra

On 17 March, in the afternoon, around seventy monks from Kagya Monastery, Mangra County (Ch: Guinan Xian), Tsolho (Ch: Hainan) "TAP" staged a peaceful demonstration carrying the banned Tibetan national flags and shouting "Independence for Tibet". The monks were later joined by common citizens of Mangra County numbering around 500 and headed towards the County government headquarters, where they were met by a heavy presence of PAP and PSB officials.

Hundreds of Tibetan devotees protest in Amdo Golog

On 17 March 2008, (6 pm Beijing Time) around 200 Tibetan devotees consisting of lay and clergy receiving a religious sermon from a local religious teacher, Trulku Tenzin Pai Wangchuk in Chigdril County (Ch: Juizhi Xian), Golog "TAP", Qinghai Province in the afternoon, were disrupted suddenly by Chinese security personnel demanding immediate stoppage of the religious sermon, leading local Tibetans to protest. In a short duration, the Chinese security personnel surrounded and blocked the Tibetan protestors.



Meanwhile in a similar incident, around the evening of 17 March, the monks and lay people of Minthang Monastery also held a protest demonstration in Chigdril County (Ch: Juizhi Xian), Golog, Qinghai Province. According to the source, approximately hundreds of Tibetan protestors proceeded to a nearby local police station located two kilometres from Minthang Monastery. The protestors were shouting pro-independence slogans.

In a separate incident the same evening, hundreds of monks and ordinary people of Lungkar Monastery, Chigdril County, Golog “TAP” observed a candlelight vigil, expressing their solidarity with the Tibetan protestors in various parts of Tibet. The Chinese security personnel kept a close eye on all of the demonstrations and the situation was tense.

■ **Thirty Tibetan protestors arrested in Toelung Dechen County**

On the evening of 17 March 2008, protest demonstrations broke out in Dechen Township, Toelung Dechen County, and Lhasa City of the “TAR”. According to numerous sources and eyewitnesses, the protest demonstration was initially started by a

dozen monks from Dinka Monastery in Dinka Township, who were later joined by ordinary Tibetan people. Soon the protest demonstration ran out of the control of local security forces stationed in the area. In minutes, a large contingent of PAP and PSB security officers was dispatched to the area to disperse the Tibetan protestors. Chinese PAP and PSB security forces arrested around 30 Tibetan protestors consisting of monks and civilians.

New cases of arrests and detentions reported from Lithang

Following a solo protest that bystanders later joined in Lithang County on 15 March 2008, the situation in Lithang was very tense with authorities imposing severe restrictions on the movement of the people in the area. When the protest spread to other parts of Tibet in the following days, the Chinese authorities in a precautionary measure, sent reinforcements into Lithang County, as the place had witnessed mass protests last August spearheaded by Ronggye A'drak.

On the morning of 17 March, witnesses confirmed to the Centre that many military tanks and PAP reinforcements were brought into Lithang County and that the streets looked completely deserted except for the military trucks, tanks and troops. Communication lines in the area had been cut off since the evening of 16 March, with extensive restrictions imposed on people's movement outside of their homes. Dagay, a 23-year old nomad from Youru Village in Lithang County, while taking her sick mother for a vaccination, was barred by the military troop from going to a clinic. Dagay in fury protested against the security personnel and was taken away to the PSB Detention Centre. Following villagers' calls for her release, Dagay was released.

Protests in Meldrogungkar County

On 17 March, monks from Pangsa and other monasteries of Meldrogungkar County, Lhasa Municipality, "TAR" held a massive protest. They were joined by thousands of protestors. Seven trucks full of PAP personnel arrived to stop the events but since they were not able to do it, reinforcement arrived soon at the scene. All schools, shops and offices in the area were shut down.

Protests in Yulgan and Machu Counties

According to CTA, on 17 March a protest by over 500 monks of Tsang Monastery, Yulgan County, Malho, “TAP”, Qinghai Province was held at around 10am. Monks put up the Tibetan flag on the monastery rooftop and also carried the portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama while protesting peacefully. The PAP arrived to suppress the protestors, but the protest continued.

A protest was also held by a massive number of students in Machu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu province. All of the students present were arrested.³⁹

Protests in Serthar and Driru Counties

According to CTA, protests were reported on 17 March from Serthar County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province for the second day.

On the same day at Harthang Monastery in Driru County, Nagchu Prefecture, “TAR”, Pelo Trulku (a reincarnated lama) was supposed to give a spiritual teaching towards the end of February 2008. However, local Chinese “work teams” did not allow the teachings to take place. As a result, there was a scuffle between the local Tibetans and the Chinese “work teams”. On 3rd March 2008, additional Chinese “work teams” were brought in and all Tibetans between the ages of 18-30 were forced to undergo “patriotic re-education.” On March 14th the road connecting Nagchu to Lhasa was completely blocked off. Non-residents of Nagchu were forced to leave. The names of each male individual were collected from each household in Nagchu.⁴⁰

Foreign journalists expelled from Tongren County, Qinghai Province

According to RFA on 17 March a British journalist reported: “We could not find hotels ... in Xiahe. We were expelled from Xiahe after we finished our coverage. We tried to enter Xiahe again, but we weren’t allowed. Our IDs were carefully examined by roadside checkpoints. The only road leading to Xiahe was blocked. All vehicles had to stop for inspection. Passengers’ IDs and vehicles plate numbers were checked and registered. Journalists couldn’t sneak in. All vehicles leaving Gansu were also carefully examined just as they entered the province. There was a backup of vehicles leaving Gansu”.⁴¹

Two protestors killed in Kiku town

According to RFA on 17 March Chinese security forces arrived in the Kiku town, Serthar County, Kardze “TAP” numbering around 1,000 personnel. They tried to remove a Tibetan flag raised by protestors at the town headquarters building. When protestors peacefully resisted, the security forces opened fire, killing two protestors, Kyari and Tsedo, both from Tseshul village. Eight others who were seriously wounded were taken to Serthar county hospital.⁴²

18 March 2008

500 Hundred Monks protest in Kanlho, Gansu Province

On the morning of 18 March 2008 (11 am Beijing Time), according to multiple sources and eyewitnesses, around 500 monks of Choephel Shing Monastery, located in Dogo Township, Chone County (Ch:Zhouni Xian), Kanlho “TAP” were conducting a prayer ritual (burning juniper incense) at a hillock behind the monastery. Shortly after the end of the prayer ritual, the monks erupted into a protest demonstration. The monks marched out carrying the banned Tibetan national flag, shouting “Independence for Tibet” and “Long Live the Dalai Lama”. Reliable sources said that a huge contingent of PAP and PSB were brought into the area to quell the Tibetan demonstrators.

Thousands of Tibetans Protested in Sertha County

On the evening of 18 March 2008 around thousands of Tibetans in Sertha County, Kardze, “TAP” staged a major protest demonstration. The incident took place from 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm (Beijing Standard Time), when around 300 Tibetans from all walks of life staged a peaceful protest demonstration in the main market square of Kardze County, Sichuan Province by raising slogans calling for “Independence for Tibet” and “Long Live the Dalai Lama”. Soon after, more and more Tibetans in the market joined the protest demonstration shouting pro-independence slogans.

Shortly after the outbreak of the protest demonstration by the Tibetans, the PAP and PSB came to the area to quell the protests and disperse the agitated crowds. According

to eyewitness accounts from the scene of the demonstration, Chinese paramilitary troops started firing indiscriminately live ammunition into the demonstrators from the rooftop of one building. Protestors started dispersing in all directions for cover. After a short while, three dead bodies were found lying on the road. Sources say that 15 Tibetan peaceful protestors were also injured during the shooting. The injured were admitted to the Kardze People's Hospital. The situation in Sertha County was said to be tense with a heavy presence of Chinese security forces.



Hundreds protest in Amdo Bora, Sangchu County

Hundreds of Tibetans in Amdo Bora, in Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe Xian), Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province, staged a peaceful protest against the Chinese rule in Tibet. On 18 March at around 11:00 am (Beijing Standard Time), on a day of a major ritual observance, monks and common citizens of Amdo Bora observed a Sangsol incense burning prayer ritual ceremony and then suddenly erupted into a peaceful protest calling for more freedom in Tibet by waving the banned Tibetan national flags. The crowd before heading towards the county government headquarters went to the Bora Primary and Middle School in the county. Later the protesting crowd barged into the two schools and brought down the Chinese flag hoisted in the school's compound and replaced it with the banned Tibetan national flag. Soon afterwards, the protestors headed towards the county government headquarter shouting pro-independence slogans. According to sources, three truckloads of People's Armed Police were brought into the area as reinforcement to control the crowd. As protestors neared their destination, the security forces fired a number of tear gas shells into the protesting crowd to prevent them from heading towards the county government headquarters.



Hundreds of Tibetans protested in Kanlho, Gansu Province

On 18 March 2008 at around 12:00 (Beijing Standard Time) the monks of Kakhamey Monastery in Kakha Township, joined by hundreds of Tibetans, went on a protest march to the local government office in Tsoe City, Kakha Township. During the protest march the monks and ordinary Tibetans shouted slogans demanding an immediate end to the crackdown by the Chinese security forces. The peaceful Tibetan protestors also shouted loud slogans calling for “Tibetan Independence” and “Long Live the Dalai Lama”. The Tibetans’ peaceful demonstration culminated in pulling down the Chinese national flag and the hoisting of prayer flags in its place.

Work teams at Sakya Monastery

On 18 March military and work teams were sent to Sakya Monastery, Sakya County, Shigatse Prefecture, “TAR” to warn them not to take part in future protests. Brief tension between the authorities and the monks was reported.

400 students held protest in Kyegudo County

According to CTA, on 18 March around 400 students from Yulshul Middle School, Kyegudo County, Yulshul “TAP”, Qinghai province stripped the Chinese flag down and held a protest. The Chinese military then forced the school’s staff and students to surrender. The school administrators and students were strictly warned that the day’s incident could not be told to anyone outside of the school. Furthermore, the movement of both the school staff and students was restricted until the summer Olympics were over.⁴³

Several thousand demonstrators in Chigdril County

According to RFA on 18 March 300 monks from Darthang/Tarthang (Ch: Datang/Baiyu) monastery, Chigdril County held a peaceful demonstration, later joined by several thousand students and other laypeople.

At the government office compound, demonstrators replaced the Chinese flag with the Tibetan national flag. Around 40 local police were present but they did not inter-

fere. They watched from a distance and took photographs. No PAP was present. The demonstrators proceeded to a local school and hospital, where they also replaced the Chinese flags with Tibetan ones. The protestors then stormed a local detention centre and demanded the release of all prisoners. According to a source, some prisoners were released. The protest remained peaceful, with no violence and no damage to property. Later, four trucks full of armed security forces arrived, arresting at least five Tibetans. The monastery was surrounded by security forces. All monks who had demonstrated went into hiding in the mountains. The monastery's head monks were pressurised to hand over those responsible. The authorities stated those who surrendered would be "spared" and that the rest would face "serious consequences".⁴⁴

19 March 2008



Tibetans facing massive arrest drive in Tibet

On 19 March 2008, Lhasa City Procuratorate arrested 24 Tibetan protestors on the basis of pre-trial detention. Official Chinese sources say that so far (19 March) 170 Tibetans have voluntarily surrendered. Although the Chinese authorities promised to give 'leniency' to those who surrender before the deadline for leniency (midnight of 17 March 2008), given the nature of the Chinese regime and its past record in dealing with Tibetan protestors in 1989, many doubted if the surrendered Tibetan protestors would receive any leniency as promised by the Chinese authorities. It was felt the



chances of Tibetans for receiving leniency by surrendering themselves to the Chinese authorities were not very good.

The authorities had already announced that Tibetans in Ngaba County must surrender themselves to the Chinese authorities after days of protest on 15, 16 and 17 March, with a promise of offering leniency. They had also called upon people to surrender arms. The homes of suspected Tibetans involved in this week's demonstrations were ransacked and raided. The prayer session at Kirti Monastery was forced to be suspended indefinitely. Cases of enforced disappearance surfaced from the area.



Protests in Dzoge County

On 19 March at 8:30 pm (local time) a demonstration broke out in Dzoge County, Ngapa "TAP", Sichuan province. The 300 protestors, who were led by the monks from Jam-Mey Monastery, brought down the Chinese flag at the local administration headquarters and at the local army camp. The protestors shouted slogans such as "Long live H.H. the Dalai Lama," and "Tibet is a purely independent country".



Protests in Ponkhor Village

According to CTA, on 19 March Tibetans from Ponkhor village, Ma-ngoe Township, Luchu County, Kanlho "TAP", Gansu province took part in a protest. Also, at a local school in Ponkhor village, protestors raised the Tibetan flag.⁴⁵

At the same time around the border area of Tibet, there was a huge build up of Chinese military to prevent people from entering Tibet.⁴⁶

20 March 2008



Public notice warning protesters to surrender

After days of protests in the different Tibetan areas of Gansu Province which saw the deaths of scores of Tibetans, the Chinese government sent thousands of troops on foot, in trucks and helicopters into the area in an attempt to curb the flow of and hunt for protesters. Fresh public notices both in Tibetan and Chinese language were posted around the county and security personnel made public announcements of the notice through loud speakers.

On 20 March, the public notice (or ultimatum in disguise) was jointly issued by the law enforcement authorities of Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) “TAP” Intermediate People’s Court, Procuratorate, and Public Security Bureau. The notice mentioned the recent protests in Sangchu (Ch: Xiahe), Luchu (Ch: Luqu), Machu (Ch: Maqu), Chone (Ch: Zhouni) and Tewo (Ch: Diebu) Counties and in Hezuo city.

The public notice posted around all these counties and towns warned protesters - or criminals as the notice called them - to surrender by midnight of 25 March. The notice said that those who turned themselves in would be treated leniently - but those who did not would be treated harshly, as would be the case of those who were sheltering them. The prefecture law enforcement authorities promised protection and rewards for those who surrendered to the authorities. However, the actual arrests had already begun in house-to-house raids since 20 March 2008.

Official Chinese sources said that so far 170 Tibetans in Lhasa and 94 Tibetans from Phenpo Lhundrup County had ‘voluntarily surrendered’. On 20 March, the Lhasa City Public Security Bureau issued on a public notice with a list of 21 people “wanted” as the main instigators or offenders of the protests in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, in which the photo identities of 14 people including monks were released.



16 people arrested in Tso-nga Township

On 20 March, protests were held in several villages (including Ngulru Dopa and Dogo Ruwa) in Tso-nga Township, Markham County, Chamdo Prefecture. The 16 people arrested during the protests were taken to the Markham County prison.



Protests in Serthar, Pema, Markham and Barkham Counties

According to CTA, on 20 March in various townships of Serthar County (including Phuwu), Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, numerous protests were held even amidst very substantial military presence.⁴⁷

On the same day monks and laypeople of Chakri, Do-gho, Prongma, and Panchen Townships in Pema County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province held a protest, as well as the Tibetans from Tso-Nga Township in Markham County, Chamdo “TAP”. Around 20 Tibetans were arrested during a protest held in Rushoe Township (Markham County).

Also on 20 March a massive protest was held by laypeople and monks of Tsekhog County, Malho “TAP”, Qinghai Province.

Another incident took place when Chinese authorities attempted to ban the annual Monlam Cham (Monastic Dance) at Tso Dun Monastery, Barkham County, Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan province. When 40 monks from the monastery went to the local administration headquarters to complain about the ban, there was a confrontation between the monks and the local authorities.⁴⁸



Protests in Dzamthang and Pema Counties

According to CTA on 20 March, monks and lay people of Dotoe Township, Dzamthang County, Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province held a protest. However, it was suppressed very quickly by the Chinese military. The people of Dotoe Township were summoned for a meeting called by the deputy head of Dzamthang County and Dotoe Township officials.

Also on 20 March after the arrival and the subsequent tight restrictions by Chinese military forces in Pema County, a protest was held during which the people demanded concrete results in the Sino-Tibetan dialogue. The same evening in Panchen, Pangrue and Markhog villages, Pema County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province Tibetans held peaceful demonstrations.⁴⁹

21 March 2008



Protests in Qinghai Province

Tibetans from Ponkor Toema and Mema Townships in Darlag County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province staged a peaceful protest on 21 March. They removed the Chinese national flag and replaced it with a Tibetan national flag.⁵⁰

At the same time Tibetans students of Qinghai Nationalities University held a protest on 21 March for the second consecutive day to show their solidarity with those killed in the recent demonstrations.

Protest in Kardze County

According to CTA, around 50 nuns and monks and additional lay people held a protest on 21 March in Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan province.⁵¹

22 March 2008

Hundreds of Tibetans protested in Chentsa, Malho “TAP”, Qinghai Province

On 22 March 2008, hundreds of Tibetans carried out a peaceful protest in Markhul-thang Township, consisting of four villages, located in Chentsa County, Malho “TAP”, Qinghai Province. The Tibetans in Markhul-thang Township were carrying out a special religious ceremony for a prosperous bounty harvest for this year. Shortly after the end of the ritual ceremony, several hundred Tibetans erupted into a peaceful protest by proceeding to the county headquarters chanting slogans.

According to sources, the peaceful Tibetan protestors were proceeding to the county headquarters carrying a portrait of the Dalai Lama and the missing eleventh Panchen Lama Gedun Choekyi Nyima. In addition to that, the peaceful Tibetan protestors were carrying the banned Tibetan National flag and were shouting slogans “Long Live the Dalai Lama”, “The Dalai Lama to return to Tibet”, “Release the eleventh Panchen Lama Erdeni Gedun Choekyi Nyima” and “Freedom for Tibetan people”.

However, when the peaceful Tibetan protestors came near the county headquarters, prominent local religious leaders requested the peaceful protestors to turn away from continuing their demonstration to avoid bloodshed and loss of human lives. The demonstrators were later sent back to their respective places. Sources say that hundreds of Chinese security forces were waiting expectantly for the peaceful protestors at the county headquarters in full combat kit to quell and disperse them with a strong hand.

On 22 March 2008, many monks from Makur Namgyalling Monastery in Chentsa County, Malho “TAP”, Qinghai Province erupted into a peaceful protest but were stopped by the Chinese security forces.

Protests continue in Darlag County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province

On 22 March, the Tibetans protested against the Chinese authorities who came to the protest scene the day before in Ponkor Toema and Mema Townships, Darlag County. The Chinese authorities responded by dispatching five big and small military vehicles to Darlag County on 22 March 2008. While the military vehicles were entering into Darlag County, a group of 350 horsemen charged and blocked the Chinese military vehicles from entering.⁵²

Protests in Chentsa and Chigdril Counties

According to CTA, on 22 March, at around 10 am in the morning, Tibetans from four villages (Drulche, Kholtsa-thang, Lugyal, and Nyamo) from Nangra Township initiated a protest that was also joined by the people of Kyareng Township (including villages Kyareng, Yulwo-che, and Lokhok), Malho “TAP”, Qinghai Province. While protesting, the Tibetan flag was waved and the portrait of H.H. the Dalai Lama and His Serenity Panchen Rinpoche were carried along. When the protestors reached the Chentsa County headquarters, more protestors from of Lechen, Markhu-thang, and Bartsa village joined them. Trulkus (reincarnated lamas) and respected lamas were pressured by County authorities to get the protest to end. The protest lasted till around 3 pm.

50 military trucks from Hunan Province (China) arrived on March 22nd in the Chentsa County area. Even with the widespread and intimidating military presence, Tibetans from villages including Miri-Gongma, Miri-Sholma, Lowa, and Tsulshing held a demonstration. During this demonstration, four people were arrested in Lokhog village by armed forces and the demonstration was stopped there.

On the same day around 500 monks and lay people from Palyul village, Chigdril County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai province held a sit-down protest on a hill-top to demand that Karwang Nyima Rinpoche (Dharthang Monastery head) would not be harassed by the Chinese military. The people also demanded that the United Nations, U.S. and other countries intervene to resolve the issue.⁵³

A-tsok Monastery under tight restrictions

According to CTA, on 22 March at around 9 pm, monks from A-tsok Monastery, Tsegor Thang County, Tsolho “TAP”, Qinghai Province held a peaceful demonstration during which they shouted Free Tibet slogans and also raised the Tibetan flag on the monastery rooftop and on the hill top behind the monastery. In a school near A-tsok Monastery, the monks from A-tsok Monastery brought down the Chinese flag and raised the Tibetan flag in its place.

Chinese military arrived at the scene and surrounded the monastery. They also pressurised the retired staff and lamas of the monastery to bring the protest to an end. The monks were also strictly warned by the military not to share the details of the incident with outsiders. The monks were also forced to undergo “patriotic re-education.” A-tsok monastery continued to be under tight restrictions.⁵⁴

Asking peaceful solution for Tibet in Tsolho “TAP”

According to RFA, on 22 March monks from Serlho Monastery, Tsolho “TAP” held a peaceful demonstration, marching towards the sub-district headquarters. A monk protestor called RFA saying: “Security forces seem to be coming”. Hundreds of local Tibetans, mainly nomads, joined them as an expression of support to Tibetans peacefully protesting in Lhasa and other parts of Tibet. The demonstrators’ demands were that the Chinese leadership engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama and peacefully resolve the Tibetan issue; and that the Dalai Lama be allowed to visit Tibet.⁵⁵

23 March 2008

Protest demonstrations stopped at Lokog, Chentsa County

On 23 March 2008, around eight hundred Tibetans from Lha village, Nyarong Monastery, Lowa Village and Meru Village erupted in protest demonstrations. However the Chinese security forces stopped the peaceful Tibetan protestors when they were at a place called Lokog.

A large mobilisation of Chinese paramilitary troops from the Chinese city of Seling (Ch: Xining) to Chentsa County, Malho “TAP”, Qinghai Province was seen heading to quell Tibetan protests. The heavy security blanket was maintaining a close vigil on the protestors as well as patrolling the streets.

More military vehicles in Darlag County

On 23 March 2008, the monks of Ponko Monastery and a local religious lama Gurlu intervened and pacified the escalating tension between the protestors of Ponkor Township and Chinese authorities but on the same day, around 30 Chinese military vehicles came to Darlag County to quell the peaceful protesters.⁵⁶

Arrests before the deadline in Chone County

On 23 March 2008, monks from Tashi Choeling Monastery, Chone County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province held a peaceful demonstration. The Chinese authorities who arrived to stop the demonstration warned the monks that they must surrender by March 24 but started arresting many of them even before the deadline.

Chinese “Work teams” pressure monks for their signatures

The CTA reported on 23 March that monks from Thangkor Monastery (Dzoge County) and laypeople were arrested by Chinese military. Chinese “Work teams” arrived at Thangkor Monastery to pressure the monks to sign an acknowledgement letter stating that they had “wrongfully” taken part in the recent pro-independence demonstrations. None of the monks provided their signature.⁵⁷

24 March 2008

Indiscriminate firing in Drango protest

The People’s Armed Police fired indiscriminately on protesting Tibetans in Drango County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. On 24 March at around 2:00 pm (Beijing

Standard Time) a peaceful protest was initiated jointly by the monks of Chokri Monastery and nuns of Ngyoe-go Nunnery of Drawo Township, Drango County (Ch: Luhuo Xian), Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, in eastern Tibet which was later joined by the common citizens of Drawu Township. Around 200 protestors headed towards the township government headquarters chanting the slogans, “Long live the Dalai Lama”, “Independence for Tibet” and “Freedom for Tibet”.

According to multiple sources within Tibet, as the protesters were marching towards the township headquarters, a large number of PAP and PSB officers came to the scene to force the agitated protestors to disperse. In the process, a clash occurred between the two sides, and the Chinese security forces soon started firing live ammunition indiscriminately into the protesting crowd, which led to the death of at least one monk and left another in critical condition. The dead Tibetan is identified as Kunga, an 18-year-old monk from Chokri Monastery, Drango County (Ch: Luhuo xian), Kardze “TAP”. Tsewang Dhondup, a 30-year-old monk from the same monastery is known to be in critical condition after being shot by Chinese security forces.



Households searched by military

According to CTA, in Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province each household was thoroughly searched by Chinese military and police on 24 March. Also, during a search in Sershul County (Ch: Shiqu), Kardze “TAP”, 70 portraits of H.H. the Dalai Lama and three CDs (speeches by H.H. the Dalai Lama) were found at the Chuga-tsang family house and taken away by the military. The search by military at the Chuga-tsang family home took place after one of their family members, Ngoenga, was arrested a few days earlier.⁵⁸



100 Tibetans from Ponkor Toema and Mema Township arrested

On 24 March 2008, around 50 Tibetans from Ponkor Toema and Mema Township, Darlag County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province were arrested by Chinese security forces for taking part in a peaceful protest. Later, on 25 March 2008, 50 other Tibetans were again arrested.⁵⁹

25 March 2008



**Protest erupts after prayer for deceased
in Drango County**

Following a peaceful protest in Drango County (Ch: Luhuo xian), Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province on 24 March 2008, which resulted in the death of one Tibetan and left another in critical condition after the PAP fired indiscriminately into the protesting crowd, the monks of Drango Gaden Rabten Nampargyalpelung Monastery organised a special prayer session for the deceased on the morning of 25 March.

At around 8:00 am (Beijing Standard Time), on 25 March, the dead body of an 18-year-old monk, Kunga, who had been shot dead in the protest the day before, was brought to Drango Gaden Rabten Nampargyalpelung Monastery in Drango County by monks for a special mass prayer session. After the prayer, at around 10 am (BST), more than 400 monks of the monastery decided to hold a peaceful protest in solidarity against the Chinese rule and at the same time vowed to stand up and support each other in case death or detention occurred to any of the monks during protest. The monks in their complete monastic robes proceeded with their plan by raising slogans, “Dalai Lama should return to the rightful throne in the Potala Palace”, “Release Panchen Lama”, “Stop current repression in Tibet” and “Independence and Democracy for Tibet.”

The protesters headed towards the county headquarters, but were blocked by PAP and PSB forces stationed on the bridge in between the county government headquarters and the monastery. The protesting monks managed to push forward with their march although forcibly obstructed by the Chinese security forces. The monks, joined by some lay people proceeded with their protest march and shouted slogans. When the protesters reached the County Market square, the security forces started firing live ammunition and blocked all the alleys in County Market. In a short time, protesters lay down on the road to avoid bullet fire and shouted for the protesters to stand together. Although a few agitated protesters hurled stones at the military trucks during the protest, senior monks present in the protest stopped them from doing so. The monks continued with their protest shouting slogans for a couple of hours before being ruthlessly crushed by additional forces of PAP and PSB. According to sources within Tibet, the protesting monks rushed back to their monastery. The present condition of Tsewang Dhondup, a 30-year-old monk who was injured after being shot by Chinese security forces, was known to be critical.

Public notices for protesters to surrender increases in Tibet

China's official mouthpiece, Xinhua, claimed that over 381 Tibetans had so far "surrendered" in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba Xian), "TAP", Sichuan Province, after the issuance of "surrender notices" on 20 March 2008 which were jointly issued by the law enforcement authorities of Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) "TAP" Intermediate People's Court, Procuratorate, and the Public Security Bureau. According to sources within Tibet, many protestors especially the monks who were involved in the peaceful protest in Ngaba County fled their monasteries and homes to avoid arrest by the security forces who have been hunting down the protesters and ransacking their homes at will. Many people from the area were known to have disappeared since the protest broke out on 14 March.

As of today (25 March), around 645 Tibetans from various parts of Tibet have "surrendered" to the Chinese authorities following the official issuance of the surrender notice, of which only a few were known to have been released without formal charges.

According to information, hundreds of military trucks, tanks and personnel had swamped the entire area of Lhasa, and northeastern parts of Tibet particularly in Ngaba County, where the largest number of protests, arrests and deaths were registered.

Tense situation in and around Gaden Raptan Nampar Gyalwai Ling Monastery

On 25 March 2008 monks from Gaden Raptan Nampar Gyalwai Ling Monastery, Drango County, Kandze TAP, Sichuan Province staged a peaceful demonstration in and around the monastery. Soon the monastery was surrounded by PAP forces and restricted the monks from any ritual activities for four months. Despite heavy military presence monks and lay people continued with the peaceful demonstration.

Massive military deployment and new military base in Lithang County

On 25 March a huge military deployment was made, with a full military base being built in Lithang County, Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province. Over 100 tents were used to house the military personnel.⁶⁰

According to CTA, the same day a government office in Lithang County was set on fire. However, the local Tibetan people strongly denied any involvement in the incident and instead believed that the Chinese authorities were behind this act in their attempt to taint the image of Tibetans.⁶¹

In solidarity, Tibetans march with prayers in Tsolho

On 25 March, hundreds of Tibetans from all walks of life including monks in Holkha Township, Tsigorthang County (Ch: Xinghai Xian), Tsolho “TAP”, Qinghai Province staged a peaceful solidarity march at the main market square of the Township. The marchers were calling for an immediate end to the brutal crackdown on Tibetan protesters in Lhasa and series of Tibetan protests in other parts of Tibet. In a unique display of their support for those who had lost their lives and were injured in recent protests, many marchers were seen carrying traditional prayer wheels in their hands while reciting prayers (Mani Mantra) while others held up a huge banner bearing texts written in Tibetan and Chinese that read, “Peace, Democracy. We mourn and pray (Mani mantra) for our people who lost their lives”. The marchers finally ended their procession at the Holkha Township government headquarters where they held a sit-in protest and recited prayers throughout the day. Although PAP and PSB officials were seen in their combat gear during the entire peaceful solidarity march, there was no report of arrest or detention of Tibetan marchers that day.

However, in a sudden change of tactic, the authorities launched an early morning raid at the homes of the Tibetans suspected to be the leaders in the previous day’s protest.



The PAP and PSB officials arbitrarily arrested at least three Tibetans, including a female, from their homes and took them to an unknown location. The arrestees were Rinbum Gyal and Tsewang, both in their late 20's, and a female. In the following days four more Tibetans were arrested and their whereabouts are still unknown to their families.

A Public Notice, marked with the official stamp of the PSB was issued demanding participants of the 'illegal' 25th March protest to surrender voluntarily for leniency. At the same time, it warned protesters of severe punishment if they failed to surrender to the authorities within the three day deadline.

According to sources, following their arrest in the early morning raid on 26 March, more than 600 Tibetans from nine villages under Holkha Township staged a peaceful sit-in protest in front of Township government headquarters demanding the immediate release of those arrested. The protesters sat for the entire day demanding the authorities heed their demands. After a daylong protest, the protesting crowd finally dispersed after the authorities agreed to secure the detainees' release.

Although there was no report of protest by Tibetans on 27 March in Holkha Township, at around 3 pm (Beijing Standard Time) hundreds of additional PAP and PSB officials in military trucks flooded into the market place to check any further outburst of protest by Tibetans. Military troops in several rows were seen patrolling the streets of Holkha Township. Later that day, four people, Malle and Tsekyab Gyal both males in their late 20's from Holkha Township and two Tibetan businesswomen from other parts of Tibet were arrested by the security forces for unknown reasons. There is no information on the location of their detention.

26 March 2008



Two former abbots detained

On 26 March 2008, under the pretext of a call for a meeting with the authorities, two former abbots of Chogri Monastery, in Drango (Ch: Luhuo) County, Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province Geshe Namgyal Tsering and Geshe Sonam Gyurmey were detained in the County PSB Detention Centre.

In Ponkor Township intimidation continues

In Ponkor Township, Darlag County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province, on 26 March 2008, there were persistent arrests, threats and intimidation by the Chinese security forces and around 400 Tibetans from Ponkor Toema and 100 Tibetans from Ponkor Mema Townships fled and sought hideouts on nearby mountaintops. In response, around 860 Chinese security forces surrounded the mountain from various sides. Days later, the Chinese security forces were luring the hiding Tibetans to surrender by promising leniency in punishment.⁶²

Tight restrictions continue in Lhasa

On 26 March Tsuglagkhang temple and the Barkhor area were still sealed but at 3PM the military units that were brought to suppress the demonstrations in Lhasa were withdrawn. However, the PSB and other permanent law enforcement agencies continued to remain in order to impose restrictions: except for a few Chinese owned ones, shops were forced to close down and parents escorting their children to school were forced to return to their homes.

Protests in Dartsedo County and Nyagchu County

According to the CTA, on 26 March a group of Tibetans held a protest in Dartsedo County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province.⁶³ At the same time at Mi-nyak Town, Nyagchu County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province Tibetans expressed their frustrations by writing slogans such as “Tibet is an independent country” on Chinese currency and throwing them all over.⁶⁴

27 March 2008

Elderly woman was brutally beaten during a Township meeting

Following the protests by monks in Drango County (Ch: Luhuo) on 24 March, leading to the death of an 18-year-old monk and the subsequent solidarity protest on 25

March 2008, the local authorities expelled a large number of monks from Chogri Monastery and arrested some nuns from Nanggong (Tib translit: nganga sgong) Nun-nery. Sources also reported disappearance of many lay people from the area.

In an apparent measure to bring Tibetans in the area under control, on 27 March the authorities called for a Getse Township meeting during which the residents were ordered to denounce and criticise the Dalai Lama and the “separatist” forces. An elderly woman, Ama Tsanglo, steadfastly refused to abide by the order and on the contrary called for the fast “return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet”. At this, the Township Party Secretary beat her brutally, as she shouted, “I will never denounce the Dalai Lama. Even if you kill me today I won’t have any regrets.” Unable to watch his old mother being mercilessly beaten, her son sprang from the crowd and gave some strong physical blows to the Party Secretary. Both the Party Secretary and Tsanglo were hospitalized.



Monk of Ngaba Kirti Monastery committed suicide

On 27 March 2008, a monk, Lobsang Jinpa of Ngaba Kirti Monastery, committed suicide. He hailed from Ngasib Village in Amdo Ngaba. In his signed suicide note, Lobsang stated, “the Chinese government has levelled false allegations against the monks of Kirti Monastery for leaking state secrets to the outside world, leading and organising the protests and for keeping the dead bodies of Tibetan protesters shot dead by the Chinese security forces. However, all the charges levelled by the Chinese government were not committed by anyone in Kirti Monastery, but carried out solely by me”. The note further stated, “I led the peaceful protest, and I am solely responsible for the protest”. The suicide note continued: “I do not want to live under the Chinese oppression even for a minute, leave aside living for a day.”



Two Tibetans surrendered in Darlag County

On 27 March 2008, the two Tibetans who voluntarily surrendered themselves to the Chinese security forces were severely beaten and tortured in Darlag County, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai Province. They were under high pressure since the Chinese security forces surrounded the mountain where 500 Tibetans from Ponkor Township had fled the day before.

Sources told TCHRD that, in the following weeks, hundreds of Tibetan protesters were arrested by Chinese security forces. Many of those arrested were later released from detention but were charged with a hefty fine of 20,000 Chinese yuan as a punishment (US \$2,500).⁶⁵

Monks' protest disrupts media visit to Tibet

According to the Guardian, on 27 March more than 30 monks at Jokhang Temple, Lhasa burst in on a briefing during the first foreign journalists tour since riots erupted in the Tibetan capital on March 14. Interrupting a speech about inter-ethnic harmony by the head of the temple's administrative office, the lamas surrounded the journalists and said, "They are tricking you. Don't believe them. They are lying to you." "They want us to crush the Dalai Lama and that is not right," one monk told the Associated Press news agency, denying that Tibet's exiled spiritual leader was responsible for the unrest. The monks, who first spoke Tibetan and then switched to Mandarin so the reporters could understand them, said they were willing to risk arrest to speak out.

"It was an astonishing act of defiance," said Callum MacLeod of USA Today. "The monks hijacked the briefing. They were desperate to get their story out - that they have no freedom, that 120 of them haven't been allowed to leave their dormitories since March 14." Another reporter on the trip, Wang Che-nan, a cameraman for Taiwan's ETTV, told Reuters that the incident lasted about 15 minutes, after which unarmed police took the Tibetans to another area of the temple.⁶⁶



30 arrested in Nagchu Prefecture

On 27 March in Zhejiang market, in Nagchu Prefecture, “TAR” about 30 people held a protest asking for more freedom in Tibet. All the 30 protestors were immediately arrested by PSB officials who arrived soon after the start of the protest. Another group of persons, composed of students, was also arrested by the PAP who arrived after the end of the protest, but they were released the next day.

28 March 2008

China arrests over 572 monks from Kirti Monastery in a two-day raid

After days of unrest and protests in Ngaba County since 15 March, which saw the death of at least 23 Tibetans and the arrest and injury of at least hundreds, the Chinese People’s PAP and PSB forces arrested over 572 monks from Ngaba Kirti Monastery during a raid on the monastery in the afternoon. Earlier in the morning, hundreds of PAP and PSB came to Ngaba Kirti Monastery and dispersed the people, mostly devotees and visitors gathered around the monastery compound, and ordered the surrounding shops to shut down.

At around 12 noon (Beijing Standard time), PAP and PSB forces stormed into Ngaba Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba Xian), Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province. At first the PAP and PSB forces barred the monks of Ngaba Kirti Monastery from venturing out of their rooms, but then suddenly carried out raids in each and every monk’s room, ransacking any portraits of the Dalai Lama and looking for any incriminating documents. At around 5:00 pm (Beijing Standard Time) at least a hundred monks were known to have been forcibly taken away by the armed forces to Ngaba County PSB Detention Centre after the raid. Sandbag barricades were erected by PAP around the Kirti Monastery and the surrounding area to curb new outbreaks of protests by the local residents of Ngaba County.

On 28 March, the same day as raids in Kirti Monastery, around 30 Tibetans who had been arrested a few days earlier were paraded around the street of Ngaba County in a military truck to intimidate common people from undertaking further protests. Two monks identified as Ven. Lobsang Tenzin and Ven. Lobsang Chodhar of Kirti Monastery were among the group in the truck, according to a source.

Threat and arrests at Chokri Monastery

On 28 March three monks from Chokri Monastery, Drango County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province were arrested for leading the demonstration in Drango County on March 24. While they were arresting them, the Chinese authorities threatened the monks that they would face harsh legal consequences for their involvement in the demonstration.

People convey message through posters

According to a CTA report released on 28 March many posters were pasted in various villages of Nyarong County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. Some of the posters read, “Tibet needs freedom and independence,” and “Long Live His Holiness the Dalai Lama.” Similar messages were also written on stone tablets. Gatherings were strictly banned in the areas. After two County governmental buildings were set on fire on March 27, a group of Tibetans (living nearby) were taken into custody and beaten during interrogations.⁶⁷

“Patriotic re-education” campaign proving a failure

According to a CTA report on 28 March more than 40 heads of monasteries from Sershul County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province were summoned by the State Administration of Religious Affairs so that they could be given “patriotic re-education”. Each of the 40 heads of monasteries did not comply with the Chinese demands to participate in the classes.⁶⁸

Monk uses posters to express conditions in Tibet

According to CTA, on 28 March Tsewang Dorjee, a monk from Nera Monastery, Pashoe County, Chamdo Prefecture, “TAR” posted many posters at multiple locations including the Pashoe County Governmental Headquarters and also on big rocks (near Nera Monastery). On the posters, among many other things, he demanded more religious freedom in Tibet, a free Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet. Tsewang Dorjee was arrested after he returned to the monastery.⁶⁹

Huge military deployments and arrests continue

According to CTA report, since mid-March, over 10,000 Chinese military troops have been deployed in Gyalthang County, Dechen “TAP”, Yunnan Province and tight restrictions continue to be imposed. In Rongpa-Nyishar Township, Gyalthang County, around a thousand military personnel were deployed. Local Tibetans distributed and pasted posters asking all Tibetans to unite and resist the policies of the Chinese government and also demand the immediate return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.⁷⁰ The CTA also reported on the same day that six Chinese military trucks packed with military personnel arrived in Chokri Shuk-yul village, Drango County, and made arrests at a highly alarming rate.⁷¹

Six monasteries invaded by Chinese security forces

According to TibetInfoNet, at 11:00 AM on 28 March, thousands of black and green uniformed Chinese security forces entered six monasteries in Sichuan Province, including Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery in Dzoge county, Ngaba Kirti Monastery, Ngatue Amdu Monastery, Gomang Monastery, Dongri Monastery and Tsennyi Monastery in Ngaba county.

Security forces raided each monk's room and confiscated all mobile phones; monks were interrogated and forced at gunpoint to step on photographs of the Dalai Lama. Security forces staged and videotaped monks of Kirti Monastery in their rooms as they forced them to hold up a portrait of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan national flag. A small monk was “forced to hide half his body underneath the wooden floorboards and made to place his hands on the keyboard of a laptop computer”.

One of the monks made a secret phone call to Kirti Monastery in exile (Dharamsala, India), stating: “I am worried that the CCP is creating false evidence to try to show that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the mastermind behind the protests in Tibet. The security forces forced us to act out these scenes against our will with guns pointed at us [...] Do not be persuaded by these fake videos”.⁷²

29 March 2008



PAP and PSB raids in Ngatoe Adué Monastery and Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery in Dzoge County

On 29 March, PAP and PSB raided each and every residence of Ngatoe Adué Monastery in Ngaba County. In another incident, on 29 March a similar raid was carried out by the PAP and PSB officials at around dusk in the Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery (a branch of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery) in Dzoge County (Ch:Ruanggui/Zoige Xian) Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province. Scores of monks were arrested at their residences after the raid.

Next morning, around 80 Chinese government officials and a large number of PAP forces carried out sudden raids again in Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery, Dzoge County (Ch:Ruanggui/Zoige Xian) Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province. The officials confiscated weapons displayed on the altars for protecting deities in the monastery, which officials alleged had been used by the protesters. One source confirmed that there were shortages of food, water and medical care in the monastery after successive protests broke out in Ngaba County.



Extension of the “Patriotic-re-education” campaign

According to a CTA report, since 29 March Chinese authorities had stepped up the “Patriotic re-education” classes in regions beyond the “TAR”. Particularly in monasteries all over Tibet, “Patriotic re-education,” was strictly implemented. Over 100 senior officials were sent to various prefectures and counties to lead the “patriotic re-education” campaign.⁷³



Monks reject “Patriotic re-education” classes

According to CTA, on 29 March, Chinese governmental “work teams” arrived at Shiwa Monastery, Ralang Township, Nyarong County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province for “patriotic re-education” classes. During one particular class, monks shouted slogans such as “Free Tibet” and “His Holiness the Dalai Lama should be welcomed to Tibet.” As a result, a large number of military personnels arrived at the monastery to suppress the determined monks. There are around 160 monks at Shiwa Monastery.⁷⁴

Messages being passed through posters

According to CTA, on 29 March, many posters were pasted on walls near the Zigar Monastery, Jomda County, Chamdo Prefecture, “TAR”. Among many other things, some of the demands in the posters were calling for a Free Tibet and for China to leave Tibet. When news of the posters got to the Chinese authorities, the military arrived at Zigar monastery to enforce restrictions.

On the same day, 5 monks from Nyimaling monastery, Gyalchen Township, Sog County, Nagchu Prefecture, “TAR”, who protested against Chinese “work-teams” giving “patriotic re-education” classes were arrested by the local police.⁷⁵

30 March 2008

PAP and PSB raids in Gomang Monastery, Ngamey Dongri Monastery and Wara Monastery

On 30 March, a raid was carried out by PAP and PSB in every residence of Gomang Monastery in Ngaba County, Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province. At least twenty monks from the monastery were arrested during the raid.

On the same day, at least 20 monks of Ngamey Dongri Monastery (a branch of Ngaba Kirti Monastery) in Ngaba County were arrested by PAP and PSB officers. There were reports of a few people surrendering to the authorities, but their identities have not yet been established. Sources confirmed reports that PAP and PSB officials beat several elderly people with rifle butts in the area.

On March 30, monks of Wara Monastery, Jomda County, Chamdo Prefecture, “TAR” held a peaceful demonstration but it ended soon after a senior lama’s intervention at the request of the County officials. Additionnaly, a huge military deployment was made in Jomda County.

A monk of Ngaba Gomang Monastery committed suicide

A monk named Legtsok of Ngaba Gomang Monastery committed suicide on 30 March 2008. The deceased was 75 years old and hailed from a small hamlet in the upper flank of Ngaba prefecture. Sources say that days before committing suicide, on 30 March 2008, Legtsok accompanied by two other monks on their way to perform prayer rituals at a house of a Tibetan family, encountered a large contingent of Chinese security forces heading towards Ngaba Gomang Monastery in order to quell the peacefully protesting monks at the monastery. The forces brutally beat Legtsok and detained him for several days. Later, he was released and sent back to the monastery. Just moments before his suicide, he sent two of his disciples to return money held by his other disciples and relatives for safe keeping. Minutes after his disciples' departure, he committed suicide. When his disciples returned, they found him dead. He repeatedly told his two disciples that "he can't bear the oppression anymore". Those words served as a foreboding for his imminent death.

Protests at Shiwa Lhathim Monastery and at a Teachers Training School

According to CTA on 30 March monks from Shiwa Lhathim Monastery in Raloong Township, Nyarong County, Kandze "TAP", Sichuan Province were on a protest march towards the County Governmental Headquarters. On their way, they were stopped by Chinese security forces and sent back to their monastery. Shiwa Lhathim Monastery remained surrounded by Chinese security forces. The local Tibetan people sent a letter to the concerned office warning them that if the suppression at Shiwa Lhathim Monastery continued, the people would hold a massive demonstration.⁷⁶

Students from a Teachers Training School in Chabcha County, Tsolho "TAP", Qinghai Province held a peaceful demonstration around 11:00 pm the same day.⁷⁷

1 April 2008



A farmer died after torture in Lhasa Municipality

A 31-year-old farmer named Dawa from Dedrong village, Jangkha Township, Phenpo Lhundup County died on 1 April after being tortured by Chinese prison guards. He had been arrested while participating in a peaceful protest in Phenpo Lhundup County on 15 March, and spent two weeks in detention. He was in a critical medical condition as a result of torture when the Chinese prison authorities released him on 27 March for medical treatment. He died after spending four days in the hospital. The authorities charged the deceased's family with a fine of 1,000 yuan (US \$125) for "causing destruction to public property and bringing damages to economy".

2 April 2008



A new phase of defiance: Nuns of Tawu County hold prayer session for those killed in recent crackdown

In the aftermath of severe crackdowns on the Tibetan protesters by Chinese military forces across various parts of Tibet since 10 March which led to the deaths of scores of Tibetans, a subtle form of protest surfaced from Tibet in the form of staging peaceful solidarity prayer processions, despite the authorities imposing severe restrictions.

On 2 April 2008, at 8 AM (Beijing Standard Time), around 200 nuns from Ratroe Nunnery in Tawu County (Ch: Daifu Xian), Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province, set off in a peaceful procession to showcase their solidarity with and pray for those who had lost their lives in the recent protests across the Tibetan plateau by chanting Buddhist prayers. The nuns of Ratroe Nunnery marched towards the county headquarters chanting Buddhist prayers such as those for the Dalai Lama's longevity and Dolma (Tara) prayers.

According to sources, the PAP and the PSB officers ordered the chanting nuns to return to their nunnery or be forcibly returned. The nuns dispersed and returned to their nunnery after offering prayers in front of Tawu County government headquarters. Eyewitnesses reported a heavy presence of the PAP and PSB during the peaceful procession.

China pressuring monks to denounce the Dalai Lama

According to CTA, on 2 April, Chinese “work teams” arrived at Ba-Chodae Monastery, Bathang County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. There they attempted to collect signatures from the monks which would support Chinese allegations that His Holiness the Dalai Lama was responsible for inciting the recent demonstrations in Tibet. Each of the 200 monks at the monastery refused to give in to Chinese pressure by withholding their signatures. There were heated arguments between the monks and the “work teams” leading to the arrest of five monks including the abbot of the monastery, Jigme Dorjee, and the Disciplinary in charge, Yeshi.⁷⁸

Students boycotted classes in Chone County

According to an RFA report in Chone County, Kanlho “TAP”, on 2 April, hundreds of students from a Tibetan middle school boycotted classes in protest of the recent crackdown on Tibetan demonstrators in the region. A law enforcement official from the Chone county government was quoted as saying, “The majority of the protesters are good people” but declined to comment further.⁷⁹

3 April 2008

Protest in Tongkor Monastery in Kardze

The protest broke out on 3 April 2008 when monks of Tongkor Monastery (Ch: Donggu) in Zithang Township, Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, called for the release of two monks arrested for objecting to the Chinese ‘patriotic re-education’ campaign the previous day. There were also accounts of police firing on protesters, and reportedly scores of Tibetans were injured and arrested during the protest.

The official government mouthpiece, Xinhua, admitted that the incident took place but described it as a ‘riot’, mentioning only the injury of one government official, and did not mention the deaths, arrests and injuries among the Tibetan protesters.

According to reliable sources, the protest flared up at Tongkor Monastery in Zithang Township, Kardze County on 2 April with the arrival of an official ‘work team’ to

enforce a “Patriotic Education” campaign - a political indoctrination session that requires monks to denounce the Dalai Lama and to oppose the ongoing protests. The chief monk of Tongkor Monastery, Lobsang Jamyang, did not cooperate with the work team during the campaign. Yeshe Nyima, a monk protested against the campaign which, he was later joined by other monks of the monastery who refused to cooperate with the official work team by saying “We cannot criticize the Dalai Lama even at the cost of our lives.” The next day, the work team returned to the monastery with hundreds of PAP and PSB officials, who ransacked monks’ residences looking for photos of the Dalai Lama and confiscated photos of Tongkor’s head lama, Tongkor Shabdrung, mobile phones and other belongings. An eyewitness said that the PAP and PSB arrested an elderly monk, Geshe Tsultrim Tenzin, in his 70’s and a lay person Tsultrim Phuntsok, 26.

Subsequently, the monastic community, more than three hundred strong, marched towards the local county government headquarters to demand their release, and were later joined by hundreds of lay-people. The group left after being told that the two monks would be released at 8:00 p.m. but returned after officials failed to deliver on their promise. On their way, they were confronted by PAP and PSB officials which later turned into a scuffle between police forces and the protesters, with police forces firing shots directly at protesters, killing at least 14 Tibetans.

Meanwhile, on 3 April 2008, a monk of Ngaba Namtso Monastery was reportedly beaten to death by the Chinese security forces.



Police intimidating protesters in Gonjo County

According to CTA, the monks of Thang-kya Monastery, Gonjo County, Chamdo Prefecture, “TAR”, held a protest on 3 April demanding the release of three fellow monks who were arbitrarily arrested on April 1. The monks also shouted slogans calling for freedom of speech and religion and demanding an independent Tibet. After the protest, a group of monks were arrested and detained. After being arrested, the monks were taken to the county market in a police truck and their arrests were used to intimidate other Tibetans in the market. The police told the Tibetans in the market that if they participated in any protests, they would also be punished like the arrested monks. The armed forces completely surrounded the premises of Thang-kya Monastery and imposed tight restrictions.⁸⁰

Tension in Dartsedo County

The CTA also reported on 3 April that at the beginning of the month, Sangpo, a monk-student from Nangten School of Kardze “TAP”, waved a Tibetan flag while shouting slogans in Dartsedo County. Sangpo is a resident of Kardze (Ch: Ganzi) County. He was arrested by the police and no further information is available on his whereabouts or his well-being.

In Mi-nyak Lhagung Acha Rusar Village, Dartsedo County, a convoy of military vehicles arrived. Lhakpa took the opportunity to wave the Tibetan flag and shout slogans such as “His Holiness the Dalai Lama should be welcomed back to Tibet” and “Tibet is an independent country.” A few other Tibetans also joined in to support Lhakpa. Lhakpa was arrested for protesting and his whereabouts are unknown.⁸¹

“Patriotic re-education” campaign continues

According to CTA reports on 3 April Chinese “work-teams” imposed ‘patriotic re-education’ classes in all monasteries and nunneries in Sog County, Nagchu Prefecture, “TAR”. Monks and nuns were restricted from leaving their living quarters. Very tight restrictions were placed specifically on Sok Tsenden Monastery and Ripung Nunnery (both located in Sog County).

The concerned offices in Sog County gave orders to the people that they could not leave the county and that participation in “patriotic re-education” classes would be mandatory. If the people left their counties, the benefits (such as household, land and agricultural) they received from the government would be discontinued.⁸²

4 April 2008

Special permission needed to leave the campus for foreign students

According to reports in the aftermath of the March 14 demonstrations in Lhasa, restrictions were imposed on foreign students of Tibet University studying Tibetan language: they were restricted from leaving their university campus and for over a week their communication devices were disconnected. If the foreign students wanted to

leave the campus they had to ask for a special permission which was limited to a maximum of one or two hours. This concession was given to them after a few days.



Over 30 people arrested in Chentsa County

On April 4, over 30 people were arrested in Chentsa County, Malho “TAP”, Qinghai Province. They were accused of being involved in the peaceful protest that took place on March 22-23. Moreover 4-5 students were suspended at the Chentsa County Nationalities Middle School. They were involved in the incident during which the Chinese flag was burned and replaced with the Tibetan flag on March 20.

5 April 2008



Candlelight vigil stopped in Nyatso Monastery

According to the report of the Tibetan Solidarity Committee on 5 April, Chinese security forces prevented a group of monks from Nyatso Monastery, Tawo County, from carrying out a candlelight vigil cum Buddhist ritual for Tibetans who died in the recent protests. When the monks blamed the Chinese security forces for not respecting religious freedom, they were fired on, killing and injuring at least three of them.⁸³ On the same day it was also reported to the Tibetan Solidarity Committee that Chinese soldiers had looted and destroyed many of the holy statues in the monasteries. On 5th April 2008, for instance, they destroyed many statues in Tongkor Monastery in Kardze Area. Similarly, many rich religious and cultural relics of local Tibetans, which had been preserved for generations in the same monastery, were also destroyed.⁸⁴



Chinese police fire to disperse the protesters in Drango County

The Times reported on 5 April that when monks at Lingque temple, Drango County were joined by several hundred pilgrims for an annual prayer ceremony, the Torgya (which is meant to exorcise evil elements from society) the police appeared to grow anxious about the size of the crowd, which included monks and about 400 nomads, local residents, students and even civil servants, who wore dust masks to conceal their identity. Around midday, security forces ordered the ceremony to a halt, but the participants refused to leave and the stand-off lasted for several hours. At one point, the

police opened fire to disperse the protesters, who were demanding the return of the Dalai Lama; about ten people were wounded. A resident stated, “The police opened fire. We could hear it. But I haven’t heard about any of the people throwing stones at the security forces”.⁸⁵

Fifteen Tibetans injured at Mintso Monastery

According to a report by the RFA, on 5 April monks from Mintso Monastery, Dawu County planned a special ceremony to mourn those killed in earlier protests, despite a warning that Chinese police had orders to shoot on sight anyone seen protesting. Local people joined them and the crowd grew to about 1,000. The crowd then marched peacefully while reciting prayers but they were blocked by several hundred armed police. Eventually, the monks were allowed to pass but the laypeople were stopped. The crowd became agitated and raised slogans.

The police opened fire on the crowd and injured about fifteen Tibetans, five of whom were seriously wounded and detained. The monks called the head of Daofu County and warned that if those detained were not released, all the monks would continue protesting, even if it meant death. Those detained were then released and the injured were taken to the local hospital, where they were, however, denied medical treatment. Ten of the Tibetans were later reported to be in a stable condition, while four of those more seriously injured were taken to China for medical treatment in a vehicle owned by Mintso monastery. An official at the Daofu PSB confirmed that a protest had occurred, but added, “Now everything is quiet and under control”. Before phone lines in the area were cut, a witness told RFA: “Please tell the world what we are doing here and that the Chinese are waging a violent crackdown”.⁸⁶

7 April 2008

Around 70 monks of Ramoche Temple detained in midnight raid

Contrary to what the Chinese authorities are proclaiming about the calm and normalcy restored to Lhasa city, the reality in the area is that severe restrictions and mass detentions continued, especially in monasteries that were active in the recent series of demonstrations in Lhasa and other parts of Eastern Tibet. On 7 April 2008, around 70 monks from Ramoche Temple were detained by the PAP and PSB officials during

midnight raids carried out on monks' residences. The detained monks were taken away to an unknown location, according to reliable sources. Only a few monks were left in the Ramoche Temple, which previously housed around a hundred monks, with scores detained and taken away in the midnight raids. There was no immediate information on the condition and whereabouts of those detained. The Chairman of the "Tibet Autonomous Region" government, Qiangba Puncog, said at a press briefing of the State Council information office in the morning, that the police detained 953 suspects involved in the '14 March violence' in Lhasa.

Severe restrictions were imposed on the movement of the monks of Ramoche Temple since the 14 March protest in Lhasa. Credible sources confirmed a case of one monk, Thokmey, committing suicide in Ramoche temple following massive crackdowns by the PAP and PSB on 22 March 2008.

Similar restrictions were imposed on all the major monasteries of Tibet including Drepung, Gaden and Sera, with all access to these monasteries severely restricted and surveilled around the clock by a heavy PAP and PSB presence, since the demonstration broke out on 10 March in Lhasa and other parts of Tibet.

As reported by China's official mouthpiece, Xinhua, on 1 April 2008, in answer to a question raised by one visiting foreign journalist on a state-sponsored media tour on 27 March, Lhasa City Mayor, Duoji Cizhu, defended the deployment of the PAP and PSB in the three major monasteries around Lhasa, by stating that the authorities had undertaken this measure in order to investigate the suspects involved in the recent 'unrest' and to avoid further protests by agitated monks.

In a similar show of official support, on 8 April 2008, Zhu Wei Qun, Vice Minister of the United Work Front Department (UWFD) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee accompanied by Lobsang Gyaltsen, the head of the "TAR" United Work Front Department, paid a visit to PAP and PSB personnel stationed at Gaden Monastery to boost their morale and in appreciation of their good work. According to reliable sources, all three major monasteries around Lhasa were virtually sealed off by many PAP and PSB personnel.

8 April 2008

■

China closes down Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastic School

According to multiple sources, the Chinese authorities of Ngaba “TAP” indefinitely closed down Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery’s school in Dzoge County (Ch: Ruanggui /Zoige Xian), Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province, on 8 April 2008. According to sources, the primary reason for its closure was cited as participation by a number of students of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery in the March 15th protest along with other senior monks of the monastery at Dzoge County headquarters. Students, both novice monks and children from surrounding areas, were known to have been sent back to their respective homes after the closure.

At the time of its inception in early 1986, the school was under the care of scholar Dzoge Aku Nyima with only three classes, which were mostly held in the monastery’s hall and monks’ residences. A separate school was established in 1996 through generous funds raised by the head of the management committee of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery, Alak Lungsang Nangwa Rinpoche.

The school’s history was also not free from official interference in the past. In 1998, the Chinese authorities forcibly took over the governance of the monastic school from Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery two years after its establishment. However, irrespective of general Chinese governance, the monastic school was run and managed directly



by Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery until its closure on 8 April 2008. Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastic School primarily educated novice monks below 18 years of age and children from surrounding nomadic areas, in Tibetan language, literature and Buddhist philosophy. At the time of its closure, the school housed 504 novice monks and lay children from neighboring areas. Almost all of its students were from poor rural and nomadic areas where education is otherwise unavailable. The monastic school was a boon for the poor farmers and nomads who subsisted on meager daily earnings and could not provide for their children's education. Although, Chinese official mouthpiece, Xinhua, reported on 25 March, that most schools in Aba County had resumed classes since the return of normalcy to the area, the indefinite closure of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastic School on 8 April has not been mentioned anywhere in reports of the official mouthpiece to date.

Monastic schools have been the primary source and backbone of education for Tibetans in Tibet. Such schools have always catered to the educational needs of the masses, unable to pay exorbitant school fees dictated by the government. The Chinese government has been targeting monastic schools as they are deemed to be teaching "splittist" ideologies when, in reality, curriculum in monastic schools is based on Tibetan culture and Buddhist philosophy.



Lhasa closed to non-resident Tibetans

On 8 April, around 40 Tibetans who were in Lhasa were impeded in their stay by Chinese authorities. Some of them were in Lhasa on pilgrimage and others to do business, but they were sent back to their home-towns in Gonjo County (Ch: Gongjue), Chamdo Prefecture, "TAR" apparently because they were not permanent residents of Lhasa. On the other hand, the Han Chinese, even though non-residents of Lhasa, were not turned back.

9 April 2008



Foreign journalists witness the real situation in Tibet

On 9 April at around 12:30pm, fifteen monks from Labrang Tashi-Khyil Monastery in Sangchu County, Kanlho "TAP", Gansu Province staged a protest in front of the government-controlled media tour. The monks approached the journalists carrying the banned Tibetan flag and banners reading "we have no freedom of speech". The monks shouts, "We want freedom, we want human rights and we want Dalai Lama to



come back". They also told that "we are not against Olympic but want human rights of Tibetans respected".

Shortly after the media visit to the area, two monks- Thabkhey and Tsundue, who defiantly spoke out in front of the foreign reporters, are known to have been disappeared. It was feared that the police have secretly lifted them for their defiant action which caused major embarrassment to the government of the People's Republic of China. The family members of the two monks have approached the local PSB headquarters regarding their whereabouts; however, the authorities feigned ignorance about the two. Till date, nobody knows about their whereabouts and the family members live in anxiety over fear of them being killed extra-judicially.



Tortured monk released in unstable mental condition

Around fifteen Tibetan monks defiantly briefed a group of foreign media personnel on a government-managed tour currently in Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe) in Gansu Province on the lack of rights and freedoms in Tibet. The monks revealed the grave situation in the area and also delivered a clear cut message to the media group, concerning human rights abuses by the authorities in the area.

TCHRD had received confirmed names of seven monks arrested from Labrang Monastery in Sangchu County, Kanlho "TAP", Gansu, on 1 April 2008. The arrestees are: 1) Gendun Gyatso, 30 yrs, 2) Gyurmey, 40 yrs, 3) Gelek Gyurmey, 30 yrs, 4) Sangay,

30 yrs, 5) Samten, 32 yrs, 6) Yonten, 34yrs, and 7) Thabkhey, 30 yrs. It was learned that Thabkhey, who was released after several days' detention was at the time mentally unstable and suffered from bruises all over his body resulting from severe beatings. This clearly indicates that the monks were brutally tortured in police custody. It is highly probable that the other monks are still in detention and that the authorities released Thabkhey in order to shun responsibility for his current condition.

Ruthok County, Ngari Prefecture, “TAR”

According to reports on 9 April, a few days earlier, four to five young Tibetan boys held a protest in Ruthok County. They were arrested by armed and detained in Sengay Town, the site for the main governmental offices of Ngari Prefecture. The boys were released at a later date.

11 April 2008

Two monks arrested, whereabouts of one unknown

Two monks from Labrang Tashikyil Monastery, situated in Sangchu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province, were arrested on 11 April 2003. Local PSB officers conducted extensive raids in the monks' rooms leading to discovery of booklets containing speeches of the Dalai Lama. The whereabouts of Kunchok Choephel Labrang, in his late thirties, is unknown. The other monk, Jigme Jamtruk, 39 years old, was released on bail after 13 days' of detention.

It is reported that both the monks have had a record of involvement in “political” activities, once initiated together in 1990 and another separately in 1995. The monks were detained in Sangchu PSB Detention Centre and confined in separate cells. Jigme was able to secure release owing to the fact that he is a former executive member of the Democratic Management Committee (DMC) of Labrang Tashikyil Monastery.

The informant, on conditions of anonymity, said, “Kunchok's kith and kin are simple nomads. They have inquired from the PSB office concerning his reason for arrest and whereabouts. Not only did they refuse to acknowledge his detention, the officers said that if he had been arrested, it could be due to his earlier activities. The family fears that Kunchok might be handed a death sentence like Trulku Tenzin Delek or executed like Lobsang Dhondup. Prior to the arrest, Kunchok was in a frail health. Addition-

ally, due to the common practice of torture and beatings meted out to political detainees, it is hard to say if Kunchok has survived.”

In June 1990, Kunchok and Jigme played a leading role in mobilising a mass public protest against a Chinese journalist for his erroneous interpretation of the six-worded holy Buddhist mantra in praise of Chenrigsig –Avalokiteshwara (the Buddha of Compassion). According to Zhou Lou, the journalist, mani (literally meaning gem in Sanskrit) is symbolic of male organ and padme (lotus) of female organ in the Buddhist tantra, thereby hurting the religious sensibilities of the Tibetans. Since the protest, both the monks came under heavy suspicion and scrutiny.

The PSB officers from Sangchu County arrested Kunchok for the second time on 10 May 1995 on suspicions of engaging in political activities. He was detained for three months at Mengar Detention Centre in Sangchu County, and suffered torture resulting in his current frail health. Jigme, for his involvement in poster pasting and written sloganeering activities, was arrested for the second time on 19 May 1995. The posters contained slogans such as “ Exile Tibetans are organising Peace March into Tibet. Stand up, Tibetans!” Kanlho Intermediate People’s Court sentenced him to two years’ imprisonment and one- year deprivation of political rights on charges of “inciting counter revolutionary propaganda”. Kunchok is originally from Sangko Ngulra Village, Sangchu County and Jigme from Ngulra Village, Machu County. Both the monks joined Labrang Tashikyil Monastery at a very young age.



“Through happiness and sorrow, we stand together.”

According to CTA, in one particular region of Gyalthang County, Dechen “TAP”, Yunnan Province many posters were distributed on 11 April 2008. The messages of the posters read, “Through happiness and sorrow, we stand together.”⁸⁷

12 April 2008



Monks of Drepung Monastery detained during “patriotic re-education campaign”

A new “work team” on “Legal and Information Education” arrived in Drepung Monastery around 12 April to start a “patriotic re-education” campaign for monks at Drepung. However, the monks protested against the campaign in unison. Later, security forces were called into the monastery by the “Work Team” to control the protest-

ing monks. A number of Tibetan monks were immediately detained and taken away to an unknown location by the security forces for interrupting and protesting the campaign. There is no information on the condition and whereabouts of these detainees.

The “Patriotic Education” campaign, reinvigorated in various monastic institutions in Tibet, requires monks to denounce the Dalai Lama and to oppose the ongoing protests and undergo the usual political indoctrination sessions. The new ‘work team’ offering “Legal and Information Education” was primarily aimed at informing the monastic institution about the legal and other consequences of taking part in political activities, as most of the recent protests across Tibet were led by the monastic community.

Although a report by the official Chinese mouthpiece, Xinhua, dated 13 April, covered the incident of visits by the “work team” to Drepung Monastery, it suppressed information about the protest and detention of monks in its report. All roads leading towards Drepung Monastery were known to have been sealed off by extra deployments of armed police. The movements of the monks in the monastery were severely restricted, with security personnel cutting off access to the monastery for outside visitors, including devotees.



China has no plans to slow down “patriotic re-education” campaign

The CTA reported on 12 April that all county officials and monastery heads from Kardze “TAP” were called for a meeting held in Dartsedo (the location for Karze “TAP” Headquarters), Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. The purpose of the meeting was mainly to enforce guidelines for conducting “patriotic re-education” classes.

In various counties of Kardze “TAP”, including Sershul, many monasteries rejected the “patriotic-re-education” classes conducted in March. In some monasteries, monks called for dialogue between China and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. At the meeting in Dartsedo, Chinese authorities demanded that the heads of monasteries acknowledge that such demands were a big mistake.

Also during the meeting, announcements were made to each of the monastery heads demanding that they keep the Chinese flag raised above the monastery rooftop. Announcements were also made that the monks and laypeople of Sershul County would have to acknowledge that His Holiness the Dalai Lama was responsible for inciting the recent demonstrations, and were made to promise that they would protest against the “Dalai clique.”⁸⁸

13 April 2008



Many monks of Tsang Monastery arrested

According to CTA, on 13 April 2008, local Chinese government officials, Chinese police and Chinese armed forces poured down over Tsang Monastery, Gepa Sumdo County, Tsolho “TAP”, Qinghai Province in order to look for people involved in the protest on 17 March 2008. During this search, a monk called Khedup Gyatso was arrested. Later, on the evening of 14 April 2008, the Chinese police also confiscated photos of His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the search in the monastery, following which about 36 monks were arrested on 15 April, and were moved to Tsolho “TAP”. About 20 more monks were then arrested on 17 April and were taken to the county prison. The Chinese government planned to conduct another “patriotic re-education campaign” from 19 April.⁸⁹

14 April 2008



Around 200 monks arrested at Tashi-Kyil Monastery

According to CTA, between 14 April evening and 15 April morning, over 200 monks were arrested from Ladrang Tashi-Kyil Monastery, Sangchu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province during the search conducted by security and the armed forces. On the morning of 15 April, a huge group of monks from Labrang Tashi-Kyil Monastery (those that were not arrested) demanded that the 200 monks arrested from their monastery be released or the Chinese authorities would face a protest by the monks. All but three of the monks were released. It seems that the three monks, who continue to be detained, were held for their alleged involvement during the protest held in front of foreign journalists on 9 April.⁹⁰



Monks flee “patriotic re-education”

The CTA reported on 14 April that when Chinese authorities suspected that there were plans for a possible protest in Jha-khyung Monastery, Palung County, Tsoshar Prefecture, Qinghai Province they reacted by sending “work-teams” to conduct “patriotic re-education” classes. Monks fled from the monastery to avoid a participation in

the “patriotic re-education” classes. Currently, only around ten monks remained at Jha-khyung Monastery. The armed forces arrived at the monastery and imposed tight restrictions.⁹¹

Tibetan musician and writer is victim of enforced disappearance

According to Amnesty International, Jamyang Kyi, well-known Tibetan musician and writer on women’s issues who works as a TV producer for the Tibetan-language section of the state-owned Qinghai TV, was taken away by plainclothes state security officers from her office in Xining City, Qinghai Province, on 1 April. Jamyang Kyi was initially held at the Xining City Public Security Office, but on 4 or 5 April, she was taken to an undisclosed location. No formal charges against her have been made public.

Jamyang Kyi was able to keep in contact with her family via her mobile phone until 7 April. During two searches of her home, police officers are reported to have confiscated her personal computer and other personal items.⁹²

150 monks of Nyulra Nyenthog Monastery arrested

The CTA reported that, during a raid by the Chinese police in Nyulra Nyenthog Monastery, Machu County, Kanlho “TAP”, Gansu Province, on 14 April, about 150 monks were arrested and many booklets containing the speeches of His Holiness the Dalai Lama were destroyed.⁹³

The ongoing crackdown in Lhasa

The International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) reported on 14 April that raids on people’s houses, ‘disappearances’ and intimidation are continuing every day. Someone has disappeared from almost every Tibetan household since 14 March. A source told ICT that people are sleeping with their clothes on “in case of a knock on the door in the middle of the night”.

More than 800 people were locked inside a large warehouse area at Lhasa railway station, where many of them were severely beaten and deprived of food. A group of several hundred Tibetans were seen being herded onto a train by armed police at Lhasa

station, reportedly bound for Qinghai Province. The group included monks, many without shoes.

At neighborhood committee meetings, Lhasa citizens were warned to report that everything was fine if they received calls from outside of Tibet. Some Tibetans were reportedly detained for speaking on the phone to relatives in exile. Some Tibetans detained after 14 March, were released but others “are believed to have been detained while they were shopping for groceries” or detained “simply for being found or living in Tibetan areas of Lhasa”, may still be in police custody.

There were serious concerns of a humanitarian crisis in Lhasa’s monasteries. Food and water supplies were running low and monks were prevented from leaving, whilst the city’s major monasteries, Drepung, Sera, and Ganden, were under lockdown and had been sealed off since 10 March. The restrictions on movement in the city meant that many families were also suffering from difficulties in obtaining food.⁹⁴

15 April 2008



250 arrests in Phenpo Lhundup County

According to CTA, about 250 people were arrested after a two-day protest on 14 and 15 April 2008, in Phenpo Lhundup County, Lhasa Municipality. A few of them were released after being badly tortured and injured. The Chinese army has been arresting nuns from the Shar Bhumpa Nunnery since the first week of April, leaving only seven from amongst 60 nuns who used to study there. The People’s Armed Police made these arrests. A nun named Tsering Lhathog, who normally has hearing problems, was brutally beaten and tortured. Her head was badly hurt and she was admitted to Jang Ga-shang Hospital. On many occasions both monks and lay people were brutally tortured and beaten. Due to the lack of space in County prison, arrested people were being kept in the assembly hall. Similarly, there were continued arrests in Gadhen Choeckhor Monastery as well.⁹⁵

16 April 2008



China detains 32 monks in Chushul County

The Chinese security forces detained 32 monks of Ratoe Monastery in Chushul PSB Detention Centre. According to multiple sources, the monks of Ratoe Monastery staged a major peaceful protest on 14 March 2008 in Nyethang Township, Chushul County, Lhasa Municipality, “TAR”. The peaceful protest was initially led by a group of monks of Ratoe Monastery, but later joined by Tibetan civilians. The protesters marched for about two and half kilometers heading to the township government head’s office shouting “Freedom in Tibet”, “Independence for Tibet” and “Long Live Dalai Lama”.

When the protesters neared the township government head’s office, they were halted and blocked by Chinese security forces. Peaceful protesters were diffused and sent back to their respective places. No arrests of protesters were made by the Chinese security forces at that time. However, later, the Chinese authorities came to Ratoe Monastery and stepped up intense political and “patriotic re-education” campaigns against what the Chinese authorities described as inroads made by the “Dalai Clique and separatist forces” in the monastery. At the same time, the monks were repeatedly pressed by Chinese authorities to surrender themselves. Apparently, not a single monk surrendered or relented to meet the demands issued by the authorities.

On 16 April 2008, in a surprise action, hundreds of Chinese security forces consisting of PSB and PAP surrounded the Ratoe Monastery at around 4.30 in the morning (Beijing Standard Time). Shortly afterwards, the security forces raided the monks’ residences to search for weapons and other incriminating items. However, during the raid, no guns, weapons or other incriminating items were found at the monks’ residences but pictures of the Dalai Lama and mobile phones were confiscated by the Chinese security forces during the raid.

In the ensuing moments, the Chinese security forces arrested 50 monks of Ratoe Monastery for taking part in a peaceful protest on 14 March 2008. They were detained in Chushul PSB Detention Centre. Since their arrests, however, 18 of the monks detained have been released. Currently, 32 monks of Ratoe Monastery are being detained in Chushul PSB Detention Centre. Most of the detained monks are in their early twenties. A former political prisoner, Namkar, 45, was among the detainees. Earlier, he had served two years imprisonment in Drapchi Prison for taking part in the Pro-independence Uprising of 1989, in Lhasa. Ironically, one of the arrestees was also identified as the 38 year-old Thupchok, a prominent Democratic Management Com-

mittee (DMC) “work team member” of Ratoe Monastery. As a DMC “work team member”, he had been directly responsible for implementing the controversial and much resented “patriotic education” campaign at his own Ratoe Monastery.

The situation in Ratoe Monastery is currently said to be restricted, but calm. It is said that there are around 90 monks in Ratoe Monastery. The Chinese authorities have totally denied visitation rights to the 32 detained monks. There has been no further information about their present condition and wellbeing.



Tibetan monasteries forced to fly Chinese flag

On 16 April orders were given by Chinese authorities to fly Chinese flags on the rooftop of all monasteries in Lithang County from 17 April. Some heads of the Lithang Monastery responded that they were not taking responsibility for any trouble that could occur if they flew the Chinese flag and they asked written orders from the county officials. Therefore, the Chinese flag could not be raised on that day. Such orders were, however, enforced and since 12 April, all monasteries within the “TAR” are being forced to do the same.

17 April 2008



Over one hundred Tibetans arrested in Rebkong County

On 17 April, over one hundred Tibetans, including monks and lay people, were arrested for protesting by the Chinese security forces in Rebkong County (Ch: Tongren Xian), Malho (Ch: Huangnan) “TAP”, Qinghai Province.

At around 11 am (Beijing Standard Time), 22 monks from Rong Gonchen Monastery staged a peaceful demonstration in Rebkong County market, calling for the release of three monks (Lobsang Dhondup, 20 years old; Drakpa, 28 years old; and Lobsang Dhondup, 30 years old), who were arrested on 13 April 2008, for participating in a peace march on 16 March 2008.

A few minutes into the demonstration, Chinese armed security forces arrested the demonstrating monks. When news of the monks’ arrests reached Rong Gonchen Monastery, 80 monks marched to the county market and called for the release of the

22 monks arrested that morning. As the civilians in the market also joined the monks in their demonstration, the group became large and very loud.

Consequently, additional contingents of security forces arrived at the county market to disperse the demonstrators. When the situation became extremely tense, the former chief of Rong Gonchen Monastery, 80-year-old Alak Khasutsang, arrived at the market to intervene and try to diffuse the tension between the demonstrators and the security forces. However, the Chinese security forces started to severely beat everyone at the scene irrespective of age or status. Over 80 Tibetans, including monks and lay people, were arrested and taken away to the County Public Security Bureau Detention Centre.

A large number of Chinese security forces had been deployed at Rong Gonchen Monastery, where they closed the monastery to outside visitors and restricted monks of the monastery from leaving.



Tibetan woman dies from torture

Nechung, the 38 year-old mother of four children, died days after being subjected to brutal torture in a Chinese prison. She hailed from Charu Hu Village in Ngaba County, Ngaba “TAP”, Sichuan Province. She was involved in peaceful protests on 16 and 17 March 2008 in Ngaba County. Later, on 18 March, she was arrested by Chinese security forces for allegedly being the first person to pull down the doorplate of the township office. On 26 March 2008, she was released from the prison. She spent nine days in prison undergoing brutal torture at the hands of Chinese prison guards. At the time of her release from the prison, her health was in an extremely critical condition. There were many bruises on her body, she was unable to speak and eat food, was constantly vomiting and could hardly breathe properly.

After her release, her relatives immediately took her to the County government hospital for treatment. However, the County government hospital refused to admit her to the hospital for timely medical treatment, apparently under the influence and intimidation of the local Chinese authorities. She was completely denied access to timely medical treatment in the hospital. After remaining in critical condition for 22 days without medical treatment, she died on 17 April 2008, in an abject state of neglect due to the apathy of local Chinese authorities. Even after her death, the Chinese authorities issued terse warnings to Tibetan monks for offering prayers and ritual rites for her deceased soul. This goes to show that the Chinese authorities go to extreme lengths to deprive Tibetan people of their basic and fundamental human rights in a cruel and bizarre abuse of power. She is survived by her four children, all minors. Her husband has been on the run since her arrest, apparently to avoid also being arrested by the Chinese security forces.

A former chief of Rong Gonchen Monastery in critical condition

In the light of the peaceful protest on 17 April by a group of 22 monks from Rong Gonchen in Rebkong County market, and arrests of over one hundred protesters in the afternoon, the situation had been tense and volatile following the crackdown by the Chinese security forces.

According to new developments concerning the situation in Rong Gonchen Monastery in Rebkong, the Chinese authorities were not allowing anyone to meet the arrested Tibetans in detention centres. Multiple sources confirmed that 80-year-old Alak Khasutsang, a former chief of Rong Gonchen Monastery, who tried to diffuse the tension between the Tibetan demonstrators and the Chinese security forces on 17 April, had reportedly sustained severe head injuries during the police crackdown and was said to be in a critical condition. He also suffered from high blood pressure. One source reported that he was taken to a hospital in Xining City for treatment.

Another monk, Geshe Tenzin Choephel, a 50 year old resident of Xining City and teacher of Qinghai University for Nationalities, who was in Rong Gonchen Monastery at the time of the raid in the monastery on 17 April, was arrested for unknown reasons. There was no information on his whereabouts. Moreover, on 17 April, around 6 pm (Beijing Standard Time), scores of Chinese armed security forces raided monks' houses in Rong Gonchen Monastery. During the raid, the Chinese armed security forces forcibly flushed out the monks from their houses into the monastery's courtyard and made them kneel down with their hands behind their heads. The Chinese security forces then threatened the monks at gunpoint. In the raids, the Chinese security forces seized all photos of the Dalai Lama found in the monks' rooms.

The sources also told TCHRD that a dozen of the Chinese security forces in full combat gear were armed with guns. The Rong Gonchen Monastery had been under severe restrictions, and the monks were isolated from each other without any form of interaction amongst them. Armed Chinese security forces were keeping a close vigil in the monks' rooms. Sources said that at present, severe restrictions on the movement of monks were still continuing in Rong Gonchen Monastery. The Chinese authorities issued terse warnings to the monks about leaking information to the outside world following the severe crackdown by the Chinese authorities.

Monks from Wara Monastery refused the “patriotic re-education campaign”

Several monks from Wara Monastery, Jomda County, Chamdo Prefecture, refused to participate to the “patriotic re-education campaign” conducted by the Chinese government in the monastery on 19 April. Local people supported them by speaking out against the harassment of monks by the Chinese authorities. The situation around the Wara Monastery was tense and over 10 Tibetan government officials from Thang Phug town arrived to discuss the matter with the regional monastic democratic committee, and held meetings with the monks.

The monks continued to resist the “patriotic re-education” campaign and several of them left the monastery between 4 to 5 April. As of this date, there were only 50 monks left within the monastery, and even though they were forced to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama they responded that they would not follow any anti-Dalai Lama campaign even at the cost of their lives.

The forced signature campaign continues

The CTA also reported on 19 April that around 4-15 April, people from various villages, including Gulog Shipa, in Nagchu County, Nagchu Prefecture, “TAR”, were called for a meeting in their respective villages by the concerned county officials, in order to conduct a signature campaign stating that “The Dalai Lama is responsible for instigating the recent unrest in Tibet.” During the meeting, a man named Gyaltzen walked out of the meeting, showing his rejection of such allegations. Many people also followed suit and the meeting failed to succeed as planned. Concerned local officials immediately summoned Gyaltzen seeking explanations for his act.

In the same county over, 200 people from Kyichu-Kha town, Nyagchu County held a protest rally against the Chinese repression in Tibet.⁹⁶

24 April 2008



**China launches renewed “patriotic re-education”
campaign across all communities of Tibet**

Following series of protests across the “TAR” and the non-TAR regions by Tibetans since March 2008, the Chinese authorities launched a renewed “patriotic re-education” campaign (earlier concentrated primarily in monastic institutions, long considered as the bastions of political dissidence), covering almost every section of Tibetan communities with more rigor and intensity. The stipulated two-month renewed “Patriotic Education” campaign, is now retooled to target government employees, security forces, farmers, nomads, entrepreneurs and educational institutions. The underlying message of this campaign was to “vehemently oppose the Dalai ‘clique’” and “to expose the true nature of ‘Dalai clique’” and “March 14 riot”. Under the supervision of the Communist Party leaders, new committees were formally constituted to prepare and execute the campaign across all sections of the society within a stipulated two-month time period.

Under three themes, the renewed “patriotic education” campaign aimed to ‘educate’ the masses about ‘opposing splittism’, ‘protecting stability’ and ‘backing development’, by holding meetings, inviting experts to give speeches, teaching and discussing the content of the ‘patriotic re-education’ campaign, holding denunciation sessions on the Dalai Lama and screening propaganda shows and teaching Chinese laws and regulations.

According to the state run newspaper, Tibet Daily, dated 18 April, a two-month ‘patriotic re-education’ campaign was launched in Zangri County in Lhoka Prefecture, “TAR”, for government employees, peasants, retired government employees and party members across all townships under Zangri County, which pledged and reaffirmed the work ethics for the party cadres. The Zangri County PAP and security forces were told that it was the right time to struggle and protest against the ‘splittist’ forces. The heads of townships and PAP under those townships were ‘educated’ about securing stability and further improving national security. In various educational institutions, students were indoctrinated with communist ideology and taught about how Tibet has flourished under its rule. The ‘old’ and ‘backward’ Tibetan society was denounced by screenings of films from the period of the Cultural Revolution. Peasants, nomads and entrepreneurs were told about the economic developments achieved and the happy life enjoyed by Tibetans under the patronage and policies of the Communist party. For the monastic institutes under this campaign, monks and nuns were ‘educated’ to be patriotic about one’s nation and one’s religion, to oppose ‘splittist’ forces, to help

maintain social stability, support social and legal institutes and assist in the restoration of religious order.

At the beginning of the month of April, alongside intensification of security, the Chinese authorities ordered more stringent ideological education and ramped-up propaganda in Tibet “to build anti-separatist sentiment”, according to an article in the Tibet Daily, a state run newspaper, on 3 April 2008. Under this campaign, “work teams” were sent into especially monastic institutes on a regular basis to undertake this campaign, regardless of whether the monastic populace was willing to attend or not, though attendance was apparently compulsory. The “TAR” Communist Party Chief, Zhang Qingli, ordered harsh punishments for local party officials found lacking in their commitment to Beijing’s official line. “We absolutely will not condone violations of political and organizational discipline and will definitely find those responsible and mete out harsh punishment”. He said that efforts should be made to focus on negative portrayals of Tibet prior to the Communist invasion in 1950, and that there should be continued vilification of what Beijing calls the Dalai Lama’s secret campaign to split Tibet from China and sabotage the Olympics, according to the state run newspaper Tibet Daily.

With the launch of the renewed “Patriotic education” campaign, especially in the monastic institutions, originally set up for providing religious practitioners with a conducive environment for meditation on religious content and for achieving inner peace, they are being forcibly modified to serve the Party, as a production of the machinery of loyal political followers. Freedom of religion for Tibetan Buddhists would mean that authorities cease not only their control of and restrictions on Tibetan Buddhist institutes, but most importantly cease superimposition of the party’s ideological messages on the Tibetan religious tradition. Any attempts to conflate politics and religion into a political version of religion are a gross violation of people’s rights to freedom of religion, whether they are violent and destructive ones, or imperceptible ones that operate through indoctrination and manipulation.

28 April 2008



Tibetan nomad shot dead in Amdo Golog, hundreds arrested

Tension was high in the region since 21 March when the first protests erupted and on 28 April 2008, events took a dramatic turn when the armed Chinese security forces surrounded a nomadic hamlet in Ponkor Toema Township, Golog “TAP”, Qinghai

Province. At the break of dawn, the armed security forces fired live ammunition directly at the nomads. Moments later, 22-year-old nomad Choetop was killed during the gunfire. Chinese security forces took the dead body with them and, to date, the body has not been returned to Choetop's family for funeral rites. The situation in Ponkor Toema Township was said to be tense, and more and more Chinese security forces were arriving.⁹⁷

Nuns and monks arrested at in Chushul County

On 28 April, 19 nuns from Shugseb Nunnery, Chushul County, Lhasa municipality, and four monks from the Gangri-Thoekar Monastery, located close to the Shugseb Nunnery, were arrested by the county police for organizing a peaceful protest in the region. They are being detained in Chushul County Prison.

This event was provoked by a previous incident around 10 March, when 19 nuns from the Shugseb Nunnery organized a peaceful protest march from their monastery to Nyen Thangla Chenmo. The nuns were then also arrested by the Chinese police and detained in Chushul County prison. Following these events, all the nuns from Chushul nunnery protested by demanding the immediate release of all the nuns detained and threatening to continue protests. The Chinese armed police intervened after the Chinese government "work teams" failed to control the situation. Following this incident, all the detained nuns were released on 15 March but on the evening of the same day, some masked individuals, reportedly beat some officials of the "work teams". This event led to the imposition of more restrictions within the Monastery because of suspicions that the masked individuals were nuns from the monastery.

According to CTA, at the beginning of April, more officials from the "work teams" harassed the nuns and forced them to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama. These events, in turn, provoked the above-mentioned 19 nuns and the four monks from the Thoekar Monastery to hold a protest rally in the area. Currently, the armed forces are imposing tight restrictions within the nunnery and the monastery. There are about 300 nuns in the Shugseb Nunnery and about 20 monks in the Thoekar Monastery.⁹⁸

A monk severely beaten in Nagba County

On April 28, additional PAP forces were deployed in Ngaba County, Sichuan Province. Chinese officials arrived at Namtso Monastery and attempted to raise the Chinese flag, but a monk tried to stop them. The monk was severely beaten. Many of those arrested in this area are detained at a prison near Chengdu, and among them are many with broken limbs, which are also being denied proper medical care.

Tibetan women committed suicide in Sershul County

According to the CTA, on 28 April, PAP conducted a raid on a village near Voen-po Monastery, Sershul County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. During the raid, altars with portraits of His Holiness the Dalai Lama were mishandled. During one such incident, a girl by the name of T. Lhamo boldly shouted that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is our supreme protector and that His Holiness should be immediately welcomed back to Tibet. She also shouted Long Live His Holiness the Dalai Lama. She demanded explanations as to why Tibetans could not have the portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at their altars. In addition, she also demanded an explanation for the arbitrary arrests of A-drel Lama Rinpoche and monks of the local monastery. T. Lhamo’s body was later found after she apparently committed suicide by strangulation with a rope.⁹⁹

29 April 2008

China jails 30 Tibetans in a “swift and quick” court proceeding

China’s state media announced on 29 April that 30 Tibetans had been sentenced between three years to life imprisonment in connection with the Lhasa revolt in March 2008. It was the first instance of a group of Tibetans handed down with harsh prison terms since protests broke out in Lhasa and various Tibetan areas under Chinese administration beginning from 10 March 2008. The state media did not reveal whether



the current group of Tibetans sentenced to harsh terms were part of those who gave in before the official surrender deadline issued by the authorities.

The Xinhua report stated, “Two men, including a Buddhist monk identified as Basang (Passang), received life sentences... Basang was accused of leading 10 people, including five other monks, to destroy local government offices, burn down shops and attack policemen... Of the five monks, two were sentenced to 20 years, and the other three to 15 years in jail.” “The other man who received a life sentence was identified as Soi’nam Norbu (Sonam Norbu), a driver for a Lhasa real estate company”.

A report by Human Rights Watch stated that actual trial proceedings, in which evidence from the prosecution was introduced, had been conducted covertly on undisclosed dates earlier in April, and that the Tibetans were denied access to a meaningful defence with lawyers they had chosen.¹⁰⁰ In an image released by the state media of the trial, one of the prisoners was sitting on a chair, which, some observers have noted, could mean that they were unable to stand following torture.

One of the 18 Chinese lawyers who signed an open letter offering their services as criminal defence lawyers to the accused in Tibet said that he did not know whether the Tibetans sentenced yesterday had received enough legal assistance (Washington Post, April 29). Another lawyer who signed the letter, Teng Biao, said the government had pressured them to withdraw their offer of assistance, telling them that the “Tibet issue is very sensitive”.¹⁰¹

The official Chinese news report, gave the details of 30 Tibetans sentenced at Lhasa City Intermediate People’s Court: “Following trial according to law at Lhasa City Intermediate People’s Court, verdicts have been issued on trials of the first instance finding Basang [Pasang], and a total of 30 defendants, guilty of the crime of arson, looting, stirring up criminality, gathering others to attack organs of the state, obstructing public duties and theft”:

“The defendants Basang [Pasang], Suolang Ciren [Sonam Tsering], and Ciren [Tsering] were sentenced to life imprisonment, according to law. The defendants Jinmei [Jigme], Gesang Bazhu [Kalsang Bagdro], Gema Dawa [Karma Dawa], Duojué [Dorje], Mima [Migmar], Awang Quyang [Ngawang Choeyang] and Bazhu [Bagdro] were sentenced to fixed terms of 15 years and above.

The defendants Yajie [Yargyal], Qupei Zhazi [Choephel Tashi], Duoji Dajie [Dorje Dargye], Awang [Ngawang], Gesang Ciren [Kalsang Tsering], Mima [Migmar], Suolang Ciren [Sonam Tsering], Luoang Sangdan [Kelsang Samten], Cidan [Tseten], Peisang Zhaxi [Palsang Tashi], Laba Ciren (Sr.) [Lhagpa Tsering Chewa (Sr.)], Luosang Zhaxi [Lobsang Tashi], Laba Ciren [Lhagpa Tsering], Taqing [Darchen], Tudan Jiacao [Thubten Gyatso], Zhaxi Jiacao [Tashi Gyatso], Gesang Dunzhu [Kalsang Dondrub],

Danzeng Jiancai [Tenzin Gyaltzen], Gesang Nima [Kalsang Nyima] and Yixi [Yeshe] were sentenced to differing fixed terms of between three years and 14 years”.¹⁰²

On several occasions, the “TAR” Communist Party and government officials have called for a swift judicial process to strike back at the “separatists” and the “Dalai clique”. On 4 April 2008, the Lhasa City Deputy Party Secretary said that amongst the protesters arrested in Lhasa, 800 Tibetans would be brought before the court. During a conference of “TAR” court officials on the evening of 2 April 2008, “TAR” government Vice-Chairman, Pema Thinley, urged “the usage of law as a tool to strike back at the enemies”. He called for “swift and quick judicial proceedings” for those involved in the March protests. Jampa Phuntsok, during his briefing at the Foreign Ministry of the People’s Republic of China on 9 April told reporters “953 have been arrested, out of which 328 have been released whereas 403 will be carried forward for sentencing by the court.”

The Chinese authorities have arbitrarily arrested thousands of Tibetans, following the pan-Tibet protests in March 2008. While the official media claims that 2,300 Tibetan protesters were arrested, TCHRD fears that the actual number of arrests could be substantially higher. There are currently thousands of Tibetan protesters in detention in Tibetan areas outside of the “TAR”. In the aftermath of the mass uprising by the Tibetan people, Chinese People’s Armed Police and Public Security Bureau officials arrested thousands of Tibetans particularly from Kardze (Ch: Ganzi), Ngaba (Ch: Aba), Sangchu (Ch: Xiahe) and Kanlho (Ch: Gansu).

02 May 2008



Protest by middle school students in Drango County

On 2 May, students from a middle school shouted patriotic slogans, such as “Tibet is an independent country” and “His Holiness should be welcomed to Tibet and be enthroned.”



Nuns defy Chinese authorities

The CTA reported on 2 May 2008 an incident that took place a few days earlier, in which the 300 resident nuns of Samtenling Nunnery, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, defied authorities by hanging banners that stretched nearly two kilometres. The banners proclaimed pro-independence slogans in both Tibetan and Chinese script.

Chinese “work teams” were immediately dispatched to “re-educate” the nuns, who promptly walked out of their institution.¹⁰³

07 May 2008



Situation extremely tense in Labrang County

On 7 May 2008, thousands of PAP and PSB officers (estimated at around 5,000) surrounded Labrang Monastery and carried out a sudden raid in the monastery. During the raid, around 140 monks were arrested and detained. The next day a large number of monks from the monastery protested, calling for the release of the monks arrested on the previous day. The authorities, fearing that the protest would escalate further, released all except 18 of the monks. However, the monks continued to call for the release of the remaining 18 and the authorities gave in by releasing another 11 monks on the morning of 9 May 2008.

Despite additional contingents of armed police arriving at the monastery, large numbers of monks again protested against the authorities, for the release of the remaining seven monks, but the authorities flatly refused, challenging the monks to react.



Defiant monks in front of media tour disappeared

Two monks, Thabkhey and Tsundue, who defiantly spoke out in front of the government-managed media tour in Sangchu County on 7 April 2008, disappeared shortly after the media visit. The local Tibetan residents fear that the police have secretly abducted them for their defiant actions which caused major embarrassment to the government of the People’s Republic of China. Although the family members of the two monks have approached the local PSB headquarters, regarding their whereabouts, the authorities feigned ignorance about the two. To date, nobody knows about their whereabouts and the family members live in anxiety over fear that they may be killed extrajudicially.

TCHRD believes that this is a case of enforced and involuntary disappearance, enacted by the state law enforcement bodies. The Centre fears that the two monks might be extrajudicially killed if timely intervention is not effected by the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance (UNWGEID). The Centre appeals to the UNWGEID to issue an express intervention on the whereabouts of the two monks.

A Tibetan doctor arrested for providing medical treatment to injured protestors

On 7 May 2008 at 10 PM, Dr. Yangzom and her husband, Shilok, were arrested by Lhasa PSB personnel. She was arrested for providing medical treatment to those who were injured during the protests in Lhasa and nearby villages. Her husband was arrested for his alleged involvement in the information to the outside world about the protests in March. They are both retired and they were living in the area under Key-ray Neighbourhood Committee, in Lhasa at the time of their arrests. The condition of their wellbeing is currently unknown.

11 & 12 May 2008

China detains Drakar and Gaden Choeling Nuns in Kardze

On 11 May 2008, two Drakar nuns were arrested after they protested against the Chinese authorities in Kardze County, (Ch: Ganzi) Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. The nuns called for “religious freedom”, and vented their anger against the “patriotic re-education” campaign and denunciations of the Dalai Lama. The nuns, Sonam Lhamo and Thupten Dolma, were arrested by Chinese security forces.

A day later, on 12 May 2008, a group of nuns again protested against the Chinese authorities in the afternoon in Kardze County. During the protest, 10 Drakar nuns were arrested.

14 May 2008

55 protesting nuns from Pang-ri Nunnery arrested

In Kardze County, over 55 nuns protested against the Chinese authorities on 14 May 2008. The protest was carried out by nuns of Pang Na Tashi Gepheling Nunnery, situated in Su-ngo Township, Kardze County, (Ch: Ganzi) Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. The nunnery is about 2 kilometers away from the Kardze County Government Headquarter. Pang-ri Nunnery regularly housed 80 nuns.

Sources say that Pang-ri nuns were deeply hurt and angered by the heavy-handedness of the Chinese authorities', who killed, tortured and arrested peaceful Tibetan protesters in many parts of Tibet. They particularly resented by the Chinese government's allegations that the Dalai Lama had masterminded the protests in Tibet. They also had a deep-seated resentment for the "patriotic re-education" campaign forcing Tibetans to sign official documents that criticize, denounce and attack the Dalai Lama.

The Pang-ri nuns voiced their resentment against the ongoing "patriotic re-education" campaign in nunneries and monasteries. In an anticipatory move, the nuns gathered for a meeting where they vowed never to take part in the "patriotic re-education" campaign, at any cost.

The nuns made a proclamation amongst themselves that, "It is better to die than to denounce, criticize and attack the Dalai Lama, to sign official documents denouncing the Dalai Lama. If there is no place for us to worship and live, let us go somewhere else or die; if the Chinese authorities kill us, let us be killed, we have no regrets."

Shortly after the end of the meeting, on 14 May 2008, around 5 PM (Beijing Standard Time), defying the gun-wielding Chinese security forces and intense government restrictions, the nuns grouped themselves at the Kardze bridge, and then marched straight to Kardze County Government Headquarter chanting slogans "Independence for Tibet", "Long Live the Dalai Lama" and "The Dalai Lama to return to Tibet".

When the protesting nuns neared the County Government Headquarter, the personnel of PSP and PAP immediately arrested them, and roughly put them into police vehicles and took them to detention centres within minutes. More than 55 nuns were arrested on the spot and their torn and fallen robes and clothes were reportedly scattered on the roads. No one picked up the nuns' robes for fear of being arrested by the security forces. Eyewitnesses say that the nuns shouted slogans and threw pamphlets into air as they were taken away in police vehicles for detention.

On 14 May 2008, the nuns who had not participated in the protest demonstration had left for other places to conduct religious ceremonies. In the aftermath of Pang-ri nuns' protest, Chinese authorities have imposed heavy restrictions on the daily movement of nuns and monks. In case of urgent medical treatment required, the Tibetan nuns and monks must procure special permission from higher Chinese authorities. Also they must have a guarantor, who must be a government staff member, and is required to escort them wherever they go. If they fail to follow instructions, they risk being arrested by Chinese security forces. From 15 May 2008 onwards, shops and groceries remain shut down and freedom of movement is restricted in Kardze County.

16 monks arrested for defying “patriotic re-education”

China arrested 16 monks and two lay Tibetans in Markham County. For over a month, the Chinese authorities have been conducting a “patriotic re-education” campaign in Woesser Monastery and Khenpa Lungpa Monastery in Garthog Township, Markham (Ch: Mangkang) County, Chamdo Prefecture, (Ch: Qamdo) “TAR”. Sources told TCHRD that on 10 May 2008, the Chinese “work team” entered the monasteries to conduct an intense and rigorous “Patriotic re-education” campaign, which resulted in bitter and heated arguments between the annoyed monks and the Chinese authorities. However, none of the monks signed the official documents nor did they write essays denouncing the Dalai Lama.

In response to the monks’ adamant refusal, the Chinese authorities arrested them. On 12 May 2008, 10 monks of Khenpa Lungpa Monastery were arrested. Similarly on 13 May 2008, 6 monks of Woesser Monastery were also arrested. Two lay Tibetans were later arrested on 14 May 2008.

The “patriotic re-education” campaign was introduced in 1996 in Tibet to undermine Tibetan people’s loyalty to the Dalai Lama. It was also intended to win over the “hearts and minds” of Tibetan people. But on contrary, it has earned notoriety for its brazen attacks on the religious and cultural sentiments of the Tibetan people.

The Woesser and Khenpa Monasteries each housed fewer than a hundred monks on regular basis. In the backdrop of the arrests of monks of Woesser Monastery, the remaining monks left the monastery, which brought much sadness to the local Tibetan devotees who were unable to come to terms with the sudden closure of sacred monasteries. On the other hand, the Chinese authorities and “work teams” were conducting major “patriotic re-education” campaigns in Khenpa Lungpa Monastery. Sources told TCHRD that the few remaining monks left the monasteries and returned to their respective homes, in a solemn act of protest.

18 May 2008

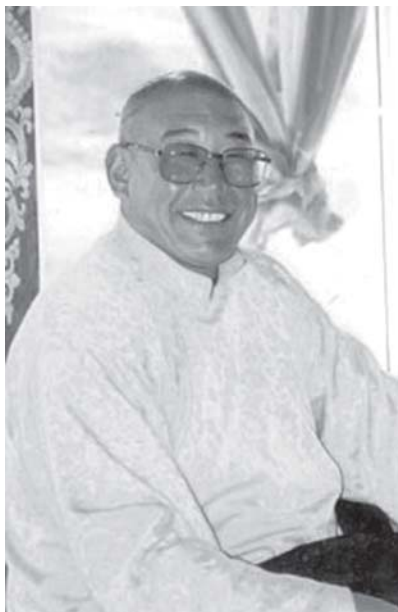
Popular religious figure arrested in Kardze County

On 18 May 2008, around 4.30 AM (Beijing Standard Time), the Chinese security forces arrested Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche from his residence, without stating

any reason. He was a highly revered religious figure in Kardze County, “TAP”, Sichuan Province.

The arrest of the prominent religious figure has brought much grief and to the local Tibetans, some of whom remain in disbelief. Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche was much loved and revered for his religious vocation and for looking after the welfare of the local Tibetans in Kardze County. There is no information available about his current whereabouts, detention or wellbeing.

Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche was a highly regarded reincarnated Trulku (Living Buddha) of Tehor Kardze Monastery. He was also the chief spiritual preceptor and the head of Pangri and Ya-tseg Nunneries in Kardze. The charismatic figure, who was a source of inspiration and hope, had constructed an old age orphanage and opened two chemist shops for local Tibetans.



The arrest of Tulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche serves as a dark reminder of China’s campaign against prominent religious figures inside Tibet, who have been viewed by the Chinese officials as directly challenging their authority. In the past, many prominent Tibetan religious figures such as Khenpo Jigme, the founder of famed Sertha Buddhist Institute; Tulku Tenzin Delek, the founder of Kham Nalanda Monastery, who championed the welfare of Tibetan people; and Bangri Rinpoche, the founder of Gyatso Orphanage School, in Lhasa, had been arrested under false charges.

19 May 2008



**12 monks from Dingri Shelkar Choedhe Monastery
arrested for opposing “patriotic re-education”
campaign**

The Chinese authorities re-launched the “Patriotic re-education” campaign in the “TAR” and other Tibetan areas in neighboring provinces for a stipulated two-month period, covering almost every section of society. The campaign began primarily with

the monastic institutions, but moved on to party cadres, security forces and government employees, farmers and private entrepreneurs, educational institutions and common people, trying to get them all to denounce the Dalai Lama and other “splittist forces”.

During one of the campaigns re-launched since 1 April 2008, the Chinese “work team” visited Shelkar Choedhe Monastery in Tingri County (Ch: Dingri Xian), Shigatse Prefecture, “TAR” on 19 May 2008, to conduct a “patriotic re-education” campaign, which resulted in a bitter and heated argument between monks and the Chinese “work team”. According to a source, Ven. Khenrab Tharchin, a member of the so-called Democratic Management Committee (DMC) of Shelkar Choedhe Monastery, stood up while the campaign was in session, openly opposed the “patriotic re-education” and even told the visiting “work team” that he could not denounce the Dalai Lama as required under the campaign. Another eleven monks of the same monastery stood up in support of Ven. Khenrab Tharchin and adamantly opposed the campaign in unison. After the incident, entry to the monastery was closed to faithful devotees and visitors. Monks were ordered not to leave the monastery compound and even cell phones were confiscated, to curb the leaking of the incident to the outside world. Monks were also threatened with dire consequences if they were found ‘leaking’ information to the outside world.

In order to avoid publicity, scores of Chinese PAP forces and PSB officials stormed into the monastery and forcibly took away the twelve protesting monks from their residences to an unknown location the same night. There is no information on the current whereabouts or the condition of the arrested monks.

According to sources, a few days after their arrests, family members of the monks went to enquire from the local PSB officers about the exact place of their detention and requested visitation from the authorities. Instead of listening to their request, the family members and relatives of those arrested monks were intimidated with stern warning for damaging the image of the government ‘and were questioned about their source of information about the monks’ detention.

The Chinese Constitution, adopted on December 4, 1982, specifically states, in “Chapter II- the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens” – Article 36 that, “Citizens of the People’s Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief. No state organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not to believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion. The state protects normal religious activities. No one may make use of religion to engage in activities that disrupt public order, impair the health of citizens or interfere with the educational system of the state. Religious bodies and religious affairs are not subject to any foreign domination.” However, as seen by the

events that have unfolded since the beginning of this year in Tibet, China's grand promises of freedom of religious belief, in reality, provide meager protections for human rights and religious freedom of the Tibetan people. This is evident from the re-launch of the "patriotic re-education" campaign, in supplement to last year's implementation of the "Tibet Autonomous Region Implementing Measures for the Regulations on Religious Affairs", on 1 January 2007 ("Implementing Measures"); and more specifically "Measures on the Management of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism (the Reincarnation Measures)".

The Chinese authorities, as in the past, have issued and implemented "TAR" specific measures on religious affairs, such as the two measures just mentioned and the "patriotic re-education" campaign. The central theme of these measures and the campaign is the connection drawn by the Chinese Communist government between splittism, or threats to the Chinese state's "national security", "social stability" and "ethnic unity", from Tibetan Buddhists' religious beliefs and activities. Because of the close link between Tibetan Buddhism, Tibetan culture and Tibetan national identity, China associates the practice of Tibetan Buddhism with a threat to its state security. China nourishes a deep fear that any religious expression is a guise for protest or unpatriotic activity. The Chinese government demands absolute loyalty from its subjects and does not tolerate any activities that it construes as a threat to its authority. The Chinese Communist Party requires its citizens to "love the country" - to respect the authority of the Party above all other would-be competing loyalties. "TAR" Party Secretary Zhang Qingli, claimed that the Chinese Communist Party is the "real Buddha" for Tibetans.

20 May 2008



China arrests three nuns of Nyagay Nunnery in Kardze

At around 1:00 AM (BST) on 20 May 2008, three nuns from the Nyagay Nunnery, situated in Kardze County, Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province, started marching from Tehor Nyagay Nunnery towards the Kardze County which is around 20 kms away from the Nunnery. The Nyagay Nunnery is very close to the famous Kardze Tehor Dargay Monastery. The three nuns, Achoe, from Rida Village; Soe Choekyi from Lamna Village; and Taga, a.k.a Tashi Yangtso from Noekab Village under Kardze County, were said to have reached, Kardze County, the destination that they had agreed on and started towards before dawn. The cited reason for the nuns starting out so early was to avoid being blocked and arrested by the heavy security presence and to avoid severe restrictions imposed on the movement of people in the area.

According to the source, the three nuns started their protest at around 9:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time), near Kardze County headquarters when people begin to gather for their daily routines in the county. The three nuns shouted “Freedom in Tibet”, the “Dalai Lama should return to Tibet”, and asked for the “Immediate release of the political prisoners imprisoned by the Chinese authorities”. The three nuns were immediately detained by county security forces and taken away to an unknown location. There is no immediate information on their whereabouts or condition.

Two young monks of Tsitsang Monastery arrested in Kardze

In the recent spate of sporadic protests reported from Kardze County, more reports of a protest led by a group of two or four persons continue to surface from the area. On 20 May 2008, two monks, Loyang from Tsaklab Village, Lhopa Township, Kardze County, and Tenzin Ngodup from Pharingtsang of Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest at Kardze County Headquarters and chanted slogans, “Dalai Lama return to Tibet”, “long live the Dalai Lama”, and for the “Immediate release of all political prisoners including Trulku Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche”. The two protesting monks were immediately detained by the Kardze County PSB officials and bundled away in a waiting police vehicle to the Kardze County PSB Detention Centre for questioning.

Incidentally, on the same day, three nuns of Nyagay Nunnery, Achoe from Rida Village; Soe Choekyi, from Lamna Village and Taga a.k.a Tashi Yangtso, from Noekab Village under Kardze County, staged a similar protest at Kardze County Government Headquarters and were later detained by PSB officials.

22 May 2008

China arrests four nuns in Kardze protest

The Chinese authorities had arrested four Tibetan nuns for staging a protest in Kardze County Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province. At around 6 PM (Beijing Standard Time), 22 May 2008, the four Tibetan nuns from Nyimo Gaysey Nunnery, in Kardze County, had staged a peaceful protest at the county government headquarters. They were protesting against the recent crackdown on peaceful Tibetan protesters and the illegal detention of Tibetan people in Chinese prisons.

The four protesting nuns raised their fists and protested to the Chinese authorities after arriving at the county government headquarters. Moments after the protest, local PSB personnels rushed to the scene and immediately arrested the four nuns. The detained nuns were later subjected to severe beatings and torture by the Chinese security forces.

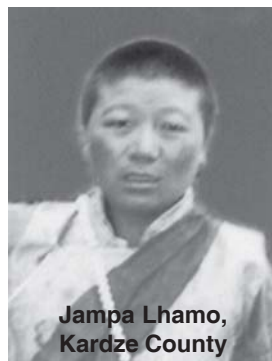
The nuns distributed loads of pamphlets in and around the county government headquarters calling for independence of Tibet, and shouted “Long Live the Dalai Lama”, “Dalai Lama return to Tibet”, “independence for Tibet” and “release all political prisoners”. The detained nuns were identified as Bhumo Tengha from Lunang Village, and Rinchen Jamatsang, Jamgha Dolma and Pema from Lhopa Township, Kardze County, Kardze “TAP” Sichuan Province.

23 May 2008



Two nuns of Dargay Hardu Nunnery arrested and tortured for peaceful protest

On 23 May 2008, two nuns of Dargay Hardu Nunnery; Ven. Jampa Lhamo, a 30-years-old from Sadul Village, and Ven. Rinzin Wangdon, a 23-years-old from Lharinyan Village, Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province, staged a peaceful protest at the Kardze County Government Headquarters and chanted slogans calling for the “swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet”, “long live the Dalai Lama”, “freedom for Tibet” and “immediate release of all political prisoners”.



Before the two nuns could further carry on their peaceful protest in front of the county government headquarters, a group of Kardze County PSB officials detained the two nuns. According to sources, the two nuns were severely beaten and manhandled by the PSB officials at the site of the demonstration, before being taken to Kardze County PSB Detention Centre, for further questioning. There is no information on the current condition of the two arrestees.

28 May 2008



**Chinese fire gunshot on peaceful protesters in
Kardze**

On 28 May 2008, at around 9 AM (Beijing Standard Time) three nuns of Dragkar Nunnery in Kardze County, Kardze (Ch: Ganzi) “TAP”, Sichuan Province staged a peaceful demonstration in Kardze County main market square. The protesting nuns even distributed pamphlets calling for “independence for Tibet”. After a period of short demonstration they were arrested and taken away by the Kardze County PSB officials for questioning. The names and origins of the three nuns were identified as Ven. Sangye Lhamo, 26 years old from Kyakyatengtsang family of Dungra Village, Serchuteng Township, Kardze County, Ven. Tsewang Kando, 38 years old, Dungra Village, Serchuteng Township, Kardze County, and Ven. Yeshe Lhadon, 24 years old from Tsozhi village, Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province.

About an hour after their demonstration, another solo protest was staged by a 21-year-old female student, Rigden Lhamo, of the Tapontsang family from Lhakey Village, Thingkha Township, Kardze County, during which she unfurled the banned Tibetan national flag and shouted similar slogans at the county government headquarters.

According to an eyewitness account from the area, the county security forces fired gunshots in response to the protest, but there is no information on whether Rigden Lhamo was shot or injured. However, it was confirmed that county PSB officials detained her after the brief protest in front of the county government headquarters. According to another eyewitness account from the demonstration site, bloodstains were seen on Rigden Lhamo’s body, but whether it resulted from severe beatings inflicted on her by security forces or from gunshots could not be ascertained. There is no information on her current whereabouts. It was, however, confirmed that she sustained an injury and, therefore, should needed immediate medical attention.

06 June 2008



Three monks critically injured in Kardze Protests

On 6 June 2008, three monks belonging to different monasteries in Drango County, Kardze “TAP”, staged a peaceful protest in front of the county government headquarters. The three monks, identified as Tsewang Dakpa, 22 years old, from Jangtha Township, Drango County, Kardze “TAP”, Thupten Gyatso (age unknown), from Tawu County, Kardze “TAP”; and Jangsem Nyima, 22 years old, from Dzatoe County, Jyekundo (Ch: Yushu/Jiegu) “TAP” Qinghai Province, staged a peaceful protest calling for the “quick return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet” and “freedom in Tibet”.

According to eyewitness accounts from the site of the demonstration, the monks were indiscriminately beaten and given shocks with an electric prod by Chinese security forces, until all three required urgent medical attention. Tsewang Dakpa, in particular, sustained multiple severe injuries from the torture, and, as an eyewitness recounted, there was only a slight chance of his survival. The monks were then taken to Drango County Hospital for treatment that day. There has been no information on their physical condition or current whereabouts following their hospitalization.

08 June 2008



China detains scores of nuns calling for the release of solo protester

On 8 June 2008, at around 9:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time), Tsering Tsomo, 27 years old, a nun of SamtenLing Nunnery, a.k.a, Watak Nunnery (in Drango County, Kardze “TAP” Sichuan Province), originally from Chakra Village, Drango County (Ch: Luhuo Xian) Kardze “TAP”, staged a peaceful solo protest in Drango County by raising pro-Tibet slogans and distributing pamphlets calling for the “swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet” and “freedom in Tibet” among the people. After her solo protest, Tsering Tsomo was surrounded by security forces and was punched and kicked, before being more severely



beaten with an iron rod. County PSB officials later took her away to the County Detention Centre for further questioning.

The news of Tsering Tsomo's arrest and torture later reached her nunnery. In a gesture of solidarity and support, more than two hundred nuns of SamtenLing Nunnery staged a peaceful demonstration calling for her release, at around 5:00 PM, and headed towards Drango County Headquarters. Before they could reach their destination, security forces stopped the protesting nuns at a place known as Gogaythang from proceeding further. The security forces kicked and punched the protesters, and even used electric prods and iron rods to stop the peaceful protesters from moving forward, severely injuring scores of them. Ten protesters were seriously injured and were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Scores of remaining protesters were detained by security forces and taken away in waiting military trucks to the county detention centre. According to a source, the family members and relatives of those injured and hospitalized were not allowed to visit their loved ones.

11 June 2008



China detains at least three Tibetans for peaceful protest in Kardze, Tibet

On 11 June, at around 11:00 AM (B ST), a peaceful protest was staged by a few Tibetan residents of Kardze County, Kardze "TAP", Sichuan Province, at one of the intersections of the Kardze County main market square, raising pro-Tibet slogans and distributing pamphlets calling for "the swift return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet", "freedom in Tibet", the "release of those arrested in recent protests" and "China quit Tibet" etc.

Shortly after their brief protest, at least three Tibetans were rounded up by the Kardze County PSB officials and savagely beaten before being taken away to the county detention centre. The number of people participating in this peaceful protest could not be ascertained. However, it was confirmed that at least three protesters were severely beaten and detained by the PSB officials. The three Tibetans detained were identified as Namsey Lhamo, a 30- year-old mother of two children and farmer from Raga Village, Dando Township, Kardze County; Tenzin Dargyal, a 32-years-old father of an infant and a farmer from Kardze County; and another monk whose identity could not be ascertained at the moment.

21 June 2008



The Olympic Torch in Lhasa

The Olympic torch traveled to the heavily guarded Tibetan capital, Lhasa, on 21 June after the three-day tour that was initially planned was cut to one day. Since the beginning of June 2008, several thousand of the PAP and PSB forces were redeployed into main market squares, streets, major monasteries and road junctions around Lhasa city to check and respond to any untoward incidents during the Olympic torch relay, which was scheduled to travel from Norbulingka, the summer palace of the Dalai Lama, to Potala Palace square, according to an official Chinese government website. An official internal circular had been sent to Chinese government departments ordering their heads to discourage their own employees, as well as the common citizens, from taking part in any political activities during the torch relay.

In a press conference during the third Chinese state sponsored media tour of Tibet on 3 June, in response to a question raised by a Hong Kong based journalist, Pema Thinley, the Vice-Chairman of the “TAR” government acknowledged the intensification of the security forces and identified what he saw as its three main motivations. He concluded that the increased pressure from the Chinese government might be an effort to reduce “the possibility of further unspecified ‘incidents’ in Lhasa during the Olympic torch relay, secondly to check any untoward incident during Saka Dawa (a Buddhist holy month) and finally to crush pro-Tibet Independence activists.” Mr. Thinley’s perspective reemphasizes earlier comments made by Chinese authorities in Tibet who have promised to “severely punish” and “give no indulgence” to Tibetans who would try to “sabotage” the torch relay.

Finally, the torch relay ended after two hours on the Potala Palace where Zhang Qingli, Tibet’s hardline Communist Party chief, during the final ceremony accused the Dalai Lama of inciting violence and trying to undermine the Beijing Olympics.¹⁰⁴



A Tibetan youth arrested in Kardze County

On 21 June 2008, a Tibetan youth named Dragu from Khashul Village, Dado Township, Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, was detained by the PAP as he entered into the main market of the County calling for a free Tibet until his protest was halted by 7 local PAP officers. He was seen sporting a white band tied around his head with the words “Bod Rangzen” (Free Tibet) written on it and with Tibetan flags painted on both of his cheeks.

22 June 2008



Peaceful protesters brutally beaten in Kardze County

On 22 June 2008, around 11:00 AM (Beijing Standard Time) 24-year-old monk Tsering Phuntsok and 36-year-old monk Tashi Sherab both of Khangmar Monastery in Kardze County, Sichuan, staged a peaceful demonstration in the County.

In the afternoon around 1:00 PM of the same day, a 37 year-old monk named Sergha and 27 year-old monk, Yeshi Dargye, also of Khangmar Monastery further staged protests by distributing pamphlets and calling for a free Tibet, and praying for the long life of the Dalai Lama and the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

On the same day between 2 - 3 PM local time, another demonstration consisting of more than 10 local Tibetans erupted in the same County which was led by an unidentified layman of Shillidha Village. All the peaceful protesters were brutally beaten and arrested by the Chinese armed forces.

05 July 2008



Demonstrations in Kardze County

On 5 July a group of local Tibetans were severely beaten and then detained by the Chinese security forces for staging peaceful demonstrations in Kardze County, Kardze “TAP”, Sichuan Province.

10 July 2008



13 ethnic Tibetan Party members expelled in Lhasa

According to reports posted on the official website, China’s Tibet Information Centre, dated 10 July 2008, 13 Party members under Lhasa City were expelled from the Communist Party for their involvement in the “March 14 riot” and their failure to uphold the three themes under the renewed “patriotic education” campaign.

Following the series of protests across the Tibetan plateau, at the beginning of April, the Chinese authorities launched a renewed “Patriotic education” campaign covering almost every section of Tibetan communities with more rigor and intensity. The campaign not only targeted the monastic institutions but also government employees, security forces, farmers, nomads, private entrepreneurs, educational institutions and Party cadres. The ethnic Tibetan Party cadres and government employees in particular, came under scanner with the test of individual loyalty to the party. One’s stand on the separatist forces, family background and the way of thinking were thoroughly judged.

On 21 April, Dorjee Tsering, Lhasa City Mayor, told that the “Patriotic education” campaign would be a standard litmus test for the party cadres and would be set as a standard barometer for testing one’s loyalty to the Party.

Under the three themes, the renewed “patriotic education” campaign aims to ‘educate’ the masses about ‘opposing splittism’, ‘protecting stability’ and ‘backing development’, by holding meetings, inviting experts to give speeches, teaching and discussing the contents of the ‘patriotic education’ campaign, holding denunciation session of the Dalai Lama and screening propaganda shows.

14 July 2008



Two months’ ultimatum issued to the Tibetan communist Party members and government employees to recall their children studying in exile schools

A new official regulation jointly prepared by the “TAR” Communist Party’s Discipline Inspection Commission (Ch: Jie Wei) and “TAR” Government Discipline Committee (Ch: Jian cha ting) was officially announced on 14 July 2008, targeting Tibetan party members and government employees whose children are studying in exile educational institutions run by the “Dalai Clique”, according to the latest information posted on the official website. (www.chinatibetnews.com).

The new regulation has warned Tibetan party members and government employees of dire consequences if they do not act according to Party rules and policies and fail to recall their children studying in exile educational institutions run by the “Dalai Clique”. The announcement clearly state that, the “Dalai Clique has over the years cited free scholarship, boarding and food facilities to the young children in order to entice them to leave Tibet for schools and monasteries in exile. The young who are the future seeds

were targeted by the Dalai clique by enticing with facilities in the exile schools and monasteries in order to challenge the party and the government.”

According to the official announcement the reason for the new regulation is to maintain stability and to oppose the ‘splittist’ forces within the Party members and “TAR” government employees. The new regulation, stated as “political regulation”, has categorically mentioned that the Party members and government employees are not allowed to send their children to educational institutions in exile. The new regulation further stated that the act of sending children into exile educational institutions run by the “Dalai clique” goes against the Party rules and government policies, and it will act and punish those, accordingly.

A two-month ultimatum was issued to the ethnic Tibetan party members and government employees to recall their children studying in exile educational institutions run by the Dalai clique. The announcement stated that, although a new regulation has been formulated, before its promulgation “TAR” government employees and the Party members should recall their children from the exile educational institutions run by the Dalai clique within two months’ period and should voluntarily surrender and explain before the concerned government department or the Party for leniency without penalty. According to the statement, those who have participated in “splittist” activities should surrender voluntarily for leniency.

Unfortunately, though well-educated and professionally competent, these students and monks will fall under surveillance and lack of job security because of their affiliation with Tibetan exile institutions if they decide to return to their homeland. For those families who send their children to India for education when there are no other options, harsh repercussions can be expected.

The announcement further stated that, however, after the promulgation of the new regulation, those party members and government employees who conceal information or fail to recall their children studying in exile educational institutions run by the Dalai Clique within the stipulated deadline, shall be expelled from the Party and fired from their government job. This new regulation shall be promulgated soon and will cover all the current Party members, government employees, retired Party members and government employees.

This is not the first time that such an ultimatum was issued. In 1994 a policy was instituted demanding that parents recall their children from India lest they be demoted or expelled from their jobs, and their children lose their rights to residence permits if they did not return to Tibet within a specified time. Many parents recalled their children studying in exile schools and many ended up terminating their education.

The new regulation aims at putting the Tibetan employees and members through a political litmus test of their ideological loyalty to the party and the government and to eliminate those with a history of separatist activities. The timing of the new regulation raises concern about the Chinese authorities' intention towards managing Tibetan employees, party members and their children.

26 July 2008



China arrests four Tibetans for protesting against festival to greet Olympics

Four Tibetan youth in Nangchen County in north eastern Qinghai Province were arrested on 26 July 2008 by the Chinese PSB officials for protesting against the Summer Festival planned by the Chinese government to greet the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games.

According to sources, the Chinese authorities of Nangchen County, Jyekundo (Ch: Yushu) “TAP” in Qinghai Province, have ordered all the township and village authorities under its administration to prepare and bring out a festive spectacle/performance during the planned summer festival in Drokshog Township, Nangchen County, to greet the upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The planned five-day Summer Festival with song and dance, and custom competitions among villages at Drokshog Township in Nangchen County was officially announced about two months before ordering compulsory participation from each family with rehearsal date set on 25 July 2008. It was confirmed that lyrics of songs prepared by each and every village were thoroughly scrutinized by the authorities to ensure that no songs contain lyrics latent with a bereavement message of separation or a message in praise of the exiled Dalai Lama or Gyalwa Karmapa. The people are known to have shown great displeasure over this stern enforcement by the Chinese authorities.

On 26 July 2008, just three days before the actual commencement of the Summer festival, four Tibetans from Nangchen County – Asang Bersatsang, 21 years old, Ngoesoe Konkyaptsang, 35 years old, Jamsang and Gadho (age unknown) shouted slogans in the presence of a large number of local government officials and people at the site of the planned summer festival in Drokshog Township, where people were setting up tents and making preparations for the festival. The four voiced their disapproval of the summer festival to greet the Olympic Games by saying, “this is not the year to celebrate as Tibetans have suffered untold repression under the Chinese regime, rather it is time to mourn and offer prayers (for those who died or were impris-

oned in recent protests across Tibet),” “we want freedom” and “the Dalai Lama should return to Tibet”. After their protest, while distributing pamphlets, the four requested the Tibetans at the festival site to return to their respective villages. Tibetans who had gathered for the festival preparation at Drokshog Township packed up their tents and gears in solidarity with the protesters leaving only the government tents at the festival ground. The Chinese authorities’ planned summer festival at Drokshog Township in Nangchen County, to greet the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games, was not able to set off because of mass pull out by people following the protest by four Tibetans.

According to sources, the same evening the four Tibetans were arrested from Drokshog Township by Nangchen County PSB officials and detained at Nangchen County PSB Detention Centre. Following their detention, residents of Drokshog Township wrote an appeal letter to the County authorities on 28 July calling for their immediate release and stated that the people would continue to stand behind them until their release from the Detention Centre. As of now, there is no further information on the four arrested Tibetans.



Conclusion

Numerous credible reports received by the TCHRD about the scale and intensity of the Chinese government’s repression across Tibet suggest that the authorities have used the March Protests as an opportunity to launch a systematic crackdown on Tibetans’ fundamental rights. The Chinese authorities have deployed a large number of security forces to suppress further demonstrations and have intensified their “patriotic re-education campaign” across all sections of Tibetan communities. So far, the Chinese officials have given only limited information on those who have been sentenced after swift trial proceedings.

Following the March protests in Lhasa and other traditional Tibetan areas in the east and north, the Chinese authorities have repeatedly disregarded requests made by the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile to allow independent international observers into Tibet to report on the continuing protests there and the reactions of the Chinese government in their aftermath. Recently, in response to the international condemnation of the brutal crackdowns on the protesters, the Chinese government organized three official media tours to Lhasa and Labrang and permitted 15 diplomats to visit Lhasa in late March, but seriously restricted their ability to speak freely to Tibetans.

In early April, a request was made by Ms. Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the senior Chinese diplomats in Geneva for a visit to Tibet to independently witness first-hand the human rights violations in the ongoing crisis there. Her request was declined by the Chinese government on the grounds that ‘the timing was not convenient.’ Similarly, the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is mandated to visit detention facilities and check on the well-being of prisoners worldwide, has never been allowed to carry out such work in China, and particularly not in Tibet, since 10 March protests, which subsequently led to mass arrests and detentions across Tibet. In addition, six United Nations Special Procedures mandate holders issued a joint statement calling for “greater and unfettered access to the regions for journalists and independent observers, guarantees for the free flow of information, and full implementation of international standards in regard to the treatment of protesters and those detained,” but all of these demands were ignored.

Hundreds of Tibetans are still languishing in the Chinese administered prisons and detention centers for peacefully expressing their opinions, exercising fundamental human rights and there are many whose families still have no knowledge of their whereabouts.

TCHRD condemns, in the strongest terms, the Chinese security forces’ brutal treatment of the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators. TCHRD also calls upon the PRC government to release all Tibetans arrested and detained for exercising their fundamental human rights, as enshrined in the UDHR, the Chinese Constitution, and many other international covenants and treaties that she is party to. The government of the PRC should ensure that the aforementioned individuals are not subjected to further ill treatment and torture, which are common features of Chinese-administered detention centres and prisons in Tibet. TCHRD is highly concerned about the safety of those critically injured and detained by the security forces, and seeks the support of human rights groups and the international community in securing their early release unconditionally.

Testimony by a Tibetan youth in Lhasa

A rare testimony in detail of a Tibetan youth who was arrested in the aftermath of Lhasa unrest in March 2008 is obtained by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). The interviewee describes the use of extreme torture in prison, cries of pain in the corridors of the prison, harrowing stories that he constantly hears, unwavering hope of support from the outside world, and perception of life post imprisonment. The interview which is reproduced below has been dictated to a third party and edited by TCHRD in order to protect the identity of the youth. While (*) denotes information withheld, further details, comments or explanations are provided in square brackets.

"On (*) March, around (*) soldiers entered my house, broke down five doors, checked everything and threw it all on the floor and hit everyone present there. It was like a robbery or burglary. There were a lot of firearms and they were very rough with us. I was arrested. They took me with them, with my thumbs tied behind my back, very tightly, resulting in the whole area being numb for the last two or three months [perhaps a mistake in taking dictation by the third party] [all of his left thumb]. They treated us very harshly. Talking to each other, they said, "This is our chance", and they beat us. At first I thought that they were going to kill me, they hit my head a lot, and skull can be broken easily. It is not like the rest of the body. They took me to prison. For four days they didn't ask me anything, they just threw me in. They gave us half a steamed bun a day. That's very small. Everyone were very thirsty and a lot of people drank their urine [the detainees were not provided with water]. We had no clothes, no blankets, nothing to lie down on, nothing [just cement floors] and it was very cold. For four days nobody spoke to us, they just left us there."

"During the day it's quiet, there's nothing in Lhasa during the day. Between 11:00 at night and 5-6:00 [in the morning] they arrest thousands of people. In that room, after four or five days, they gave us two steamed buns with hot water. We were (*) people in that room. Very bad. We heard a lot of things. Many people had their arms or legs broken or gunshot wounds but they weren't taken to hospital. They were there with us. It was really terrible. I can't believe that we are in the 21st century. For instance, one boy who was shot four times, one from here to there [the bullet entered from the left side of his back and exited from the left side of his chest, near his heart], one from here to here [from inner left elbow to inner left wrist], and one here [a horizontal wound on his upper right arm]. Some people had their ribs broken. One man was punched in his [right] eye, and it was all swollen and black and blue, very bad. People had their teeth broken, these are just examples. A lot of terrible things were done."

"One of the problems is that people have no food, they are very hungry, they are just falling over. One boy fell into the toilet, all in the same room, and he was cut right across his face [under his chin along the jaw]. For instance, a lot of people have psychological problems, and they're the first to collapse. A boy from Tse-Tang, he has a problem of the "heart", a psychological problem, and he was very thin. At first he fell two or three times every day but they didn't care."

"The worst thing – this is Gondzhe [the name of the prison], in Lhasa there are nineteen prisons, the biggest is Drapchi and there is one in Chushul [Ch: Qushu County], they are empty, they showed the visitors that nobody is in prison, it's just for show. Usually there is no prison at the train station, but they rented a very big building and they put people there and in Du-Long [Toelung Dechen County] and at the train station, and in Gondzhe; they put people in these three places. At night they bring a big bus, and many soldiers come, and one hundred to one hundred and fifteen go to Du-Long. They say it's time to go home, "You haven't done anything wrong, you're going home," but they put them in a huge bus to Du-Long or to the train station. They've mixed up the people and transferred people from here to there [from prison to prison]. I didn't see this myself, but friends told me what they saw at Du-Long. Some monks had sacks put over their heads and they were taken away and didn't come back, so maybe they were killed."

"I met an old man, 65 years old, who had two ribs broken and he was all bent over [demonstrates a bent man], and he couldn't stand up straight, he was dying, so the police took him to People's Hospital, where one or two people die every day [due to police violence]. The people who are taken to hospital are usually people who have been shot or beaten, and they usually die there. A brother and sister from (*), the brother was younger, were sleeping in the same room and all of a sudden soldiers came and threw them out of the window from a high floor to the ground, the brother was killed on the spot. Yes, right outside the building. The sister didn't die, but she can't lie down, she has to remain in a sitting position all the time. They took the body away and told her that she is forbidden to tell anyone. (*). These are just a few examples. There are many problems like this."

"Many questions were asked of people who were not guilty of anything. They are just [guilty of being] Tibetans. There are many counties in Tibet, they call the police from each county, and the people from the counties aren't in Lhasa so they show them that the prisons are empty, but they were taken to all kinds of places, because in Lhasa there are so many people watching so they keep everyone away. Now the monks from (*) monastery, friends and relatives, we don't know where they are."

"You know that they say that there are no soldiers in Lhasa, but they're in civilian dress and they check identity papers."

"I want to talk and that people should know what's happening in Tibet. If they beat me that's okay [he means that his family may be hurt as well], I didn't do anything bad in Lhasa. "

"Many young people in Lhasa, for example, if we were together on the 14th [of March], I was beaten, so I was "sold" and then you're with me [with the prison warden doing the beating]. But I have friends in (*) monastery, I would rather die than give them away. I saw a lot of things that they did in prison. A guy from Dhadezhe [possibly Dartsedo County] had a new jacket, so they beat him and he died, because of the jacket, because it was very new, so they said he stole it, so because of his new coat he was killed."

"There are a lot of high school students from Sauko . A seventeen-year-old who had not participated in the events of the 14th [of March], all his clothes were taken away, they tied his hands and they pushed a wagon at him until he fell, there are all kinds of torture methods. This kid was very young and he didn't even do anything. Afterwards he said that he'd done all kinds of things, that happens to a lot of people, they pressure people to admit things they never did. I didn't see the dead people, but in prison people called out to the police or soldiers, "Someone's dead!", every day people shout that. At Gondzhe there are nine buildings, and each building has eleven rooms and in each room there are twenty or thirty people. And one day, a Chinese man was asked some questions, someone called and asked how many people had been arrested and he said less than ten thousand, and that doesn't include Drepung, Sera, Ramoche, Jokhang. After they let us out they arrested the monks. When I got out [of prison] I heard that many were arrested at Drepung Monastery. I was released on (*) April ."

"I met a monk from Ramoche before I was released. I am very worried about the monks. The soldiers regard the monks as something very different, because a monk from Dezhe [possibly Derge County], his finger was bent over [shows a completely bent finger] and he'd been blinded in one eye, he couldn't see out of it at all, he was beaten more than us but luckily ... Really I can't understand why they do terrible things to monks, very, very painful."

"I met a boy from (*) [County] in the same prison, and he had two friends in Lhasa who lived near Ramoche and they were shot, and his two friends, one, there's a hospital near Anichenko , he was taken to a nunnery and he died there, 21 years old, I've forgotten his name; the other was 20 years old, he was shot and he's in hospital, maybe he'll die too. He was shot on Gangsu Street."

"A boy named (*), aged (*), from Anishim near Lhasa, is in prison, and two of his friends were shot to death. He and his 18 year-old brother were from Phenpo. In the prison at Gondzhe there are a lot of people from Phenpo."

"During the day it's very quiet, everything happens at night, everything's very secret. There is no telephone contact with Drepung, Sera or the train station. Sometimes we can get in touch with the train station, but not most of the time, so they can't be reached."

"I have a relative in India, I wrote just what I heard and saw to send over the internet. I wrote a little and I saved it on Word, and all of a sudden it disappeared, so I was very frightened. So I haven't checked my e-mail, I have a lot of friends abroad and they send many e-mails but I haven't opened them.(*)."

"Outwardly they show people that everything is very nice but inside it's really terrible. People did really bad things and forced us to make this problem. At Ramoche they didn't do anything, but thousands of soldiers surrounded the monastery and all the temples, and many vehicles closed off the gates like a prison. We can't be tolerant anymore, we should be tolerant but we can't be tolerant anymore. There are no human rights and cultural genocide is the reality, that's the big part, but the small part we see, for instance in Lhasa, on a main street like Beijing Lu [Lu means street in Chinese], or Gengshu Lu, how many Tibetans have businesses on streets like those? This is Lhasa, Tibet, not China. Don't the Tibetans have to live? The Chinese are more talented because they study in big cities. They have experience or enough money to do business, but Tibetans come from villages, they are farmers or nomads, they don't have money, so how can they do business in Lhasa? What is more necessary? That the local people do business in Lhasa or the Chinese? Why don't the Chinese police allow Tibetans to do business on one side of the street and the Chinese on the other side – so things will be more balanced? There are many Tibetans who are very talented and intelligent, but they don't have enough money to make it. They have money because they live in Beijing or Shanghai. That's the small part. "

"I see a lot of things, I'm okay, I can do many things. But I see many Tibetans, the way they live, and the way the Chinese live, and this is Tibet. The local people shouldn't be superior to the Chinese, but there should be balance. There are some very old Tibetans who have pensions from the government, you can see them on TV. They said bad things to the Tibetans. I watch them and I just laugh. There are many westerners who are fighting for Tibetan civil rights. I'm very happy that these people are doing this. I want to study more at home every day but I can't. When I watch TV, everything is lies, so it pains my heart [points to his heart] and it's very bad. So I walk in the streets and I see the soldiers asking me for my identity papers, they look at my card and ask me, "When were you born?" and if

there's the smallest mistake you're finished. They check the picture and your face, but a Chinese person can pass right by [without identity papers], that's okay."

(*). "Before this was the best place, but now it's like a prison, it's not like Lhasa. When I was in prison, a Tibetan policeman told me "Kneel down here!", I had my thumbs tied behind my back. He sat down [on a chair in front of me], put his foot on my head and kicked my forehead with his foot, pushed my head back and slapped my face over and over again, and I saw this man and I was very sad. He's Tibetan and now I see him every day, I've seen him many times [since then]. A lot of Chinese and Tibetans jumped on my back and kicked me and beat me over the head, they twisted my head back so I couldn't see their faces, but to show me your face and to do those bad things – that's the worst thing."

"This is just an experience, I could learn a lot from it. In prison sometimes I dreamed about food and I remembered the food we cook at home, my mother and my sister's cooking and I could smell it, and then I really appreciated how tasty the food is at home. I usually eat everything and then I say "That wasn't so good," and now I've learnt that it's very, very good. These are the worst things that I've ever seen in my life, but you learn how to be a good person. Sometimes, when my (*)'s children are here, and they don't do their schoolwork, I yell at them and hit them. But now if I yell at them it pains me sometimes. I've learned a lot."

"I'm worried about the small Tibetan population. Many people are dying today or being crippled with broken arms and legs, and that's very bad. And people are in prison, like me, and I think about the people in prison all the time. I think about the terrible state they are in. Young people, 16 or 17 years old, crying all the time – it makes me really sad. I saw people with broken limbs and people who'd been shot – seeing their pale faces is very, very sad."

TAR Party Committee Discipline and Inspection Department issue “Regulations to decide the issue of children of Party members and state employees taken abroad for education in schools run by the Dalai Clique” (experimental implementation)¹⁰⁵

Tibet Daily, July 14

In recent years young people have been lured into going abroad by the offer of free education at schools which also provide lodging, food and clothing run by the Dalai Clique, so that they can be infiltrated (back into Tibet) in a conspiracy aimed at undermining our future capacity. In view of this, these regulations have been introduced in order to strengthen Party and governmental discipline, in line with the struggle against Splittism, and as a new angle on strengthening the system. The regulations stipulate that children of Party members and state employees may not be taken abroad to study in schools run by the Dalai Clique (or in monasteries run by them). This has been defined as a strict matter of political discipline, and Party members or state employees whose children go abroad for this purpose will be punished according to Party and government disciplinary regulations. These regulations having been generally disseminated, those who send their children abroad for this purpose will be expelled from all Party welfare organizations and from their status as Party or government workers. Before the regulations are fully disseminated, those who bring their children back must voluntarily report the matter to the organization (department), and according to the severity of their situation they will face disciplinary action to an appropriate degree. Those children must voluntarily and extensively confess to the organization (dept) whether they accepted the reactionary education they received abroad and participated in Splittist and terrorist activities, and according to the severity of their offences, they will face an appropriate degree of disciplinary action. Those with children studying abroad in the said schools and monasteries should be advised to return them within 2 months, and those who do so within this period will face disciplinary action or not according to the severity of the case. Those who hide (the fact that they have children studying abroad) and fail to resign, and those who fail to return them within the stipulated period will face expulsion from all Party welfare organizations and from their status as Party or government workers. The TAR Discipline committee and Inspection dept advises disciplinary and supervisory bodies at all levels in the region to strengthen oversight and supervision of the observance of these regulations by Party members, government employees, future employees and retired employees, and to deal strictly with any infractions.

Measures for dealing strictly with rebellious monasteries and individual monks and nuns¹⁰⁶

Order from the People's Government of Ganzi TAP, No. 2

These measures were decided by the third work meeting of the standing committee of the prefecture Peoples Government and are effective from the day of their promulgation.

Head of prefecture: Li Zhangping, June 28, 2008.

In order to defend social stability, socialist law and the basic interests of the people, the measures listed below have been resolutely drafted for dealing clearly with participants in illegal activities aimed at inciting the division of nationalities, such as shouting reactionary slogans, distributing reactionary writings, flying and popularizing the “snow lion flag” and holding illegal demonstrations are listed below.

One: Dealing strictly with monk and nun troublemakers.

1) In cases where those who have committed minor offences, show a good attitude in admitting their mistakes and submit a written statement of guilt, their head of household should be guarantor (that they commit no further offence), should keep them inside and ensure that they strictly follow re-education.

2) Those whose offences are greater but who are ready to admit them should, after undergoing re-education, make a sincere confession of guilt, give a voluntary account of the main points in their case and submit a written statement of guilt. Until they have done so, they will be held in custody doing re-education.

3) Those guilty of serious offences who show a stubborn attitude will be counselled strictly, given a warning, stripped of their rights as religious practitioners and expelled from their monasteries, and held in custody doing re-education

4) Those involved in instigating splittism and disturbances, hatching conspiracies, forming organisations and taking a leading role will not only be strictly punished according to law, but will have their rights as religious practitioners annulled, be expelled from their monasteries, and henceforth not be able to serve as religious practitioners, no monastery will be allowed to take them in, and should they do so, the heads of that monastery's management committee² will be held responsible for supporting and harboring splittists and dealt with severely.

Two: Dealing strictly with troublemaking monasteries.

5) Those monasteries with 10%-30% of monks or nuns³ participating in disturbances will be sealed off, searched, suspect persons detained according to law and any banned items they have hidden shall be confiscated. All religious activities will be suspended, inmates will be prohibited from leaving the premises, and they will be cleaned up and rectified in the proper manner.

6) Monastery management committees with officials participating in disturbances will be rectified in a timely manner, and in cases where an overt incident has occurred, or where there are no suitable personnel available, the local government will depute officials to assume control of management. During the period of cleansing and rectification, the monastery's financial control and all other management functions will be suspended.

7) During the period of rectification, those monks or nuns who do not assist the work of the committee, who do not agree to be registered and photographed, who leave the monastery premises as they please and refuse to correct themselves despite repeated reeducation, will be completely expelled from the monastery, will have their rights as religious practitioners annulled, will be sent back to their native places, and their residential cells will be demolished. Monks and nuns returning to the monastery who cannot give a clear reason for having gone outside, who cannot make a clear stand with respect to the unification of the Motherland and rejection of the separation of nationalities will be expelled, and their cells demolished.

8) Monks and nuns at monasteries involved in disturbances must re-register, and their cells in the monastery must be collectively numbered. The limit on the number of monks or nuns allowed to join the monastery must be reduced in accordance with the number who participated in the disturbances and the number expelled. Monks and nuns who continue to profess splittism, who covertly assist or participate in disturbances, or refuse to comply with reeducation will be expelled.

9) The management committees of monasteries that do not improve following rectification, where monks and nuns go out again and make trouble, will be investigated, and in due course, according to law, they will be removed from the list of registered religious institutions and closed down.

Three: Strict checking that the management committees fulfill their responsibilities.

10) Monks, Tulkus, Khenpos,⁴ Geshe⁵ and so on in the management committees of monasteries that, although not directly involved in disturbances, do not take a clear stand on the issue, do not fulfill their management responsibilities, are lax or implicated in instances of poor management, or fail to investigate and discipline monks and nuns who go outside and participate in disturbances must be subjected to careful scrutiny of their mistakes while undergoing criticism and re-education.

11) Management committee officials, Tulkus, Khenpos and Geshe who fail to make their attitude clear or take a two-faced stance will not only be strictly warned, but will be submitted to a detailed examination of their behavior in front of a general assembly of the monastic community, and obliged to give a written guarantee, and the giving of this examination and written guarantee will be shown repeatedly in newspapers and on television.

12) Management committee officials, Tulkus, Khenpos and Geshe who send secret reports or collude with foreign separatists, assist in disturbances, tolerate them, or incite others will be severely punished by law. In accordance with legal provisions, their political right of participation in government bodies, People's Congresses, People's Political Consultative Conferences and Buddhist Associations will be annulled, and all salaries paid for the performance of such various functions terminated. They will not be allowed to participate in religious activities with the rights of religious practitioners, and in the case of Tulkus, they will be stripped of the right to hold the incarnation lineage, and simultaneously the finances and financial management of monasteries under their control will be frozen and inspected, all instances of misappropriation of monastery funds or financial management contravening the regulations will be examined and dealt with according to law, as well as broadcast in prefectural newspapers and on television.

This is a reference to Democratic Management Committees that run monasteries, which are composed of monks and nuns who have ostensibly been elected by other members of the monastic community, although their appointment needs to be approved by local government officials. DMCs are expected to serve the interests of the government and not those of the monastery or nunnery's population; the system is intended to supplant the traditional hierarchical layers of authority in Tibetan religious institutions.

The wording of this figure is unclear in the original Tibetan, and could possibly be referring to 10-30 monks, as opposed to 10-30% of monks

The title of a religious teacher

Also the title of a religious teacher; a Geshe degree is the most advanced level of scholarship possible in the Gelugpa school of Tibetan Buddhism, typically requiring 20 years of intense study

Urgent Appeal

Appeal to your government to pressure the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to Tibet immediately

1. Contact your local government representatives to ask for increased pressure on China to stop the ongoing violent crackdown on the peaceful Tibetan protesters.
2. Urge your local government representatives to pressure China to allow independent foreign media into Tibet with a totally free access to all the regions touched by protests.
3. Stage peaceful solidarity activities in your area encouraging awareness about the Tibetan situation.
4. Please ask your friends and colleagues to follow the current situation in Tibet through www.tchrd.org

Recommendations of TCHRD to the Chinese government:

1. To restrain from stepping up restrictive measures and violent crackdown on the peaceful Tibetan protesters and to ensure that the arrestees are not subjected to ill treatment and torture.
2. To guarantee all the medical treatment that the arrestees may require.
3. To release all those Tibetans who have been arrested and detained for exercising their fundamental human rights of the freedom of expression enshrined in the constitution, in the UDHR and in many other international covenants and treaties that she is party to.
4. To revise the sentencing process of the 30 Tibetan protestors and to guarantee fair trials conform to the international standards for the rest of the prisoners.
5. To end the practice of the so-called “patriotic education” campaign in Tibet.
6. To allow the free religious practice in the monastic institutions and to ensure that the religious freedom of the Tibetan people is respected.
7. To accept UN’s fact finding mission in Tibet and to lift restrictions imposed on the media.
8. To fully conform to its commitment to freedom of expression and assembly as stipulated in the constitution.

EndNotes:

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