



literary magazine 'Shar Dugri' (Eastern Snow Mountain) was sentenced to 4 years in prison on charges of "inciting activities to split the nation" by the Ngaba Intermediary People's Court. Similarly, last December the same court sentenced three Tibetan writers namely Dhonkho and Buddha to four years and Kelsang Jinpa to three years respectively on similar charges. On 8 November 2008, Norzin Wangmo, a female cadre and writer from Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) was sentenced to 5 years for passing news through the phone and internet about the situation in her area after protests broke out.

Mr. President,

On 8 June the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances urged Chinese authorities to provide full information on the fate and whereabouts of over 300 monks of the Ngaba Kirti Monastery who reportedly disappeared on 21 April after a military raid at the monastery. In its response, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said there had been "no such thing as enforced disappearance" of the monks. However, the spokesman admitted to have "conducting legal education" in the Kirti monastery but avoided the use of the words "patriotic reeducation" conducted by communist cadres. As the monks were being driven away in large trucks, the group of laypeople – mainly in their forties or older – who had been standing vigil at the monastery gate were beaten "mercilessly" by police according to sources. "People had their arms and legs broken, one old woman had her leg broken in three places, and cloth was stuffed in their mouths to stifle their screams" sources informed. Under such brutal crackdown, two elderly Tibetans namely Dongko, male, aged 60 and 65-year old Sherkyi died while attempting to prevent the monks from being taken away by the security forces.

Mr. President,

The Chinese authorities have now closed "Tibet Autonomous Region" to outsiders for the second time this year including Tibetans from neighbouring provinces. We wonder why they need to carry out such a restriction if the situation is "normal", as the Chinese authority always claims. Despite the brutal crackdown they face the Tibetan people continue to risk their lives in protests when, as recently as on 9 and 10 June, the monks and nuns staged protests alone or in small groups in the Kardze (in Chinese, Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture calling for freedom and the return of their spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. "Within the last week alone, a total of 17 Tibetans have protested in Kardze's downtown center," a Tibetan resident of the town told RFA on Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity. The whereabouts of these protesters again remain unknown.

Given this background, it becomes the responsibility of this Council to address chronic human rights situation faced by Chinese, Mongolians, Tibetans and Uyghurs under Communist China. In conclusion, we again urge the Chinese authorities to receive the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on a fact-finding mission that will include visits to Inner Mongolia, Tibet and Xinjiang.

I thank you, Mr. President.

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