

*Director of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Justice*

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Dear Director,

I am outraged to learn that Runggye Adak, a 52-year old Tibetan nomad and father of 11, may be charged with "provocation to subvert state power" by Chinese authorities in Lithang, Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. I am further concerned that Chinese police have detained members of Adak's family including his nephew Adak Lupoe, a monk at the Lithang monastery. I am very worried for Adak's well-being and the safety of his nephew, as abuse and torture are commonplace in Chinese detention centers and prisons inside Tibet.

In calling for the return of the Dalai Lama, Runggye Adak was peacefully expressing his beliefs. By persecuting him for this simple act, you are violating a fundamental human right - his right to freely express his views without fear of punishment. According to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "every person has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

I am also concerned by the response of Chinese police and military officials in Lithang following this incident. According to eye-witness reports, stun grenades, tear gas, and extreme violence have been used to disperse and intimidate local Tibetans. With the Beijing Olympics less than a year away, your government is trying to promote the illusion that Tibetans are happy and prosperous under Chinese rule. The military crackdown in Lithang and the violation of Ronggye Adak's fundamental human rights reveals the true nature of your brutal occupation of Tibet.

As long as your government continues to deny Tibetans their internationally recognized right to self-determination China will not be accepted as a leader on the global stage. Incidents such as Runggye Adak's arrest and the detention of Adak Lupoe will continue to taint China's international reputation during the Olympic Games and until Tibet is free. I urge you to immediately release and drop the charges against Runggye Adak and his nephew. I will continue to monitor their cases and urge my elected representatives to advocate on their behalf.

Yours truly,