

Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China

Wu Aiyang Buzhang

Sifabu

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People's Republic of China

Volksrepublik China

Your Excellency,

I am writing to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Runggye Adak (in Chinese, Rongji Azha), a 53 year-old Tibetan from Youru Village, Lithang County, Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in present day Sichuan Province, sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for staging a protest during which he called for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet.

I also call for the immediate and unconditional release of Lupoe (in Chinese, Lupo), a nephew of Runggye Adak, sentenced to 10 years for "endangering national security", of Kunkhen (in Chinese: Jacmyang Goinqen), sentenced to nine years for the same "offence" and Lothok (in Chinese Lutog), sentenced to three years. According to Xinhua, Lupoe and Kunkhyen were convicted of attempting to provide pictures and information to 'overseas organisations'.

Runggye Adak was formally arrested on 27th August and charged with "inciting to split the country", after making a public statement at the Lithang Horse Festival on 1st August. Far from being a "splittist" as you have labelled him, Runggye Adak's call for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet, and for the release of Gedun Choekyi Nyima are nothing more than a public expression of what the overwhelming majority of Tibetans, in all the Tibetan areas under the PRC and those outside of Tibet, privately feel. This is evidenced by the fact that eye-witnesses have reported that Tibetans present during Runggye Adak's protest at the horse festival appeared to be in total agreement with his opinions. The International Campaign for Tibet said that a Tibetan source, quoted Runggye Adak as stating to the court during his trial in Dartsedo, that he did not carry out his protest to be a hero. He said: "I wanted His Holiness to return, and wanted to raise Tibetan concerns and grievances, as there is no outlet for us to do so. That made me sad and made me act."

Your sentencing of Runggye Adak, Lupoe, Kunkhyen and Lothok will be viewed by the outside world as proof that the Chinese government does not respect the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people to freely express their opinion and expression as enshrined under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

If China is ever to be respected as leader on the global stage, and a truly worthy Olympic host, you will need to demonstrate to the world that your respect for the rights of the Tibetan people, as set out even in your own laws, extend to more than mere rhetoric. Your current actions reflect nothing more than that of an occupying power brutally suppressing any dissent expressed by the Tibetan people and your international image is consequently tarnished.

In recognition of the concerned individuals human rights, we urge you to quash the sentences of Runggye Adak, Lupoe, Kunkhyen and Luthok and release them immediately.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,