

Take Action for Political Prisoner Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

Help Us Match the Courage of the People of Tibet!



Recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as a reincarnated lama in the 1980s, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche has been a community leader and a staunch advocate for the protection and preservation of Tibetan culture, religion, and way of life for decades.

In 2002, the Delek was arrested on false charges of exploding bombs and distributing separatist leaflets. The only evidence against him was extracted from a relative during torture. The relative later recanted, clearing Delek of any wrong-doing. Delek's trial was held in secret and even though he had no independent legal counsel and the evidence against him was non-existent, he received a death sentence. The sentence was later commuted to life in prison, and he remains there today. There is reason to believe he is suffering from heart disease and that he may have been tortured.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche is widely respected by the people (both Tibetan and Chinese) in his home county of Lithang in eastern Tibet. Over 40,000 of them have signed their names to a petition asking for the Delek's release, each attesting to their signature by adding a thumbprint in red ink. **Every single one of the 40,000 Tibetan signers knows that they risk their freedom and perhaps their lives by speaking out for the Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.**

The International Campaign for Tibet is joining an international effort to match – and hopefully surpass – the total of 40,000 signatures on the petition to release Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. The Tibetan people are counting on sheer numbers to protect each other. We can help with that goal and we can help a good man regain his freedom.

Petition to Release Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

To: Zhou Yongkang
Chair, Politics and Law Commission
People's Republic of China

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche (Chinese name: A'an Zhaxi) was unjustly persecuted by the Chinese authorities in Sichuan Province during your term as Party Secretary there.

Like the people of Lithang, Kham (Ch: Litang, Sichuan Province), I do not recognise the verdict against Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. No credible evidence has ever been presented to support the charges against him. As a revered Buddhist leader, it is unfathomable that he would have been involved in "conspiring to cause explosions".

I, the undersigned, call on you to immediately grant

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche independent legal assistance and a new trial on the basis of three points: that there is no proof against him, that he steadfastly asserts his innocence, and that there is a widespread belief in Tibet and worldwide that he was framed by Chinese officials who viewed his influence as a threat to their power.

If, in a new trial, no credible evidence is presented against Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, I demand his release.

Signed:

Supporter, International Campaign for Tibet



Mail your signed petition to: International Campaign for Tibet, Attn: Membership, 1825 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20036