

Nun undergoing interrogation. No pictures of Chogdrub Drolma or Jangchub Drolma are available.

Stop Torture in Tibet

Free Tibet Campaign's *Stop the Torture in Tibet* initiative will highlight persistent torture and maltreatment in Tibet's prisons, detention centres and labour camps. Since 2002 China has released at least 14 political prisoners early as a result of pressure from governments and individuals worldwide, thereby demonstrating sensitivity to international criticism of its human rights record. By highlighting individual political prisoners who have experienced torture, we aim to both contribute to their early release from prison and to bring to an end the practice of torture in Tibet.

Nuns of Drapchi Prison

Stop the Torture in Tibet



Note: These two nuns may currently still be serving 11 year sentences in Drapchi Prison, but Tibet Information Network has received unconfirmed reports that both nuns have been released early. However, as no official confirmation of these releases can be made, it must be assumed for the time being that they are still in prison.

33 year old **Chogdrub Drolma** was one of at least 13 Gyabdrag nuns who staged a brief protest in Lhasa on 15 February 1995. They were all arrested and detained that same day. Chogdrub Drolma was sentenced to six years' imprisonment and sent to Drapchi Prison.

On 1 May 1998 Chogdrub Drolma was one of about 70 female political prisoners ordered by officials to take part in a patriotic flag-raising ceremony in the prison, to mark International Labour Day. A pro-independence demonstration quickly developed with hundreds of criminal and political prisoners shouting pro-independence slogans and support for the Dalai Lama. Chogdrub Drolma, along with other nuns, refused to sing Chinese patriotic songs. The uprising was brutally put down; during and following the protest five nuns and three monks died.

Many of the nuns were individually beaten and administered electric shocks. At least 16 nuns were put into solitary confinement for three months and three, including Chogdrub Drolma, received sentence extensions. Her sentence was increased to 11 years. According to reports from former political prisoners she is now suffering from failing kidneys.

Jangchub Drolma was born in 1972 near Lhasa and became a nun at Galo Nunnery. She was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the age of 23, after a brief demonstration in Lhasa in late February 1995, and was sent to Drapchi Prison.

Along with Chogdrub Drolma she refused to take

Name:	Chogdrub (also spelt Choedrup) Drolma
Lay name:	Namdrol
Age:	33 yrs
From:	Gyabdrag Nunnery, near Lhasa
Arrested:	15 February 1995
Reason:	Staged a brief peaceful protest in Lhasa
Sentence:	6 years, plus 5 years in 1998. Total sentence: 11 yrs
Expected Release:	February 2006
Prison:	Drapchi Prison

part in a patriotic Chinese flag-raising ceremony in the prison in May 1998. Jangchub Drolma was severely beaten for days before being confined for three months to an unlit, cramped cell with no space to stretch her legs. She was one of three nuns (the third being Ngawang Sangdrol) who had their prison sentences extended as a result of the protest, apparently suspected of being ring-leaders.

Ngawang Sangdrol, now released and living in the US, has expressed particular concern about Jangchub Drolma (whom

Name:	Jangchub Drolma
Lay name:	Palkyi
Age:	33 yrs
From:	Galo Nunnery, near Lhasa
Arrested:	late February 1995
Reason:	Peaceful protest in Lhasa
Sentence:	5 years, plus 6 years in 1998. Total: 11 yrs
Expected Release:	February 2006
Prison:	Drapchi Prison

she calls Palkyi), reporting that she faints and is in ill health. Ngawang Sangdrol has further reported that Jangchub Drolma is being held with ordinary prisoners, causing anxiety and damage to her psychological health, as the guards are believed to encourage criminal prisoners to spy on her.

(Sources: Tibet Information Network, Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy.)



ActionActionActionActionAction

Please write to the authorities below requesting:

- That Chogdrub Drolma is given medical treatment for her kidney problems.
- That Jangchub Drolma is given medical treatment to ascertain the cause of her fainting and ill-health, and is moved to a cell with fellow political prisoners.
- The immediate release of both Chogdrub Drolma and Jangchub Drolma on medical parole.
- The full restoration of their political rights on their release, including the right to return to their nunneries if they choose.
- A commitment that the torture and maltreatment of all prisoners arrested for "counter-revolutionary" offences or "endangering state security" in Tibet will cease. (China does not recognise the expression "political prisoners".)
- An independent investigation into prison conditions in Drapchi and into reports that prisoners have been tortured in detention, with the investigation's findings to be made public.

Addresses

1. *Governor of Drapchi Prison*
Name: Jianyuzhuang
Address: Xizang Zizhiqu Di Yi Jianyu Lasashi 850003
 People's Republic of China
Salutation: Dear Governor

2. *Minister of Justice*
Name: Zhang Fusen Buzhang
Address: Sifabu (Ministry of Justice) 10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie Chaoyang Qu Beijingshi 100020
 People's Republic of China
Email: minister@legalinfo.gov.cn
Fax: + 86 10 6520 5236 or +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o Ministry of Communications)
Salutation: Dear Minister