



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 16 political prisoners 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 the horrors of torture, we aim not only to contribute to their early release from prison, but also to bring an end to the practice of torture in Tibet.

## Phuntsok Wangdu

Phuntsok Wangdu is serving a 14 year sentence in Drapchi Prison. There are concerns for his health and well-being as he has reportedly tried to commit suicide due to excessive torture.

Born in July 1969 in Drushir, Taktse County in Lhasa Municipality, Phuntsok Wangdu became a monk and joined Ganden Monastery where he studied Buddhist philosophy. Phuntsok Wangdu remained in Ganden Monastery until the Chinese authorities forced him out and he had to flee to India for fear of his life. While in India he joined the Buddhist School of Dialectics based in Dharamsala. He remained in India until the winter of 1993 when he returned to Tibet to visit his 90 year old grandmother.

On his return to Tibet, he was arrested by TAR intelligence officers and detained in Sithru Prison. There was no apparent justification for his arrest, but the Chinese authorities kept Phuntsok Wangdu detained for six months without any official proceedings. When eventually released, he remained subject to severe restrictions.

These restrictions lasted until 1997, when Phuntsok Wangdu was arrested again on the eve of Losar, the Tibetan New Year. He was detained along with his brother and a 19 year-old cousin. They were held in the Gutsa Detention Centre, where they were reportedly subjected to excessive police brutality. In May 1997 Phuntsok Wangdu was taken to a police station in west Lhasa, where the Chinese forcibly beat a confession out of him. Following

an unfair trial, Phuntsok was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment and is currently being held at the Drapchi Prison in Tibet.

Phuntsok Wangdu has been the victim of various forms of torture whilst imprisoned, and has reportedly tried to commit suicide to escape the harassment and torture of the Chinese authorities.

(Sources: *Tibet Information Network, Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Gu-Chu-Sum, Free Tibet Campaign, Jamyang Tzultrin.*)

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Name:</b>             | Phuntsok Wangdu |
| <b>Age:</b>              | 36              |
| <b>Arrested:</b>         | 7 February 1997 |
| <b>Reason:</b>           | "Espionage"     |
| <b>Sentence:</b>         | 14 years        |
| <b>Expected release:</b> | 2011            |
| <b>Prison:</b>           | Drapchi Prison. |



### ActionActionActionActionAction

Write to the Chinese authorities listed, requesting:

- The immediate release of Phuntsok Wangdu
- 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.
- Unconditional access for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to all prisons run by the Chinese authorities.

#### 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  
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie  
Chaoyang Qu  
Beijingshi 100020  
People's Republic of China

##### Email:

minister@legalinfo.gov.cn

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or +86 10 6529 2345 (c/o

Ministry of Communications)

**Salutation:** Dear Minister