

Yin Li
Governor, Sichuan Province
Sichuan People's Government Office
Chengdu Jinjiang District, No. 30 School Street
Sichuan Province 610000
China

Dear Yin Li

I am contacting you to raise the case of Sonam Lhatso (索郎拉措, Suolang Lacuo). Sonam Lhatso is a nun from Pangri Monastery in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. She was arrested in May 2008 after participating in a peaceful demonstration by a group of nuns from Pangri Nunnery. During this demonstration, which came in response to a military crackdown and political re-education campaign in Kardze County, protesters allegedly called for the independence of Tibet and for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

Sonam Lhatso has committed no internationally-recognised crime. Her arrest, detention and conviction appear to be in response to her peacefully exercising her rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. As you know, Article 35 of the Chinese constitution guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of demonstration for all citizens.

I urge you to do everything within your power in your capacity of Governor of Sichuan Province to immediately and unconditionally release Sonam Lhatso. So long as she remains in prison, I also call on you to guarantee that she is protected from torture and other ill-treatment, that she has access to a lawyer of their choice, and that she has access to family members and any medical treatment that she may require, as required under China's Human Rights Action Plan and the Prison Law of the People's Republic of China.

Yours sincerely