

# URGENT ACTION

## CONCERN GROWS FOR IMPRISONED TIBETAN MONK

**Prominent Tibetan monk Karma Tsewang was sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment in July or August 2014. His lawyers have repeatedly been denied access to him and his family have not been allowed to visit since he was first detained over a year ago. There are ongoing fears for his health and he is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.**

**Karma Tsewang** was seized on 6 December 2013 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, while travelling on business. He was held incommunicado at the Changdu (Chomdo) County Detention Centre, Tibet Autonomous Region, until his lawyer was able to visit him in February 2014, but since then different lawyers have been denied access on several occasions. He was sentenced in a secret trial in July or August 2014 for "harbouring criminals", which is believed to be related to the bombing at Karma Monastery in Changdu (Chomdo) in October 2011. His lawyers have not been given any official court documents detailing the evidence against him, and due to the secrecy of the trial and the lack of access to Karma Tsewang, it has been difficult to obtain reliable information about his case and well-being.

Karma Tsewang suffers from hepatitis and it is not known whether he is getting the treatment he requires. He is well-known in the Tibetan community for his work promoting Tibetan language and culture and for his disaster relief work, in particular following the earthquake in Yushu county, Qinghai Province in 2010, in which over 2,000 people died.

### **Please write immediately in English, Chinese or your own language:**

- Urging the authorities to ensure Karma Tsewang has regular access to his family, lawyers of his choosing, and any medical treatment he may require;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure Karma Tsewang is not tortured or ill-treated.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 MARCH 2015 TO:**

#### Director of Tibet Autonomous Region

Public Security Bureau

Li Zhao Tingzhang

Xizang Zizhiqu Gong'anting

26 Linkuodonglu

Lasashi 850000

Xizang Zizhiqu

People's Republic of China

**Salutation: Dear Director**

#### Director

Bomi Prison (Powo Tramo Prison in Tibetan)

Qionghuo Township, Bomi County,

Nyingchi Prefecture,

Tibet Autonomous Region,

People's Republic of China, 860300

**Salutation: Dear Director**

#### Premier

Li Keqiang

The State Council General Office

2 Fuyoujie, Xichengqu

Beijingshi 100017

People's Republic of China

Fax: +86 10 65961109

Email: english@mail.gov.cn

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

### **Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 4/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA17/002/2014/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Karma Tsewang is a prominent Tibetan monk at the Gongya Monastery in Nangqian county, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province. Gongya Monastery is an important monastery in Nangqian with 300 monks, 200 nuns and 100 young monks. The monastery holds the annual Grand Prayer for World Peace Puja which attracts tens of thousands of Tibetan Buddhist followers each year.

Since the Tibetan mass protests of 2008 against Chinese rule, the Chinese government has stepped up repression in Tibetan areas and imposed intrusive military and security controls on the local people. The authorities also continue to subject Tibetans to humiliating "patriotic education", which forces them to denounce the Dalai Lama and express support for the Chinese Communist Party. Tibetan monks have been a primary target of the crackdown. According to the International Campaign for Tibet, as of 22 January 2015, 136 Tibetans have self-immolated since 27 February 2009 in protest against this crackdown.

Name: Karma Tsewang  
Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 4/14 Index: ASA 17/002/2015 Issue Date: 22 January 2015