



# TIBET LOBBY DAY

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## Priority Political Prisoners

China is holding hundreds of Tibetan political prisoners in detention - arrested and brutally tortured simply for exercising their basic rights. Here are a few of the most urgent cases.



Gedun Choekyi Nyima



Lobsang Kunchok



Thabkhe Gyatso



Migmar Dhondup

### GEDUN CHOEKYI NYIMA, THE 11TH PANCHEN LAMA



On May 14, 1995, the Dalai Lama identified six-year old Gedun Choekyi Nyima as the 11th Panchen Lama. Three days later, the little boy and his parents were ‘disappeared.’ Denouncing the Dalai Lama’s choice as ‘illegal and invalid,’ Chinese officials soon put forward a hand-chosen, illegitimate 11th Panchen Lama. The whereabouts of Gedun Choekyi Nyima, and his parents

Dechen Choedron and Konchog Phuntsok, remain unknown. Foreign delegations have been denied access to him, despite repeated requests. Historically, the Panchen Lama has been one of Tibet’s most highly revered religious figures, with a unique relationship with the Dalai Lama. The current one hasn’t been seen in more than 25 years.

### LOBSANG KUNCHOK



Tibetan monk Lobsang Kunchok was given a death sentence suspended for two years (which is usually converted to life imprisonment) for sending information regarding self-immolations in Tibet to Tibetans in exile. They were the first cases of Tibetans to be prosecuted for ‘intentional homicide’ in connection with self-immolation protests against Chinese rule; In response,

the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei repeated PRC’s anti-Dalai Lama propaganda, telling journalists: “We hope through the sentencing of these cases, the international community will be able to clearly see the evil and malicious methods used by the Dalai clique in the self-immolations and condemn their crimes.”

## THABKHE GYATSO



Thabkhe Gyatso is serving a 15-year sentence for distributing Tibetan flags during the protests of March 2008. In his early thirties, Thabkhe Gyatso was respected for his writings, which were published in many local newspapers and monthly magazines. He was arrested on April 29, 2008 in Labrang. The prominent Chinese rights defense lawyer Li Fangping was barred by authorities from representing him. There are serious concerns for Thabkhe Gyatso's health, as he was believed to be severely tortured upon detention. According to a Tibetan source, the right side of Thabkhe's body is now paralyzed and he can no longer walk. "His right eye, ear, hand and leg are no longer functional," said the source. "He has received some medical treatment but nothing that has helped him to recover. He is unable to move and he just sits on a wheelchair. He can still speak slowly and recognize people."

## MIGMAR DHONDUP



Migmar Dhondup, a well-educated man in his early thirties, was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in connection to the 2008 Tibetan Uprising. Migmar worked for an NGO doing community development work. He is originally from Tingri County in Shigatse Prefecture in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Migmar Dhondup was educated in India, and returned to Tibet to work as a tour guide. He cared about the preservation of Tibetan culture and encouraged other Tibetans to remember their mother tongue and wear traditional dress. Once again, the PRC issued trumped up allegations that Migmar Dhondup and several others were collecting "intelligence concerning the security and interests of the state and provid[ing] it to the Dalai clique... prior to and following the 'March 14' incident." Their alleged crimes include distributing CD-ROMs and leaflets that incited a "Tibetan people's uprising," as part of an "underground intelligence network" supposedly arranged by the "Dalai Clique." Since the time of arrest, Migmar Dhondup has been kept entirely incommunicado.

