

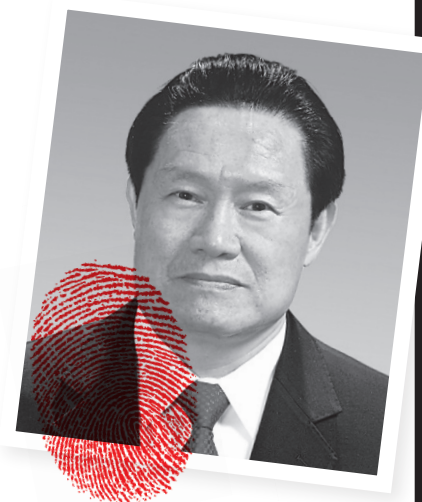
We do not recognise the verdict against Tenzin Delek Rinpoche



Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a highly revered Tibetan Buddhist lama and beloved community leader from Lihang, eastern Tibet, is serving a life sentence in a Sichuan prison for allegedly “conspiring to cause explosions”. He was sentenced to death in 2002 in a closed door trial that failed to meet even the most minimal international legal standards and no credible evidence has ever been found linking him to this crime. Following an international campaign on his behalf, Tenzin Delek’s death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in 2005. Since then, Tibetans and their supporters worldwide have continued to advocate for his release.

In June 2009, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche told a community member who visited him in prison, **“I am not guilty, please appeal for justice for me ... call all people together and do everything possible to help me overturn the verdict”**. In a remarkable act of support, 40,000 Tibetans in his community signed petitions – many signatures being in the form of thumbprints – demanding justice for their leader. Members of Tenzin Delek’s family attempted to deliver the petitions to the Chinese central government in Beijing and Tibetans in the Lihang area gathered in town centres to appeal for his release.

Please sign the petition below calling for the case against Tenzin Delek to be re-opened and, if credible evidence is not presented, for his release. The petition will be sent to Zhou Yongkang (pictured right), one of the highest ranking members of the Chinese Communist Party. In 2002, Zhou was Party Secretary in Sichuan Province, where Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was detained, and he is currently the Secretary of the Central Politics and Law Committee, the main Party instrument for overseeing implementation of the law throughout the People’s Republic of China.



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Dear Mr Zhou,

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche (Chinese name: A'an Zhaxi) was unjustly persecuted by the Chinese authorities in Sichuan Province during your term as Party Secretary there.

Like the people of Lithang, Kham (Ch: Litang, Sichuan Province), we do not recognise the verdict against Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. No credible evidence has ever been presented to support the charges against him. As a revered Buddhist leader, it is unfathomable that he would have been involved in "conspiring to cause explosions".

We, the undersigned, call on you to immediately grant Tenzin Delek Rinpoche independent legal assistance and a new, open trial on the basis of three points: that there is no proof against him, that he steadfastly asserts his innocence, and that there is a widespread belief in Tibet and worldwide that he was framed by Chinese officials who viewed his influence as a threat to their power.

If, in a new trial, no credible evidence is presented against Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, we demand his release.

Name	Signature	Thumb-print
Print name	Signed Date	
Print name	Signed Date	
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