

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead expressing concern over crackdowns on free expression in Tibet.

August 4, 2006

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
State Council
Beijing 100032
P.R. China

Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN. PEN Canada is writing to express its concerns over on-going and recent violations to freedom of expression in the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR).

According to information received in July 2006, **Dolma Kyab** (pen-name Lobsang Kelsang Gyatso) is serving a ten-year prison sentence for writing a comprehensive study about Tibet. The manuscript, written in Chinese, is entitled *Sao dong de Ximalayashan* and is reportedly a compilation of 57 chapters covering various topics including democracy, the sovereignty of Tibet, Tibet under communism, colonialism and religion. Dolma Kyab is also said to have started another manuscript on the geographical aspects of Tibet, which was comparatively short yet touched on sensitive topics about the location and number of Chinese military camps in the TAR.

Dolma Kyab was reportedly arrested on March 9, 2005, in Lhasa, where he was teaching History at a middle school. He was held pending trial at the TAR Public Security Bureau Detention Centre, popularly known as "Seitru", on charges of "endangering state security". Kyab was sentenced on September 16, 2005, by the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court to ten years in prison. The sentence was upheld on appeal on November 30, 2005. In March 2006, he was transferred to Chushul Prison. Dolma Kyab reportedly contracted tuberculosis while in Seitru prison, for which he received medical treatment before being transferred to Chushul Prison.

In other developments, PEN Canada has learned that two Chinese-language Web logs by leading Tibetan poet **Woeser** have disappeared. The blogs by Woeser, one of the few Tibetan writers to write in Chinese, were shut down by the Web sites that hosted them: Tibetcult.net, a Tibetan cultural portal, and Daqi.com, a local blog platform. Woeser (who is known in Chinese as Weise) had used the two blogs as forums for her poetry and essays about Tibetan culture, along with work by her husband, the writer Wang Lixiong. The disappearance of her blogs comes a few days after the closure of the forum of her husband's Web site, Dijin-democracy.net.

This news compounds PEN Canada's concern for the inability of writers and other individuals in the TAR to speak out freely. We remind you that PEN Canada remains extremely concerned for the well-being of our Honorary Member, the **Ven. Ngawang Phulchung** of the Drepung Monastery Printing Group, who remains in Drapchi Prison in Lhasa serving a 19-year prison term.

PEN Canada protests the ten-year prison sentence handed down to teacher and writer Dolma Kyab and calls for his immediate and unconditional release in accordance with Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory. We also urge the immediate and unconditional release of Ven. Ngawang Phulchung. We request that both men receive any necessary medical treatment. PEN Canada also calls on your government

to take steps to ensure that the Web logs where the writings Wooser appeared again be accessible to Internet users.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

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Copies to:

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Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

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