

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead protesting the detention of Dolma Kyab

August 10, 2007

His Excellency Hu Jintao

President of the People's Republic of China

State Council

Beijing 100032

People's Republic of 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 concern for the health of teacher and writer **Dolma Kyab** while in detention.

According to PEN Canada's information, Dolma Kyab (pen-name Lobsang Kelsang Gyatso) was transferred to Seilong (Xining) prison, about 400 kilometres from Lhasa, on 19 July 2007 where he is serving the remaining of his ten-year prison sentence for his critical writings. Silong prison is a labour camp where prisoners undergo "re-education through labour". A former detainee reports to have met Dolma Kyab there a few days before he was released. He also stated that Dolma Kyab seemed to be in very poor health and that he appeared to be suffering from some medical condition.

Dolma Kyab is imprisoned 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 Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

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

PEN Canada strongly protests the ten-year prison sentence handed down to teacher and writer Dolma Kyab, and is concerned for his health following reports that it has considerably worsened in recent weeks. PEN Canada demands assurances that he is receiving all necessary medical care, and calls for his immediate and unconditional release in accordance with Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which China is a signatory.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Appeals To:

Procurator General Mr. Jia Chunwang
Supreme People's Procuratorate

Beiheyuan Street 147
Beijing 100726
People's Republic of China

Ms. Wu Aiying
Minister of Justice
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020
People's Republic of China

Please note that there are no fax numbers for the Chinese authorities. It is recommended that you copy your appeal to the Chinese Embassy in Canada asking that they forward your appeal and welcoming any comments.

COPIES TO:

Embassy of the People's Republic of China
515 St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 5H3
Fax: +1 613 789 1911 / 789 1414

Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
New York City, New York
Fax: +1 212 634 7626
Email: chinamission@un.mfa.gov.ca

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

The Hon. Peter MacKay
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building, Room A-10
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 996 3443
Email: peter.mackay@international.gc.ca

Peter Harder
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: peter.harder@international.gc.ca

Canadian Embassy
19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100600
People's Republic of China
Fax: +001 86 10 6532 1684
Email: Beijing-immigration@international.gc.ca; Beijing-pa@international.gc.ca

Alison LeClaire Christie
Director, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: alison.leclairechristie@international.gc.ca

Nadia Burger
Deputy Director, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: nadia.burger@international.gc.ca

Christina Komorski
Political Officer, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: christina.komorski@international.gc.ca

Toby Schwartz
Desk Officer, China
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: toby.schwartz@international.gc.ca

Gwyn Kutz
Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: gwyn.kutz@international.gc.ca