



TIBET WATCH

བོད་གནས་ལྷ་ཞིབ་

Uprising in Tibet

1 July– 30 September 2008



Tibet

Before the Chinese occupation in 1949, Tibet comprised of three provinces known as U-Tsang, Amdo and Kham. Tibet Watch uses the term Tibet to refer to these three areas. When the Chinese Government refers to 'Tibet', they mean the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), which was established in 1965. This comprises of what Tibetans call U-Tsang and some parts of Kham. The traditional Tibetan areas of Amdo and the rest of Kham were incorporated into the Chinese Provinces of Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, and Yunnan. Within these Chinese Provinces there are Tibetan areas divided into various Autonomous Prefectures subdivided into Counties or district level administrative areas.

28 CHARLES SQUARE, LONDON, NI 6HT, U.K.
PHONE: +44 (0)20 7324 4608 FAX: +44 (0)20 7324 4606

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| SUMMARY | 3 |
| CHAMDO PREFECTURE | |
| Lhorong County (Ch: Luolong)..... | 4 |
| KANDZE TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE | |
| Kandze County (Ch: Ganzi)..... | 4 |
| Lithang County (Ch: Litang)..... | 5 |
| KANLHO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE | |
| Sangchu County (Ch: Xiahe)..... | 5 |
| LHASA, TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION | 7 |
| LHOKA PREFECTURE | |
| Chonggey County (Ch: Qiungjie)..... | 7 |
| MALHO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE | |
| Markham County (Ch: Mangkang)..... | 7 |
| NAGCHU PREFECTURE | |
| Driru County (Ch: Biru)..... | 7 |
| NGABA TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE | |
| Dzoge County (Ch Ruanggui)..... | 8 |
| Ngaba County..... | 8 |
| NYINGRI PREFECTURE | |
| Dzayul County (Ch: Chaye)..... | 10 |
| Nyingtri County (Ch: Aba)..... | 10 |
| SHIGATSE PREFECTURE | |
| Khangmar County (Ch: Kangma)..... | 10 |
| APPENDIX I | |
| New measures for monasteries and nunneries: “ <i>Serious decisions</i> ” to be taken against monasteries and monks/nuns for undertaking turbulent activities..... | 11 |

Summary

This report is a summary of information collected by Tibet Watch between July and September 2008. It contains first and second hand information on the aftermath of the protests that occurred in March and April this year. Although some of the information in this document relies on single sources Tibet Watch tries where possible, to corroborate information received. Information which is regarded as unreliable is not included. Some of the information in this report is based on news from Chinese government websites. These news items offer a glimpse into the ongoing trends in Tibet but often provide limited details.

The last three months, July-Sept 2008 have been marked by heightened security coinciding with the Olympic Games, staged in Beijing between 8 and 24 August. Evidence highlights increased surveillance and state control of monasteries, military build up and the intensification of patriotic re-education campaigns within the monastic and lay communities.

Obstacles to securing open and functioning telephone lines, which began to be reported after the protests were put down, have increased during the reported period. Phone lines have been reported as 'dead', phone numbers not recognised or calls intercepted with a Chinese automated voice speaking before the connections were made. The restrictions were especially noticeable during the Olympic Games. Currently there is a fear among Tibetans that phones are bugged. Due to the restrictions and the fear of surveillance it has been difficult to obtain information from Tibet. This has affected Tibet Watch's ability to receive updates on our previous reports.

While it is difficult to get a comprehensive picture of the situation in Tibet it is clear that monasteries are being targeted by authorities: heavy military presence at monastery compounds as well as ongoing patriotic education campaigns are reported throughout Tibet. New measures introduced in Kandze County reveal a determination to tightly control and systematically punish monasteries and nunneries where monks or nuns took part in protests.

As a clear reaction to the spring protests in which various segments of Tibetan society took part, the Chinese Government is implementing a programme of patriotic re-educations not just within monastic communities but among lay people as well. Government websites report extensive patriotic education campaigns in primary and middle schools in the TAR.

What is patriotic re-education?

Originally launched in 1996 as a five year programme, patriotic re-education was intensified in 2006 under the new leadership of Zhang Qingli, TAR Communist Party Secretary. The campaigns are usually carried out in monasteries and nunneries which are regarded by authorities as the centres for 'separatist' activities.

The objectives of the programmes are to indoctrinate communist party ideology, distil loyalty to the party instead of religion and to coerce Tibetans to denounce the Dalai Lama.

It involves the sometimes months long studying of handbooks, such as "Law", "Crushing the separatists" or "Contemporary policies", often followed by an examination. The patriotic education campaigns can also involve coercion such as forcing monks and nuns to denounce the Dalai Lama both verbally or in writing. Failure to cooperate in patriotic re-education classes can result in the expulsion or detention.

CHAMDO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: QAMDO PREFECTURE/CHANGDU, TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION

LHORONG COUNTY (CH: LUOLONG)

16 September

A patriotic re-education campaign titled “Safe Monastery, Harmonious Monastery” was launched in Lhorong County.¹

According to government news Lhorong County established a work team for the implementation of the Safe Monastery, Harmonious Monastery campaign. The work team aims to implement the campaign in each town and township of Lhorong County. The central theme of the ‘Safe Monastery, Harmonious Monastery’ campaign is to teach monks and nuns to love the ‘motherland’.

The Lhorong County Government selected Zituo Monastery as the first trial monastery to implement the “Safe Monastery, Harmonious Monastery” campaign. On 16 September a meeting was held and attended by the leaders of Lhorong County Committee, nuns and monks from Zituo monastery and residents.

The exact content of the campaign is not known.

KANDZE TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: GANZI TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, SICHUAN PROVINCE

KANDZE COUNTY (CH: GANZI)

18 July

A document² detailing new measures to deal with ‘subversive’ monasteries and nunneries was posted in Tibetan on a government information website on 18 July, based on an earlier article that appeared in the official Tibet Daily newspaper.³

The document titled “Serious decisions to be taken against monasteries and monks and nuns for undertaking turbulent activities” lists various levels of punishment for monks or nuns who have taken part in protests, distributed flyers or raised the Tibetan flags.

Families of monks and nuns who confess to ‘minor’ crimes are to be responsible for their ‘re-education’; religious leaders accused of collaborating with foreign ‘splittist’ groups are to be publicly humiliated on state television.

“A monk or nun charged with quite serious crimes will remain in custody until s/he cooperates by telling the truth, confessing their guilt and submitting a shuyig [self-criticising letter].

Severe punishment is prescribed for monasteries considered to have led protests in March and April. At monasteries where between 10% and 30% of monks took part in protests “all religious activities at the monastery will be halted. Movements of monks will be closely monitored.

A translation of the new measures can be found in the Appendix of this report.

¹ <http://www.cdxs.gov.cn/>

² “Serious decisions to be taken against monasteries and monks/nuns for undertaking turbulent activities”

³ www.ti.tibetcn.com

LITHANG COUNTY (CH: LITANG)

14 July

Adak Kalgyam, the nephew of Runggye Adak⁴ was sentenced on 14 July by the Dartsedo (Ch: Kangding) People's Court to five years imprisonment for the crime of "inciting splittism".

Adak Kalgyam, 27 years old, is the youngest of seven brothers. He is married with two young daughters and is from Kashul village in Lithang County. He had studied in Drepung monastery in South India for three years before returning to Tibet in 2001.

Kalgyam was arrested on 3 October 2007. A patriotic education campaign had been implemented in Lithang County following the arrest of Tibetan nomad, Runggye Adak in August 2007. The arrest had led to large-scale protests by nomads in the area. As part of the patriotic education programme, a meeting was called in Lithang County on 2 October. Local officials at the meeting had demanded that local Tibetans say that they were happy to live in Tibet. Adak Kalgyam refused to comply with the officials' demands and instead shouted: "Long live His Holiness" [the Dalai Lama] and "We want His Holiness to return to Tibet". The authorities attempted to arrest Kalgyam but were prevented by other Tibetans at the meeting. Kalgyam was arrested the following day.

From the time of his arrest Kalgyam's family were denied information on his whereabouts and access to him despite numerous requests from Lithang county police station. On 13 July 2008 his family was told that he was to be sentenced the following day by the Dartsedo People's Court. Up until the time of his sentencing, Kalgyam had had no access to a lawyer. His family was allowed to speak to him on 14 July, and Kalgyam told them that his health was normal but that he had been hospitalised for one month due to earlier maltreatment in prison. Kalgyam told his family that he had been subjected to solitary confinement in a dark cell on a number of occasions which had led him to faint sometimes. His family reported that marks from handcuffs were still visible.

10 September

On 10 September Han Xueliang, the vice chief of the Bureau of Entry and Exit of Sichuan Provincial Police Station arrived in Lithang County. He investigated and examined local work on the entry and exit of domestic civilians, foreigners and illegal entry and exit.

Lithang County has been under heavy military surveillance since last year's large scale protests following Runggye Adak's arrest in August 2007.

KANLHO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: GANNAN TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, GANSU PROVINCE

LABRANG (SANGCHU) COUNTY (CH: XIAHE)

7 August

Four foreigners visiting Labrang monastery were banned from staying overnight in Labrang town. They were told by police guarding a checkpoint that "You came to see Olympic Game, but why do you want to go to Tibetan areas. You are not allowed to visit Tibetan areas. Please go to see the Games in Beijing".

8 August

⁴ Runggye Adak, a Tibetan nomad disrupted a speech by officials at the Lithang Horse Race festival in August 2007, calling for the return of the Dalai Lama and the release of the Panchen Lama and Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche. Protests broke out in Lithang following Runggye Adak's arrest. He was sentenced to eight years imprisonment for "provocation to subvert state power".

Tight security was enforced in Tsoe city (Ch: Hezuo) from the beginning of the Olympic Games. Around 20-30 armed police patrolled the streets. Barricades of sacks filled with cement were built at the entrance and exits points of the three main streets of the town. Several surveillance cameras and rubber speed breakers were positioned at each checkpoint. The majority of the paramilitary personnel brought into the city were still present.

All residents in Tsoe city are required to obtain a travel permit from the police station if they want to leave the town. It is reported that officials from the local government frequently conduct patriotic re-education campaigns at Tsoe monastery.

12 August

Websites such as Radio Free Asia and Voice of America which were previously accessible were reported blocked in Lanzhou City.

13 August

On 13 August a horse race with deep rooted religious significance in Sangkhog township was called off by Sangchu county government just a day before it was scheduled to take place. The Panchen Thang Plain horse race ground is named after the Panchen Lama. Candidate horses are selected through careful religious ceremonies and villagers donate money for the preparation of the horse race in order to accumulate merit for reincarnation in the Shambhala realm. On average more than 10,000 Tibetans gather at Panchen Thang. The authorities did not give any reason for the cancellation. Local Tibetans speculated that the government was afraid that protests might break out during the horse race gathering.

13 September

Background information: Jigme Gyatso recorded a video testimony detailing the torture he suffered in detention earlier this year. The video was posted on www.youtube.com on 5 September. Jigme Gyatso also gave a telephone interview to a foreign journalist on 12 September. Shortly after the interview Jigme Gyatso went into hiding.

On 13 September around 15 State Security Bureau (SSB) personnel raided the room of Jigme Gyatso, a monk from Labrang Monastery. Several police cars were seen at the monastery that night.

On 19 September the police returned and interrogated a number of monks at Labrang Monastery demanding to know the whereabouts of Jigme Gyatso.

On 20 September the police came to the home of Jigme Gyatso's parents asking for his whereabouts. They threatened his family members that if they do not reveal the whereabouts of Jigme Gyatso, he would get a heavier penalty upon his capture.

The whereabouts of Jigme Gyatso is unknown.

LHASA, TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION

4 September

Patriotic education campaigns are launched in each primary and secondary school in Lhasa according to a government website. The aim of the initiative is to educate children about the events of 14 March protests in Lhasa and to ‘encourage them to discriminate right from wrong’.⁵

LHOKA PREFECTURE

CH: SHANNAN PREFECTURE, TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION

CHONGGEY (CH: QIONGJIE) COUNTY

2 September

Chonggye County launched a series of activities on the theme “Anti-splittism, defending Stability and Promoting Development” according to a government news report.⁶

MALHO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: HUANGNAN TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, QINGHAI PROVINCE

REBKONG COUNTY (CH: TONGREN)

4 August

Military troops have been stationed in Nyima Town, the capital town of Machu County since 20 July. The army built trenches stacked with bags of sand. On 4 August, the number of troops increased and guns were seen in the trenches.

Checkpoints were set up where passers by were checked for ID cards. It is reported that if three or more people gather the police break them up.

4 August

Groups of seven to eight armed personnel were seen marching on the streets of Rongpo Town.

MARKHAM COUNTY (CH: MANGKANG)

9 September

A government website reported that Hu Jiming, Vice Secretary of Chamdo prefecture government committee inspected the ongoing patriotic education campaign at Wooser (Ch: Weise) Monastery.⁷ Hu Jiming praised the results achieved by the work team stationed in the monastery and called for the “continuation of patriotic education and law propagation to ensure the ‘stability of the monastery’”.

NAGCHU PREFECTURE

CH: NAQU PREFECTURE, TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION

DRIRU COUNTY (CH: BIRU)

16 September

On 16 September the “Safe Driru County” work team inspected each town/township’s offices directly under the direction of the central county government. The work team propagated several laws such as the “Anti-separation Law”.⁸

⁵ http://info.tibet.cn/zt2008/lswmcs/cjdt/200809/t20080904_424361.htm

⁶ URL: <http://www.chinatibetnews.com/xizang/shizheng>

⁷ <http://www.cdxc.gov.cn>

⁸ <http://www.xznqnews.com>