

Wu Aiying

Minister of Justice

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Chaoyang District

Beijing 100020

People's Republic of China

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Dear Minister Wu,

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the continued detention of Tibetan religious leader Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, who is serving a life sentence in Chuandong Prison, Sichuan Province. I am also very concerned at reports of ill treatment and abuse to which he has been subjected in prison.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a respected member of his community, worked tirelessly for the rights of Tibetans in Sichuan province, and was active in promoting religious freedom, the right to education, and environmental justice. These rights are set forth in Chinese laws and regulations.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was convicted of “crimes of terror” and “incitement of separatism” in December 2002, after a trial at which he was denied access to his family-appointed lawyer, and in which no evidence beyond a co-defendant’s confession was presented. No court documents have been released providing any further information about the case.

I believe that Tenzin Delek Rinpoche is unjustly imprisoned because of his activist activities. His activism and religious expression were peaceful and therefore protected by international human rights laws.

The international community has called on the Chinese government to release Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. I add my voice to urge you to work with relevant authorities to ensure Tenzin Delek Rinpoche’s immediate and unconditional release, or at a minimum, to provide him with a fair and open trial. I urge you to order an investigation into his ill-treatment in prison.

Sincerely,