

INSIDE TIBET:

ICT Report: ‘A sharp knife over his head’: The trial and sentencing of three environmentalist brothers in Tibet: On August 3, 2010, the lawyers for Karma Samdrup, a leading Tibetan environmentalist and philanthropist, sentenced to 15 years imprisonment on June 24, learned that his appeal was summarily rejected on July 7 - the same day the court had received the case file. Karma Samdrup is one of three brothers who are all now either imprisoned or serving "re-education through labor." This ICT report presents new information and analysis of the legal shortcomings of the cases. It includes translations of key Chinese-language documentation relating to the cases, a copy of Karma Samdrup's complete sentencing document, and an analysis of the case by one of his Chinese lawyers, unprecedented in its scope and highlighting the efforts of Chinese and Tibetans to directly challenge the authorities on legal issues. Mary Beth Markey, President, ICT said: "These cases testify to the politicization of the Chinese legal system and should have a chilling effect on any person or entity seeking to engage China on the basis of rules-based procedures and agreements. Governments who see China as an important player on global issues, including on environmental issues, should take a hard look at these cases." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/%E2%80%98sharp-knife-above-his-head%E2%80%99-trials-and-sentencing-three-environmentalist-brothers-tibet>

ICT Report: Bold public expression of support for the Dalai Lama that led to imprisonment of Tibetan captured on video: On August 1, ICT made public a rare footage of Runggye Adak, a Tibetan nomad serving an eight-year prison sentence for expressing Tibetan's loyalty to the Dalai Lama in front of an audience of thousands. The footage subtitled in English, shows an extract of Runggye Adak's bold on-stage statement at the traditional Lithang Horse Festival in eastern Tibet on August 1, 2007. Adak was arrested and imprisoned in the moments after he seized the microphone to speak. In the English translation, Adak says "...These things have happened to us; did you hear what has happened to us? Although we can move our bodies, we cannot express what is in our hearts. You know? These days there are those who say we don't need the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama is the one that we six million Tibetans truly [need] .." This footage is a vivid depiction of how a perfectly civil expression of a point of view can earn years in prison in Tibet. The footage can be viewed at <http://savetibet.org/files/media/runggyehires.mov> and the full ICT report can be viewed at <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/bold-public-expression-support-dalai-lama-led-imprisonment-tibetan-captured-video>

Senior monk commits suicide as patriotic education campaign intensifies in Tibet: On July 27, 2010, the Tibetan government in exile, said that it had received reliable information confirming the suicide of a 70 year old monk of Shag Rongpo monastery in Nagchu County, TAR. The 70 year old monk, Ngawang Gyatso, unable to withstand the rigorous patriotic re-education campaign enforced in his monastery, had committed suicide on May 20. According to sources, the suicide note left by the deceased monk had been confiscated by Chinese authorities and the monks had been warned not to discuss it. Patriotic re-education campaigns had been stepped up in Shag Rongpo monastery after the arrest of the monastery's 75 years old head lama, Dawa Rinpoche and four others on May 17. Dawa Rinpoche was accused of consulting the Dalai Lama over the search for the reincarnation of Rongpo Choeje. Following Dawa Rinpoche's arrest, around 50 Chinese "work team" officials had arrived at the monastery, ordering the monks to disassociate themselves from Dawa Rinpoche and denounce the Dalai Lama. Dawa Rinpoche is currently being held at his residence and the monks are barred from visiting him. Sources said that the situation in the monastery is extremely tense and disturbed. <http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=27842&article=Religious+oppression+forces+senior+monk+to+commit+suicide&t=1&c=1>

EUROPE:

Justice Without Borders: The Viability of Universal Jurisdiction the Spanish National Court's Historic Lawsuits for Tibet: Scholar and writer Karen Collier gives an update on the 'new landscape of transitional justice' and outlines how the work of two dedicated and expert Tibet supporters, Alan Cantos and Jose Elias Esteve, has tested the limits of the Spanish judicial system. With regard to the new downturn in the political climate in Spain regarding cases seeking justice for those who have suffered human rights abuses, Alan Cantos says: "A massive principle and pillar of democracy has almost fallen: the 'universality' of Universal Justice and the separation of powers." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/justice-without-borders-viability-universal-jurisdiction-spanish-national-court%C2%B4s-historic-lawsu>