

French Senators Call for Fair and Transparent Judgement Process for Tibetan Language Advocate Tashi Wangchuk

Fourteen members of the French Senate have issued a statement calling on the Chinese Government to observe international legal standards and provide Tibetan language advocate Tashi Wangchuk with a fair and transparent judgement process. They asked that "Tashi Wangchuk enjoy access to a lawyer of his choice and that he be given access to his family on a regular basis."

Tashi Wangchuk's trial was held on January 4, 2018. According to his lawyer, Tashi Wangchuk pleaded not guilty, and no verdict has yet been returned. Lawyer Liang Xiaojun also said that a judge heard oral arguments for four hours and will issue a verdict at an unspecified date.

Following is the translation of the statement in French, issued by the International Information Tibet Group of the French Senate:

Statement on Tibet of the International Information Tibet Group of the French Senate

January 23, 2018

On January 4, 2018, the trial of the Tibetan human rights defender Tashi Wangchuk began in Yushu, Qinghai Province in the People's Republic of China. He is accused of "incitement to separatism" after the interview he gave to the New York Time in 2015 where he spoke in favor of the preservation of Tibetan language and culture within the PRC. Mr. Wangchuk faces a sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2016, the ambassadors of the 28 missions of the European Union Member States to China, including France, adopted a joint statement against the arrest of Mr. Wangchuk and asked for his release. In February 2017, five special rapporteurs of the United Nations and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an opinion on the detention of Tashi Wangchuk. In addition, the United States, Germany, Britain, Canada and the European Union sent diplomats to Yushu to attend Tashi Wangchuk's trial on January 4, 2018, but were not allowed to access to the proceedings.

The members of the International Information Tibet Group support these asks for a fair and transparent trial of Mr. Tashi Wangchuk and urge the People's Republic of China to implement a judgement process that is constant with international legal standards, with the presence of observers at his trial.

We also insist in particular that Tashi Wangchuk enjoy access to a lawyer of his choice and that he be given access to his family on a regular basis.

Michel Raison (President), Annick Billon (Vice-President), Patricia Morhiet-Richaud (Vice-President), André Gattolin (Vice-President), Laurence Haribey (Vice-President), Pascale Gruny (Secretary), Michel Amiel, Bernard Fournier, Jean-François Longeot, Jacqueline Eustache-Brinio, Alain Houpert, Elisabeth Lamure, Bernard Jomier, and Maurice Antiste.