



freedom to write...
freedom to read

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His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
State Council
Beijing 100032
The People's Republic of China

Your Excellency,

Sydney PEN, part of International PEN, the world's largest association of writers with members in over 100 countries, is deeply disturbed to learn of the conviction and sentencing to ten years in prison of teacher and writer Dolma Kyab (aka Lobsang Kelsang Gyatso) of the Tibet Autonomous Region in China.

According to reports we've received, Dolma Kyab was charged with "endangering state security", and this charge is related to his critical writings, namely a manuscript entitled *The Himalayas in Turmoil* (*Saodong de Ximalayashan*), which explores issues of democracy, the sovereignty of Tibet, Tibet under communism, colonialism, and religion, and another manuscript, recently started, on geographical aspects of Tibet, which includes such sensitive topics as the location and number of Chinese military camps in the TAR.

International PEN is a non-political, nongovernmental organisation in formal consultative relations with UNESCO. We exist to support literature and defend freedom of expression. On the reports available to us, we view the detention of Dolma Kyab as a violation of his right to freedom of expression – a right enshrined in Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which China is a signatory.

We call for Dolma Kyab's immediate and unconditional release.

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We are also concerned to hear that Dolma Kyab is very ill and call on the Chinese authorities to ensure he is receiving proper medical attention while in detention.

We welcome your views on these matters.

Yours faithfully,

Chip Rolley
Vice President, Sydney PEN

cc: Procurator General Mr Jia Chunwang, Supreme People's Procuratorate
Her Excellency Madame Fu Ying, Ambassador to Australia