

WRITE TO TIBETAN HEROES



TASHI WANGCHUK

བཀྲ་ཤིས་དབང་ཕྱུག་

Young Tibetan businessman and language rights advocate charged with “inciting separatism”. He could face up to 15 years in prison if found guilty.

Tashi Wangchuk is an advocate for greater Tibetan language education in schools in Tibet where mandarin has become the sole language of instruction. He has been detained with no access to his family or a lawyer and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

He expressed his anxieties on social media about Tibetan children being unable to speak their native language fluently, and the gradual extinction of Tibetan culture. In 2015 the New York Times, in “A Tibetan’s Journey for Justice”, reported his attempts to file a lawsuit against local officials over the lack of Tibetan language education in schools, but no law firm would help him.

Though critical of the threats to Tibetan language and culture, Tashi has never written about Tibetan independence. His language campaign is in line China’s constitution: “[e]thnic minorities’ right to learn, use and develop their own spoken and written languages is guaranteed in accordance with the law” (Article 4). Amidst China’s current crackdown, Tashi Wangchuk’s case is an example of how Tibetans face additional persecution for any activity perceived as a threat, through charges of “separatism”.

SEND A SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO:

Tashi Wangchuk | བཀྲ་ཤིས་དབང་ཕྱུག་
c/o Yushu Public Security Bureau,
Minzhu Rd,
Yushu Shi, Yushu Zangzuzhizhou,
Qinghai Sheng, China, 815000
People’s Republic of China

In Chinese:

Tashi Wangchuk | བཀྲ་ཤིས་དབང་ཕྱུག་ | 扎西旺珠(音)
815000 中华人民共和国,青海省
玉树藏族自治州,玉树市民族路
玉树公安局

LANGUAGE: English, Tibetan or in your own language

SALUTATION: Dear Tashi Wangchuk la

SAMPLE MESSAGE:

Dear Tashi Wangchuk la,
I’m writing to you from [ADD YOUR COUNTRY]. Please know that I and many others around the world are thinking of you and hope very much for you release.

LET US KNOW: Please let us know that you wrote to a Tibetan Hero at <http://bit.ly/WriteTibetResponse>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Avoid talking about politics, and definitely do not write about Tibetan freedom or independence. It is highly probable that your letter will be read by the authorities before it reaches the prisoner. Please use common sense when composing your text and don’t say anything that could put her/him at risk.