RRE IBEI

Issue 63 September 2012 issn 1360-4864

www.freetibet.org



• Consequences of protests • Tibetan envoys resign • Tibet at the Olympics •



Free Tibet Director Stephanie Brigden

Dear friends

As I write this we have just received news of two teenagers who set fire to themselves in Eastern Tibet, bringing the number of Tibetans who have demonstrated the extraordinary strength of their need for freedom in this way to over 50. Thousands more have protested in other ways, despite the consequences. Our feature articles (pages 3-5) examine some of the repercussions of protests as China steps up the pressure on Tibetans.

Free Tibet has continued to be one of the main sources of information for the media on Tibet, making sure the world knows what is happening despite China's attempts to enforce an information blackout. I hope some of you may have seen the piece we worked on with Channel 4 News, or that you have read some of the many articles that we provided information and analysis for. With the situation evolving so rapidly, our website www.freetibet.org is still the best place to go if you want to keep up-to-date.

On a happier note, a mountain of soft and vibrantly-coloured Tibetan blankets has materialised in our office, ready to keep you warm as the nights turn cooler. There are many other lovely gifts in our new Christmas range, so please have a look through the enclosed catalogue and see what takes your fancy. If you prefer to give a more life-changing gift, why not think about giving a loved one Life Membership for Christmas?

I always look forward to the raffle draw and finding out who has won the fantastic prizes donated to Free Tibet. I wonder which of you will be indulged at the stunning Four Seasons Hotel in Perthshire, or who will be celebrating Christmas with a crate of Cuvée from Aspall. Tickets are still only £1 each – who knows where that might take you?

Good luck and thank you for your continued support.

mountain of soft libetan blankets office, ready to highes turn cooler

Contents

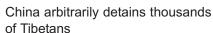
The consequences of protests



3 Disappearances

Hundreds of Tibetans have been disappeared after protests







Free Tibet receives news of Tibetans who have died in Chinese custody



6 Get involved

Christmas gifts from Free Tibet What your membership means to us Free Tibet raffle 2012 Legacy for Tibet





Tibetan envoys resign
In their own words
Tibet supporters at the Olympics
Chinese tourists shocked
Teenage girl beaten
Monk jailed for email
News in brief



28 Charles Square, London, N1 6HT T: 020 7324 4605 F: 020 7324 4606 E: mail@freetibet.org W: www.freetibet.org Free Tibet stands for the right of Tibetans to determine their own future. It campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for the fundamental human rights of Tibetans to be respected. Founded in 1987, Free Tibet generates active support by education about the situation in Tibet. It is independent of all governments and is funded by its members and supporters. Views expressed in *Free Tibet* are not necessarily those of Free Tibet.

Editor: Harriet Beaumont
Design & Layout: Catherine Quine
Print: Crucial Colour



Front cover: Courtesy of Jean-Baptiste Rabouan: child on the way to Losar (Tibetan New Year) celebrations.

The consequences of protests

Tulku Lobsang Tenzin







Disappearances

The door of the internet café bursts open. Startled customers look up from their screens in alarm. The quiet hum of the café is shattered by the heavy-booted Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel coming in from the busy city street; they head directly towards four middle-aged, maroon-robed Tibetan monks who are at computers at the back of the room. The monks are hauled unceremoniously from their seats, man-handled roughly across the room and out of the door.

We may never know exactly what happened, but we do know that the four monks have not been seen or heard of since they were seized.

We don't know how Chinese authorities knew they were in the internet café, but we do know that Tibetans have to produce identity papers to use the internet. We also know that the Chinese state has hardware that allows them to closely monitor internet traffic. We also know that Tibetans receive terribly harsh sentences for sharing information – up to life imprisonment.

The four monks – a high lama, a respected teacher, a monastery accountant and monastery business manager – travelled to the city of Tridu (Chinese: Chengdu) after a protest in the

town of Drango in January. The protest ended with the most serious incident of security forces opening fire on Tibetan protesters since 2008: two Tibetans were shot dead and over 30 more were wounded by the indiscriminate firing. The four monks weren't involved in the protest, but the PSB may have targeted them because they believed that they were in the internet café in Tridu to share information about what had happened.

At the time of writing, over seven months later, the families of the four monks have received no information about the arrests, about where their relatives are or if they are even still alive. You can probably imagine how worried they must be, particularly given they may have heard about other Tibetans who have recently died in police custody (see page 5).

Since January, hundreds of Tibetans have been disappeared. Some have been released, but many of them, like these four monks, have not been heard of since. Please join us in taking action on their behalf so they can return to their lives, their family and their friends.



${\rm Action}$ Write to Jiang Jufeng, Governor of Sichuan Province, demanding:

1. The immediate release of four monks who have been disappeared since they were taken by Chinese state security forces in Tridu (Ch: Chengdu) between 25-28 January 2012.

The monks are:

- Tulku Lobsang Tenzin, aged 40, of Gochen Monastery, Luhuo, Ganzi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province
- Geshi Tsewang Namgyal, aged 42, from Drango Monastery, Luhuo, Ganzi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province
- Thinley, 42, the business manager of Drango Monastery, Luhuo, Ganzi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province
- Tashi Thupgyal (also known as Dralha), aged 31, the monastic accountant at Drango monastery, Luhuo, Ganzi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province.

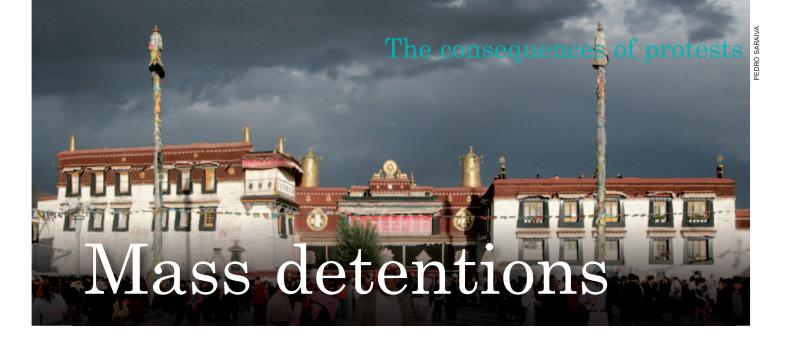
- **2.**Confirmation of the whereabouts and well-being of the four men and for their families to be informed of this.
- **3.**That if there are charges against them, the four men must be afforded their legal rights under Chinese law.

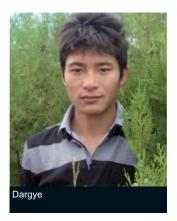
To:

Jiang Jufeng
Governor of Sichuan Province
Protocol and Press Division of Foreign Affairs Office of
Sichuan Province
100, Dongsanduan,
Yihuanlu,
Chengdu 610021
People's Republic of China



www.freetibet.org/campaigns







n 28 May, the Tibet Spring reached the capital city, Lhasa. Dorjee Tseten, who was only 19, and Dargye, who was in his early 20s, set fire to themselves in front of the Jokhang Temple (pictured above), an iconic religious site in the centre of old Lhasa that draws pilgrims and tourists. It is believed that both men died from their injuries.

Following the protest, Chinese state security forces swung into action. They quickly cleared away all signs of the protest and deployed large numbers of military on the streets. Then the mass detentions began. People were targeted not because they were involved in any criminal activity or protest, but simply because they had something in common with the two men who had set themselves on fire. This collective punishment underlines the fragility of Chinese rule in Lhasa – how nervous the occupying regime is and how tightly they feel they have to control the population.

First the security forces came for the thousands living in Lhasa who originate from eastern Tibet, as the two young men did. They also targeted Tibetans in the same age bracket as Dargye and

Dorjee Tseten. The vast majority of these people were detained and then forcibly returned to their place of origin. Even Tibetans who participate in Lhakar, or White Wednesdays, were detained in significant numbers. On White Wednesdays, some Tibetans wear only Tibetan clothes, speak only pure Tibetan and visit only Tibetan shops to quietly assert their Tibetan identity. Even this type of soft protest is deemed by China to be a threat to "social stability".

These people broke no law, were not charged with any crime, and yet they were detained. Many of them were then forced to leave their homes, their jobs, family and friends and return to their place of origin.

Free Tibet continues to document mass detentions and large numbers of arbitrary arrests across Tibet. In July, 60 people were detained in Damshung County near Lhasa simply because they happened to be in a marketplace when a young man, Tsewang Dorjee, set fire to himself. Anyone detained in Tibet is at great risk of torture and mistreatment, particularly when their whereabouts are unknown, as is often the case.

Double the impact of your donations this Christmas

Tibet Watch is behind a lot of the work we do at Free Tibet. Tibet Watch is a human rights monitoring organisation that gathers and analyses news and information from inside Tibet enabling Free Tibet to report issues like mass detentions. Tibet Watch has signed up to the Big Give Christmas Challenge, an annual fundraising event in which online donations from the public will be matched. This means that if you make a donation to Tibet Watch between 9-14 December, your donation could be doubled, thereby doubling the impact it makes.

Please consider taking part in the Christmas Challenge. Just fill in the form on the covering letter and we will send you a reminder nearer the time.



Deaths in detention

Three months after Tsering Gyaltsen's arrest, his family were told the awful news that he had died in a detention centre. His body was never returned to his family. libetans who are detained and disappeared are at great risk of torture and mistreatment by Chinese state officials. Tragically, some do not live to speak about what happened to them in custody.

Karwang, a 36-year-old monk, is one such person. He went out onto the streets of his town in the third week of May and handed out pamphlets calling for independence for Tibet and for religious freedom. A few days later, as he was leaving a meal with friends, Karwang was arrested.

After his arrest, Karwang's family were questioned by state security personnel who repeatedly asked them

what Karwang was intending to achieve and who was supporting him.

Eight days after his arrest, the Public Security Bureau (PSB) contacted Karwang's family to tell them that he was dead. The PSB refused to say when, how or why he had died and they cremated Karwang's body before his family could see it, effectively destroying any evidence about the cause of his death. His family believe that he died from injuries sustained when he was tortured during his detention. They continued to be harassed by the authorities even during the traditional 49-day mourning period.

Thousands of Tibetans are detained every year, and many disappear without a trace, leaving their friends and families to fear the worst. Free Tibet has evidence of security forces using excessive force during arrests, of Tibetans being beaten in public and even in their own homes, and of the widespread and routine use of torture, particularly to extract confessions, which are then used to convict people. Chinese state security personnel act with apparent impunity, regularly flouting China's antitorture laws. Families are denied information about their loved ones and the authorities responsible for deaths in detention are not held accountable.



Tsering Gyaltsen was a monk who treated injured protesters who sought refuge in Drango Monastery, eastern Tibet, in January, after they were shot at by Chinese state security forces.

In the following days and weeks, people who had participated in the protest, or who were suspected of having been involved, were hunted down by Chinese state security forces. Even though he had not participated in the protest, Tsering Gyaltsen was one of many who went into hiding, responding to the culture of fear in the town.

Tsering Gyaltsen was last seen being arrested in

February. An eyewitness said "he had been badly beaten, he couldn't walk".

After the arrest, the PSB refused to answer any of Tsering Gyaltsen's family's requests for information about how he was or where he was. Finally, the family appealed to the local monastery for help in finding out what had happened to him.

Three months after his arrest, the family were told the awful news that Tsering Gyaltsen had died in a detention centre. His body was never returned to his family.

Get involved

Get your Christmas presents here!



The Christmas rush will soon be upon us. We know how stressful it can be facing the highstreet shops and battling through the crowds in the run-up to Christmas, trying to find the perfect gift for your loved-ones. Why not get ahead of the game and take a look at Free Tibet's wonderful range of gifts? Not only will you be supporting our work with every purchase you make, but you can do it from the comfort of your own home.

A catalogue and order form are enclosed; be sure to get your order in early for our Christmas cards and beautifully cosy blankets – last year's best-sellers.



Visit our online shop for even more gift ideas.



What your membership means to us

As a membership organisation, our work simply would not be possible without your support. Thanks to you we have been able to:

- Amplify calls for a free Tibet so that the international community hears them.
- Expose how governments and companies like the British InterContinental Hotels Group trade Tibetan human rights for access to Chinese markets.
- Remind our government that, for the British people, promoting human rights in Tibet is just as important as good trade relations with China.
- Advocate publicly and privately on behalf of Tibetans who have been disappeared, arbitrarily detained or disproportionately sentenced.

Your membership has already helped us achieve so much. With your continued support we can achieve even more.

Thank you.

The best way to support us is by renewing your membership with a Direct Debit. This reduces our administration costs, meaning more of your money goes into our campaigns. To set one up, please complete the enclosed form or visit:



Free Tibet would like to thank our new Life Members:

Christopher and Carol Kinchin Bryan Montague

Free Tibet raffle 2012

£1 could take you to the rugged wilds of southern Spain or the heart of the Welsh hills...

Buy a ticket today and not only will you be helping fund Free Tibet's vital campaigning work, but you could also be the lucky winner of one of these fantastic prizes:

1st Prize: A three-night stay for two people at The Four Seasons Hotel in Perthshire, Scotland, including breakfast and dinner at the hotel's award-winning restaurant. www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk

2nd Prize: A two-night stay for two people in a luxury tipi or yurt at Eco-Retreats, on the edge of Snowdonia. **www.ecoretreats.co.uk**

3rd Prize: A three-night stay for two people at the Hoopoe Yurt Hotel in Andalucia, Spain – the epitome of indulgent peace and tranquillity. **www.yurthotel.com**

4th Prize: An original Tibetan thangka donated by Pink Lotus. **www.pinklotus.co.uk**

5th Prize: A crate of Cuvée Chevallier from Aspall Cyder, perfect for a celebration! www.aspall.co.uk

6th Prize: A pair of tickets to a marvellous performance by the English National Ballet at the London Coliseum. **www.ballet.org.uk**

7th Prize: A relaxing Moroccan Rasul treamentt for two at the Portland Hall Spa in Southport.

www.portlandhallspa.com

8th Prize: Two tickets to any production at the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre, London.

www. finborough the atre. co.uk

Runners up: A pair of tickets to any performance at the Bush Hall, London. www.bushhallmusic.co.uk



Free Tibet would like to thank all of our extremely generous prize donors.

Tickets are enclosed in this magazine. You can buy as many or as few tickets as you wish. Simply fill in your details on the stubs and send them back to us with your payment. Why not see if your friends, family or neighbours would like any tickets?

Last year's raffle raised just over £14,000. If every one of you buys just half a book of tickets, we could smash that record and raise £35,000 for Free Tibet.

If you would like more tickets please contact us at raffle@freetibet.org or call 020 7324 4605.

Closing date: 10 December 2012 Draw date: 13 December 2012

Raffle only open to residents of the UK excluding Northern Ireland. If you think you may have a gambling problem please seek advice and support at www.gambleaware.co.uk.

Legacy for Tibet

Don't let your beliefs die with you. Remember Free Tibet with a gift in your will.

We all dream of the day when Tibetans will be able to live in freedom in their own country. Free Tibet will never give up until Tibet's day of freedom finally dawns. You too can stand in solidarity with Tibetans by letting your commitment to freedom live on with a gift in your will.

Leaving a legacy to Free Tibet is a wonderful way for your vision of freedom and justice to live on. It could be a unique opportunity, allowing you to make a gift that you may not have been able to afford in your lifetime.

For more information, please see the legacy leaflet enclosed with this magazine.



Pia-Katharina Feldhege Kate Hewer Patti Summerville Ailsa Moore Kevin Banyard Jane G Saxton

News & campaigns

Tibetan envoys resign

The Tibetan envoys who represented the Dalai Lama in negotiations with China over Tibet have resigned. Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltsen have led the talks since 2002 and their resignations expose the frustration at the collapse of the dialogue.

It has been evident that China has little intention of engaging in meaningful dialogue since the Chinese government announced in 2008 that China will "never allow ethnic splitting in the name of genuine autonomy".

> In January 2010, Chinese negotiator Zhu Weigun said that there was no possibility of the "slightest compromise" on the issue of sovereignty in Tibet and that the two sides were still "sharply divided".

The talks are still referred to by many international governments as the best avenue by

which to seek a solution to the crisis in Tibet. Successive British governments, from prime ministers to foreign secretaries and ministers, have pointed to the existence of the dialogue to deflect demands for action on Tibet.

In response to a recent letter from a Tibet supporter, British minister of State Jeremy Browne MP wrote on behalf of the government:

"Our consistent position is that long term stability can only be achieved through respect for human rights and genuine autonomy for Tibet within the framework of the Chinese constitution. We believe meaningful dialogue between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese authorities is the best way to make this happen."

For many years, British governments have hidden behind the mere existence of the dialogue to excuse their silence and inaction on Tibet. So what does the coalition propose now that the dialogue no longer exists? How will our government excuse its silence?



excuse their inaction.

Action

Please write to your MP to update them. Please ask him or her to ask the Foreign Secretary: in light of the disproportionate response by China to Tibetan protests in the ongoing Tibet Spring, how will the UK government address the situation in Tibet now that the Sino-Tibetan Dialogue – which it has pointed to as the best route to resolution - no longer exists?

You can find contact details for your MP by visiting: www.theyworkforyou.com or by calling the House of Commons on 020 7219 3000



www.freetibet.org/campaigns

In their own words

It could be any day in any town in Tibet with people getting on with their daily lives, maybe doing some shopping, maybe pausing to chat to someone. Then, in the middle of the street, two young men stand side-byside, raise what may be homemade Tibetan national flags and set themselves on fire.

The flags they held gave a clear indication of why Ngawang Norpal and his friend Tenzin Kaldrup, both in their early 20s, set themselves on fire. But a conversation, filmed after the event with the terribly burned Ngawang, reveals more.

Ngawang explained that the two friends set fire to themselves "...for the sake of Tibet... if we don't have our freedom, cultural

traditions and language, it would be extremely embarrassing for us. Every nationality needs freedom, language and tradition."

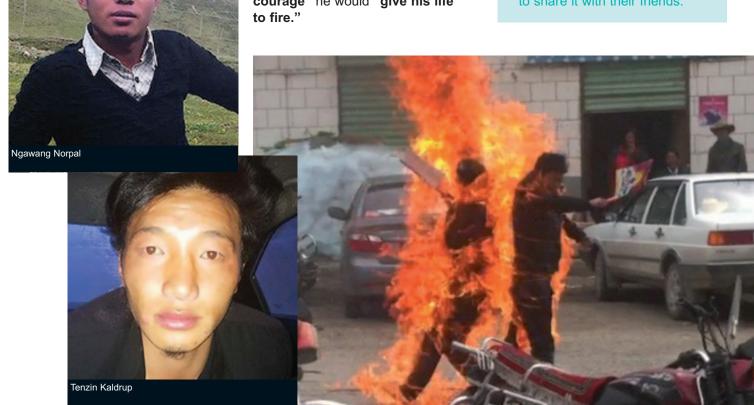
Ngawang realised that his protest would end in death and his testimony continued: "There is no hope of my recovery. I have only one wish in my heart. I just wish to raise the prestige of my people."

At the time of writing, 50 Tibetans have set fire to themselves in protest since March 2011. Those that have left personal testimonies express a strikingly similar motivation to Ngawang.

"The suffering Tibetan people experience due to the denial of our freedom is much greater than the suffering of setting my body on fire", wrote cousins Sonam and Choephak Kyap. Another protester, Nangdrol, wrote: "Tibetans face extreme suffering under China's rule." He continued: "Head raised high with national pride and courage" he would "give his life to fire."



In July, Lobsang Lobzin, an 18year-old monk, set himself on fire inside Tsodun Kirti Monastery. Free Tibet received this portrait photograph of the young monk. On Free Tibet's Facebook page thousands of people have read Lobsang's story and many have gone on to share it with their friends.



Ngawang Norpal and Tenzin Kaldrup held up Tibetan flags when they set fire to themselves.

News & campaigns

Supporters ensure Tibet represented at the Olympics

Our Fly the Flag campaign had a brilliant response from supporters, who sent in fantastic pictures of themselves displaying the Tibetan flag in and around Olympic venues.

China made a public commitment to human rights as part of its bid to host the 2008 Games in Beijing. These promises have all been broken, and China continues its relentless oppression in Tibet. Four years after the broken promises of the Beijing Olympics, supporters flew the flag for Tibet in London.

Visit our website to see the great photos supporters sent us.

www.freetibet.org/campaigns





Streaking for Tibet

One Tibet supporter showed his commitment in a revealing way. Naked bar trainers, 27-year-old Daniel Leer ran alongside the Olympic torch in Oxfordshire for a brief distance with the words "Free Tibet" written on his back. Daniel later said he had done it to draw attention to the situation in Tibet. Go, Daniel, go!

Chinese tourists shocked by what they see in Tibet

Chinese tourists have used the social media website Weibo (China's version of Twitter) to share their shock at the military presence in Lhasa. Their response makes it clear that for ordinary Chinese people this is not a normal state of affairs; China is going to extraordinary lengths to keep its hold on the Tibetan capital.

Weibo users seemed astonished at the level of armed security:

"From Nyingtri to Lhasa, I got checked 8 times. During the last three times approaching Lhasa, **PAP [Peoples Armed Police]** carrying machine guns on their backs appeared at checkpoints."

Another shocked Chinese tourist said: "You can see PAP and the

army at every second step, in every part of the street."

On 25 May, after Dorjee Tseten and Dargye's protest in Lhasa (see page 4), military and police flooded the streets to prevent further protests. Chinese tourists on Weibo reported seeing soldiers equipped with fire extinguishers, fire blankets and buckets of water.

News about the self-immolations had not yet spread due to the heavy restrictions on media and information dissemination, but Chinese tourists knew something was up:

"What happened in Lhasa? Streets are full of the Peoples Armed Police. PAP with guns are guarding petrol stations, temples, hydraulic power companies and

intersections. Armoured vehicles are even in pedestrian streets. Photography is banned in many places."



security forces in Lhasa carrying fire extinguishers

In brief

Teenage girl beaten and disappeared

17-year-old Jigme Dolma's family and friends don't know where she is. According to eyewitnesses, this young girl was beaten by Chinese state security forces and then arrested after carrying out a protest all on her own in eastern Tibet on 24 June. One eyewitness, who saw security forces surround the teenager. said that she was beaten so badly that she couldn't walk properly.

Jigme Dolma had courageously gone out alone that Sunday to call for freedom for Tibet, the release of political prisoners and the return of the Dalai Lama.

Jigme's parents tried to visit her after her arrest, but the authorities refused to allow them to see her.

Jigme's father was finally allowed to visit her on 29 June but, at the time of writing, her parents have not been able to see her again. Jigme's parents continue to appeal for visitation rights, but are denied on every occasion and they have not even been told where their daughter is being held.

It is hard to imagine how distressed Jigme's parents must be, not knowing where or how their daughter is, and knowing how severe the punishments are for Tibetans of any age - who dare to protest against China.



Political prisoner update

Many of you campaigned on behalf of Tibetan nomad Runggye Adak (above), sentenced to eight years in 2007 for "splittism". He addressed a crowd in Lithang, saying: "Although we are free to move our bodies, we cannot express what is in our hearts" and called for the return of the Dalai Lama to roars of approval from the crowd. Free Tibet has received news that Runggye Adak has lost his hearing in one ear and also suffers from damage to his eye as a result of beatings when he was arrested. His family have only been allowed three visits of 10-15 minutes during his five-year detention.

Tibet the "worst of the worst"

Tibet has been singled out as one of the lowest ranked countries in the world for political and civil rights. The report, by Freedom House, judged Tibet to be worse off even than China. China's policies in Tibet have been widely condemned in recent months, including by the **US Congressional Executive** Commission on China, Human Rights Watch and Reporters without Borders.

Tibetans protest police brutality

A protest of up to 1,000 Tibetans took place in Rongwo Town, eastern Tibet in August after two young men were dragged from a car by security forces, beaten and threatened with guns. People from the town and nearby villages gathered outside the local government security offices and called for an end to police brutality.



www.freetibet.org/news

Monk jailed for emails



A senior monk has been given a seven year sentence for sharing information about Tenzin Wangmo, a nun who set herself on fire on 17 October last year.

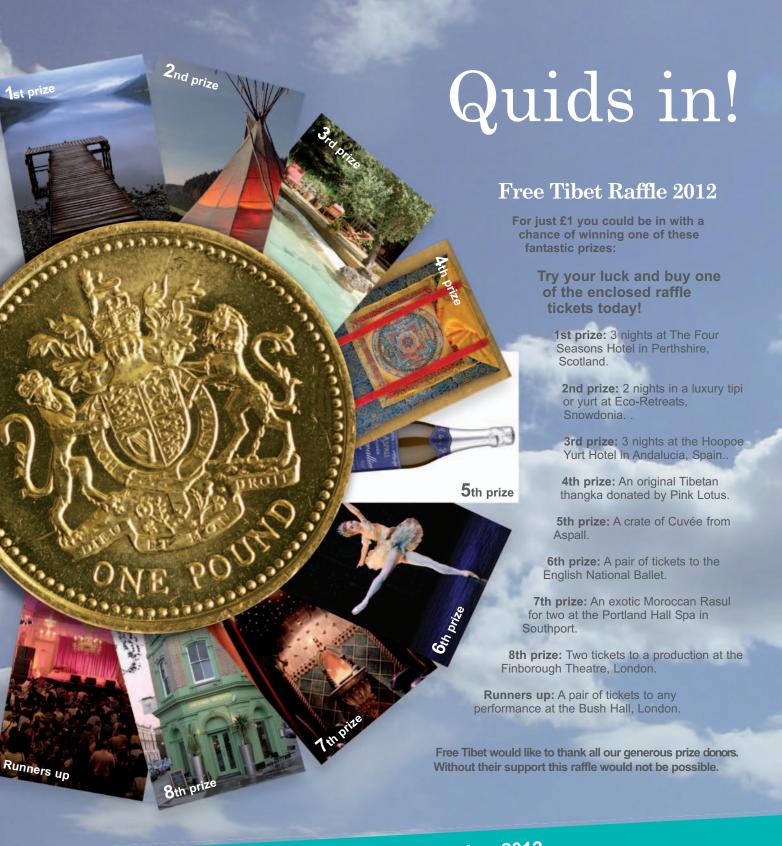
Yonten Gvatso, 37. disappeared in October 2011 and was sentenced in June 2012, but his family only found out what had happened to him in August. During the time he was disappeared he was brutally tortured and kept in a dark room.

Action

Please contact your local Chinese Embassy, demanding Yonten Gyatso's immediate release, an end to the use of torture in Tibet and for those who tortured Yonten Gyatso to be held accountable.



www.freetibet.org/embassies



Closing date: 10 December 2012

Draw date: 13 December 2012

Raffle only open to residents of the UK, excluding Northern Ireland.

Please gamble responsibly. If you think you may have a gambling problem please seek advice and support which can be found at www.gambleaware.co.uk.

