

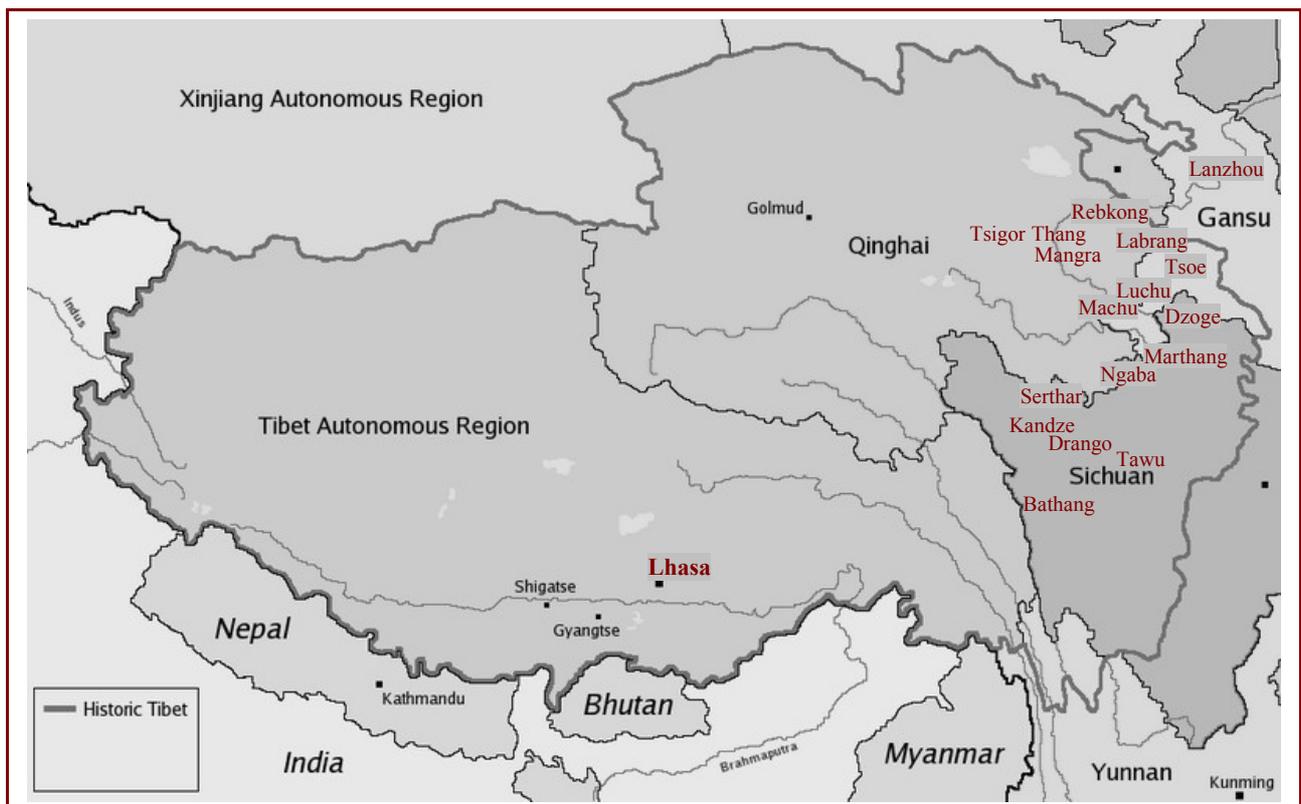
TIBET WATCH

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# Uprising in Tibet

10 March-30 April 2008

CITIES AND COUNTIES WHERE PROTESTS DOCUMENTED BY TIBET WATCH OCCURRED



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## **INTRODUCTION**

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This report is a summary of information gathered and received by Tibet Watch concerning protests in Tibet which occurred during March and April 2008. It is not a comprehensive record of all the protests that took place in Tibet, but only of those incidents which Tibet Watch has received reliable information about. Indeed, it is likely that there were many incidents of protest across Tibet which have remain unreported due to the tight security restrictions and communications lockdown imposed. It is for the same reason that it has since been extremely difficult to find out any further information about the documented events other than what is provided here. Although some of the information in this document relies on single sources, the news we have received has, where possible, been corroborated or checked against information received by other news gathering organizations.

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## KANDZE TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: GANZI TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, SICHUAN PROVINCE

### BATHANG COUNTY (CH: BATANG)

#### **2 April**

Local Chinese authorities came to Ba-Chodae Monastery, which is situated about 50 metres from the Bathang County Government administrative building, where about 250 monks reside. Through the Democratic Management Committee of the Monastery, they ordered the monks to gather together for a meeting at 10am. Twenty seven People's Armed Police (PAP) personnel addressed the meeting and wanted the monks to sign documents denouncing the Dalai Lama and admitting he organized and encouraged the recent protests in Tibet. The monks refused to sign the papers so the police arbitrarily arrested four monks. Two of them were named as Ngonro Yeshe and Jigme Dorjee, the highest Buddhist scholar at the Monastery; the other two monks are yet to be identified. The Chinese authorities accused them of being counterrevolutionaries and detained them in Bathang police station. The monks at Ba-Chodae Monastery were reported to be under tight security imposed by the Chinese authorities.

### DRANGO COUNTY (CH: LUHUO)

#### **24 March**

It is reported that at around 4:30pm approximately 200 nuns from Ngyoe-go nunnery in Chokri staged a peaceful demonstration, shouting "Long live His Holiness the Dalai Lama" and "Free Tibet." Around 200 monks from Chokri Monastery, 150 nuns from Khasum Nunnery and lay people from nearby places joined in and the protests continued through 5pm.

Armed Chinese police then fired into the crowd to disperse the demonstrators which resulted in the death of a 21 year old man named as Kunga of Tal-lag tag ma family from Chokri. He was shot with a bullet to his chest. Police wanted to take his body away but local Tibetans fought with them, snatched his body and took it to Chokri Monastery. Another 30 year old man named Tsangwang Dhondup was hit with a bullet in his kidney and also taken to Chokri Monastery. When the public refused to turn over the body of Kunga or the injured Tsangwang Dhondup, a large number of armed troops were mobilized to surround the Monastery, and the authorities warned they would shoot anybody outdoors that night.

Around night fall, attempts were made by the demonstrators to resume their protests by shouting, "let's die" or "let's live together." Heavily armed police quelled the agitated protesters by firing into the crowd. There were no reports of deaths or injuries during this incident but many people are reported to be missing since the incident.

#### **25 March**

Authorities launch door-to-door searches to find the body of Kunga and the injured Tsangwang Dhondup. Around ninety nuns and many local Tibetan residents were reportedly arrested today. The authorities found Kunga's body hidden in Chokri Monastery in the morning and arrested the abbot of the Monastery, Lobsang Wangchen Rinpoche. Five of the lay people arrested were named as Tsewang Gyatso, Kelsang Dawa, Therchen and Palden [Sherba], all from Chukhar village, and Kuniyang, the son of Thaga from Jang village. The situation in the area is described as very tense.

#### **26 March**

The names of three more people arrested in Drango County on 25 March emerge. They are Tashi, a monk from Gorong village; Kyenrab, a monk from Tsogo village; and Palden Sherba [as above] from Chukhar village. Palden Sherba was reportedly hit by a police vehicle and his leg broken before his arrest.

Information was received today that armed police were beating any Tibetan passing through nearby

towns and in Drango county seat itself. Around one hundred motorcycles were confiscated from local Tibetans to prevent anyone from leaving the area. All the monks at Chokri Monastery were expelled and a number of nuns at Ngyoe-go nunnery were arrested; the remaining nuns reportedly ran away and the nunnery is empty. Many more lay people are missing but it is not known whether they were arrested, shot dead, or ran away. Authorities have been calling on the demonstrators to surrender soon or be punished severely when arrested.

Later reports which emerged on 31 March confirm that on 26 March the Chinese authorities were checking one village after another in Drango County. At first, Chinese military soldiers detained anyone who was found walking outside their houses, and the news repeated that motorbikes were confiscated to prevent people from escaping. Chokri monastery has been sealed off and many Tibetans are reported to have left their homes for the nearby mountains and forests to escape arrest.

It was also reported that both Geshe Lharampa Namgyal Tsering, former Abbot of Chokri Monastery, and Geshe Lharampa Sonam Gyurme, the principal of the school run by Chokri Monastery, were asked by the Chinese authorities to attend a meeting at the county government headquarters. The authorities assured the local people that they would be responsible for the welfare of the two Geshes, but both were detained in police custody.

It was reported that on 27 March the Chinese authorities held a public meeting in Chokri Getse Township to denounce the Dalai Lama. An old Tibetan lady, Ama Tsangloe, stood up in the meeting and shouted out that the Dalai Lama was the religious leader of all Tibetans and that she would not denounce him. She asserted that he did not engage in any unfair activities against the Chinese government and shouted slogans for his long life and his return to Tibet. The township Secretary kicked and dragged her from the meeting but she continued to shout how she was not afraid to die. Ama Tsangloe's son Yeshe took out a knife and attacked the Secretary to defend his mother. When this information was reported on 29 March, Ama Tsangloe and the Secretary were both reportedly receiving treatment in hospital.

On 29 March, it was also reported that six trucks of Chinese military soldiers were stationed in Shukyul village and were checking houses for photographs of the Dalai Lama. In the previous few days, three more Tibetans were detained in the area. They were named as Karma, a layperson from Gorong village; Choedak, a monk from Khuyu village; and Rigzin, a monk from Jhangdrong village.

## **KANDZE COUNTY (CH: GANZI)**

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### **2-3 April**

Chinese authorities came to Tongkhor Monastery, situated in Tongkhor town and home to around 370 monks, to conduct a Patriotic Reeducation session and force monks to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Lobsang Jamyang, the chant master in charge of the Monastery, refused to co-operate, saying he would rather die than be involved in this Patriotic Reeducation campaign.

On 3 April, a religious ceremony was held at Tongkhor Monastery with some lay Tibetans in attendance. Lobsang Jamyang informed the monks of the authorities' visit the previous day and their intention to conduct a Patriotic Reeducation Campaign which would require everyone to speak against the recent protests in Tibet and denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He told them that he was not going to denounce the Dalai Lama even if it cost him his life. He asked the rest of the monks what they were going to do. A monk named Yeshe Nyima was the first to stand up and state that he also would refuse to denounce the Dalai Lama and was joined by the rest of the monks gathered.

Around 3000 armed police were deployed at the Monastery and searched the rooms of Geshe Sonam Tenzing, aged 74, and Tsultrim Phuntsok. They found photos of the Dalai Lama in their rooms and arrested them. At 6pm, around 370 monks and 400 Tibetan laypeople marched to the authorities

shouting, "Long Live His Holiness, We Don't Have Freedom, We Want Freedom" to demand the immediate release of Geshe Sonam Tenzing and Tsultrim Phuntsok.

Tongkhor town authorities agreed to release both of them within a couple of hours, but when they failed to do so, the same number of Tibetans marched to the township authorities again. Before reaching there, hundreds of armed police were waiting in the road. A clash occurred between the Tibetans and the police, with the latter firing machine guns into the crowd and killing at least eight people.

Names of those killed included:

- Samten, 27 year old monk
- Phurbu Delek, 30 year old layman
- Tsering Yangzom, female
- Druklo Tso, female
- Tsering Phuntsok and/or son of Tsering Phuntsog
- a girl whose father was named as Tsangge
- Lhundup Tso, female
- Tenloe, female

Many were also injured. One of those seriously injured was named as Thubten Gelek, along with two monks who were injured by gunshot; one had his ear shot off, and the other was hit in the shoulder. Many monks and laypeople have disappeared, including Tsewang Rinzin.

Eighty truckloads of armed police were brought in that evening and the authorities announced rewards of between 20,000-80,000 Chinese Yuan for anyone who passed on information about people who may be trying to talk to anybody abroad via phone or other means about the incident.

On 5 April, the Chinese authorities reportedly took away the bodies of those who were killed. The Monastery remains under tight security under the control of Chinese military soldiers.

### **23 April**

Two nuns from Kandze Tagkar nunnery protest against Chinese rule and the Chinese crackdown in Tibet. They were distributing leaflets with Tibetan slogans and posters in Kandze County streets. The names of the two nuns are Sonam Dekyi, 20 years old, and Lhaga, 31 years old. After half an hour, at least 15 Chinese Armed Police arrested the two nuns and put them into a police car in the middle of the streets in Kandze. Their whereabouts are unknown.

## **SERTHAR COUNTY (CH: SEDA)**

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### **17-19 March**

On 17 March a protest erupts in Serthar after local Tibetans saw two trucks full of soldiers arriving in the area and tried to surround them and block their path. People started shouting slogans and gradually the protestors swelled to between one and two thousand people. By nightfall the army was withdrawn but the Tibetan demonstrators remained in position. On 18 March, more soldiers were deployed and clashes broke out between local Tibetans and the army. An eyewitness reported soldiers beating protestors and taking them away. He personally witnessed around fifty people being taken away in military trucks that day. When the Chinese soldiers were reportedly advancing towards other villages that evening, local Tibetans destroyed a bridge between 10 and 11pm near Gudu village. By 19 March, the whole of Serthar was under the control of the army. Everyone's movements were restricted and Serthar Monastery was under tight control, surrounded by more than thirty military trucks. At around 10am, the soldiers reportedly warned local people that any protests would be met with gunfire.

### **5-6 April**

Led by the monks, local Tibetans gathered at Nyitso Monastery, Tawu County, to perform Tibetan Buddhist rituals related to recent political events. Information of the gathering had reached the local authorities, who posted announcements warning people to stay indoors or risk being shot. However, the local Tibetans and monks disobeyed the order and still gathered for the rituals. The local authorities responded by telling the monks they would confiscate their ritual objects to prevent the gathering taking place but the monks refused to let them.

On 6 April, despite the massive deployment of hundreds of armed police, local Tibetans managed to take other routes and gather at Nyitso Monastery. In a statement to the public, the Monastery announced that the ritual performance and candlelight vigil planned that day was in accordance with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's non-violence principles.

At around 12 noon, monks and lay Tibetans left the Monastery and on reaching the main road, more than 400 armed police tried to stop them. The authorities told the crowd that only the monks would be allowed to proceed with the ritual performance. The lay Tibetans became upset and started shouting, "We don't have freedom in our own land, we want complete freedom, we must invite His Holiness to Tibet immediately, Chinese should return to China, Tibet and China should be separate countries." As the protesters shouted, the authorities started to fire live ammunition to disperse the crowd. Ten Tibetan protesters were shot and five of the wounded arrested. After the protest had been dispersed the demonstrators again gathered at the Monastery. They agreed to sacrifice their lives if the authorities would not release the five wounded Tibetans who were arrested. They called the county head and told him that they were ready to die if he did not release them. The authorities released them immediately for fear of massive demonstrations but it was reported that the county government hospital refused to treat them or the other Tibetans who had been shot.

On 7 April, the names of three of the Tibetans who were wounded on 6 April were reported as Dhondup, from Yeshe village; Gyaltzen, from Bubho village; and Tsewang Gyaltzen, from Panglong village. They were among the at least ten wounded Tibetans who were fired on by armed police. Their conditions were reportedly so critical that they could not be treated at the county hospital and several monks from Nyitso Monastery set off by car to take them to a larger hospital. They were reportedly stopped by the authorities when they reached Dartsedo. It is not known whether they have yet received medical treatment or what their condition is.

## KANLHO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: GANNAN TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, GANSU PROVINCE

### LABRANG (SANGCHU) COUNTY (CH: XIAHE)

#### **14 March**

Contacts in Labrang Tashi Khyil Monastery report that in the morning around 1000 Tibetan monks, lay people and students gathered around the White Stupa near the Monastery. After burning incense, they circumambulated the stupa three times calling for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Free Tibet. Another witness described how thousands of Tibetans gathered in the early afternoon following the *Lhu zang* ceremony, which is marked on 14 March each year. Treasures including gold and precious articles are placed in the river as offerings to the water deities (*Lhu*). The ceremony opened around 10:30am and finished around 12:30pm, when some monks suddenly started to shout slogans such as Chinese Must Leave Tibet and Long Live the Dalai Lama. Around forty monks and lay people draped themselves in the Tibetan national flag and others held it aloft, encouraging others involved in the *Lhu zang* to join in. The protestors started marching from the roads to the west of Sangchu town onto the main streets, before turning back to where they started.

One witness described how the police did not intervene and that protestors simply dispersed at around 4pm. However, another saw around twenty policemen fire tear gas to disperse the crowd, while another eyewitness described how Chinese military police started firing in to the air. Most of the crowd dispersed but between fifty and sixty Tibetans were reportedly surrounded by the police and beaten with rifle butts and kicked. They were believed to have all been subsequently arrested. Phone lines and internet connections were cut and the situation described as extremely tense.

#### **15 March**

After prayers in the morning, it is reported that around 8am some monks started to lead a protest in Labrang, joined by lay people in the streets. They were shouting slogans for a Free Tibet and many were waving Tibetan national flags. Chinese soldiers were deployed to halt the protests and fired teargas in to the crowds but no gunshots were heard. Another eyewitness reported that protestors destroyed the County Government offices and local police station at around 1pm.

#### **16 March**

Hundreds of armed police took over Labrang Monastery and Sangchu town. Witnesses reported the arrest of several protesters yesterday and regulations put in place banning more than two people being allowed to walk in the streets together. Reports emerged that many protesters were injured during the 15 March demonstrations and confirm that at least three monks have been detained and that arrests are ongoing.

#### **18 March**

It is reported that more than one thousand Tibetans went to set up a prayer poll atop one of the mountains close to Bora Amchok, Sangchu County. On their return to town they encountered Chinese soldiers and severe clashes took place. Casualties as a result of the clashes could not be confirmed.

#### **8 April**

The second round of foreign journalists invited by the Chinese government to visit Tibet arrive in Labrang. Shortly afterwards, twenty or so monks ran out from the Monastery's prayer hall holding Tibetan flags in their hands and spoke to the journalists. They described how they wanted the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet, how they were not demanding complete independence, but that they wanted human rights which had been denied to them since Chinese rule was established.

#### **15 April**

Between 150 and 160 monks from Labrang Monastery are arrested. One source reports that they were detained by officials from the Chinese People's Armed Police from the Lanzhou Security Bureau. Large

numbers of Chinese police and soldiers appeared late in the evening in the Monastery and searched for photographs of the Dalai Lama. All the pictures they found were torn, broken and thrown away. It was reported that children on their way to school the next day were collecting the fragments and carrying them in their hands. The authorities looted valuable statues, prompting Geshe Akhu Jamyang Gyatso to make an immediate call to the central government to complain. Those he spoke to simply blamed some of the high ranking officers of Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture but took no further action. The Monastery was completely surrounded by Chinese soldiers and police and it is reported that no-one is allowed to enter or leave the Monastery.

Among those arrested, the names of the following have been reported:

- Nyima' Konchok Nagdo from Thoesam Ling collage of Labrang Tashi Khyil
- Samdrub Yalo from Ngulra
- Tsondue from Gengya
- Dzampa La from Gyutoe collage of Labrang
- Sage from Kyedor collage
- Palden from Doekhor collage
- Lushoe Tenzin from Gyurme College
- Rebkong Gedun Nagdang
- Jamyang Jinpa from Sangkhok

They have been accused by the Chinese government of initiating the protest in Labrang and reportedly been brutally treated. It was reported that Lushoe Tenzin, Rebkong Gedun Nagdang and Sangkhok Jamyang Jinpa have been taken to an unknown hospital and their whereabouts unknown.

## **LUCHU COUNTY (CH: LUQU)**

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### **15 March**

Between 300 and 400 Tibetan monks and laypeople protested in Luchu County Township. The protestors threw rocks and broke many windows in the county government building, smashed two vehicles, and broke the windows of some restaurants owned by Chinese people. The protestors also took down and burned the Chinese flag from the Tibetan Middle School in Luchu. There were People's Armed Police (PAP) present but only a few local police who reportedly ran away from the scene.

### **25 March**

It is reported that two hundred Chinese military soldiers came to Luchu Township and arrested at least four young Tibetans from Tsamdu village. They were named as Rinchen, aged 22 from Rajo family; Karthup Tsering, aged 28 from Gyangbhu family; Dorloe, aged 19 from Gyalrang family; and Dho Gyalyak, aged 25 from Gyalha family.

In addition, between four and five hundred military soldiers arrested at least eleven people from Lhowa village and confiscated twenty two motorbikes. They checked all houses and family members in the village, reportedly searching altars for photographs of the Dalai Lama, smashing prayer rooms and statues and destroying thangkas. They imposed tight restrictions on the village because the villagers refused to sign a petition denouncing the Dalai Lama. Many young Tibetans reportedly fled to the mountains to escape arrest.

## **MACHU COUNTY (CH: MAQU)**

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### **16 March**

A protest took place in Machu county town, Gansu Province which reportedly started in the afternoon when Tibetan students started distributing leaflets. Gradually, several hundred laypeople and monks took to the streets in a mass demonstration shouting slogans such as "We Want Freedom" and "Long

Live the Dalai Lama.” Some people were reportedly waving Tibetan national flags and others were carrying large portraits of the Dalai Lama. Protestors smashed the windows and doors of the County Government building, destroyed the Security Headquarters, burnt Chinese shops and restaurants and were letting off firecrackers in the streets. Another report said a police car was burnt and that one Chinese policeman was beaten by protestors. There was reportedly no immediate reaction from the police and nobody was arrested or shot.

### **17 March**

An eyewitness in Machu reports that at least 12 people were shot dead in Machu today. The exact number of deaths cannot be confirmed, but they include Rinchen Dorje, aged between 25-30 from Murshag village who was a graduate student from a health university in Gannan Prefecture.

### **19 March**

It is reported that at around 4 or 5pm between twenty five and thirty armed police trucks with machine guns and several tanks were brought in to Machu town and other counties in Gannan Prefecture.

Military police arrested ten Tibetans in their homes, including:

- Lobsang Rinchen, male, layperson, performer in a local band in Machu
- Sangrab, male, layperson; an educated Tibetan who worked voluntarily in the Tibetan Primary school in Machu County. From Murchunk near Machu.
- Lobsang Namgyal, monk, from Nyima Monastery
- Dolma, female; owner of a bar in Machu town

### **21 April**

Information is received detailing the names of Tibetans detained in prison on 19 April in Machu. Their date of arrest is unknown. They are:

- Machu monk Jamyang Po Tsekha and a monk from Nyanthak Monastery
- Tashi Mardang from Nyul Ra Village
- Kalsang Gyatso from Burkal Village
- Choedak from Lingkor
- Yonten
- Thapkhey
- Jampa
- Mabho
- Menshig
- Chachoe
- Choetse
- Lonag
- Dholo
- Sherab
- Dhondup
- Choephel
- Namsay
- Kali
- Dholo

## **TSOE TOWNSHIP (CH: HEZUO)**

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### **14 March**

Hundreds of Public Security Bureau (PSB) and People’s Armed Police (PAP) are reported to have surrounded Tsoe monastery and a meeting held by the township authorities among the monks.

### **16 March**

At around 8pm, 600 Tibetan students protested in the township Hezuo Tibetan Middle School (Ch: *Hezuo zang zu zhong xue*) where 700 students from across Gannan Prefecture board. The school authorities were reported to have contained them within the school boundaries.

### **17 March**

At around 8am, the students of Hezuo Tibetan Middle School started jumping over the wall of the school yard to protest in the main streets of Tsoe Township. The school authorities and the People's Armed Police clashed with some of the students, resulting in at least ten students being injured and admitted to the local government hospital. The authorities managed to round up the other students back in to the school grounds, where they continued their protests.

## **LANZHOU CITY, GANSU PROVINCE**

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### **16 March**

Around one hundred Tibetan students at the North West Minority Nationalities University staged a peaceful protest around 6pm by sitting down in the university campus to object to the killing Tibetans in Lhasa. When trying to march into the streets, they were stopped by police at the campus gate. Around 500 Tibetan students observed a candlelight vigil and mourned the victims killed in the recent protests in Tibet. Some students were heard calling for the release of the Panchen Lama and for His Holiness the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet. A senior professor in the university tried to persuade them to leave for their dormitories, but they were adamant to stay. He was concerned because it was the first known protest by Tibetan University students.

### **17 March**

According to an eyewitness up to twenty thousand paramilitary forces were sent from Lanzhou on the evening of 16 March to Tsoe town (Ch: Hezuo), Labrang (Ch: Xiahe), Machu county (Ch: Maqu), Luchu township and Taktsang Lhamo in Luchu county (Ch: Luqu) and Bora Amchok township.

### **19 March**

A letter from a student at the North West Minority Nationalities University is received:

“Peaceful hunger strike on 16 March, 2008. As Tibetans outside Tibet are marching to Tibet for freedom, many Tibetans in Lhasa, Ngaba and Labrang have lost their lives. Many more Tibetans have been tortured, many injured, many arrested. Therefore we, the students at the North West Minority Nationalities University in Lanzhou observed a hunger strike to call for the immediate release of the arrested Tibetans.”

## LHASA, TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION

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### **10 March**

An eyewitness reports that around twenty monks from Sera Monastery gathered in front of the Jokhang temple in Lhasa shouting slogans including Free Tibet and Long Live the Dalai Lama. The monks were reportedly all originally from Golok prefecture in Amdo and had come to study at Sera in 2006. A few lay people joined the protest in the Barkhor but at around 2pm, twenty minutes after the protest started, the police detained most of the protestors. The witness recounted that around fifteen monks and three laypeople were arrested and that the other protestors managed to run away. When monks at Drepung Monastery heard of the arrests, around 200-300 of them protested against the detentions. To contain any further incidents, it was reported that security personnel were deployed throughout Lhasa and at Sera and Drepung monasteries.

### **14 March**

At around 8am, four Tibetan students from Lhasa University started shouting slogans in the Barkhor including “Free Tibet,” “We Want Freedom,” “Chinese Leave Tibet” and appeals for the Dalai Lama to return. The students were joined in their protest by around 300-400 lay people, monks and nuns in the Barkhor area. By late morning thousands of people had reportedly joined the protests around the Barkhor, while another group of around 500 Tibetans started protesting near the Potala Palace, and more were protesting near the Ramoche Temple. Eyewitnesses recounted how people started attacking Chinese shops and restaurants. A shop selling gold near the Potala was burnt down, while in the Barkhor area Chinese businesses were targeted. Several police cars and other vehicles were burnt or attacked in the street and plumes of black smoke could be seen across the city. One witness reported that four policemen were injured in clashes with demonstrators and that a thousand police were deployed around the Jokhang temple. They tried to stop people going near the Jokhang and the police used tear gas to disperse the crowds but refrained from more brutal action. Elsewhere, witnesses described how the police did nothing to contain the protests and riots for several hours.

### **15 March**

An eyewitness reports that four monks were killed in front of the Jokhang Temple and many people injured following a protest that started at 8am. Led by monks from Sera and Drepung monasteries, many laypeople, monks and nuns gathered in the Barkhor. The police reportedly opened fire on the protestors in the Barkhor from near the corner of the Jokhang at around 11am. Protestors started burning Chinese shops and vehicles, police were firing tear gas in to the crowds and thick smoke was again seen rising across the city.

### **16 March**

Monks in Sera Monastery are warned by authorities in the People’s Armed Police that any further protests will be met with a violent response.

### **16 March**

An eyewitness in Lhasa reports seeing 26 mostly lay people being shot at from a black vehicle while they protest near Drapchi prison demanding the immediate release of political prisoners detained there.

### **29 March**

An eyewitness confirms that large protests took place today around 2pm in Lhasa despite the deployment of thousands of armed police in the streets. Hundreds of demonstrators gathered around the Ramoche Temple and in the Barkhor close to the Jokhang. Unlike previous incidents of unrest in the city, the protests were reportedly peaceful and there were no attacks on any Han Chinese shops and businesses. However, shops, restaurants and other business premises were reportedly closed in the eastern quarters of Lhasa and armed police quickly suppressed the protests.

Soon after the demonstrations were quashed, a text message in Chinese was sent to all mobile phone users in Lhasa city. The following is a translation:

“In the afternoon of 29 March, when the Lhasa Municipal Law Enforcement Department Personnel were conducting a security check, some mobile salesmen and some other people started running away without knowing exactly what the Security Personnel were doing. There was no unstable social order in the city. Please township people, do not believe the rumors. Be relieved and stay working. Be clear to the rights and wrongs. Obey the law. Keep the rules. Criminal actions such as creating and spreading rumors, persuading others to do wrongs, disturbing social order and sabotaging social stability, will be severely cracked down upon. Announced by Lhasa Municipal Police Station.”

## MALHO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: HUANGNAN TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, QINGHAI PROVINCE

### REBKONG COUNTY (CH: TONGREN)

#### **Incidents of Unrest in Rebkong in February 2008: Background Information**

##### **21 February**

A major clash between local Tibetans and police broke out in Rebkong town which was believed to have started after a Tibetan child bought a balloon from a street seller which flew in to the sky while it was being handed to him. The balloon seller was trying to force the boy to pay for it but a group of young Tibetans standing by backed up the Tibetan boy and fighting broke out. When the police arrived at the scene the fighting escalated and stones, bottles and firecrackers were thrown. One witness reported that 29 policemen were badly injured and had to be hospitalized, that twelve police cars were damaged and others burnt by Tibetans. After a while police reinforcements arrived and threw tear gas into the crowd and beat whoever was gathered in the street. Altogether, they made 120 arrests.

A witness attributed the clashes with police to frustration among Tibetans with the county authorities for recently tightening restrictions in the region, especially in Rongwo Monastery. Just the day before, a senior monk at Rongwo Monastery had called upon the monks gathered during the prayer session to pray for His Holiness Dalai Lama to be able to come to the Olympic Games in Beijing.

##### **22 February**

This morning, monks gathered in the main temple of Rongwo Monastery for their daily chanting and to perform religious dances that were due to take place that day. They heard that an assistant of the disciplinarian monk of the Monastery had been arrested the night before. At around 10am, lay Tibetans and monks gathered in the street and started to protest. They shouted slogans such as “Long Live the Dalai Lama” and “Solve Tibet Issue As Soon As Possible” while marching to the Malho Prefecture Civil Government to demand the immediate release of those who had been arrested on 21 February. They sat in front of the building and started a hunger strike. The detainees were all released in groups at different times, most of them having been beaten or injured. Among them was a monk who was haemorrhaging and a layman whose spinal cord was broken. Another monk and a layman were beaten so badly that they were taken to hospital in Xining. People were not sure if they would survive or not, and lay Tibetans and monks were ready to protest on a huge scale if they died. Kyabgon Rinpoche of Rongwo Monastery and the Party Secretary of Malho Prefecture were requesting Tibetans to stop any further agitations. All the main public gathering sites in Rebkong were surrounded by armed police and the town put under surveillance.

##### **4 March**

On around 4 March 2008, groups of officials from the township government summoned meetings in almost all the villages around Rebkong about the protests on 21 February. The officials warned villagers to be loyal to the government and not to support the protesters. A Kalachakra initiation by the Rebkong Kyabgon incarnation Lama which was planned for July 2008 was forced to be postponed until after the Olympic Games. The Kalachakra is sponsored by the Four Rebsa Tribes and was due to be held in Penkhar Thang Monastery in Mapa Township. A dozen military trucks were observed moving toward Rebkong.

##### **10 March**

Armed police surround Rongwo Monastery and the movement of monks is tightly controlled. It is reported that new regulations have been put in place requiring any group of more than three monks who visit families to say prayers to seek permission from the County Religious Affairs Department. The gathering of monks inside the Monastery has also been prohibited. Since the 21 February protests at the Monastery the Central Government is now directly supervising the county authorities.

### **16 March**

At 4pm monks and lay Tibetans in Rebkong defy a ban on the public burning of incense put in place following the 21 February protests. Armed police appear in the Monastery and march in the streets. Witnesses estimate that there are 6000 armed police in the town and report that a tank and 15 armed police trucks were parading through the town centre. A large number of monks and lay people were reported to have gathered in the Monastery and the situation in Rebkong is described as extremely tense.

Negotiations take place between monks and local government officials. The monks demand that the officials allow people to burn incense in public, remove surveillance cameras placed on the electricity posts in the town, and withdraw army personnel who were drafted in to Rebkong from Lanzhou. The party secretary of Malho Prefecture accepted the proposals and confirmation was received that the surveillance cameras were removed but that the army did not withdraw.

A source reports a protest in Dowa Township with people shouting slogans of “Free Tibet” and “Long Live the Dalai Lama.” Protestors pulled down and burned the Chinese flag in the township government office.

### **22 March**

Seven Tibetans in Dowa Township are arrested. They are named as Jopa, aged 20; Tralo, aged 19; Dorje Rabten, aged 35; Shawo Tsering, aged 26; Chaggyal aged 19; Yangjungh, aged 19; and Takho, aged 25.

### **12 April**

County Public Security Bureau (PSB) officials order Rongwo Monastery to hand over three monks for interrogation who they claim masterminded the protests on 21 February. The monks are named as Lobsang Dhondup, aged 20, from the Buddhist Dialectics College; Drakpa, aged 28, from the Tantric College; and Lobsang Dhondup, aged 30, also from the Tantric College. The PSB threatens that unless these monks are handed over, all the monks in Rongwo Monastery will be arrested and they pressure Rebkong Kyabgon Rinpoche. The officials promise that the monks will be released after three days, that they will be allowed mobile phones, be treated as normal and allowed visits by family. The Monastery is forced to accept the order. On 13 April, under the envoy of the Rongwo Monastery Democratic Management Committee, the three monks were detained and sent for interrogation in Rebkong. The Rongwo Monastery Democratic Management Committee reportedly did not inform the monks of these facts.

### **14 April**

The monks in Rongwo Monastery quarrel with the Democratic Management Committee and there is some unrest in the Monastery. The normal chanting assembly was not held and it was reported that most of the Monastery’s monks swore in front of the Dharma Protective gods that they would stand up for anyone arrested or beaten by the authorities. On the same day, some monks visit the three detained monks and were able to have a conversation and take some food. Their health situation was normal. The monks who visited the prison revealed that there were around one hundred Tibetans imprisoned, all of them arrested following the demonstrations on 21 February.

### **15 April**

Some monks return to visit the three detained monks in jail, but find they are not there and officials refuse to answer questions concerning their whereabouts. Monks gathered in the Monastery, angered by the false reassurances of the government and discussed how they should react. The Monastery was reportedly surrounded by army personnel with guns.

### **17 April**

At 11am, twenty monks demonstrate at Rongwo Monastery. They demanded the release of the three monks arrested on 13 April. Nineteen trucks of armed police arrive at the Monastery and all protesters are arrested. More monks (estimated at 80) then protest at these new arrests. Lay Tibetans also join in. One of the Monastery's Lamas, Alak Khaso, aged 80, stepped in to persuade the protesters to disperse. All the monks and lay Tibetans involved were cracked down upon harshly and beaten. There were more than 140 arrests including Alak Khaso. Armed police surrounded the Monastery and no-one is allowed to enter or leave. In the evening, ten to fifteen Chinese military soldiers checked the rooms of all the monks in Rongwo Monastery and confiscated photographs of the Dalai Lama. Some soldiers had guns while others had electric batons. It was unclear how many monks were arrested.

### **18 April**

It is reported that seventeen arrests were made at Rongwo Monastery and that Alak Khaso was seriously injured and taken to hospital in Xining. Nobody is entirely sure of his whereabouts.

### **19-22 April**

Almost 200 Chinese military have been deployed to monasteries everywhere in the Rebkong region since 19 April. Tashi Kyil Monastery in Rebkong was searched by police on 22 April. They checked the monks' rooms and also that of Alak Dotsang and removed cash, a computer and many CDs.

## NGABA TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE

CH: ABA TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, SICHUAN PROVINCE

### DZOGE COUNTY (CH: RUANGGUI/ZOIGE)

#### **16-18 March**

In Sogtsang Monastery, Thangkor Township, Dzoge County, twenty monks protest in the monastery and are joined by some lay Tibetans. Together they marched to Thangkor Township. After people warned them that the police were on their way they returned to the Monastery. No arrests were reported, but the monks discussed holding further protests the following day.

On 18 March, information is received that three lay Tibetans have been arrested in the morning in Thangkor Township for having joined the protest on 16 March. They are named as Nyima Dorje, Thubten and Dargye. On the same day, news emerges of a protest in Drangwa township (Ch: Zhawa), Dzoge County, which is close to Thewo (Ch: Tiebu) in Kanlho Prefecture. Troops were seen moving towards the town but no further details are available.

### MARTHANG/MEWA COUNTY (CH: HONGYUAN)

#### **10 March**

A witness reports that almost one hundred monks at Mewa Monastery held a protest at 2pm in their Monastery. The monks started shouting Free Tibet and Long Live His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The next day, the local police came to the Monastery and pressured its Democratic Management Committee to find out who led and who was involved in the protest. Nobody gave them any information, but it was reported that seven Chinese police officers and work team members stayed behind in the Monastery to undertake further investigation.

#### **17 March**

More than one thousand monks took part in a demonstration in Amchok Tsennyi Gon Monastery to protest against Chinese rule in Tibet. Amchok Tsennyi Gon is affiliated with Labrang Monastery but situated close Ngaba Township and is home to around 1200 monks. The monks shouted slogans including "Free Tibet," "Long Live the Dalai Lama" and "Chinese Get Out of Tibet." Armed police moved toward the Monastery to stop the peaceful protest and at around 6pm two monks were reportedly shot dead. The protestors continued in a peaceful manner but at the time of receiving this news the Chinese authorities were continuing to crack down violently.

#### **17 March**

Information was also received that around 500 students from the Tibetan Middle School in Marthang staged a demonstration at 10am. Four students were reportedly injured in clashes with PSB officials. They were two girls, one of whom was hit with a bullet in her back and two boys, named as Chewo and Zoepa. One of the boys was hit with a gun handle on his head. All of the injured were being treated at the County Government Hospital at the time this information was received.

### NGABA COUNTY (CH: ABA)

#### **16 March**

A witness reports that in the morning two trucks full of armed police arrived at Gomang Monastery near Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) town, Sichuan Province. The armed police took down the Buddhist flag from the top of the Monastery and raised the Chinese flag. The monks were chanting in the temple but when they saw what was happening, they stepped in and asked the police to stop. The police refused so the monks took down the Chinese flag themselves and then marched to the town of Ngaba to demonstrate. Thousands of monks from Kirti Monastery, two kilometres from Ngaba town, who had been gathered in

their temple for a Mani Tantra prayer ceremony, joined the protests along with many lay Tibetans who were also attending. They were joined by students from the Ngaba County Middle School and together the protestors marched to the police station. They broke the gate to the station and entered the compound, whereupon the police started shooting at the protestors.

As the protesters charged to the County Court they shouted slogans including “Long Live the Dalai Lama,” “Tibetans Want Human Rights” and “Chinese Leave Tibet.” One source also reported that protesters were demanding the release of two monks from Kirti Monastery who were arrested the previous day. The demonstrators were met by armed police who opened fire. Monks and lay Tibetans from Adué Monastery had joined the protests and marched toward Ngaba town but were stopped by armed police. They fought with them and burnt their police cars. The police drove away from the scene and when they passed near Khashi village, people there threw stones at their cars. The police abandoned their vehicles and ran away and eleven of their cars were burnt. The police threw tear gas at protesters and at least seven Tibetans were reportedly shot dead. Many protesters were injured, but only when Tibetans threatened to burn the local government run hospital would it admit the injured for treatment.

Later in the day, another witness reported that at least 34 Tibetans including laypeople, women, children, monks and nuns were killed by Chinese police during the protests in Ngaba county. It was also confirmed that the bodies of eight Tibetans who had been shot dead were brought to Kirti Monastery. It was confirmed that there were around twenty more deaths but their bodies could not be taken to the Monastery because it has been sealed off by police.

Those reportedly killed on 16 March included:

- Rigkyi, a girl from Thangnak
- A 21-year old Tibetan man from Gangra
- A monk from Kirti Monastery and two laypeople, Lobsang Tashi of the Tsetig family in Thawa village, and Tsezin, around 32 years old, from Dotsang family in Thachung village, who died on the way to hospital
- Two further people from Upper Thawa village

### **17 March**

Fresh information from Ngaba county reports that hundreds of paramilitary forces are being airlifted in by helicopter. It was also reported that by 8am in Ngaba county many protestors were gathering in places including Charo, Meruma, Mani Nunnery, and Gomang and Sewu monasteries. The protestors were moving toward Ngaba town and an eyewitness estimated there were several thousand Tibetans involved.

### **17 March**

News is received that more than a hundred nomads from Meruma nomadic tribe in Ngawa Prefecture are holding a demonstration. The report states that three people have been badly injured and eleven people arrested.

### **19 March**

Contacts in Ngaba reported that police were calling from loud speakers mounted on their cars for leaders of the demonstrations to surrender to the authorities. They were saying those who handed themselves in would be treated leniently, while those who possessed arms would be rewarded for handing them over to the authorities.

### **27 March**

Reports were received that hundreds of armed police entered Kirti Monastery today and that around eight or nine troops took control of each monk and his residence. They have been searching for any material they consider anti-Chinese, including Tibetan flags and photos of the Dalai Lama. All the monks in Kirti Monastery are being kept in their own rooms and it is not known what they are doing to the monks.

**29 March**

The Chinese government reports that they found a weapons cache in Kirti Monastery. It is not uncommon for monasteries in Tibet to hold weapons which have been surrendered by ordinary Tibetans who may have used them for hunting or fighting and have taken vows not to commit any unvirtuous actions in future.

## **TSOLHO TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE**

**CH: HAINAN TIBETAN AUTONOMOUS PREFECTURE, QINGHAI PROVINCE**

### **MANGRA COUNTY (CH: GUINAN)**

#### **10 March**

It is reported that almost 400 monks protested in Lutsang Monastery. The monks gathered in the Monastery and were shouting slogans including “Free Tibet” and “Dalai Lama Return to Tibet” from 10am to 1pm. The Monastery is situated quite far from the local administrative centre so there were no arrests. However, on 11 March, the local authorities came to the Monastery to investigate who was in charge of the 10 March protest and increased the number of police stationed at the Monastery.

### **TSIGOR THANG COUNTY (CH: XINGHAI)**

#### **25-28 March**

Outside Holkha township some monks and Tibetan students staged a peaceful protest. At least one thousand local Tibetans took part in the peaceful demonstration. Most of the protestors were holding pro-Tibet independence banners. They shouted, "We need democracy and human rights in Tibet," and "We are supporting those peaceful Tibetan demonstrators who have been killed by the Chinese military in their crackdown in Lhasa and other areas in Tibet."

The next morning, before dawn, five trucks of Chinese military soldiers surrounded every village and arrested three local Tibetans: Ribum Gyal (male), Tsewang (male) and an unidentified woman. The next day, 27 March, at least six hundred Tibetans gathered in front of the local township government building and protested peacefully, demanding their unconditional release. They promised to continue their protests until they were released and said they would return on 28 March if they were not freed that day. In response, around five hundred Chinese military soldiers were deployed early in the morning on 28 March, between 3-4am, to prevent any further protests.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF A TIBETAN WHO WAS IN LHASA DURING THE MARCH PROTESTS**

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“Everybody knows that the eruption of protests which took place in Lhasa on 10 March. I went to do some shopping at a friend’s shop. There my friend told me that around 15 monks and nuns and around 20 lay Tibetans had staged a peaceful demonstration in the Barkhor because of the increased deployment of PSB in Lhasa. My friend told me that later the protesters were arrested by the PSB. Then I received phone calls from friends and relatives in Lhasa, all of whom warned me to be very careful and come home as soon as possible because the situation in Lhasa was not looking good.

On 12 March I heard that monks from Drepung Monastery were protesting everywhere. A couple of them apparently stabbed themselves. Since then Drepung Monastery has been sealed off. Nobody is allowed to enter or leave the Monastery. Some Tibetans believe that there were some people inside Tibet who masterminded the protests. A businesswoman who I met told me that an elder friend of her predicted the protests before 10 March. She said that the person had an extensive political background and was aware of many things.

On 14 March, I saw a police car parked blocking the gate of the Ramoche temple. Later, friends told me that the police had there since 11 March. It was around 11 o’clock in the morning and around four monks came to the police car and demanded they remove the car from the gate. I was watching with several other Tibetans from about 100 meters away. There were about ten policemen engaged in talks with the four monks around the car. In the meantime, around 50 monks joined the four monks. The number of monks outnumbered the policemen at that time. Then all of the policemen and monks went to the roof of Ramoche temple. They were talking to each other on the roof. I didn’t hear because I was about 100 meters away from them, but I could see the gestures of the monks pointing to the car and demanding the removal of the police blocking the Monastery’s main gate. There were many of us watching them from a distance.

Then another police car came to the place. A senior policeman ordered all the monks and police to come down from the roof and asked all the people who were watching to move. A man from Kham asked why we couldn’t watch and a minor scuffle broke out between police and the Tibetan onlookers. During that time they were only around 30-40 policemen and they ran away. The monks and other Tibetans lifted the police car and removed it from the Monastery’s main gate. All the Tibetans started shouting Free Tibet, Long Live His Holiness, We Want Freedom. Then after a while, five trucks of armed police were brought in. They fired tear gas into the crowd so all the Tibetans ran away in different directions. I ran to behind the Ramoche temple. Some monks shouted at the Tibetan public not to run, so many didn’t and faced the crackdown by armed police. They continued shouting Free Tibet and Long Live The Dalai Lama.

Behind the Ramoche temple, opposite the City Police Station, there were 200 of us Tibetans and many more in front of Ramoche. Around fifty policemen saw us from Ramoche Street and showed us their handcuffs – a warning to us that we may be arrested. Some policemen were carrying video cameras and taking footage. I saw that an old Tibetan man, around 50-60 years old, and his son (around 6 years old) were injured. They were bleeding and around five policemen pushed them into a police van.

Around that time, we heard gunfire in front of Ramoche temple. It was like a war with much gunfire. I saw five bodies being put on to army truck at Ramoche temple. The situation became very tense. It was very dangerous. So I tried to go to my hotel. But it was impossible to go on the normal streets because of lots of clashes between Tibetan protesters and police in the Ramoche area. Tibetans were throwing stones at police and the police were firing tear gas into the Tibetan protesters.

I managed to get to behind the Jokhang temple. The air was filled with smoke. I saw four bodies of very young Tibetans in their twenties. They were two girls and two boys lying in blood. I met a friend there who told me that the four of them were students. A friend told me that the two boys died after about ten

minutes of being shot. One of the boys told my friend, who was crying, not to cry because people were dying for a good cause. He asked my friend to put some holy pills in his mouth, and then he died.

I also saw twenty bodies lying in Beijing Road but I didn't manage to see them closely because it was very dangerous. Then I returned to my hotel in the evening. I watched from the roof of my hotel. Lhasa looked like a battlefield and I continued hearing more and more gun fire and seeing more smoke in the air. It was very dangerous and I stayed in my hotel room.

From my hotel I continued hearing around five groups of Tibetan protestors, which from the sound of their voices seemed to comprise 200 to 300 people, demonstrating one after another on Beijing Road shouting Long Live the Dalai Lama, Free Tibet, etc.

Friends called from Lophug area and told me that they saw the bodies of six Tibetans who were brought on three rickshaws. A relative told me on the phone that she saw two Tibetan men and one woman chased by a group of around nine armed police. The police opened fire and the woman fell down. She stood up and again gunfire was heard. Then she fell down completely. The two men managed to run away. An old Tibetan bystander rushed to the site and took care of the body of the woman. The armed police who killed her said nothing and left the scene.

Earlier in the day, I also saw a Tibetan woman with a white top killed in front of the Gamchun Restaurant. I saw police dragging her body towards a police van close by.

On 14 March, the demonstrations started around 11am and ended around midnight. Throughout the day, we continued hearing gunshots and explosions. The number of armed police kept on increasing. I myself saw around forty tanks roll into Beijing Road. I believe that there were at least one hundred tanks brought in to the city. Before nightfall, I myself saw two tank-like army vans with around six armed soldiers on each, opening fire in Beijing Road in every direction.

In the morning on 15 March, friends in the hotel told me that an old Tibetan woman saw around 500 bodies in front of the Jokhang temple. She saw them before daybreak but the bodies were no longer there by the morning. I can say with confidence, that the death toll of Tibetans is much higher than the Exile Government's estimate of one hundred. I saw around forty bodies myself and friends told me of many more bodies at different locations in Lhasa.

A business partner of mine told me on the phone on 15 March morning that armed police opened fire on a Tibetan family in Karmakutsang and killed all the family members, even their children, inside their house the previous night. A large number of PLA were brought in to the city on 15 March. Massive arrests started taking place since 14 March, even of Tibetans who they had no evidence against having taken part in the protests. For example, a shopkeeper called Sherten Gyakpa was arrested while he was closing his shop despite not having been involved in the demonstrations.

A Tibetan policewoman told me of killings and beatings that took place on Guru Bridge Road on 14 and 15 March. She described how she saw armed police beating Tibetans to death and that the road was filled with blood everywhere.

Friends told me that a group of Tibetans waving white scarves circumambulated the Jokhang temple three times during the morning of 14 March. They shouted, "We want freedom, Long live His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Release the Panchen Lama, allow the Dalai Lama to return home." After making these three rounds, they started warning the shops around the Barkhor to close. When armed police started cracking down on the demonstrators with force, clashes broke out. Most of the demonstrators faced the PLA and many were killed and others had their legs or arms broken. A 70-year old Rinpoche was severely tortured in prison but released after the authorities learnt that he did not take part in the demonstration. This Rinpoche told his friends that many Tibetan demonstrators were dying in prison.

Because of the massive number of arrests, jails in Lhasa were full so many arrested Tibetans were taken to Gormo (Ch: Golmud). Everybody has been talking about this. Since 14 March, every Tibetan in Lhasa without an identity card has been arrested. Checkpoints were established every 100 metres and anybody found with a photograph of the Dalai Lama was made to tear the picture and stop on it. If people refused they were threatened with torture and imprisonment. I was in line as such a checkpoint on 16 or 17 March. An old Tibetan man of about 75 years old was caught with a photo of the Dalai Lama. He refused to tear or step on the photo and was immediately knocked down. I saw blood spilling from his head. Two armed police were pointing guns at him and another handcuffed him and they took him away.

Starting from 15 March, announcements were made on television in both Tibetan and Chinese for protestors to hand themselves in. On 16 March they showed around 200 Tibetans from Phenbo county surrendering on television. House to house searches were also launched. Around five armed police came to each house and ordered all the family out while they searched for banned objects, including photos of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan flags. Of course, everybody had to listen to their order or otherwise they were ready with arms to crack down on people who were reluctant. Since the hotel where I was staying was leased to a Chinese businessman, several armed police came to the hotel but they didn't search it. They told the hotel owner not to let westerners stay at the hotel. Beating and torture was common during that weekend of 15 and 16 March.

Since 12 March, Drepung Monastery has been sealed off. Nobody is allowed to enter and exit the Monastery. As far food is concerned, nobody was allowed to deliver any. It was the same situation with Sera and Ramoche monasteries. They have been sealed off since 14 March. There were around at least 1500 soldiers surrounding Drepung and Sera monasteries and around 700 surrounding Ramoche temple. Since 15 March phone lines to the monasteries were cut and the public were not allowed to go to those monasteries. So it has been difficult to know what has been going on at those monasteries.”

Date: 22 April 2008