



**PEN INTERNATIONAL
WRITERS IN PRISON COMMITTEE**

**DAY OF THE IMPRISONED WRITER
15 NOVEMBER 2011**

**TIBET
Tashi Rabten
Dissident Writer**



“After an especially intense year of the usual soul-destroying events, something had to be said, and after pondering on whether to speak out, I finally produced this humble little book... shed like a drop of blood”.

Tashi Rabten
Introduction to ‘Written in Blood’

Tashi Rabten (pen-name Te’urang), poet and co-editor of the banned Tibetan-language literary magazine *Shar Dungri* (‘East Snow Mountain’), was reportedly sentenced to four years imprisonment on 6 April 2010. Although the charges against him have not been officially disclosed, it is believed that he has been convicted for ‘inciting separatism’ for writing a collection of political articles and poems entitled *Written in Blood* which detailed the suppression of the March 2008 protests in Lhasa and surrounding regions. PEN International condemns the detention of Tashi Rabten and calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

According to PEN’s information, Tashi Rabten (25), was arrested on 6 April 2010 and held without charge at Ngaba Prefecture’s Barkham County Detention Centre, Sichuan province, western China. His trial took place on 2 June 2011 and was conducted entirely behind closed doors. Details of the charges against the writer were not officially released, and his conviction was not reported until 2 July 2011. Prior to the arrest Tashi Rabten had reportedly been under surveillance for some time, and it is believed that his imprisonment is the result of his critical writings.

Tashi Rabten is not the only *Shar Dungri* writer who has suffered harassment as a result of his coverage of the situation in Tibet. Three others, **Dhonkho**, **Bhudha** and **Khelsang Jinpa**, were also reportedly detained in June and July 2010 after they published essays on the 2008 crackdown. This collection of writings was the first known material in Tibetan on the 2008 protests to have been published in the People’s Republic of China

and shortly after their publication the magazine was banned. On 30 December 2010 Dhonko and Bhudha were also sentenced to four years in prison, while Kelsang Jinpa was given a three year sentence, for 'incitement to split the nation'.

Please send appeals:

- Protesting the sentence handed to Tibetan writer Tashi Rabten, and seeking full disclosure of the charges against him and the details of his trial;
- Protesting the sentences handed to other Tibetan writers, in particular the other *Shar Dugri* writers Dhonkho, Bhudha and Khelsang Jinpa;
- Calling on China to respect its commitments to protect the right to freedom of expression in accordance with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory.

Send appeals to:

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

CC. Secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Regional Party Committee
Zhang Qingli
Zhonggong Xizang Zizhiqu Weiyuanhui
Lhasashi, Xizang Zizhiqu
People's Republic of China

Please note that there are no fax numbers for the Chinese authorities. WiPC recommends that you copy your appeal to the Chinese embassy in your country asking them to forward it and welcoming any comments.

You may find it easier to write to the Chinese ambassador in your own country asking him or her to forward your appeal. Most embassies are obliged to forward such appeals to the relevant officials in the country. A letter or petition signed by an eminent member of your Centre may give make it more likely for your appeal to be considered. Similarly if your appeal is published in your local press and copied to the Chinese ambassador, this too may have greater impact.

See this useful link to find the contact details of the Chinese embassy in your country
[Chinese embassies abroad](#)

For further information please contact Cathy McCann at International PEN Writers in Prison Committee, Brownlow House, 50/51 High Holborn, London WC1V 6ER, Tel.+ 44 (0) 20 7405 0338, Fax: +44 (0) 20 7405 0339, email: cathy.mccann@pen-internationalpen.org