

Qiao Yanpei
Public Security Bureau
Yushu People's Government
Shengli Lu
Yushu, Qinghai 815000
People's Republic of China

Dear Police Chief:

A young Tibetan named **Tashi Wangchuk**, age 30, who advocates for Tibetan language education, has been detained and charged with "inciting separatism" since January 27, 2016, in Yushu, Qinghai Province.

Tashi Wangchuk is an advocate for greater Tibetan language education in schools where the population is Tibetan. On social media he has expressed his anxieties about many Tibetan children being unable to speak their mother tongue fluently and the gradual loss of Tibetan culture. The Constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees ethnic minorities the freedom to use and develop their ethnic languages and to maintain their own cultural and social customs. He does not advocate independence for Tibet and has praised President Xi Jinping for having "promoted a democratic and law-abiding country these last few years". Therefore his activities are within the scope of the constitution, and I urge you to:

Direct your staff to ensure Tashi has regular, unrestricted access to his family and to a lawyer of his choice, without delay, and that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment;

Immediately and unconditionally release Tashi, unless he is formally charged with an internationally recognizable criminal offense.

Respectfully yours,

Cc:
Ambassador Cui Tiankai
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place NW
Washington DC 20008