

Hao Peng  
Qinghai Sheng Remin Zhengfu  
Bangongshi  
12 Xi Dajie  
Xining, Qinghai 810000  
People's Republic of China

Dear Governor:

A young Tibetan named **Tashi Wangchuk**, age 32, who advocates for Tibetan language education, has been detained and charged with "inciting separatism" since January 27, 2016, in Yushu, Qinghai Province. He was tried on January 4, 2018. The only evidence presented by the prosecution was a nine-minute video produced by the New York Times.

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 he is only peacefully advocating for rights already guaranteed in the constitution, and I urge you to:

Immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Tashi.

Until he is released, direct your staff to ensure Tashi has regular, unrestricted access to his family and to a lawyer of his choice, and that he be protected from torture and other ill-treatment;

Respectfully yours,

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