

Chief Procurator
Yushu Zangzu Zizhizhou Remin Jianchayuan
Qionglong Lu, Jiegu Zhen, Yushu Shi
Yushu Zangzu Zizhizhou
Qinghaisheng 815000
People's Republic of China

Dear Chief Procurator,

I am writing to call your attention to the case of Tashi Wangchuk, who is a prisoner of conscience, a human rights defender and a peaceful advocate for increased Tibetan language education in schools in Tibetan populated areas. Tashi Wangchuk has been detained for his peaceful activism which is why I urge you to drop the charge against Tashi Wangchuk and release him immediately and unconditionally.

Prior to his arrest, Tashi Wangchuk had expressed his concerns about the gradual extinction of Tibetan culture. In 2015, Tashi Wangchuk visited Qinghai, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, where he found that Chinese had become the sole language of instruction and Tibetan language education was no longer valued. Tashi Wangchuk's story was featured by The New York Times, which detailed his trip to Beijing to seek legal assistance in filing a lawsuit against local officials regarding the lack of Tibetan language education in schools.

Tashi Wangchuk who was tried on 4 January after almost two years' pre-trial detention, with no access to his family, is now awaiting the court's verdict.

I urge you to drop the charge against Tashi Wangchuk and release him immediately and unconditionally. Tashi Wangchuk was arrested merely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression, a right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Chinese Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which China signed in 1998 and has repeatedly stated the intention to ratify.

Yours sincerely,