



Published on *International Campaign for Tibet* (<http://www.savetibet.org>)

Crackdown in Golog after protests; laypeople attempt to protect monks

International Campaign for Tibet

1 February, 2012

Tibetan laypeople sought to protect monks in Golog (Chinese: Guoluo) from arrest by armed troops after a peaceful protest, according to new information on unrest and crackdown in the area in recent weeks.

On January 18, around 20 monks from Arkyang monastery in Pema (Chinese: Banma) county, Golog (the Tibetan area of Amdo), staged a peaceful protest in Pema county town.

A Tibetan source in exile who is in contact with others in the area said that some monks were holding banners with inscriptions calling for the Dalai Lama to return home, for freedom, and for the Chinese authorities to release the 11th Panchen Lama. Some monks from another monastery in the area, Digung, also joined the protest.

According to the same source, the protestors marched past the local government office, and although armed police took away banners held by some of the Tibetans they did not attack or detain anyone.

The next day (January 19), a group of around ten armed police and officials from Pema county went to Arkyang monastery and called for the expulsion of monks who had taken part in the protest, threatening the monastery with closure. On January 20, armed police and troops came to the monastery again and attempted to detain monks. "At the same time, more than 500 local people came to the monastery and protected the monastery and monks from the troops. They were threatened by the armed forces but they did not back off," said a Tibetan from Amdo who is now in exile and is in contact with sources from Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which neighbors Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi). It is not known whether the officials and troops succeeded in detaining any monks that day, or since then, due to the difficulties in obtaining information from the area and the intense climate of fear.

On January 21, officials came to Arkyang (a Jonang Buddhist monastery) again and ordered monks to carry out "legal education" instead of their religious practice. According to the same sources, a number of monks left the monastery on the first day of the "legal education" campaign.

News has also emerged of two further peaceful protests in Pema county on January 24, the second day of Chinese (and Amdo) New Year, involving dozens of Tibetans. One of the protests appears to have been motivated by the threats to monks who participated in protests from January 18 onwards; a Tibetan source said: "The local people staged the protest because of the monks who staged the peaceful demonstrations earlier, calling for the

Dalai Lama to return home and for freedom. As a result of the monks' protest, the authorities ordered their arrest, and so the local people staged the demonstration in order to prevent this."

On the same day, around six or seven Tibetans staged a demonstration, carrying photographs of the Dalai Lama. According to the same source, this protest was violently broken up by police. Tibetans were seen bleeding after severe beatings. Some of the Tibetans held in custody after the two protests on January 24 were released the next day, but were injured due to torture in custody.

International Campaign for Tibet
1825 Jefferson Place NW | Washington, DC | 20036 | United States of America
Phone: (202) 785-1515 | Fax: (202) 785-4343 | info@savetibet.org
© 2012 International Campaign for Tibet

Source URL: <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/crackdown-golog-after-protests-laypeople-attempt-protect-monks>