

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Human Rights Council
Fiftieth Regular Session
September 19, 2022

Item 3: ID With the Working Group on Arbitrary detention

Statement delivered by Kai Mueller on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Mr. President,

We thank the Working Group for its report, and share its concerns regarding the extraction of confessions and other incriminating information through ill-treatment and torture.

In Tibet, this is a common practice occurring with complete impunity, as illustrated by the testimony of Dorjee Tashi, a Tibetan businessman sentenced to life in prison. Tashi's testimony documents the pre-trial torture and interrogation sessions, where interrogators assured him "even if we kill or handicap you, we are not liable under the law."¹ We call for Dorjee Tashi's immediate release and also urge the Working Group to call for an independent and impartial investigation into the credible reports of his torture and ill-treatment.

Arbitrary detention remains one of the greatest threats to the right to freedom of expression in Tibet, where it is commonly used to silence those who express dissent or any opinion that does not align with the Chinese Communist Party's official propaganda.

In addition to the notable and recently detained Tibetan intellectuals such as Go Sherab Gyatso², Rinchen Tzultrim³ and Lobsang Lhundup⁴, we have received information on four more writers - Thupten Lodeo, Rongwo Gendun Lhundup, Rongwo Gangkar and Nyima – were also either detained or sentenced since 2021 for expressing their opinions and thoughts on Tibetan national identity and culture.⁵

These cases reflect a pattern of incommunicado detention, lack of access to legal representation, due process and a fair trial. We urge the Working Group to raise these violations in its future opinions addressed to the Chinese government. We also call for the inclusion of Tibet into any Human Rights Council mechanism on China.

Thank you.

¹ *Testimony reveals pre-trial torture of Tibetan businessman-philanthropist*, International Campaign for Tibet, 16 August 2021, <https://savetibet.org/testimony-reveals-pre-trial-torture-of-tibetan-businessman-philanthropist/>

² AL CHN 7/2021

³ AL CHN 7/2021

⁴ AL CHN 14/2021

⁵ *Tibetan intellectuals and writers detained in recent spate*, International Campaign for Tibet, 30 June 2022, <https://savetibet.org/tibetan-intellectuals-and-writers-detained-in-recent-spate/>