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## 10 injured as Chinese police open fire on Tibetans in Derge

Phayul[Wednesday, August 13, 2014 23:29]

By Phuntsok Yangchen



Wangdak/file



An injured Tibetan shows his wounds to the camera/dhege.org



Tibetans demanding release of Wangdak, head of Shukpa Village/dhege.org

DHARAMSHALA, August 13: At least 10 Tibetans have been severely injured and several others arrested as Chinese police opened fire on protesters demanding release of a local Tibetan village leader in Denma town, Sershul County, Kardze Tibet Autonomous Prefecture, on Tuesday.

Over a hundred Tibetans sat outside the local Chinese administrative office in Denma town's Lochuk area protesting against the arrest of Wangdak, head of Shukpa village in Sershul County, who was taken away by the police around midnight on Monday from his home.

Sources say that Wangdak's arrest is connected to an argument with local Chinese officials who reportedly harassed some girl members of a dance troupe, which had been invited to perform at an annual festival. The members of the dance troupe had approached Wangdak who is known among his fellow villagers for helping local residents in various matters.

Wangdak had objected recently to the Chinese authorities' orders to cancel a local horse racing and religious gathering which they said were "illegal". Wangdak argued that horse racing and offering of incense have been traditional festivals of the Tibetans.

Wangdak's son and brother Sangpo have sustained gunshots, according to the source. The injured, some with serious casualties, are being treated in hospital. Due to restriction placed on communication lines in the area the current conditions of the injured are not known.

The same source added that Shukpa village headed by Wangdak did not participate in a Chinese government - organized festival of cultural performance to express their solidarity with self-immolations a few years ago.

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=35194&t=0>

## Death toll increases in Kardze as three more Tibetans die of untreated wounds after shooting

International Campaign For Tibet (<http://www.savetibet.org/author/international-campaign-for-tibet/>) ON AUGUST 21, 2014

Three more Tibetans died of untreated wounds after paramilitary troops fired upon unarmed Tibetans in Kardze, the Tibetan area of Kham, last week. (ICT report, Tibetans with wounds after shooting denied medical treatment: deployment of military leads to mass detentions in village in Kham (<http://www.savetibet.org/tibetans-with-bullet-wounds-after-shooting-denied-medical-treatment-deployment-of-military-leads-to-mass-detentions-in-village-in-kham/>) ) This follows the death of two other Tibetans held in custody, one of whom committed suicide, while the other died of untreated wounds.

The three Tibetans who died at the detention centre in Loshu (Chinese: Luoxu) in Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi,) were identified by exile Tibetan sources as Tsewang Gonpo, 60; Yeshe, in his early forties, and Jinpa Tharchin, who was 18. Their bodies were returned to their families earlier this week.

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A Tibetan living in India, Demay Gyaltsen, told Radio Free Asia: "They were refused medical care and had been tortured by the Chinese authorities." (RFA, Three More Detained Tibetan Protesters Die From Gunshot Wounds (<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/wounds-08192014131944.html>)

ICT has not been able to confirm the type of ammunition used by the paramilitary police (People's Armed Police) who fired upon the unarmed, peaceful crowd in Kardze. While it is likely that live ammunition was not used, 'anti-riot' rounds or similar projectiles are still capable of causing serious injury and death, directly exacerbated by the withholding of medical treatment.



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## Derge police firing death toll at 5, Tibetan exiles demand treatment for the injured

Phayul[Wednesday, August 20, 2014 12:47]

DHARAMSHALA, AUGUST 20: Three more Tibetans with gunshot wounds have succumbed to injuries as Chinese authorities continue to deny medical attention to the Tibetans injured in a firing on unarmed protesters demanding release of a local village chief in Denma town in Sershul County last week, sources said.

The bodies of the three, Tsewang Gonpo, 60; Yeshe, 42; and Jinpa Tharchin, 18; who belonged to the same family, have been handed over to the family on Monday.



Tibetans protest at the Chinese Embassy in New York/Aug. 18, 2014

The three were held at the detention center in Loshu township in the Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture along with scores of other Tibetans who were detained following a protest on Aug. 12.

Tsewang Gonpo was uncle of Dema Wangdak, Shukpa village's chief whose detention in the wee hours of Aug. 12 sparked off protests by local Tibetans the following day.

Two other Tibetans had died at the same detention center on Sunday, one dying of untreated gunshot wounds, while the other reportedly killed himself refusing to undergo further atrocities at the hands of Chinese police.

Even as protests by Tibetan advocacy groups continue around the world the Chinese authorities continue to deny medical treatment to those injured, many of whom had sustained gunshot wounds.

The International Campaign for Tibet has condemned the shooting and urged the international community must express their "abhorrence" of the actions by Chinese police to ensure that the injured Tibetans receive immediate medical attention.

"This alarming news indicates that the authorities in this area are apparently acting with complete and dangerous impunity," Matteo Mecacci, President of the International Campaign for Tibet, said in a statement on Monday.

A Tibetan source told RFA that the Chinese authorities called a meeting of Tibetan residents of Loshu Township on Monday. "On Aug. 18, the people of Denkor district in Loshu were summoned to a public meeting in which authorities urged people to spread the word that Wangdak's detention was not related to horse racing or making incense offerings, but rather was due to his embezzlement of public funds," the US funded radio quoted a Tibetan named Gyaltsen as saying.

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=35212&t=0>

## TCHRD condemns Chinese police shooting of unarmed Tibetans in Kardze

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Wangdak, the leader of Denma Shugpa Village was detained at midnight on 11 August 2014

Despite strict restriction on communication, information is coming out of Kardze (Ch: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province that Chinese paramilitary forces opened fire on unarmed Tibetan protesters on 12 August 2014. At least ten Tibetans were injured. The injured Tibetans suffered gunshot wounds to their heads and torsos. Photographs of the injuries appeared on social media sites shortly after the shooting.

The Tibetans were protesting the detention of Wangdak, 45, a widely respected village leader, the night

before. Local police officers detained Wangdak at midnight from his home in Denma Shugpa Village in Loshu (Ch: Luoxu) Township in Sershul (Ch: Shiqu) County, Kardze TAP.

Wangdak had advocated for Tibetans to be allowed to observe the Denma Horse Festival. According to a reliable source with contacts in Tibet, Wangdak argued that banning the observance of the festival was a violation of the religious freedom of Tibetans because the festival was part of Tibetan cultural and religious practice. Wangdak is also the chairman of the Denma Horse Festival Committee.

In the past, the Chinese promoted the horse festival as a secular tradition but recently they have clamped down on it, viewing any manifestation of Tibetan culture as a threat to stability. Previously, Wangdak had also stood up to Chinese officials who demanded that a group of local Tibetan women perform a welcoming ceremony for a visiting senior Chinese delegation. The Chinese authorities then harassed the women, who complained to Wangdak.

Sources with contacts in Tibet have also reported the detention of an unspecified number of Tibetans on the evening of 12 August in Denma Shugpa Village with the arrival of additional paramilitary forces. On 13 August, security forces surrounded the village. This forced many young, male residents to flee to the mountains or risk being detained, interrogated and tortured. Many of the men had called for the release of Wangdak. The remaining elderly, children and women are being subjected to strict interrogation and restrictions by the paramilitary forces. The source told TCHRD that the situation in Denma Shugpa Village has become urgent and could aggravate soon.

Earlier when self-immolation protests occurred in Sershul County, villagers of Denma Shugpa Village had rejected official order to participate in a public performance organized by the local government.

"This latest shooting demonstrates the contradictions within the Chinese policy of promoting stability," said Tsering Tsomo, the executive director of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. "Instead of promoting stability, the Chinese are concerned with crushing all dissent—even if that causes more instability. If they were truly interested in promoting stability, they would listen to Tibetans like Wangdak and work with the local community to address their grievances."

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) strongly condemns this latest attack on Tibetans and violation of their basic human rights that could rise to the level of crimes against humanity. TCHRD further calls for the immediate release of Wangdak and for the Chinese authorities to apologize and provide compensation to the local community.

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