

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We write today to express our deep concern about three Tibetan political prisoners, while noting that there are hundreds of other documented Tibetan political prisoners currently being held in Chinese prisons similarly worthy of our concern and attention. We urge you and others at the State Department, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, and the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu to raise their cases with the Chinese government, make every effort to obtain information about their whereabouts and health status, press for necessary medical treatment, and prioritize their release.

Khenpo Karma Tsewang, is a revered monastery abbot and community leader in the Tibet Autonomous Region, and well known for his environmental activism, disaster relief work, and commitment to the preservation of Tibetan language. Detained in December 2013, he was subsequently sentenced to two and a half years in prison for “harboring a fugitive monk.” Khenpo Kartse is believed to be seriously ill with a liver condition for which he is not receiving necessary medical treatment.

Lobsang Kunchok, a Sichuan-based Tibetan monk, was given a death sentence that was suspended for two years, and his nephew Lobsang Tsering was sentenced to ten years in prison for sending information regarding self-immolations in Tibet to Tibetans in exile. The authorities were seeking to suppress the dissemination of such information and claimed that the news was “used by some overseas media as a basis for creating secessionist propaganda.”

Thabkhe Gyatso, is a humble monk and respected writer from Labrang (Xiahe) in Gansu province, serving a 15-year sentence for distributing Tibetan flags during the protests of March 2008. Although he was in good health prior to detention, he is now partially paralyzed and can no longer walk, see or hear properly.

The imprisonment of these individuals—who have so much to contribute to Tibetan society and who did nothing other than exercise their fundamental human rights—is a grave tragedy and injustice. Again, we urge you to prioritize their cases in your discussions with Chinese officials and press for their immediate release.

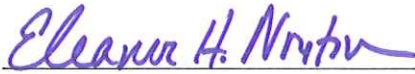
Sincerely,



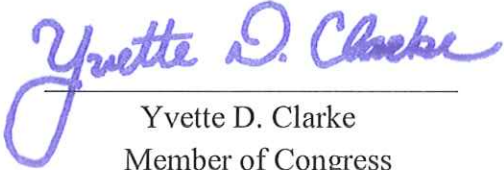
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



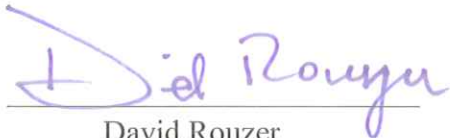
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



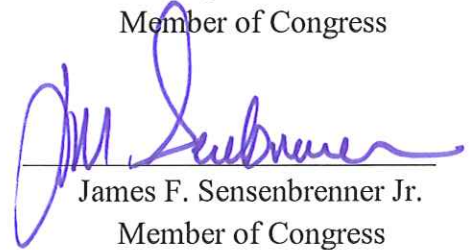
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



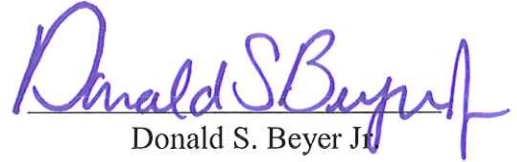
David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



James F. Sensenbrenner Jr.  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress