


[Home](#)

TYC-led Indefinite Hunger Strike launched: Day One



Protest march from Jantar Mantar to Parliament Street

Tibetan Youth Congress (Centrex) launched the Indefinite Hunger Strike unto Death on 8 July 2007 at 11.00 a.m. at Indian Standard Time (IST) at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, India. The fourteen participants of the hunger strike came from different regions of India. Just an hour before the program formally started, a large group of Tibetans living in Delhi staged a protest march from Jantar Mantar to Parliament Street, shouting pro-Tibet slogans – which set the stage of the hunger strike. The program formally began with an introduction of the TYC-led movement by Mr. Tsultrim Dorjee, General Secretary of Centrex. He said that the indefinite hunger strike is the second phase of the Mass People's Movement, the first being sending petitions.

It was followed by singing of the Tibetan National Anthem and then a minute of silence was observed in remembrance of brave men and women of Tibet who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of Tibet and Tibetans.

Mr. Kalsang Phuntsok Godrukpa, President of the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) outline the background, the need and the objectives of the Mass People's Movement, which includes the Indefinite Hunger Strike. He said, "Today we are sitting just opposite to the venue of the 1998 Hunger Strike, where martyr Thupten Ngodup set himself on fire after Indian police forcibly interrupted the unto death hunger strike. Today after nine years, we are again sitting here with fourteen committed hunger strikers. The difference is that we were pressing our demands to the United Nations then; and this time our demand is to the People's Republic of China, itself. It is the time to confront the Communist China head on. He further said that looking back at the history of the freedom struggle around the world, it is the voluntary turning of people in huge numbers in demonstrations, which were the decisive moments of freedom struggle around the world. At the most critical juncture in the history of Tibetan struggle, Tibetans will have to gear up voluntarily for a mass initiative to strengthen a unified voice to form a movement parallel to that of 10 March National uprising held in Lhasa in 1959. Hence, I appeal to every Tibetan, residing in any part of the world, to come and join the Mass People's Movement, due to held in 8 August 2007 in Delhi".



Mr. Kalsang Phuntsok Godrukpa, President of TYC delivering speech

As a chief guests, Ms. Rigzin Choenyi and Ms. Lhundup Sangmo, former political prisoners, famously known as Singing Nuns of Drapchi Prison, lit the prayer lamp and then offered scarf to H.H. The Dalai Lama's picture. Ms. Rigzin Choenyi, while narrating the brutal torture experience that she and her inmates endured at the hands of the Chinese authorities remarked that 'had there been no protest and outcry against the Chinese Government like this by the exiled Tibetans, we would have been silently killed by the Chinese authorities. She said that China comes under pressure due to the voice of Tibetans and Tibetan supporters. We must therefore continue to pursue our protest", she said.

The program ended with the prayer for truth "*Dhen tsik Monlam*", taking solemnity for the success of the movement.

The lists of the Hunger Strikers



Ven Gelek Gyatso
Youngang, monk, 34



Ven Tsondue Gyatso
Naknya, monk, 35



Passang Dorjee, male,
26



Tsering Norzom,
female, 67



Tsewang Dhargyal,
male, 65









Kesang Youdon,
female, 53



Lobsang, male, 75



Kalsang Dawa, male,
53

 Karma Sonam, male, 61	 Tashi Thondu, male, 73	 Jamyang Yeshe, male, 33	 Nyima Tsering, male, 31
	 Dawa Tsering, male, 66	 Tashi Wangdue, male, 54	

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