

16 March 2008 [Press Release]

At least seven shot dead in demonstration in Ngaba County

According to the latest confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD), at least seven people were known to have been shot dead including monks of Ngaba Kirti Monastery by the People's Armed Police (PAP) during the peaceful demonstration by thousands of people in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba) this afternoon. Hundreds of people are also known to have been injured in the incident following PAP crackdown on the protestors. The demonstration is still going on when the Centre received the information from the venue of demonstration.

The demonstration started around 11.30 AM (Beijing Time), when thousands of Tibetan monks of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Sichuan Province, gathered for a prayer session this morning. Shortly after the end of morning prayer session, thousands of monks erupted into spontaneous protest by raising slogans calling for "Tibet independence", "return of the Dalai Lama" and "freedom for Tibet". The demonstration was later joined by common citizens of Ngaba County total numbering thousands of people who were heading towards Ngaba County government headquarters.

TCHRD condemns in strongest terms the Chinese security agencies' use of brute force on the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators. The Centre will update on the situation as and when more information surfaces from the area.

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News Just in: Fresh protest by Amdo Ngaba Kirti monks

At around 11.30 AM (Beijing Time), thousands of Tibetan monks of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery, in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), Ngaba "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP") Sichuan Province, gathered for a prayer session this morning. Shortly after the end of morning prayer session, thousands of monks erupted into spontaneous protest by raising slogans calling for "Tibet independence", "return of the Dalai Lama" and "freedom for Tibet", according to a confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

According to the latest report just in, monks of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery which housed around 2800 monks, after morning Mani Dungdrup prayer session, the monks then erupted in a spontaneous protest by raising the banned Tibetan national flag, joined by the lay Tibetans, shouted slogans calling for "Bod Gyalo" (Victory to Tibet), "Long Live the Dalai Lama". In moment's time, the Chinese security police burst into the Monastery campus and lobbed tear gas on the Tibetan protestors. The Chinese security police were currently blocking the protestors from marching out of the Monastery premises. At the moment, there is no information about the arrests. The Centre is keeping track of the development inside Tibet and will update as and when more information surfaces.

Following a similar protest by the monks of Taktsang Lhamo Kirti Monastery (a branch of Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery), Dzoge County (Ch: Zoige) Ngaba "TAP" Sichuan Province yesterday afternoon, truckloads of troops were sent into the area to disperse the protesting crowd to put the situation under the control. In yesterday's protest at Ngaba, more than ten monks were reportedly

arrested and around five others injured following a violent crackdown by People's Armed Police (PAP) on the peaceful protestors.

TCHRD expresses its deepest concern about the safety of the peaceful demonstrators and expresses its deepest fear and anxiety for airing their grievance and peacefully exercising the freedom of expression, opinion and assembly. TCHRD condemns in strongest terms the Chinese security agencies' use of brute force on the peaceful Tibetan demonstrators.