

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 1996

President Jiang Zemin
c/o His Excellency Li Daoyu
Ambassador
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully request that you take the necessary steps to either release Tibetan Fulbright Scholar Ngawang Choephel or provide him a fair and public trial before a civilian and impartial court.

Mr. Choephel studied ethnomusicology at Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont in 1992 and 1993. In the summer of 1995 he returned to Tibet to make a nonpolitical documentary film about traditional Tibetan music and dance.

Mr. Choephel was arrested in a Shigatse market approximately one year ago today, and his travel documents, camera and two videotapes were confiscated. He has not been charged with any crime, and although others have reported seeing him in a Shigatse prison, your government has made no statement on his condition or whereabouts. Further, while we would also condemn detaining Mr. Choephel for political expression, the tapes which he had already mailed out of Tibet were purely cultural, and contained nothing of a political nature.

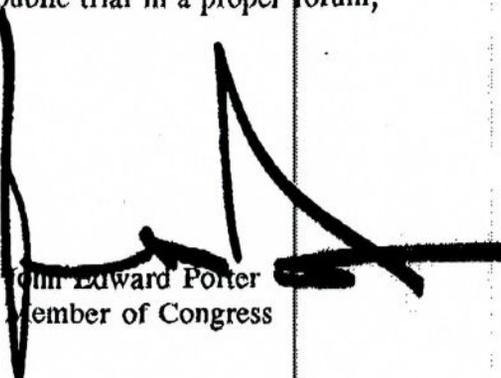
Ngawang Choephel has neither committed nor been charged with any crime. His extrajudicial incarceration violates numerous controlling provisions of international law and human rights, including those found in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We want very much to pursue friendly and productive relations between our peoples and governments, in full recognition of human rights and international law. But we find the use of arbitrary, extrajudicial arrest and incarceration to be a very serious violation of human rights. We ask you to either afford Ngawang Choephel a fair, public trial in a proper forum, or set him free.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress



Tom Edward Porter
Member of Congress

Tom Lantos

Tom Lantos, M.C.

Barney Frank

Barney Frank, M.C.

Charlie Rose

Charlie Rose, M.C.

John W. Olver

John W. Olver, M.C.

Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

Lane Evans

Lane Evans, M.C.

Neil Abercrombie

Neil Abercrombie, M.C.

Patricia Schroeder

Patricia Schroeder, M.C.

Chris Smith

Christopher H. Smith, M.C.

Ben Gilman

Benjamin A. Gilman, M.C.

Christopher Shays

Christopher Shays, M.C.

Frank R. Wolf

Frank R. Wolf, M.C.

Peter G. Torkildsen

Peter G. Torkildsen, M.C.

Bob Franks

Bob Franks, M.C.

Steve Stockman

Steve Stockman, M.C.

Herbert H. Bateman

Herbert H. Bateman, M.C.

Ronald V. Dellums

Ronald V. Dellums, M.C.

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett, M.C.

George Miller

George Miller, M.C.

Louise McIntosh Slaughter

Louise McIntosh Slaughter, M.C.

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren, M.C.

Joseph P. Kennedy, II

Joseph P. Kennedy, II, M.C.

Martin T. Meenan

Martin T. Meenan, M.C.

Jim McDermott

Jim McDermott, M.C.

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frank Pallone, Jr., M.C.

Maurice D. Hinchey

Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.

Peter A. DeFazio

Peter A. DeFazio, M.C.

William O. Lipinski

William O. Lipinski, M.C.

Peter J. Visclosky

Peter J. Visclosky, M.C.

Robert G. Torricelli

Robert G. Torricelli, M.C.

John Lewis

John Lewis, M.C.

Sam Farr

Sam Farr, M.C.

Gary L. Ackerman

Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.

Donald M. Payne

Donald M. Payne, M.C.

Lucille Roybal-Alford
Lucille Roybal-Alford, M.C.

David E. Bonior
David E. Bonior, M.C.

~~*Steny M. Royer*~~
Steny M. Royer, M.C.

Albert Russell Wynn
Albert Russell Wynn, M.C.

David Funderburk
David Funderburk, M.C.

Terrold Nadler
Terrold Nadler, M.C.

Howard L. Berman
Howard L. Berman, M.C.