

URGENT ACTION

TIBETAN RELIGIOUS LEADER DISAPPEARED

Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche, a Tibetan religious and education leader, has been missing since December 2025 after he was reportedly taken into custody by authorities in Qinghai province, China. Since then, there has been almost no information about his fate or whereabouts. The authorities should urgently disclose his location, ensure his rights are protected, and release him unless there is sufficient credible evidence of a recognizable criminal offence.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Secretary Wu Xiaojun

Qinghai Provincial Committee of the Chinese Communist Party
No. 12 Xida Street, Xining,
Qinghai Province, 81000,
People's Republic of China
Email: qhswzqyj@163.com

Dear Secretary Wu,

I am writing to express my grave concern about the fate and whereabouts of **Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche** (rendered in Mandarin by the authorities as **多杰且仁波切**), a Tibetan religious leader and founder of a monastery and a vocational school in Chikdril (Jiuzhi 久治) County in Golog (Guoluo 果洛) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province.

According to secondhand reports, Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche was taken into custody by authorities on or around 4 December 2025. Since then, there has been almost no information made available about where he is being held or on what legal basis. In January 2026, individuals following the case reportedly received indications that he was "under investigation". It is not clear whether he has had access to a lawyer of his choosing.

It is deeply distressing that, months after the first reports that Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche had been detained, his whereabouts and legal status remain unknown. Incommunicado detention places individuals at heightened risk of torture and other ill-treatment and is inconsistent with China's obligations under international human rights law.

It is alarming to learn that individuals with knowledge of the case have reportedly been warned, through direct instructions from local authorities, not to share information about the case. This suggests officially backed efforts to control information and discourage external reporting through intimidation and other tactics, a trend Amnesty International has regrettably documented across China.

I therefore urge you to promptly:

- **Provide legal proof of his whereabouts, and release him immediately from detention unless there is sufficient credible evidence that he has committed an internationally recognizable offence;**
- **Pending his release, ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and is granted prompt and regular access to a lawyer of his choice and to his family;**
- **End intimidation and restrictions against his family, relatives and others seeking information about his case.**

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche is a Tibetan religious and education leader from Chikdril (Jiuzhi) County in Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province. Born in 1967, he is recognized as a reincarnate lama (Rinpoche) and has long played an important role in local religious and community life. He founded and led a monastery in Mentang Township and established a vocational training school around 2010, which provided education in Tibetan language, culture and vocational skills.

The school offered both general subjects and specialised training, including Tibetan language, traditional arts, medicine and cultural practices. According to publicly available information, it grew into one of the largest vocational schools of its kind in the region, at one point enrolling over 800 students and graduating in total several thousand, many of whom went on to positions in higher education or employment. The school's work was known to and supported by local officials, including inspections as evidenced by state [media reports](#) and in at least one instance financial assistance via a cultural heritage project backed by a public bank and a state-linked development foundation. As recently as early November 2025, local government departments conducted inspections at the school, indicating that it remained operational shortly before his reported detention. The school was reportedly closed following his disappearance, and students were sent home.

In addition to his religious and educational work, Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche was active in local public structures, including as a member of the county-level political consultative system and in roles linked to the local people's congress. He also supported local livelihoods, including through business activities, and was widely regarded as a community leader who provided financial and social support to families in need.

Since his presumed detention in December 2025, the only news of Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche's status are limited word-of-mouth reports that he was "under investigation". In China, such terminology has often been used to refer to detention under the criminal investigation phase – prior to the procuratorate approving criminal detention or filing an indictment. Amnesty has documented dozens of cases of human rights defenders and others in China being held incommunicado for extended periods while "under investigation" without formal charge or access to legal representation.

Access to information from Tibetan-populated areas remains highly restricted, particularly for journalists, researchers and human rights organisations, making it difficult to independently verify cases of detention and disappearance. Over the years, Amnesty International has documented a number of cases, such as those of Tibetan religious leader Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, monk Rinchen Tsultrim and language activist Tashi Wangchuk, involving limited access to counsel, lack of transparency and other fair trial concerns.

In recent years, authorities in Tibetan areas – despite their nominal "autonomous" designation – have imposed increasing restrictions on Tibetan-language education and religious practices. Educational and cultural initiatives that promote Tibetan language and identity have faced heightened scrutiny and control. Religious leaders and educators have also been subject to surveillance, restrictions and, in some cases, detention, as part of broader state policies promoting "ethnic unity" and a unified national identity, alongside expanded ideological education and increased emphasis on Mandarin Chinese as the primary language of instruction. These measures have further narrowed the space for cultural and religious expression and reinforced state control over Tibetan Buddhist practices.

International human rights bodies have repeatedly expressed concern about the situation in Tibet and other regions of China. In his February 2026 update to the Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights noted the lack of progress in implementing previous recommendations concerning the rights of Tibetans and other affected communities.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Chinese, English
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 15 October 2026
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: [Choktrul Dorje Ten Rinpoche/ 多杰且仁波切] (he/him)