

[Sample -- Appeal letter for EU]

To

This is a plea to support the immediate release of Tibet's 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima.

The European Union (EU) has always placed human rights at the core of its relations with all countries including its strategic partners. It has vigorously promoted religious freedom, fought against all forms of discriminations, and advocated the rights of the oppressed like refugees, migrants and children.

Standing for the promotion of peace and stability and to build a world founded on respect for human rights, democracy and rule of law, the EU has passed numerous resolutions protecting and promoting human rights across the world. For instance, on 13 July and 14 December 1995, the European Parliament passed a resolution on the Panchen Lama and Religious freedom in Tibet. It highlighted out the issue of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama of Tibet and called the Chinese authorities to reveal his fate and whereabouts.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was recognised by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama on 17 May 1995. He was six years old at the time. Within three days he was abducted by the Chinese authorities, thus making him the world's youngest political prisoner. Since then, for 20 years Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family's whereabouts remain unknown. The Chinese government replaced the Panchen Lama confirmed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama with another young boy as their 11th Panchen Lama.

In recent times, an atheist Chinese government has aggressively been attempting to legitimize its control over the centuries-old Tibetan Buddhist traditions and reincarnation practice. In this context, and given his crucial cultural and religious role, it is critical that the 11th Panchen Lama receives a spiritual upbringing that is free from political interference.

Therefore we call upon you to urge China to:

- Reveal the fate and whereabouts of the 11th Panchen Lama as mentioned in the European Parliament resolution issued on 13 July and 14 December 1995.
- Receive United Nations' representatives to visit Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and confirm his well-being.
- Release Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and all Tibetan political prisoners.

Yours sincerely,