



Statement by Czech Parliamentary Support Group for Tibet on the 25th Year of Enforced Disappearance of Panchen Lama of Tibet, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima

On the 25th year of enforced disappearance of Tibet's 11th Panchen Lama Gendhun Choekyi Nyima, we, the undersigned members of parliament of Czech Republic, call for his immediate release along with his entire family and other Tibetan political prisoners.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was born on 25 April 1989 in Tibet. He was six-year-old when he was recognized as the 11th Panchen Lama of Tibet by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Within three days, on 17 May 1995 he and his entire family members were kidnapped by China and till date China has refused to disclose sufficient and satisfactory information about him. Last month, Tibetans were forced to celebrate the 31st birthday of their religious leader, the 11th Panchen Lama without even knowing whether he is alive or not.

This evinces the egregious human rights violations suffered by Tibetans under China. It therefore comes as no surprise that Tibet is consistently ranked as the second least free region in the world and the European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief has ranked China as one of the worst violators of religious freedom in the world in 2018. Not just Tibetan Buddhists, even Uighur Muslims and Christians are also facing religious persecution by China.

In light of this, we strongly condemn the enforced disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima for the last twenty-five years. It is a tragic milestone evincing the continuous crime being perpetrated by China not only against Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family but also against all the Tibetans who are deprived of their religious leader.

We urge our Government, the European Union and the United Nations to take serious note of this gross human rights violation and press China to release Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family members and stop China from meddling in the religious practices of the Tibetans including their system of recognition of reincarnations.

František Kopřiva
co-chair of Czech Parliamentary Support Group for Tibet

Statement by Czech Parliamentary Support Group for Tibet on the 25th Year of Enforced Disappearance of Panchen Lama of Tibet, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima

Co-signed by

Přemysl Rabas, co-chair of Czech Parliamentary Support Group for Tibet, senator

Dana Balcarová, member of parliament

Jan Čížinský, member of parliament

Jan Horník, senator

Jakub Janda, member of parliament

Lenka Kozlová, member of parliament

Tomáš Martínek, member of parliament

Jakub Michálek, member of parliament

Jiří Oberfalzer, senator

Vít Rakušan, member of parliament

Olga Richterová, member of parliament

Jitka Seitlová, senator

Ondřej Veselý, member of parliament

Tomáš Vymazal, member of parliament

Marek Výborný, member of parliament