

## [“In the Name of Human Rights. Set Free All Tibetan Political Prisoners”](#)

This is an original translation of [this post](#) from Tibetan blogger Woesser’s site. The site is currently blocked in Mainland China.

### Translation

Since the release of the National Human Rights Action Plan, the internal response in China has been large. It’s rare for a newspaper to dare to publish something like Nandu Daily’s [南方都市报] “In the Name of Human Rights, Make Public the Names of Those Killed in the Beichuan Earthquake” [“以人权的名义，公开汶川大地震震亡者大名单”], making reference to the clause in the plan that touches on the reestablishment of human rights in the wake of the quake, demanding the names be made public. In his article “Release Liu Xiaobo in the Name of Human Rights”, intellectual Ran Yunfei wrote: “...without action, only stopping for a second on the concept and doing nothing, well then ‘human rights’ can only remain a concept [in our minds, rather than a reality]...all those who have been locked up for something they said, all those who have been arrested and harmed even though their rights are protected under the constitution, including all those who [are arrested/beaten] while attempting to report [the crimes of officials] to higher authorities, officials should apologize to them, and set them free without condition. Like this we can put the Human Rights Plan into practice, turn it from conception into reality and, practically speaking, keep it from becoming another one of those often-heard-but-rarely-seen buzzwords on the tongues of fraudulent officials.”



Longzhen Wangmu

So I will imitate; my main point here is to appeal: set free all those Tibetans who have been locked up for something they said, all those who have been arrested and harmed even though their rights are protected under the constitution. For example, there’s Zhuo Majia, sentenced to ten years for writing *Disturbance in the Himalayas* and a new book on the history of Tibetan geography in 2005, or Rongjie Azha, who was arrested on August 1, 2007 for calling for the

return of the Dalai Lama, or Dangzhi Xiangqian, arrested in March 2008 for filming the documentary *No Longer Afraid* and showing the world the Tibetan people's attitude towards the Beijing Olympics, or Longzhen Wangmu, sentenced to five years for sending emails about Tibet's geographical situation in April 2008, etc. etc. And this year, once again, many Tibetan authors were jailed for writing articles promulgating the truth, they are: Gengga Cangying, Gongque Caipei, Zhuo Ri, Ci Cheng, etc. The list I've provided here is very short, very short indeed, but the actual list of names is very long, very long indeed.

International human rights group Reporters Without Borders said, in terms of reporters, dissidents, netizens, and activists jailed for fighting for freedom of speech, China is far, far ahead of other countries. And it seems as though from China's large population and 56 minority groups, Tibetans seem to be far, far ahead of everyone else as well. Chinese intellectuals appeal to the authorities: "For the future of the nation, for the happiness of the people, for the image of the ruler, please quickly set free all political prisoners!" "Human Rights don't just need to be promoted, they also need to be practiced, and be practically implemented!" "Merely saying good things is useless, human rights without action are just words on a piece of paper, a plan without action is just a piece of wastepaper!" Moreover, if they don't respect their own National Human Rights Action Plan and arrest people who are putting the human rights plan into practice, isn't that just deceiving oneself along with others, and going back on one's word to feather one's own nest?



Rongjie Azha

Early the year before last, Rongjie Azha was accused of "being involved in inciting [people] to overthrow the State" and sent to prison for merely attempting to speak his mind for a few minutes. Commenting on it on Radio Free Asia, I said that as far as Tibetans who are in jail because of so-called "political problems" are concerned, whether you just look at the numbers or other aspects of the problem, there has never been a half century like this one, with so many arrested, or with the arrests so widespread and endless. It's all Tibetans that are filling the prisons being continuously built around the province. As for the tough response of

unyielding, exasperated authorities, on the surface it looks effective but it can't last; rushing undercurrents always eventually break free and burst through the dyke. There's concrete proof, this is not sensationalizing, last year and this year how many "Protecting Tibet" protest incidents have occurred, it proves the state of human rights in Tibet is truly grim, it certainly isn't what officials at all levels brazenly describe as "the best time for human rights in Tibetan history." If it were, how could it give rise to such widespread indignation and discontent? Only when there is practical improvement in the human rights situation across Tibet can a better age for human rights be realized.

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