

A list of torture-related deaths in Tibet (2008 - 2022)



UN, EU, and the Human Rights Desk
Department of Information and International Relations
Central Tibetan Administration

Photo	Name	Age	Charge or Accusation	Details of Death
	Kunchok Jinpa	51	Kunchok Jinpa was detained by the Chinese authorities on 8 November 2013 along with hundreds of Tibetans from Driru county after a series of peaceful protests against China's compulsory flag-flying campaign , without his family's knowledge.	https://tibet.net/a-tibetan-tour-guide-dies-from-prison-injuries-in-driru-tibet/
	Tenzin Nyima	19	Tenzin Nyima, also known as Tamey, was initially detained along with three other monks Kunsal (20), Soetra and Tsultrim (both around 18) two days after hundreds of hand-written leaflets calling for Tibet's independence were found scattered outside a local government office on 7 November 2019.	He passed away on 19 January 2021 after he was declared to be in a state of paralyzed, comatose and gravely ill . https://tibet.net/young-tibetan-monk-dies-from-beatings-in-chinese-custody-six-others-sentenced-in-dza-wonpo-tibet/
	Lhamo	36	Lhamo, 36, was reportedly detained in June by the Chinese authorities for "sending money to family members or other Tibetans in India," a common practice among Tibetans in Tibet.	She was severely bruised and unrecognizable to her family before she passed away in August 2020. https://tibet.net/tibetan-woman-tortured-to-death-in-chinese-custody-cousin-detained-for-sending-money-abroad/
	Choekyi		Choekyi was detained on 19 June 2015 for celebrating the 80th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama by wearing a t-shirt that has a message: "kue-gya-ton-su" roughly translated as, "Celebrating 80th Birthday". He was then sentenced to four years in prison on allegedly inciting "separatist activities" .	He passed away on 7 May 2020 after his kidney ailment and other health-related issues deteriorated during his prison sentence. https://tibet.net/tortured-and-refused-medical-treatment-tibetan-political-prisoner-choekyi-dies-in-tibet/
	Samdup		Samdup was sentenced to three years in prison for staging a peaceful protest with 15 other monks on 12 May 1992, in Lhasa. After he served his initial three years, he was again imprisoned for another four years for unknown reasons.	He passed away on 17 February 2020, following years of prolonged injuries from prison tortures. https://tibet.net/former-tibetan-political-prisoner-samdub-passes-away-at-the-age-of-50-in-tibet/

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	Tsering Bhakdo	51	Tsering Bhakdo was arrested along with several other Tibetans after they raised the banned Tibetan national flag and called for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet and free Tibet on the street of Lhasa on 10 June 1992. The Lhasa People's Intermediate Court sentenced Tsering Bhakdo to an eight-year prison term in November 1992 and was transferred to the Drapchi prison, notorious for the brutality inflicted on the inmate.	He passed away on 26 April 2020 , from prolonged illness due to torture in Chinese prison. https://tibet.net/one-more-torture-survivor-former-political-prisoner-passes-away-in-tibet/
Photo Unavailable	Gendun Sherab		Gendun Sherab was arrested in 2017, in Lhasa on the charge of "sharing and disseminating politically sensitive documents" on WeChat and social media related to the reincarnation of a Tibetan lama. He was detained for three months during which he was subjected to severe beatings and torture.	He passed away on 18 April 2020 from prolonged injuries and denial of medical care . https://tibet.net/tibetan-monk-dies-after-two-years-of-ill-health-due-to-brutal-torture-in-chinese-prison/
	Tashi Phuntsok	60	Ven. Tashi Phuntsok was detained in April 2002, from his monastery, Jamyang Choekhorling Monastery in Nyachukha (Ch: Yajiang) on the false charge of colluding with Tulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche in trumped-up charges of involvement in a series of bomb explosions . After a sham trial, in November 2002 the Karze People's Intermediate Court sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment.	He died on 16 March 2020 from prolonged illness sustained in prison. https://tibet.net/tibetan-monk-aide-of-tulku-tenzin-delek-rinpoche-dies-at-60-after-prolonged-illness-imprisonment/
	Norsang	36	Norsang was initially detained around the end of the September in 2019, days before the 70th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) rule, along with several other Tibetans. He was subjected to patriotic education sessions and remained in detention while others were released. Norsang died under unknown circumstances in Chinese custody. The authorities said that he died of suicide of fabricated reasons.	He died following constant torture in Chinese custody. https://tibet.net/tibetan-father-of-six-who-opposed-ccps-political-re-education-tortured-to-death-in-2019/

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	Yeshe Gyatso	50	In 2008, he was arrested for his involvement in the Rebgong protests and for sharing information about other protests. He was severely beaten during his detention in prison for months.	On 1 May 2019, he died as a result of injuries sustained following his release and mental trauma . https://tibet.net/one-more-torture-survivor-former-political-prisoner-yeshi-gyatso-passes-away/
	Pema Wangchen	30s	For having sung the Tibetan National Anthem in a video which became viral, he was arrested in April 2016 however, was released in May 2016 because of poor health.	His health deteriorated after his detention , all of which contributed to his death on 26 April 2019. https://tibet.net/tibetan-man-tortured-for-singing-tibetan-national-anthem-dies/
	Lekshey Thubten	50s	Hailing from Lhundrub county, he was arrested in March 1995 for protesting against the patriotic re-education campaigns introduced in his monastery.	He passed away in April 2019 after his health deteriorated after his release in 2000 . https://tibet.net/former-tibetan-political-prisoner-lekshey-thupten-passed-away/
	Ngawang Tsomo	51	She was arrested in 1993 for taking part in peaceful protests in Lhasa. Sentenced to seven years in prison in Drapchi prison “in a sham trial, without any due process”.	Having been seriously injured during her detention, she died in 27 January 2019 after her health deteriorated. RFA news report
	Shonu Palden	41	He was arrested in 2012 for spurring protests during the 2008 uprising and was released one year ahead of his actual sentence with multiple health complications . He was later sentenced to two years and nine months imprisonment.	He succumbed to his injuries on 30 September 2018 after being released in very critical condition . https://tibet.net/former-political-prisoner-dies-after-suffering-prolonged-illness-due-to-torture-in-prison/

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	Khenrab Tharchin	40	He was arrested in 2008 for having opposed patriotic re-education campaign and was released in 2013. He was later sentenced to five years in prison where he suffered torture in the hands of the Chinese authorities.	Following his release due to poor health, his health continued to deteriorate and he passed away in August 2016 . https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/tibetan-political-prisoner-who-opposed-patriotic-reeducation-campaign-dies-08092016160702.html
	Yeshe Lhakdron	25	She was arrested for calling for freedom from China's rule in 2008 along with two other nuns in Karze. Chinese police detained them immediately. Following their interrogation in police custody during which they were subjected to beatings and torture.	After enquiring about her for a long time, her family members were forced to conclude that she had succumbed to torture in police custody. https://tchrd.org/tibetan-nun-disappeared-since-2008-died-of-torture-in-chinese-police-custody/
	Yudruk Nyima	40	He was arrested at his residence on suspicion of possessing a gun . Nyima was severely beaten by police who then tried to move him to the Dege county seat.	He passed away on the way while still in police custody due to severe injuries from intensive torture in June 2016. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/killed-07012016144036.html
	Tashi	30s	He had been arrested without a credible explanation several days before the 57th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising Day. “He was severely beaten and tortured while in detention , and became so desperate that he ended his life,” a source said, with no details on how he ended his life.	He committed suicide at the detention center on 11 March 2016 following unbearable torture by the police. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/torture-04012016162039.html

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	Gyaye Phuntsok	85	He had travelled to India in 1992 and met with Dalai Lama. And on his return, he had built a temple where he kept religious scriptures brought from India. Phuntsok was then sentenced in 1998 to a two-year term in prison , where the torture he suffered disabled both his legs, leaving him unable to stand.	A severe injury from his prison term left him bedridden, and he died in 2016 , almost two decades after his release. RFA news report
	Trigyal		He was detained after refusing to fly the Chinese flag.	He was sentenced to 13 years in prison but died in 2016 due to injuries. RFA news report link
	Tenzin Delek Rinpoche	65	False charges of a bomb blast.	Died in Chinese prison on 12 July 2015 while serving life imprisonment since 2002. https://tibet.net/tenzin-delek-rinpoche-dies-in-chinese-prison/
	Lobsang Yeshe	60s	On 7 May 2014, he is accused of involvement in an anti-mining protest in the Gyalmo Ngulchu region (one of the main rivers in Eastern Tibet).	On 19 July 2015, he died while serving a two-year sentence at the Chushul prison in Lhasa. RFA news report link
	Goshul Lobsang	43	Goshul Lobsang was detained in May 2010 after Chinese police accused him of leading a peaceful protests denouncing Chinese rule in Machu county in 2008. He was later kept in a jail in the provincial capital Lanzhou.	He passed away on 19 March 2014 only a few months after being released on medical parole from prison on 27 October 2013. https://tibet.net/tibetan-political-prisoner-dies-of-torture/



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	Tenzin Choedak	34	In 2008, he was allegedly one of the ringleaders of protests in Lhasa.	He died on 5 December 2014 , while servicing a 15-year sentence in Chushul prison. https://tchrd.org/remembering-the-fearless-ghost-tenzin-choedrak-1981-2014/
Photo Unavailable	Tashi Paljor	34	He was accused of possessing politically sensitive writings and videos.	Died on 1 March 2014, after he released in a state where he couldn't speak a word. Severe torture likely took place while he was in detention. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/banned-03062014152359.html
Photo Unavailable	Ngawang Monlam/Bachen Gyalwa	50s	He was arrested and detained because of his efforts to promote Tibetan culture and the economic well being and unity of the Tibetan people.	Died in custody of Chinese police on 21 November 2014. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/banned-03062014152359.html
Photo Unavailable	Yeshe	42	Alleged role in protest against arbitrary arrest of village leader Wangdak on 11 August 2014	Died in detention on 17 August 2014 after he was refused medical care following severe torture. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/wounds-08192014131944.html
Photo Unavailable	Tsewang Gonpo	60	Alleged role in protest against arbitrary arrest of village leader Wangdak on 11 August 2014	Died in detention on 17 August 2014 after he was refused medical care following severe torture. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/wounds-08192014131944.html

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Photo Unavailable	Jinpa Tharchin	18	Alleged role in protest against arbitrary arrest of village leader Wangdak on 11 August 2014	Died in detention on 17 August 2014 after he was refused medical care following severe torture. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/wounds-08192014131944.html
Photo Unavailable	Konchok Dakpa	20s	He was arrested in relation to his participation in the protest in May 2013 against Chinese mining at the sacred Naglha Dzamba Mountain.	He was severely beaten and tortured and passed away on 20 January 2014. His family were warned to keep the news secret by Chinese officials. https://tchrd.org/repression-escalates-in-tibets-diru-county-tibetan-youth-beaten-to-death-2-others-given-heavy-sentences-and-another-disappeared/
Photo Unavailable	Karmey	22	Arrested for refusing to vote for the candidate of the Chinese authorities in a local election. He was reportedly beaten brutally in detention on 10 December 2014.	Died in hospital a day after he was detained on 11 December 2014. https://www.phayul.com/2014/12/15/35562/
Photo Unavailable	Karwang	36	Alleged role in putting pro-independence posters. He was severely beaten so that he would confess to having committed the crime , but he refused.	He passed away in detention on 28 May 2013. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/jail-06132012151826.html
Photo Unavailable	Guldrak	29	He was arrested and detained for alleged crime of theft on 8 August 2013.	Died in 2013 due to severe beatings during interrogation and torture in detention. http://www.phayul.com/2013/08/13/33856/
Photo Unavailable	Kaldo		He was taken into custody on 21 April 2013 for keeping recordings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's speeches .	He was severely beaten in detention and passed away a week later on 28 April 2013. RFA news report link

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	Ngawang Jamyang	45	Alleged connection with the “ exile separatist forces. ”	Died in Chinese prison in December 2013. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/beaten-12192013165055.html
	Tsultrim Gyatso	51	He was arrested for calling for free Tibet and displaying portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.	After six months in detention, he was handed over to family incapacitated and died on 22 January 2012. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/torture-01222012193027.html
Photo Unavailable	Tsering Gyaltzen	40	Arrested for his alleged role in protest on 23 January 2012 in Drakgo, Karze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. He was severely beaten and suffered a broken spine.	He disappeared for a few months. In May 2012, a police officer informed his monastery that he had died. https://tchrd.org/monk-disappears-from-hospital-after-police-beatings/
Photo Unavailable	Jamyang Jinpa	37	For sharing information by speaking openly to a foreign journalists on suppression of human rights and religious freedom.	Died on 3 April 2011 at home. He suffered broken hands and legs during ten days of interrogation. https://tibet.net/monk-tortured-over-2008-tibet-protest-dies/
Photo Unavailable	Yeshe Tenzin	47	He was arrested for distributing pamphlets calling for Tibet's independence and for possessing audio tapes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings.	Died on 7 October 2011, after six months from his release. https://tibet.net/former-tibetan-political-prisoner-yeshe-tenzin-passes-away/
Photo Unavailable	Bulug	50s	Unknown	Died in March 2011 due to severe injuries sustained during his imprisonment; Denial of medical treatments and family visitations. https://savetibet.org/torture-and-impunity-29-cases-of-tibetan-political-prisoners/

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Photo Unavailable	Norlha	49	Protested against the arbitrary arrest of two Tibetans: Gyurmey Gonpo and Gyatsang Dorjee.	Died on 27 December 2011. Released from prison on medical parole a few months before he died. https://savetibet.org/torture-and-impunity-29-cases-of-tibetan-political-prisoners/
Photo Unavailable	Thinlay	N/A	He was detained without trial for seven months along with several other Tibetans following a peaceful protest in April 2009 . The same sources noted that the torture left him emotionally traumatized and nearly half his body paralyzed.	After seven months, he was released to his family. On August 10, 2011, Thinlay died despite medical attention. He had suffered irreversible brain damage . https://savetibet.org/torture-and-impunity-29-cases-of-tibetan-political-prisoners/
Photo Unavailable	Thupten Lektzog	N/A	Thubten Lektzog was arrested and subjected to brutal torture in Gutsa detention center in Lhasa for participation in peaceful protest in 1989. He was later sentenced to three years in prison, where he continued to be tortured.	Suffered from broken hands and legs ; Vomited blood and lost consciousness and paralyzed because of beatings; He died at his home in January, 2010. https://savetibet.org/torture-and-impunity-29-cases-of-tibetan-political-prisoners/
Photo Unavailable	Pema Tsepag	24	For carrying Tibetan national flags and staging peaceful protests.	Died on 23 January 2009. Failed to recover from severe kidney injury due to torture in prison. https://savetibet.org/state-department-report-on-human-rights-2009/
Photo Unavailable	Yangkyi Dolma	33	Yangkyi Dolma and her colleague Sonam Yang, a nun aged 28, took to the streets in Karze and chanted peaceful slogans such as “ long live His Holiness the Dalai Lama , invite His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet”, and demanding religious freedom and human rights in Tibet.	Died on 6th December 2009 in Chengdu hospital, a few months after being severely beaten and torture in prison. https://tibet.net/tibetan-nun-succumbs-to-torture-over-peaceful-protest-against-china/

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Photo Unavailable	Phuntsok Rabten	27	For disseminating political leaflets .	Chinese officials beat him to death. Local villager found his body at the bottom of the hill near Samtenling nunnery on 26 March 2009. https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/monk-death-03302009161540.html
	Geshe Sonam Phuntsok	57	Arrested and sentenced to five years in prison for organizing religious activities and for conducting a long life prayer ceremony for the Dalai Lama in October 1999.	Died on 5 April 2008 due to injuries he suffered while in prison for five years. https://tchrd.org/a-popular-tibetan-religious-figure-geshe-sonam-phuntsok-passes-away-in-kardze/
Photo Unavailable	Ngawang Yonten	N/A	Ngawang Yonten was arrested after he participated in protests in Lhasa in March 2008 .	He suffered from severe torture in prison and died while still in custody in 2008. It took several appeals to senior officials before his body was returned to his family for traditional funeral rites. https://savetibet.org/torture-and-impunity-29-cases-of-tibetan-political-prisoners/
Photo Unavailable	Tendar	28	Attempted to protect an elderly man, who was brutally beaten by Chinese police in March 2008	Died on 19 July 2008 following severe torture by Chinese security personnel. https://savetibet.org/torture-and-impunity-29-cases-of-tibetan-political-prisoners/
Photo Unavailable	Paltsal Kyab	45	Involved in peaceful demonstration against Chinese occupation of Tibet on 17 March 2008.	Died on 26 May 2008 while in police custody. https://savetibet.org/torture-and-impunity-29-cases-of-tibetan-political-prisoners/