



MISSING FOR 29 YEARS

China, Where is Tibet's Panchen Lama?

29 Facts about the 11th Panchen Lama on the 29th Year of His Disappearance

1. The 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was born on 25 April 1989 in Lhari Dzong in Nagchu, Tibet.
2. His parents were Dechen Chodron and Kunchok Phuntsok.
3. Panchen Lama is one of the highest and important religious leaders in Tibetan Buddhism.
4. As soon as he was able to speak, he said "I am the Panchen. My monastery is Tashilhunpo. I sit on a high throne and my monasteries are in Tsang, in Lhasa and China."
5. The 10th Panchen Lama, Lobsang Trinley Lhundup Choekyi Gyaltzen, passed away on 28 January 1989, under mysterious circumstances.
6. China declined His Holiness the Dalai Lama's appeal for permission to conduct prayers by his representatives in Tashilhunpo Monastery for the 10th Panchen Lama.
7. China rejected His Holiness the Dalai Lama's offer to assist in the search for the 11th Panchen Lama as "outside interference."
8. Under Gyayak Rinpoche, the 10th Panchen Lama's tutor, China formed a Search Committee for the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama.
9. After the death of Gyayak Rinpoche, Chadrel Rinpoche, the abbot of Tashilhunpo Monastery, was appointed as the head of the Search Committee in 1991.
10. Chadrel Rinpoche sent a petition to His Holiness the Dalai Lama with updates on the Search Committee's progress with the list of potential candidates.
11. His Holiness the Dalai Lama replied to Chadrel Rinpoche's petition via official channels requesting the Search Committee be allowed to come to India. China rejected the request once again.
12. His Holiness performed elaborate religious rites to identify the 10th Panchen Lama's reincarnation.

13. On 14 May 1995, His Holiness the Dalai Lama officially announced Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the 11th Panchen Lama.

14. He was conferred with the official name Tenzin Gedhun Yeshe Trinley Phuntsok Pal Sangpo.

15. China rejected His Holiness Dalai Lama's announcement and recognition of the 11th Panchen Lama.

16. On 17 May 1995, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents were abducted by the Chinese authorities.

17. At the age of six, Panchen Gedhun Choekyi Nyima became the youngest political prisoner in the world.

18. Chinese authorities removed Chadrel Rinpoche as head of the Search Committee and he "disappeared".

19. On 21 April 1997, Chadrel Rinpoche was sentenced to six years' imprisonment.

20. Since his "release" in 2002, the whereabouts of Chadrel Rinpoche remain unknown.

21. China reformed the search committee and conducted their own appointment process for the 11th Panchen Lama.

22. On 11 November 1995, Chinese authorities rigged their own procedure to install their candidate, Gyaltzen Norbu, son of communist party members, as Panchen Lama.

23. Many governments, the United Nations and international community have repeatedly called upon the PRC government to reveal the whereabouts of the 11th Panchen Lama.

24. Around 40 indictments calling for the release and well being of the 11th Panchen Lama and his family have been filed since his enforced disappearance.

25. China has maintained that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his parents, who have not appeared in public since 1995, "do not want to be interrupted" by any "external environment", and that "he has a very good life".

26. Panchen Lama's abduction constitutes a gross violation of multiple human rights protected by various international treaties and laws, many of which China is legally obliged to respect, promote, and protect.

27. Since 1995, the PRC government has maintained that Panchen Rinpoche "has a very good life."

28. Efforts to arrange an independent expert to visit Gedhun Choekyi Nyima have been unsuccessful so far.

29. Even after 29 years of enforced disappearance, there is no verified information available on his whereabouts.



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