

Testimony by Lukar Jam
June 2012, Washington D.C., U.S.A.

- ❖ Ancient Tibet's common laws and practices, including civil and criminal procedures, for prisoners /detainees in pre-occupation Tibet.
- ❖ Treatment of Tibetan detainees and prisoners in according to Chinese laws, regulations, norms and practices for prisoners after occupation of Tibet.
- ❖ Ethnological, historical and cultural variations in prison conditions and enforcement of regulations and procedures in Chinese administered prisons across Tibet – A personal experience.
- ❖ Psychological impacts or scars on Tibetan political prisoners during, and after completion of, prison sentence.
- ❖ Comparison and Contrast of norms and treatments for detainees in autocratic Chinese controlled Tibet versus democratic India – A personal experience.

A BRIEF

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

I, Lukar Jam, was born on 3 February 1969 in Sangak Township, Shinghai (Ch: Xinhai) County of Tsolho (Ch: Hainan) “Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture” (“TAP”), Amdo (Ch: Qinghai) Province. Chinese authorities arrested me in March 1993 on my return to Tibet after studying for one year in India at a Tibetan exile school. Unable to lead a normal life due to constant harassment, I decided to flee Tibet but was arrested on the way at Dhingri County, Shigatse Prefecture, “Tibetan Autonomous Region” (“TAR”). After more than a years’ detention in Shigatse Nyari Prison and Seitru in “TAR”, Tsolo Intermediate People’s Court sentenced me on 28 July 1994 to 18 years prison term on charges of “Counter Revolutionary”, “Splittist activities” and for being the ringleader of “counter revolutionary crimes”. I was then held in the Terlengkha (Ch: Delingha) Public Security Bureau Detention Centre. I was released on 28 April 1995 on medical parole after I had become seriously ill and only weighed 30 kg.

I left Tibet after I recovered from my illness and arrived in Dharamsala in India on 17 November 1997. I worked in the Research and Analysis Wing of the Department of Security in the Central Tibetan Administration of H.H. the Dalai Lama till 5th March 2005. I am currently the Working President of Gu-Chu-Sum, an organization dedicated to welfare of former political prisoners, based in Dharamsala, India. I am a freelance researcher, writer, poet and political commentator.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

As a former Tibetan political prisoner and more importantly heading an organization, Gu-Chu-Sum, which is dedicated to the welfare of former Tibetan political prisoners, I have a moral, as well as an organizational responsibility, to speak and share about the causes, state, conditions, and problems of Tibetan political prisoners.

Having detained in many detention centres/prisons across Tibetan areas, I have personal experiences and stories to share different norms and practices in detention centres due to ethnological, historical and cultural variations.

In February 1992, I was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment on the so-called Counter Revolutionary Charges by the Chinese Government. After serving almost 5 years of imprisonment in detention centres and prisons in Tibetan areas, I was released on medical parole (when I have turned into skeleton as a result of extreme poor health conditions and when the authorities deemed my death was imminent).

I was initially detained in Shigatse Detention Centre which was followed by Setrul Detention Centre in Lhasa (both Shigatse and Lhasa are the traditional heartland and capital city of pre-occupied Tibet). I was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment, detained for several months nearby my hometown at PeNan Detention Centre in Qinghai Province. At Pe-Nan Detention Centre, most of the inmates and jailers were composed of Hui Muslims albeit a big presence of Han Chinese inmates and jailers.

I was subsequently detained at Tenlingka Detention Centre in North of Qinghai Province, the architect and the style of the building of the Detention Centre bears Russian influence. Many of the inmates and the authorities in this Detention Centre were of Mongolian origin.

In exile, after coming to India, I was briefly detained in Dharamsala, India.