

# HER CRIME? 5 MINUTES OF PEACEFUL PROTEST. HER PUNISHMENT? 18 YEARS OF BRUTAL TORTURE.



Ngawang Sangdrol was first arrested at the age of 13.

Her "crime" was to take part in a 5-minute demonstration by Buddhist nuns calling for the independence of Tibet.

She was detained without trial for 4 months. According to other prisoners, she was badly beaten and subjected to torture by thumb-cuffs.

(One arm is placed behind the back, the other over the shoulder, and the thumbs cuffed together.)

In 1992, aged 15, Ngawang was again arrested for attempting to stage another

pro-independence demonstration.

Or, as the Chinese authorities called it, "incitement to subversive and separatist activities".

She was sentenced to 3 years in Thasa's Dragchi prison.

Whilst in jail, she made a tape recording of nationalist songs which was smuggled out of prison and circulated in Tibet.

For this, she received another 6 years. In 1996, she failed to stand up when an official entered the room.

Whilst undergoing punishment for this, she shouted "Free Tibet".

Her sentence was increased by a further 9 years.

We hear from former prisoners that Ngawang is regularly tortured.

That her hands are permanently damaged from the violent interrogation she underwent when she was first arrested at 13.

That she has spent many months of her sentence in a confinement cell with no windows or light.

That whilst in solitary confinement she was fed a single bun or dumpling a day.

Why are we telling you this?

Isn't the world full of people who are imprisoned, beaten and tortured for standing up for their rights?

Yes it is. But it is also full of people who are prepared to stand up on their behalf.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

After what you've just read you may not think that there is much cause for celebration.

But Amnesty International campaigns relentlessly, all over the world, to defend the Declaration's principles and to gain the release of prisoners of conscience.

And it works.

Wei Jingsheng was imprisoned for 18 years for expressing anti-government views in Beijing.

On his release in December last year, he wrote to thank us for our work on his behalf. His letter ended thus:

"Your work is of enormous value to those suffering from political oppression. It is perhaps more successful than you yourselves have ever realized... please keep the faith."

Ngawang Sangdrol is now 21 years old. She has spent 6 years in jail. She has another 12 years to serve.

A year is a long time in jail.

A month is a long time in darkness.

A day is a long time in thumb-cuffs.

Do you have the time to fill in the coupon or pick up the phone?

You may say yes, I must do something. But please, do it now.

Good intentions don't ease the agony of torture.

I want to be a member of Amnesty International. Here's my annual subscription fee:

£21 Individual    £27 Family    £150 Student    £750 Under 25    £150 Clergy    £750 Senior Citizen ...  
I wish to donate    £500    £250    £100    £50    £25    £10    Other

Mr/Ms

Address

Postcode

Please charge my Access/Visa/Mastercard number:

Card valid from

Expires

Signed

Please fill in if I am 18 or will be 18 in the next 12 months. To join or make a donation please call 0345 91 11 16. Calls are charged at local rates. Tel: Dept. 44, Amnesty International UK, Troop, London EC1R 3BU. [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)



AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNITED KINGDOM