



**His Excellency Hu Jintao**  
**President of the People's Republic of China (PRC)**  
**State Council**  
**Beijing 10032 – PRC**

**Mr. Tong Dexiang**  
**Xining City People's Head Prosecutor**  
**Xining City People's Procuracy**  
**No. 2 Haihu Road**  
**Xining City 81008 (Qinghai Province) - PRC**

**24 August 2010**

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Your Excellencies

### **The Release from Prison of Author and Editor Tragyal**

We write on behalf of the International Publishers Association (IPA) to express our deep concern over the fate of the distinguished Tibetan author and editor Tragyal and hereby seek his release from prison. He was taken into custody on 23 April 2010 and charged with “inciting splittism” following publication of his book *The Line Between Sky and Earth*, and is being held in Xining No. 1 Detention Centre. According to the information we have received, his family has not been permitted to see him, or to bring him needed medicines.

IPA is an international industry federation representing all aspects of book and journal publishing. Its membership comprises more than 60 organisations from more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Americas. Established in 1896, IPA's mission is to promote and protect publishing and to raise awareness for publishing as a force for economic, cultural and political development. Around the world, IPA actively fights against censorship and promotes copyright, literacy and freedom to publish. IPA is an industry association with a human rights mandate.

Tragyal's arrest for speaking critically of China's policies in Tibet in his book violates international guarantees of the right to freedom of expression as embodied in Article 19 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which China is a signatory. His arrest is also in contradiction to Article 35<sup>1</sup> of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China granting the right of freedom of expression and freedom to publish.

We understand that there has been a delay in bringing the prosecution against Tragyal and do hope that this means that the trial will not move forward and that he will be released soon. In

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<sup>1</sup> “Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration”.

International Publishers Association

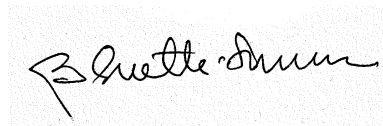
the meantime, we urge that his family be allowed to visit him and provide him with the medication he needs.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Jens Bammel  
Secretary General



Bjørn Smith-Simonsen  
Freedom to Publish Committee

CC: Ambassador HE Yafei, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland