

RESOLUTION NO.

-N.S.

- WHEREAS, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a respected religious leader from eastern Tibet worked within Chinese law for more than ten years to establish social, educational, religious, and medical institutions and protect the environment in his area of Lithang, eastern Tibet; and
- WHEREAS, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was arrested in April 2002 for alleged involvement in a series of unsolved bombings in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was charged with 'causing explosions' and 'inciting separatism'; and
- WHEREAS, According to a report by Human Rights Watch, he and his alleged co-conspirator, attendant Lobsang Dhondup, were given a closed trial, denied access to lawyers, the trial was unfair, and the charges appear to be unfounded. Currently the Chinese government has failed to produce any evidence that either Tenzin Delek or Lobsang Dhondup were involved in the crimes for which they were convicted, despite repeated requests from United States officials and other international governments; and
- WHEREAS, on December 2, 2002 the Kardze Intermediate People's Court in the Darkze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan Province sentenced both Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and Lobsang Dhondup to death, suspending Tenzin Delek's execution for two years.
- WHEREAS, on January 26, 2003 Lobsang Dhondup was executed for his alleged political offenses even though the Government of the People's Republic of China had promised senior officials of the United States that the cases of Lobsang Dhondup and Tenzin Delek would be subjected to a 'lengthy review' by the Supreme People's Court prior to the death sentence being carried out. The Supreme People's Court never reviewed their cases; and
- WHEREAS, Tibetans who were formerly imprisoned for their religious beliefs, have testified in front of congressional commissions and international bodies about the abuse, torture and sometimes death to the prisoners. It has been reported that Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was held and tortured for several months without any outside communication; and
- WHEREAS, Tibetan Buddhism is a fundamental and integral element of Tibetan identity, and it is the right of the Tibetan people to preserve and promote their religion and cultural heritage; and
- WHEREAS, In July of this year, the International Campaign for Tibet came out with a report on the state of religious freedom in Tibet, and that despite cosmetic changes there has been no improvement of the Chinese government's attitude towards Tibetan religious practitioners. Chinese authorities continue with intimidation tactics, crackdowns on monasteries and nunneries, sophisticated campaigns of re-

education and propaganda, banning construction of religious buildings and severe administrative regulation that prevent Tibetans from practicing their own religious freedom. The Chinese government continues to imprison Tibetans for engaging in peaceful efforts to protest China's occupation of Tibet, and then mistreat their political prisoners through beatings, electric shock, solitary confinement, and other forms of torture and inhumane treatments; and

WHEREAS, we call on the United States government and its representatives to join the European Union and its Member States to increase political and economic pressure and urge the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect and protect the Tibetan's cultural identity and religious freedom of the Tibetan people as a fundamental right of someone living in a fair and just society, and prevent the execution of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Berkeley City Council calls for the immediate end of the death sentence and execution of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. The City of Berkeley supports an immediate review of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's case, and call for a fair, new trial; and.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Berkeley City Council urges the Chinese government to treat their political prisoners and detainees as established under international human rights and humanitarian law standards, and to guarantee internationally recognized legal proceedings for persons arrested. In the case of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, we ask that the Chinese authorities stop their ill-treatment and abuse of him during and after his imprisonment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Berkeley City Council strongly encourages the United States to begin substantive talks together with the Chinese government and the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama so that a negotiated solution can be found to the issues of religious freedom and cultural identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Berkeley City Council urges the Chinese government to continue releasing from prison political and religious figures, such as Ngawang Sangdrol and Jigme Sangpo, and restore their rights under the law; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the Berkeley City Council send letters and this resolution to the Chinese government, the Governor of Sichuan Province, Chief Prosecutor of the Sichuan Provincial People's Procuratorate, United States Committee on Foreign Relations and UN Secretary General.

