



Ms. NYIMA LHAMO

Department of Information & International  
Relations – Central Tibetan Administration  
Gangchen Kyishong  
P.O. Dharamshala (H.P.) - 176219 INDIA

Paris, June 22nd, 2017

**MICHEL RAISON**

SENATEUR  
DE LA HAUTE-  
SAÔNE

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to renew my support, on behalf of the International Information Group on Tibet, which has been for many years anxious to defend the fundamental right of Tibetans to live their own culture, religion and their language in respect of the traditions to which they are attached.

We were particularly sensitive and touched by your testimony last December, and we reiterate our sincere heartfelt adherence to your struggle for truth in the statement attached to this letter.

I therefore renew, Madam, all our support in this battle which you are leading, and beg you to believe that the venerable Tenzin Delek Rinpoche will not be forgotten,

*Yours respectfully  
Best Regards.*

Michel RAISON

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MEMBRE  
DE LA COMMISSION  
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT  
DURABLE

MEMBRE  
DE LA COMMISSION  
DES AFFAIRES  
EUROPÉENNES

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PRÉSIDENT DU  
GROUPE  
D'INFORMATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
SUR LE TIBET

## July 12, 2017 will mark two years since the passing of the Venerable Tibetan lama Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

Venerable Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was one of the major political forces of Tibet, known and admired for his social and religious work in defending Tibetan nomads, as well as for his stand toward environmental protection. On this occasion, our International information group on Tibet, chaired by Senator Michel Raison, reaffirms that the Venerable Tenzin Delek Rinpoche will not be forgotten, though the Chinese authorities have remained silent on the circumstances of his death in detention. We express our friendship and our support to his family, his students, and to all who still mourn his demise and are grateful to him for his legacy.

Imprisoned in 2002, and sentenced to death by the Chinese authorities for "*terrorism and separatism*", regularly tortured, his sentence was commuted into twenty years of imprisonment. He had already served thirteen years when he died in circumstances which have yet to be clarified.

Despite the efforts of human rights organisations and a question addressed by Senator Raison on this subject to the French Government in July 2015, in spite of the repeated requests of Venerable Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's family, no explanation has ever been provided on this matter. Neither his body nor his ashes were returned to his family in order to allow them to perform the appropriate Buddhist funeral rites.

Last December, the International information group on Tibet welcomed in Paris Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's niece, Ms Nyima Lhamo, who chose exile to shed light on the passing of her uncle, and more broadly to testify to the violation of religious liberty and human rights in Tibet. Like her, many Tibetans try to pacifically resist the Chinese political repression, in particular by self-immolation, a practice expressing the distress and despair of a people in a region of the world where access to information is still very difficult.

We thus reaffirm our attachment to freedom of expression and to respect for human rights, which the Tibetan people should be able to enjoy, and our attachment to its peaceful struggle to defend freedom and human dignity, which is a source of inspiration and an example to us all. So many Tibetans should not have died in vain.

Senator Michel RAISON

