



**FREEDOM TO WRITE...
FREEDOM TO READ**

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**Ambassador Zhang Junsai
Embassy of China
15 Coronation Drive
Yarralumla ACT 2600**

Dear Ambassador,

The Sydney Centre of International PEN protests the recent arrest of Tibetan writer and editor, Tashi Rabten (whose pen-name is Te'urang). As an organisation dedicated to freedom of expression and the rights and safety of writers throughout the world, we are dismayed by your government's action.

According to PEN's information, Tashi Rabten was arrested on 27 July 2009 and is being held without charge at a prison in Ruoergai, Sichuan province, western China. It is thought he may be held for his articles on the suppression of the March 2008 protests in Lhasa and surrounding regions. He is the editor of a banned literary magazine *Shar Dugri (Eastern Snow Mountain)* and author of a new collection of political articles entitled *Written in Blood*. Tashi Rabten is also a student at the Northwest Minorities University in Lanzhou. He has been under surveillance for some time, and there are fears for his safety.

International PEN's Writers in Prison Committee fears that Tashi Rabten may be held for his critical writings, and if so, calls for his immediate and unconditional release in accordance with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China is a signatory. We urge you to convey our sentiments direct to your president, Hu Jintao, and to Zhang Qingli, Secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Regional Party Committee.

Yours sincerely,

PRESIDENT

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ALEXIS WRIGHT

