

# Letter from Shamar Rinpoche to Samdhong Rinpoche, the Prime Minister of the Dalai Lama

February 10, 2011



*The Shamarpa*

New Delhi, February 10, 2011

## **To the Venerable Samdhong Rinpoche**

I hope that this letter finds you in good health.

Late last evening I returned to New Delhi from Hong Kong after a month-long trip to Bangkok and Hong Kong. While I was in Hong Kong, on the evening of January 26, 2011 to be precise, my secretary in India informed me that strange reports concerning Ugyen Trinley Rinpoche were breaking into the news.

When I investigated these reports on the Internet, I discovered that various Indian TV channels and newspapers were publishing stories about two of Ugyen Trinley Rinpoche's attendants having been stopped by the police on a routine check and how they were found to have an unusually large amount of cash in their car. This took place on January 26, the Republic Day of India when all of the country's police force is usually quite alert and watchful.

After the arrest of his attendants, Ugyen Trinley Rinpoche's residence was raided. As you know, ever since many news reports concerning developments in this matter have appeared every day.

On the morning of February 8, the day I left Hong Kong, the *South China Morning Post*, an English-language newspaper in Hong Kong, published a lengthy article titled "Many Accusations But Few Facts as Karmapa Accused of Spying." The article claimed that I am the mastermind behind all the accusations about Ugyen Trinley Rinpoche's involvement in money laundering, as well as the allegations regarding this matter that he might be a Chinese agent. Some Indian press has also published similar claims about me.



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The author of the *South China Morning Post* article referenced a Tibetan journalist based in Dharamsala by the name of Mr. Jamyang Norbu as the source of this claim about me. I want you to know that it is totally baseless, in fact utterly preposterous.

Over the past 15 years, Jamyang Norbu's articles have targeted me for spurious claims numerous times. I believe that he has done so in collaboration with or at the instigation of Tai Situ Rinpoche.

In 1994, when I recognised Trinley Thaye Dorje as the incarnation of the 16<sup>th</sup> Karmapa and when the enthronement ceremony for him was held at the K.I.B.I. in New Delhi, monks and followers of Situ Rinpoche launched an attack during the ceremony. At that time several articles by Jamyang Norbu stated that my monks, disciples, and I deserved to be attacked because we were evil.

Shortly afterwards, also in 1994, a Mr. Lhawangla from Darjeeling and his wife visited me in Kalimpong. He told me that he was Jamyang Norbu's father, explaining that Jamyang Norbu was his eldest son from his first marriage. He then confided in me that, with the financial help of Situ Rinpoche, his own son was suing him over a five-story building. According to Mr. Lhawangla, Situ Rinpoche was supposed to be given the top floor of the building, if the son won the case.

I have never met Jamyang Norbu in person, and he has no conceivable reason for attacking me, since there is no connection at all between us on either a spiritual or on a social level. He is not a Kagyupa.

Therefore, I now call upon you, Venerable Samdhong Rinpoche, the Tibetan Government in Exile, as well as Urgyen Trinley Rinpoche himself, to bear witness to the fact that neither I nor any of my staff are directly or indirectly behind the current police investigations involving Urgyen Trinley Rinpoche and some of his staff.



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It is my personal belief that, once again, Jamyang Norbu is making these allegations against me in collusion with Situ Rinpoche, trying to get me to suspect Ugyen Trinley Rinpoche and the Tibetan Government in Exile. I believe that the purpose of this strategy is to drive a wedge between us, in order to damage the ongoing dialogue between the Tibetan Government in Exile and me and to undermine the possibility of Ugyen Trinley Dorje and Trinley Thaye Dorje developing a mutually supportive relationship.

I am confident that neither the Tibetan Government in Exile nor Ugyen Trinley Rinpoche is behind Jamyang Norbu's allegations about me.

I trust that you will agree with my view.

With best wishes,

Shamar Rinpoche