

Phayul[Friday, December 16, 2011 15:38]

DHARAMSHALA, December 16: Chinese police have beaten to death a young Tibetan man in Labrang in Amdo region of eastern Tibet.

The incident occurred on December 9, when Chonjor, a Tibetan in his twenties was apprehended by Chinese police while he was riding a motor bike en route to Labrang Tashikyil monastery to meet a monk relative.

The police had apparently stopped Chonjor on the pretext of checking his license and was handed over to the People's Armed Police who took him into custody according to various sources in exile.

When Chonjor's family members realised that he had gone missing, they went to the police station the next morning, on December 10 - World Human Rights Day, only to be told that he was dead.

Reasons for his arrest and death are not known. Sources in exile say that he had faced severe torture while in custody.

Speaking to the Dharamshala based Tibetan radio service, VoT, Dolkar Kyab, a member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile said that the region had witnessed heightened security in the build up to the 22nd anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on December 10, 1989.

"Chinese police in the region have been manning the streets more rigorously in recent weeks and apprehending Tibetans driving cars, riding motor bikes, and even walking on the road," Kyab told the radio service.

"Many Tibetans were also briefly detained and interrogated for possible links with anti-China protests that engulfed the entire Tibetan plateau in 2008".

A substantial sum of money, reportedly one million yuan (\$156,867), has been released to the deceased's family members after Tibetans from Chonjor's native village and senior monks of the Labrang monastery strongly protested the police actions.

The compensation, which is perhaps the largest known amount paid till date to a Tibetan, is seen by many as a knee jerk reaction by the Chinese authorities in an attempt to avoid an outburst of public anger.

A similar custody death of a Chinese villager in Wukan village in southern China on Sunday, December 11 has become a major flashpoint between local Chinese villagers and the police in the full glare of international media.

DHARAMSHALA, December 16: Over 3000 Chinese students went on a rampage Wednesday night, beating Tibetan students and breaking into their dormitories and class rooms in a Chinese vocational institute in Chengdu.

According to the Beijing based award-winning Tibetan writer Woesser, the incident took place at a Chinese railway engineering vocational institute in the provincial capital city of Chengdu. Around 200 Tibetan students were held hostage as 3000 Chinese students attacked their dormitory, trashing the Tibetan students and breaking the doors, windows, and furniture.

"The Chinese students shouted 'Beat a Tibetan, Get an extra credit,' and broke the doors of the Tibetan dormitories in the institute," wrote Woesser on her blog.

Many Tibetan students have been reportedly hospitalised carrying severe injuries.

After the school authorities failed to quell the clashes, police had to be called to control the situation. More than 1000 People's Armed Police personnel arrived at the scene and reportedly hurled tear gas to disperse the crowd.

Several police and school vehicles were also damaged in the clashes.

Woesser writes in her blog that the following day, on December 15, when Tibetans students came to have lunch at the school mess, Chinese students, upon seeing the Tibetans, created a furore saying, 'Han Chinese have been victorious over the proud Tibetans'.

The reasons for the clashes are not yet clearly known as the situation continues to remain tense.

According to Bawa Kalsang Gyaltzen, a member of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, messages saying 'Don't mind the injuries, be proud of standing up for you nation' had appeared on social network sites following the clashes.

News on the clashes briefly appeared on a few local news portals but were quickly removed.