

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Panchen Lama (m)

Adoption Status: Not Adopted

Country: China

Occupation: The Panchen Lama is a high ranking spiritual leader in the Tibetan Buddhist hierarchy and is passed down by reincarnation.

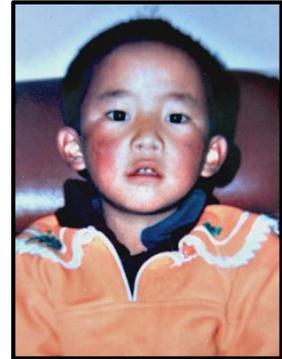
Detained Since: He has been held by Chinese authorities since 1995 when he was six years old, allegedly to keep him safe from “Tibetan Nationalists.”

Charges: N/A

Sentence: N/A

Additional: The Dalai Lama selected Gendun Choekyi Nyima in 1995 to be the next Panchen Lama, while Chinese authorities decreed Gyaltzen Norbu to be the next. As the Panchen Lama traditionally is held responsible for the selection of the Dalai Lama, The Chinese authorities believe it is important to control the Panchen Lama’s fate.

According to Chinese government claims, he is attending school and leading a normal life somewhere in China. Chinese officials have stated that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima is a “perfectly ordinary boy” who is in “protective custody,” growing up in an “excellent state of health.” However, no outside party has been allowed to visit Nyima because state officials claim to keep his whereabouts undisclosed in order to protect him.



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