

Press Release

Western Buddhists send plea to the Nepalese government to permit the remains of Buddhist leader to enter Nepal

July 17th, 2014, Immenstadt, Germany: In an effort to fulfill the wishes of tens of thousands of Buddhists in Europe, the Americas and Asia, three Western organizations representing Buddhism have asked the Nepali government to permit the remains of His Holiness the 14th Shamar Rinpoche Mipham Chokyi Lodro to enter Nepal, where foreign and local devotees want to pay their last respects to him.

Originally, the Nepali Embassy in India had issued a “no objection letter” allowing the remains of Shamar Rinpoche to be taken to Nepal from India for the last rites but Nepal’s government later retracted its permission.

Shamar Rinpoche, a high lama and leader of the Karma Kagyu Buddhist lineage, died at the age of 61 of a cardiac arrest in Germany on June 11, and his body was to be brought to Nepal on Sunday. He had wished that his last resting place would be his own monastery, the Shar Minub in Kathmandu. Right now, his body is being held in the Shri Diwakar Vihara Buddhist Research and Educational Institute in Kalimpong, northern India.

“Spirituality is beyond nationality. Shamar Rinpoche was a great example of that, devoting his life to work for the benefit of others in the whole world – be it Nepal, Europe or America—without discriminating who comes from where. His last wish to rest after his passing in Kathmandu should be respected. His resting place will become an international pilgrimage place important not only to Rinpoches’s followers but to all Buddhists. Thus everybody, including Nepal, will benefit. It is actually an honor for the country”, said Caty Hartung of the Board of Directors of the Diamond Way Buddhism Foundation, one of the organizations behind the letter.

Born in 1952 in Tibet, Shamar Rinpoche was a frequent visitor to Nepal and always kept his distance from political protests related to Tibet, focusing his attention on his vast religious, educational, philanthropic and humanitarian activities. His main seat was the Karma Raja Maha Vihar monastery at Swayambhunath in Kathmandu, built in the 15th century by the 4th Shamarpa. Also, the large Shar Minub Monastery in the Kathmandu valley, one of Rinpoche's main projects, which he worked on for many years, was founded by him for the purpose of preserving and making the teaching of the Buddha available to students worldwide.

Historically, Nepal has always been an important place for Buddhist traditions. The Buddha himself was born in Lumbini, in today’s Nepal, and the Shamarpas have for centuries held a close relationship with Nepal. Among many other connections, the 8th Shamarpa was born and the 10th Shamar Rinpoche cremated there.



DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM
KARMA KAGYU LINEAGE



For the planned ceremonies, numerous followers of the Karma Kagyu lineage from the Western world have already organized their trips and bought tickets to fly to Kathmandu from as far as Europe and America. Retracting the permission would deny devotees from Nepal, as well as many international followers and benefactors, the opportunity to meet their teacher for the last time. When Shamar Rinpoche's mortal remains had left the place of his passing in Renchen-Ulm, Germany, thousands of his Western followers came to pay their last respects (<http://youtu.be/FbUG5OiiF5Y>).

Press Contact:

Caty Hartung, Board of Directors
Diamond Way Buddhism Foundation

Tel: +49 173 518 7778 (Germany)
+977 9741500249 (currently in Nepal)
caty@dwbn.org

Holm Ay, press relations
Diamond Way Buddhism Foundation

Tel: +49 177 800 9008
presse@diamantweg.de

**Bodhi Path Buddhist
Centers**

Kaierstr. 18
77871 Renchen-Ulm
Germany

www.bodhipath.org

Dhagpo Kagyu Ling

Lieu-dit "Landrevie"
24290 Saint-Léon sur Vézère
France

www.dhagpo-kagyu-ling.org

**Diamond Way Buddhism
Foundation**

Hochreute 1
87509 Immenstadt
Germany

www.buddhism-foundation.org