

Jackson/Ho China-East Asia Forum  
Friday, April 11th, 2008

## Tibetan Culture and History: Eyewitness of an exiled Tibetan Scholar on the current Tibetan unrest

### Bio of Pema Wangyal



Pema Wangyal (Baima Wangjie), born in Amdo, was raised in a Buddhist family, grew up with a Tibetan upbringing and was educated from the local elders. He also took formal spiritual training from many great monastic teachers in Tibet. In 1982, he went to Beijing and completed his higher education at the Central University for Nationalities in Beijing where he trained as both a historian and a Buddhologist. Upon receiving his degree in Tibetan studies, he accepted a teaching and research appointment as a professor at the University and taught numerous courses on Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan cultural history between 1986-1997.

He came to the United States for graduate work in Buddhist studies at Berkeley in 1998. He is a prolific translator of various Tibetan Buddhist texts. He also interprets Dharma talks given by visiting Tibetan Lamas, translating from Tibetan into English and from Tibetan into Chinese for Chinese American Tibetan Buddhists. From 2003 until now he teaches Tibetan Buddhism and Language at the University of West in LA. He currently took a position as a Research Analyst at International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) and lives with his family in Washington D.C.

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