

Chinese authorities have prohibited Tibetan children from attending language classes in monasteries in Nangchen county near the border of the Tibet Autonomous Region, a local government notice obtained by research group, Tibet Watch shows.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which has ruled Tibet since 1950, has warned monks and parents that holding classes in the monasteries is a “danger” that must be “dealt with.”

The government order titled: “Urgent notice concerning stopping illegal study classes in monasteries,” follows another in July 2018 which warned citizens not to celebrate the Tibetan holy month of Saga Dawa, Tibet Watch said.

“With careful attention, the holding of classes by monasteries must be rectified and strictly prohibited... Those monasteries and monastics who follow their own wishes and do not listen to advice must be strictly held accountable, ”the notice, published in December 2018 said.

Authorities must understand the “ harmful nature of monasteries running open schools” and “hold the fort of ideological education for children and youth, firmly uphold the leading role of the Party and government in education,” the order added.

Cultural genocide

China sees Tibetan religion as dangerous because it separates Tibetans from a united Chinese identify that the government in Beijing is trying to promote. The CPC has been accused of [overseeing the erosion of the language](#)

Government schools no longer teach Tibetan, and monasteries are among the few places in the country where children can learn about Tibet’s traditional language and culture.

“Those monasteries and monastics who follow their own wishes and do not listen to advice must be strictly held accountable, and each instance put to an end as soon as it comes to light,” the report warned.

The order said monastics who are found to be responsible for running prohibited classes will be struck off the monastery register with their ID cards identifying them as a religious professional removed.

Those cases would be announced in the public community to “serve as a warning,” the notice said, adding that, “at the same time, the ideological education of parents and children must be improved, so as to reduce the strength of opposition in society.”

Tibetan Monks Holding Classes for Children will be Punished

Tibet Watch

“The official ban on informal Tibetan classes taught by monks violates a long list of basic rights, from education to cultural life,” said Sophie Richardson, China director of Human Rights Watch. “Preventing Tibetan children from contact with monks and monasteries will only fuel Tibetan fears that China aims increasingly to restrict Tibetan culture and religion.”