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On behalf of Kala Rongo, we thank you for your support. NYEMA Projects, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charity. NYEMA (Hong Kong) Association Limited is a Hong Kong SAR government registered charity. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

NYEMA PROJECTS, INC.

Nangchen Yushu Educational and Medical Association

247 Sheafe Road

Wappingers Falls, New York 12590, USA

The nuns of Kala Rongo, devoting their lives to Dharma practice for the benefit of beings, now need our help.



# Fire Devastates Nuns' Monastery at Kala Rongo



## Your Help Is Urgently Needed to Rebuild!

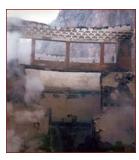
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www.nyema.org

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"The nuns cried as they watched many years of hard work burn to the ground. They lost everything, even their cups and plates. They had no food for breakfast the day after the fire. They thought they would need to travel across Tibet to beg for money and food, but the winter is too harsh and I told them it would be better to stay at Kala Rongo and practice Dharma. I sent money to them immediately for food and other staples, but they have received little local assistance. Now I am asking everyone to please help."

-Lama Norlha Rinpoche



Rala Rongo Monastery, founded by Lama Norlha Rinpoche in 1990, provides unique opportunities to Buddhist nuns in Tibet. Not only is it rare for nuns to have their own monastery, but in addition Kala Rongo is widely

celebrated as the site of the first monastic college for women in Tibet's history.

Funds donated by generous sponsors have allowed the nuns to build the monastery with their own hands, from the six-mile access road, to the recent expansion of the retreat



facility. Presently, 350 nuns, of whom 200 have completed the three-year retreat, are engaged in religious practice and study at Kala Rongo.

#### Shrine Hall and Contents Destroyed

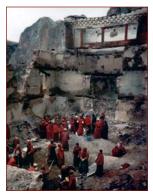
On October 25th, 2004, the nuns of Kala Rongo experienced the devastation of watching their shrine hall burn to the ground. All the statues, paintings, decorations and ritual implements were lost, and the building is a total ruin. Thankfully, no one was hurt. But the community has lost its main building, many



precious Dharma objects, and its space for assembly and practice. Even the food supply is gone.

#### Rebuilding Despite Obstacles

The nuns are determined to rebuild and refurnish the shrine hall as quickly as possible. Although construction cannot begin until spring because of harsh winter conditions, plans for the new



building are already underway. In a country with sparse material resources, costs are daunting: \$400,000 to rebuild, and more than \$150,000 to replace paintings, statues, furniture, sacred texts and other essential items.

#### Your Help Is Deeply Appreciated

Pending rebuilding, the shrine room in Kala Rongo's monastic college is temporarily serving the entire monastery. Lama Norlha Rinpoche has sent emergency funds to help provide immediate necessities, but more assistance is urgently needed, and all donations in any amount are deeply appreciated.







For more information and photos, visit www.nyema.org.