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## Ill Tibetan Scholar, 29, Is Bound For Boston

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Daja Meston, the Tibetan scholar from Newton who was critically injured after being detained in China last month, was scheduled to arrive at Logan Airport last night and be transported to Brigham and Women's Hospital.

John Ackerly of the International Campaign for Tibet said Meston, 29, would be arriving around 11 p.m. on a private plane. Last week, supporters appealed to the public for donations to help pay for the transport and medical care of Meston, who does not have health insurance.

Kay Treakle, managing director of the Bank Information Center, said that the group has collected between \$11,000 and \$12,000 toward Meston's expenses. Meston was injured when he fell from a third-story window in China two weeks ago, suffering back and internal injuries. He was hospitalized at Qinghai Regional Hospital for several days before he was transported to Hong Kong.

Chinese authorities detained Meston on Aug. 15 while he was conducting research in the Qinghai province, the site of a controversial World Bank project to resettle 58,000 poor farmers to an area with better agricultural prospects. Another researcher, Australian Gabriel Lafitte, had accompanied Meston and was detained with him, along with Tsering Dorje, an ethnic Tibetan and Chinese national who was the translator for the pair. Lafitte was released two weeks ago, but Dorje's whereabouts remain unknown.

Meston's associates said he fell from a window after Chinese security officers had interrogated him for several days in a hotel room. Lafitte said the nonstop interrogation, sleep deprivation, and intimidation may have driven Meston to jump.

Associates also said Meston arrived Thursday in Hong Kong for medical treatment after being forced to confess that he had entered a restricted area and apologize for it. He was barred from returning to China for five years.

The Chinese alleged that Meston and Lafitte had illegally covered and photographed activities in the restricted area, though Lafitte said the government had given permission for foreigners to visit the project site unaccompanied. Meston, a former Buddhist monk, was born in Tibet but is a US citizen. He recently completed course work for a sociology degree at Brandeis University. His wife, Phuntsok, is a Tibetan exile.