

## Tibet scholar denies making Time magazine Shugden comment

### 'Issue should be resolved within Tibetan community'

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Tibet scholar Robert Barnett of Columbia University has denied Time Magazine's obvious suggestion, in a Jul 18 online posting, that he alleged denial of exile Tibetan government help for worshippers of the controversial Shugden spirit in obtaining Indian government ID card. In an email to this magazine and others, Mr Barnett said he had clearly written to the weekly magazine's correspondent David van Biema, "ID cards are not given out by the exile administration, but by the Indian authorities".

He also said he wrote to the correspondent: "I also made it clear that the Western Shugden group's allegations are problematic: they are akin to attacking the Pope because some lay Catholics somewhere abuse non-believers or heretics. The Western Shugden Group is severely lacking in credibility, since its form of spirit-worship is heterodox, provocative and highly sectarian in Buddhist terms and so more than likely to be banned from mainstream monasteries – while its claimed concerns about cases of discrimination in India should be addressed by working within the Tibetan community instead of opportunistically attacking the Dalai Lama in order to provoke misinformed publicity for their sect."

**Original page:** [http://www.tibetanreview.net/news.php?id=632&search\\_url=%2Fsearch.php%3Fq%3Dshugden%26](http://www.tibetanreview.net/news.php?id=632&search_url=%2Fsearch.php%3Fq%3Dshugden%26)