Appendix: Spending on Security in Aba Prefecture

As the tables below demonstrate, official government statistics in the Sichuan Statistical Yearbook show that spending on “public security” in Tibetan areas of Sichuan, which includes spending on the civilian police force, the People’s Armed Police (PAP), and costs associated with running local courts and prisons, has been much higher than the average for the rest of Sichuan, for at least a decade.

Between 2002 and 2006, public security spending per capita in Aba, where ethnic Tibetans constitute 52 percent of the population, was three times the average in the non-Tibetan areas, including the capital. Since 2006, per capita government spending on security in Aba county alone has been 4.5 times as high as spending in non-Tibetan areas of Sichuan. Moreover, the rate of increase on security spending there is almost twice that in non-Tibetan areas of the province.

By 2009, per capita annual spending on public security in Aba had reached 779 RMB, five times the average spent per person on public security in non-Tibetan areas in Sichuan, and over twice the amount in Chengdu. Overall figures show that the cost of public security in Aba was the sixth highest of any prefecture in Sichuan, almost the same as the amount spent in Mianyang county, which has a population six times the size of Aba’s but with ethnic Tibetans fewer than 1 percent of the total.

The following tables show spending on public security in Sichuan.
The population increased by 6 percent in Sichuan from 2002 to 2009, and increased in Aba/Ngawa by 6.4 percent in this period, so this cannot explain the exceptional increase in spending on security there. Spending on public security in Aba/Ngawa increased by 619 percent in the same period.

Spending for public security in Chinese government statistics includes expenditures for both the civilian police force and for the paramilitary units known as the People’s Armed Police. It also includes costs for running local courts and prisons (see note (4) to “Explanatory Notes on Main Statistical Indicators”, China Statistical Yearbook, 2010).