

Karma Sampel Ling

Vienna, Austria

Vienna, May 19, 2026

Dear Anne,
dear Diamondway-Sangha,

with respect and profound sorrow, I extend my condolences on the passing of Lama Ole Nydahl to the family, friends, students and all affected by the loss. Lama Ole and his wife Hannah were among the earliest and closest western disciples of HH the 16th Karmapa in Rumtek, where I already met them in the early 1970ies.

They dedicated their lives to fulfill the wishes of HH the 16th Karmapa in an extraordinary manner. With tremendous effort and dedication, Lama Ole spread the precious teachings of the Karma Kagyu lineage throughout many countries of this world. He inspired numerous people new to buddhism to cultivate love, compassion and wisdom, and connected them to the profound Mahamudra teachings. With the support and the blessing of the lineage, Lama Ole established the Diamondway buddhist organization, he built up hundreds of centres worldwide and constructed a great number of stupas. Lama Ole worked powerful and tirelessly, taking deep care for his students around the world with warmth and a fearless heart. His presence was a source of joy and inspiration.

I offer prayers and wishes that Lama Oles students and the Diamond Way organization may continue to flourish under the guidance of HH 17th Karmapa Thaye Dorje. May all support each other and continue to benefit countless beings.

With prayers and warm wishes,
Khenpo Chodrag Thenpel Rinpoche