TIBET UPDATE
June 17, 2013

TIBETAN SELF-IMMOLATIONS:
Tibetan nun self-immolates in Tawu, Kham: On June 11, a Tibetan nun self-immolated near Nyatso monastery in Tawu county, in the Kham region of Tibet. Due to restrictions on phone and internet, the name and details of the nun couldn’t be obtained in the immediate aftermath of the self-immolation. But since, the nun has been identified as 21-year-old Wangchen Dolma. She succumbed to her injuries and died at a hospital in Dartsedo on June 14. The authorities cremated the body at the hospital and the family members are under house arrest. http://www.tibet.net/2013/06/17/tibetan-nun-who-self-immolates-has-died/

ICT Report: Tibetan nomad self-immolates and dies in Yushu: On May 27, a Tibetan nomad in his early thirties called Tenzin Sherab set fire to himself and died in the Gyaring area of Yushu in Qinghai province. Sources said, Tenzin was the oldest of five siblings and his nomadic family had been resettled to Chumarleb, Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (the Tibetan area of Kham). Police took his body from the site of the self-immolation but later released it to the family after questioning them the reasons for the self-immolation. http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetan-nomad-self-immolates-and-dies-yushu

ICT Report: Two monks imprisoned for three years after prayers for a Tibetan self-immolator: Two Tibetan monks, Tsendue and Gedun Tsultrim, have been sentenced to three years in prison each after prayers for Wangchen Norbu, a Tibetan who set fire to himself and died on November 19, 2012. According to Tibetan exile sources, Tsendue, who is in his late twenties, was accused of organizing a prayer ceremony in Bido monastery, in Do-wi (Xunhua) Salar Autonomous County in Tsoshar (Chinese: Haidon) prefecture, Qinghai. Gedun Tsultrim, also a monk from Bido monastery was accused of collecting offerings from monks and organizing monks to go to his family home for prayers. http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/two-monks-imprisoned-three-years-after-prayers-tibetan-self-immolator

U.S. CONGRESS:
ICT Report: Congressional panel calls for “urgent” and “bold” action on Tibet on eve of Obama-Xi summit: At a June 5 hearing on “human rights in Tibet” on the eve of the summit between Presidents Barack Obama and Xi Jinping, the US Congress’ Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission co-chairs Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Jim McGovern (D-MA) called on the Obama Administration to give new impetus to actions that will improve conditions in Tibet. Representing the Obama Administration at the hearing was Charlotte Oldham-Moore, Senior Advisor, Office of the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights. Also testifying were Bhuchung Tsering, Interim President at ICT, Sophie Richardson, China Director at Human Rights Watch, and Tsering Kyi, a writer and blogger whose nephew self-immolated in Tibet earlier this year. http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/congressional-panel-calls-urgent-and-bold-action-tibet-eve-obama-xi-summit


ICT Report: US Senate Committee recommends 5,000 visas for displaced Tibetans; measure faces long process in House & Senate before enactment: The Senate Judiciary Committee has adopted a measure to provide immigration visas to 5,000 displaced Tibetans residing in India and Nepal. The amendment, offered by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and co-sponsored by Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), is based on a measure approved by Congress in 1990 that brought 1,000 displaced Tibetans to the United States in the early 1990s and was passed by voice vote and incorporated into the immigration reform legislation being crafted by the Committee. http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/us-senate-committee-recommends-5000-visas-displaced-tibetans-measure-faces-long-process

THE DALAI LAMA:
His Holiness the Dalai Lama visits New Zealand and Australia: His Holiness the Dalai Lama arrived in Christchurch, NZ on June 9, 2013 for a four day visit to the nation, travelling to Dunedin and Auckland before departing for Sydney, Australia on June 13 for a eleven day visit. His Holiness will be giving teachings and public talks. More details on the visit can be viewed at www.dalailama.com

ICT NEWS:
Message from the Board of Directors of the International Campaign for Tibet: The Board of Directors of the International Campaign for Tibet announced with regret that it has accepted the resignation of Ms. Mary Beth Markey from her position as ICT president. Ms. Markey served as ICT Director of Government Relations (1996-2002), ICT Vice President for International Advocacy (2003-2010) and ICT President (July, 2010 – May, 2013). The Board has named current Vice President of Special Programs, Bhuchung K Tsering, Interim President. http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/message-board-directors-international-campaign-tibet-may-30-2013