

Tibet

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PRESS WATCH

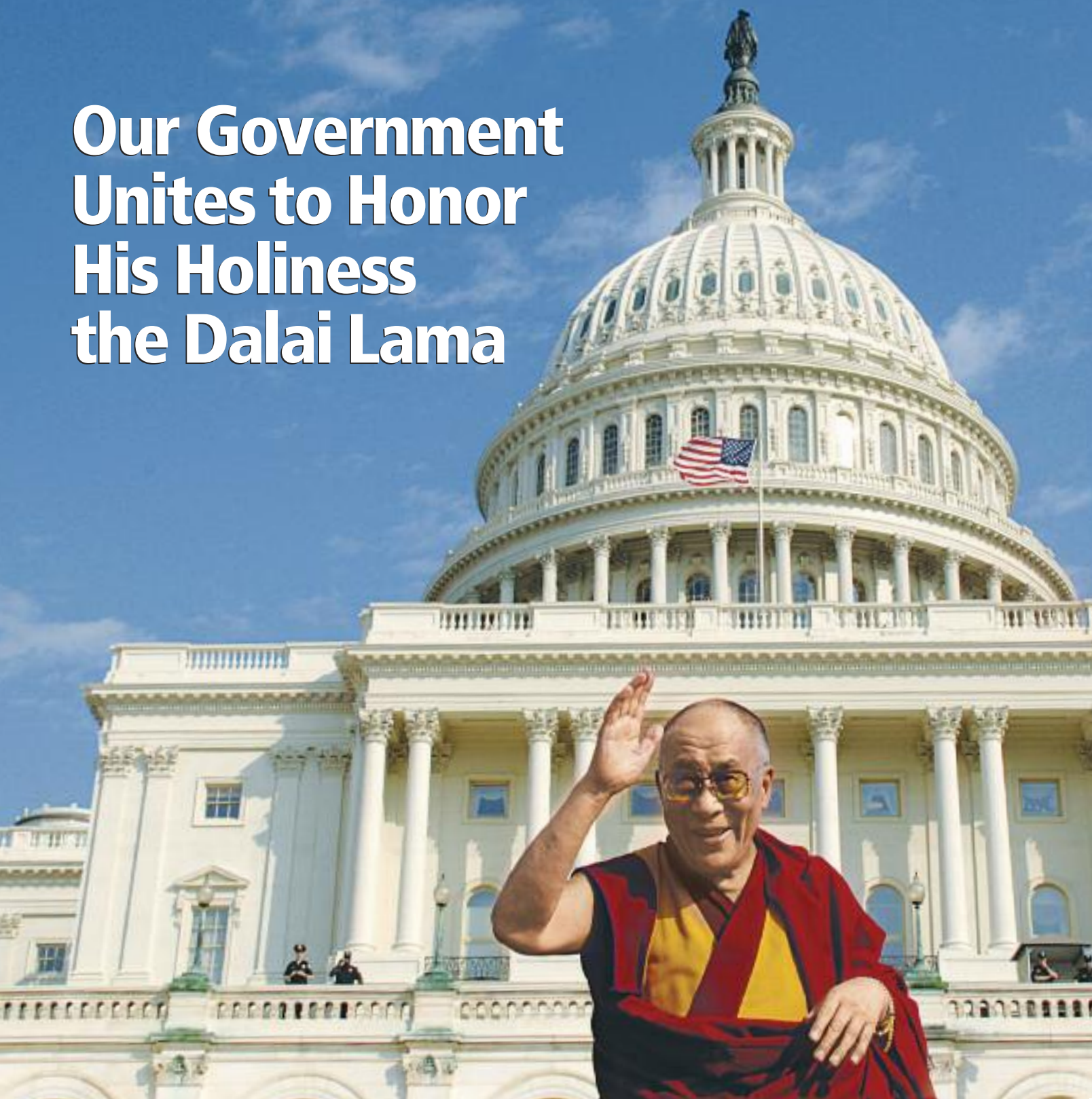
WINTER 2008
*A publication of the
International Campaign for Tibet*

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INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

Our Government Unites to Honor His Holiness the Dalai Lama

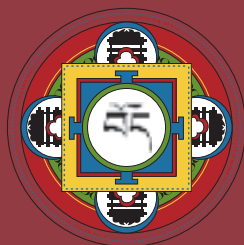


དགྲེལ་འཁོར་ཚོགས་པ།

MANDALA SOCIETY YOUR LIVING LEGACY TO TIBET

The Mandala Society is an intimate group of Tibet supporters, committed to helping future generations of Tibetans. By including the International Campaign for Tibet in their will or trust, Mandala Society members ensure that ICT will continue to have the resources to promote a peaceful resolution of the occupation of Tibet, and will be able to help rebuild Tibet when Tibetans achieve genuine autonomy.

For more information about Mandala Society membership, please contact Melissa Winchester at 202-785-1515, ext. 225, melissaw@savetibet.org, or use the envelope attached to this newsletter to request a call.



The Mandala Society of the International Campaign for Tibet

Whenever world leaders, governments and parliamentarians convey strong solidarity with the Tibetan people, it contributes immensely to peace, nonviolence and stability.

TIBET PRESS WATCH

The International Campaign for Tibet works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet.

Founded in 1988, ICT is a non-profit membership organization with offices in Washington, D.C., Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels.

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From Lodi Gyari

As we come to an end of one of the most successful years for Tibet and begin to prepare to face the challenges of the coming year, I want to personally thank you for your support and also appeal for your continuous solidarity with the people of Tibet.

When President George W. Bush joined Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Congressional Leadership to present the Nation's highest civilian award — the Congressional Gold Medal — to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a powerful message of the United States' unwavering commitment and support to his nonviolent, Middle Way approach in resolving the Tibet issue was conveyed. There are some who wonder whether such gestures, rather than being helpful, may send a message of false hope to the Tibetans and also hinder the process of dialogue.

Nothing is further from the truth. Whenever world leaders, governments and parliamentarians convey strong solidarity with the Tibetan people, it contributes immensely to peace, nonviolence and stability.

Despite decades of misrule and mistreatment of an extreme nature, the Tibetan peoples' capability to remain nonviolent is the manifestation of their strong Buddhist principles and the realization that neither they nor their leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, have been forgotten by the world.

As the Chinese authorities continue to impose repressive policies and resort to different forms of intimidation toward the Tibetan people, we must make an extra effort to reach out to Tibetans with a strong and firm hand of support so that they can continue to withstand the provocation and intimidation by the Chinese authorities.

As the Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama leading the talks with the Chinese central leadership, I am convinced that the present process of dialogue can ultimately bring about a solution that will mutually benefit everyone involved. I am also convinced that the consistent international interest for the plight of the Tibetan people is one of the reasons the Chinese Government is responding to our efforts to resolve the issue through dialogue.

Even though the present Tibet policy instituted by the Chinese leadership is very much a continuation of previous policies, it is clear that among the new Chinese leadership of today there are farsighted leaders who are making efforts to implement a Tibet policy that will be of greater benefit to China in the long run and will also benefit the Tibetan people. Let us hope that these forward



*Lodi Gyari,
Executive Chairman*

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The October visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Washington, DC was an historic event, well documented in the national press. At an august ceremony in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, President Bush presented the Dalai Lama with the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his exceptional commitment to peace, nonviolence and human rights.

Across the country, the people of the United States delighted in seeing photos of His Holiness bringing peace and accord to the Capitol. Each photo of President Bush and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi with the Dalai Lama sent a message that we can set aside our differences and unite our common energies toward righting the wrongs in Tibet.

But the positive press was only one side of his visit. We note with dismay that the Chinese government responded to the Gold Medal Ceremony by voicing their disapproval — and by cracking down on those in Tibet who celebrated the honors awarded to His Holiness.

This is a time of tremendous upheaval. China is preparing to host the Summer Olympic Games. Uprisings in Burma have been ruthlessly repressed — to international horror. And the Dalai Lama is spreading a message of justice and compassion around the world. Times of upheaval are times of transition. We believe that a greater good can come from chaos if the good will of individuals around the world — and a spirit of cooperation and hope — is brought to bear.



Repressing Tibet, again

The Globe and Mail, Editorial — October 25, 2007

When monks in Myanmar rose up in protest against the country's military junta last month, there were those who thought that China might wield its influence to nudge the regime toward reform and minimize any resulting crackdown. After all, the theory went, as a growing power and host country of the 2008 Olympics, China seeks international respect and covets the moral high ground.

Of course, the Saffron Revolution was brutally suppressed. Buddhist monks were shot in the streets. Pagodas were emptied. Bodies were seen floating in rivers. So much for China as a benevolent force in the world.

What is remarkable is that anyone should have thought otherwise. China's Communist rulers have a long tradition of religious suppression. More than a few monks in China have had their skulls cracked along the way. In fact, they're having their skulls cracked still. Just weeks after the bloody attacks against the monks in Myanmar (formerly Burma), it was China's People's Armed Police who were again wielding the truncheons.

News Round-up

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

ICT is widely regarded as the “go-to” resource for fast and accurate information on breaking news in Tibet. Today, **no other organization** is providing focused monitoring and consistent reporting based on first-hand sources.

Tibetan Buddhist monks celebrated the presentation of the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama by ceremonially whitewashing the walls of Drepung monastery in Lhasa on the day of the award. The paramilitaries immediately moved in to stop the monks. Later in the day, the monks renewed their symbolic gesture, and this time they were confronted with force. Internet connections in Lhasa were severed, but reports filtering out of Tibet — a country long subject to ruthless Chinese occupation — say thousands of policemen then sealed off Drepung and Nechung monasteries, preventing interaction between the monks and the Tibetan people. Tibetan exile groups in India report that scores of monks and activists have been arrested.

China was angered by the award's presentation to the Dalai Lama by U.S. President George W. Bush.

Chinese functionaries complained that by honouring the Dalai Lama the U.S. had “gravely undermined” relations between the two countries. Expect similar claims from the functionaries when the Dalai Lama visits Canada next week and is finally properly received in this country by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Beijing's efforts to cover its tracks in Tibet and to cow the world into submission over its human-rights abuses have by and large failed abroad. On the ground in Tibet, however, China's brutal methods appear once again to be working. Bloody crackdowns are a true and tried method of the Communist rulers. That is China's lesson for the goons who rule Myanmar.

The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007

SOLIDARITY IN WASHINGTON



President Bush yesterday became the first US president to appear in public with the Dalai Lama, sitting with the Tibetan spiritual leader in the Capitol before presenting him with the Congressional Gold Medal. Bush and lawmakers ignored protests by China that the honor intruded on its internal affairs and called for the exile to be welcomed back to his homeland.

Face to Face With the Dalai Lama

the Washington Post



The Dalai Lama, exiled leader of Tibetan Buddhists, greets Martha Spiggs at N Street Village, a shelter for homeless women. In the background, between them, is Yanni Chuan, a Buddhist nun who teaches the women meditations. The Dalai Lama came to Washington to receive a congressional award.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

ICT maintains its websites in both Chinese and Tibetan languages. In 2007, the Chinese language pages had over 160,000 hits. ICT also uses the internet to reach out to the people of China, and sends monthly news to over 1,200 email addresses in China and Tibet.

Meet Dalai Lama, Bush Tells China

The Times, U.S. Edition
October 18, 2007

President Bush urged China yesterday to open talks with the Dalai Lama and defended his participation in a lavish American ceremony honouring the spiritual leader of Tibet.

By attending the awards ceremony in the splendour of the US Capitol's Rotunda, Mr. Bush became the first sitting President to appear publicly with the Dalai Lama, who is accused by Beijing of seeking Tibetan independence from Chinese rule. The two men met privately for 30 minutes at the White House on Tuesday night.

Yang Jiechi, the Chinese Foreign Minister, expressed outrage. "For the US Congress to take this action and the US leader to meet with the Dalai Lama is a violation of the norms of international relations," he said. He accused the US of having "severely hurt" China's feelings and interfering in its internal affairs.



The Dalai Lama greets supporters in front of the Capitol on Wednesday before being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Dalai Lama Accepts Medal

President Bush says China should reconcile with spiritual leader

WASHINGTON — The Dalai Lama accepted the Congressional Gold Medal Wednesday, joining President Bush and the leaders of Congress in urging reconciliation with the Chinese government that has kept him in exile for nearly half a century.

The world is waiting "to see how China's concepts of harmonious society and peaceful rights

unfold, the saffron-robed Tibetan monk said after becoming the 149th recipient of the most prestigious award bestowed by Congress. He repeated his long-held position that he is seeking only autonomy for the people of Tibet, not independence from China.

President Bush, defying Chinese complaints about the public's honoring a man it regards as a threat to Beijing's control of Tibet, called on Chinese leaders to welcome the Dalai Lama to the communist nation. The president called him a "universal symbol of peace and

tolerance, a shepherd of the faithful and a keeper of the flame for his people."

"America cannot look to the plight of the religiously oppressed and close their eyes or turn away," said Bush, who sat next to the Dalai Lama during the ceremony and personally handed the medal to him.

"Let this man of peace visit Beijing," said House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Lantos, D-Ohio, saying such a gesture would ensure the right atmosphere for the Beijing Olympics next summer (AP/WIDEWORLD).

Partying on a Higher Plane of Awareness

By **MARISSA NEWHALL**
Washington Post Staff Writer

Ah, the sweet satisfaction of Being Right.

That might be what Richard Gere felt last night at the Gold Medal Gala sponsored by the International Campaign for Tibet. While the actor basked in the warm, fuzzy glow of the Dalai Lama — the latest recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal — no one would have begrudged Gere a hint of "told you so."

But the celebuddhist was ever so modest, keeping his opening remarks brief and declining to

talk right after the Dalai Lama's 20-minute speech.

"I'm supposed to be speaking now but there's no way I'm following that," Gere effused from the podium in the Mellon Auditorium. Then he asked everyone to eat their dinners — lacquered salmon salad and herb-and-spice tenderloin — and quietly returned to his seat.

With the Dalai Lama's visit to Washington this week, Gere's 30-year quest to raise awareness about Tibet certainly seems validated. He wasn't just a crazy Hol-

See G.A.L.A., C2, Col. 1



BY CAMERON — THE WASHINGTON POST

Five hundred guests turned out for the Dalai Lama's fête last night.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

ICT secured the allocation of funds for Tibetan refugee communities, including \$2 million for humanitarian assistance, \$600,000 for scholarships, and \$250,000 for programs that support human rights and democracy initiatives. We also secured an additional \$3 million for development assistance, \$500,000 for educational and cultural exchanges, and Radio Free Asia and Voice of America funding to reach inside Tibet.

Tibet monastery surrounded by military amid security crackdown after Dalai Lama award

The Associated Press — October 24, 2007

BEIJING: A major Tibetan monastery has been sealed off by armed troops following an increase in security after celebrations last week over a U.S. award for the region's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, an activist group said Wednesday.

The Drepung monastery in Lhasa is still surrounded by armed troops, according to the International Campaign for Tibet, a Washington-based pro-Tibet human rights group, citing local sources and several reports. Hundreds of monks may still be inside the monastery while others may have been detained or injured, it said.

Another major monastery in the capital is also closed, the group said.

The awarding of the U.S. Congress' highest civilian honor — bestowed by President George W. Bush on Wednesday — to the Dalai Lama was a setback to Beijing's efforts to undermine support for the spiritual leader, who they regard as a threat to the unity of China and their continued rule over the region.

He remains popular among Tibetans since fleeing into exile 48 years ago after a failed uprising, and has increased his international standing recently by meeting with world leaders.

The International Campaign for Tibet said in a statement that security on roads in and out of Lhasa had been stepped up and residents had been ordered not to carry out religious activities or further celebrations.

Several Tibetans were also temporarily detained after celebrations in a monastery in Gansu province, the group said. Citing eyewitness reports, it said there may have been injuries during clashes with police.

A Tibetan source quoted by the group said the increased security road checkpoints and restrictions on travel was similar to March 1989 when martial law was imposed following protests against the Chinese government.

"The tension in Lhasa and other areas of Tibet coinciding with the Gold Medal ceremony and the Party Congress in Beijing, takes place in the context of an intensified political campaign in Tibetan areas against the Dalai Lama," the International Campaign for Tibet said in a statement.

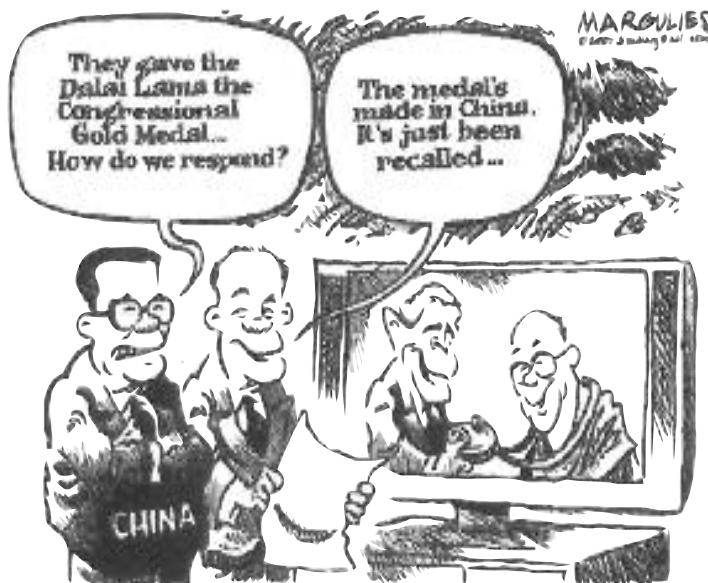
China Jails Four Tibetans

VOA News — November 20, 2007

China has jailed four Tibetans from three to 10 years on charges ranging from spying for foreign organizations to seeking independence for their homeland.

The official news agency, Xinhua, reports that three of the Tibetans were found guilty of spying and providing intelligence through photographs and discs to unnamed overseas organizations. Two were also charged with writing and distributing flyers that promoted Tibet's independence. One was sentenced after publicly voicing support for the Dalai Lama.

Xinhua says the four will be deprived of political rights for several years after their release. Those restrictions could affect their ability to travel and limit their circle of friends and associates.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama comes

A Truly Bipartisan Celebration in the Rotunda



The Dalai Lama with President George Bush and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, just after His Holiness accepted the Congressional Gold Medal. Speaker Pelosi is wearing a khata, a traditional Tibetan scarf given to her by His Holiness.



President Bush was the first U.S. President to meet publicly with the Dalai Lama. President Bush addressed the audience in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda — and via webcast, the world — when he personally presented the Gold Medal to His Holiness.



Human rights champion Elie Wiesel spoke about the Dalai Lama's quest for peace and compassion. Over the years, the two men (both Nobel Peace Laureates) have traveled parallel paths and become close friends.



In addition to President Bush, Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel, and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, speakers at the ceremony included: Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid (shown here); Senate Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell; House Minority Leader, John Boehner; and the principal sponsors of the Congressional Gold Medal Act, Representative Tom Lantos, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee; Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairwoman of the Senate Rules Committee; and Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

to the U.S. Capitol



Washington's most powerful vied for a seat at the standing-room-only ceremony in the magnificent Rotunda of the Capitol.



His Holiness shared his grace, good humor and limitless compassion with all who watched through an inspirational and empowering acceptance speech. He restated that he is not seeking independence for Tibet, but genuine autonomy within the People's Republic of China.

The Dalai Lama brought his compassionate message of peace and human rights to Capitol Hill on October 17, where he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal — the highest award our Congress can bestow upon a civilian.



On the occasion of the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, October 17, 2007

Statement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet:

"On the future of Tibet, let me take this opportunity to restate categorically that I am not seeking independence. I am seeking a meaningful autonomy for the Tibetan people within the People's Republic of China. ... I have chosen to adopt this position because I believe, given the obvious benefits especially in economic development, this would be in the best interest of the Tibetan people.

Let me take this opportunity to once again appeal to the Chinese leadership to recognize the grave problems in Tibet, the genuine grievances and deep resentments of the Tibetan people inside Tibet, and to have the courage and wisdom to address these problems realistically in the spirit of reconciliation. To you, my American friends, I appeal to you to make every effort to seek ways to help convince the Chinese leadership of my sincerity and help make our dialogue process move forward."

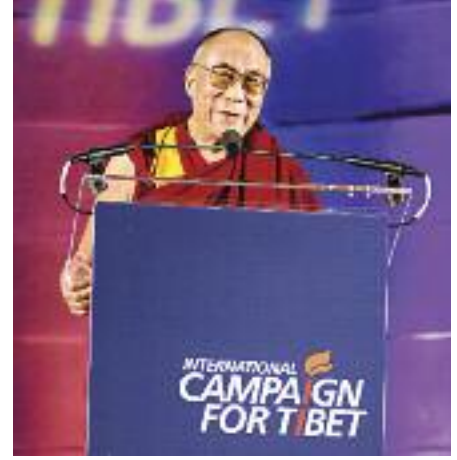
Statement of President George W. Bush:

"One of the tragic anomalies of the past century is that in an era that has seen an unprecedented number of nations embrace individual freedom has also witnessed the stubborn endurance of religious repression. Americans cannot look to the plight of the religiously oppressed and close our eyes or turn away. And that is why I will continue to urge the leaders of China to welcome the Dalai Lama to China. They will find this good man to be a man of peace and reconciliation."

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WITH YOUR SUPPORT

ICT arranged for a public address by the Dalai Lama on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol after he accepted the Congressional Gold Medal. More than 10,000 gathered to hear his message of peace and nonviolence, and over 65,000 people around the world watched a live webcast of the day's proceedings through ICT's website.



The Dalai Lama spoke candidly to the attendees at the Gala about the importance of international support for Tibet and the role we can all play to help the people of Tibet.



His Holiness leaves the Capitol after the Medal Ceremony to attend the celebration on the West Lawn, in the company of Speaker of the House Pelosi and His Special Envoy Lodi Gyari (ICT Executive Chairman). His Holiness entered to the sound of traditional Tibetan horns, the music that has presaged the entrance of the Dalai Lama to ceremonial events for centuries.



In gratitude for her friendship and support over the years, the Tibetan community presented Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi with a stupa.



Tibetan performers from across the nation and around the world came to Washington, DC to perform on the Capitol's West Lawn before an enthusiastic crowd of some 10,000 people. Dancers, musicians, and singers shared the flavor of Tibet's ancient and fascinating culture in what was at once a celebration of the Dalai Lama's Gold Medal and also an outpouring of pride in Tibet's spirit and resilience.



His Holiness was hosted by the Asia Society, the Brookings Institution, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies for a conversation focused on global themes of keen interest to the Dalai Lama including global warming and the environment, the gap between rich and poor, religion and ethics, and Tibet-China relations.



The International Campaign for Tibet held a Gold Medal Gala in honor of the Dalai Lama at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. Among the attendees were Chairman Tom Lantos (shown here with the Dalai Lama), ICT Chairman of the Board, Richard Gere and Carey Lowell; Speaker Nancy Pelosi; and U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Paula Dobriansky. Other attendees included Martin Scorsese, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, and ICT supporters and staff.



The Dalai Lama visited the N Street Village, a shelter for homeless women, where Tenzin Lhamo (a Buddhist nun) teaches the shelter's clients meditation.



Introduced by ICT Board Chairman Richard Gere, ICT Executive Chairman Lodi Gyari embraced his long time friend and then thanked Gala attendees for their unwavering support.

Statement of Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives:

"To meet with the Dalai Lama, Tibetans flee the repression in their own country, under the threat of torture and imprisonment for even having a picture of His Holiness. They walk for weeks, without adequate food or clothing, across the freezing Himalayan mountain passes. It is the most perilous escape route on earth. After their audience, they make the trip once again, returning to Tibet to rejoin their families. ... Today, with this Congressional Gold Medal, we honor the Tibetan people and His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights and religious understanding."

Statement of Tom Lantos, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee:

"What accounts for the rise of this humble Buddhist monk from near-obscurity to the global phenomenon that he has become? It is not lobbies. It is not economic power. It is not political influence. It is moral authority. ... At a moment in world history when nothing is in as short a supply as moral authority, this humble Buddhist monk has an inexhaustible supply. And this accounts for the respect, the admiration, the love that people have for him across the globe."

Statement of Dianne Feinstein, Chairwoman of the Senate Rules Committee:

"This man has been a quiet force for peace and compassion. He moves people to look beyond their narrow, selfish interests and to find the strength to help others. ... People flock by the thousands to his lectures all over the world. They yearn to hear his voice, to be enveloped by his spirit of compassion. His teachings resonate across religions, cultures, and ethnic lines. And his message of peace, non-violence and understanding has never been more relevant."

Statement of John Boehner, Republican Leader of the House of Representatives:

"Tonight when this work is done, this ceremony is over, all of you will go home. Members of Congress will finish their work tomorrow, and they will go home. We'll go to our districts and we'll see our families. But the Dalai Lama will not go home. He has not been home in 50 years. So today, we honor his sacrifice and his struggle and with a firm commitment that we will never forget the people of Tibet." ➤ page 13

The Gold Medal Gala Celebration

More Ways to Support ICT and Tibet

ICT would like to thank the following Gold Medal Gala organizational sponsors.

Each made a significant contribution that helped ensure the event celebrating His Holiness was a great success.

Algienne Amrita in honor of Tilokpur Nunnery

Palm Valley Behavioral Health

Paradise Filmworks International



Clover Lingerie & Gifts LLC



Computer Business International



free range studios



Iverson Language Associates

Mal Warwick Associates

I MAYA ROMANOFF



Tenzin Gyatso Institute
for Wisdom and Compassion



Become a *Friend of Tibet*

Join an exclusive inner circle — the *Friends of Tibet* — by pledging to contribute just a few dollars a month to ICT. Your monthly pledge of as little as \$10 a month gives us the steady, reliable funds we need to act in support of human rights in Tibet. Please visit our website at www.savetibet.org/FriendsofTibet.

Speak out to Help Political Prisoners

Sign up to be a part of our Political Prisoner network. Each month you'll get an e-mail from our campaign team that highlights a current prisoner with suggested actions you can take on his or her behalf. Your participation could make conditions better — or secure a release — for a political prisoner in Tibet. To sign up, go to www.savetibet.org/PoliticalPrisoners.

Plan to Make Your Support Last!

Consider a planned gift to ICT from your estate. Those who put ICT into their will, make a gift of stocks, retirement funds, or real estate, or participate in our gift annuity are inducted into our Mandala Society to honor their commitment. For more information, please contact Melissa Winchester at 202-785-1515 or Melissa@savetibet.org.

Take Action Today

ICT's websites provide flexible, secure donation options where you can support specific campaigns or renew your annual membership. (And you can encourage friends to join here, too.) You can make memorial or honorary gifts, and more. For more information, please visit us at www.savetibet.org.

Take a Closer Look...

Martin Scorsese's Film "KUNDUN"



Director Martin Scorsese introducing a clip from his film "Kundun" at ICT's Gold Medal Gala.

Ten years ago, filmmaker Martin Scorsese released his spectacular Oscar-nominated movie "Kundun." The story of the Dalai Lama's childhood and eventual exile, it's a visually-stunning cinematic work that opened many eyes around the world to the truth of the Chinese take-over — as well as the fascinating process by which a small child was identified as the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.

Most of the people in the film are not professional actors; many were related to the characters they portrayed on screen. For them, as for all Tibetans in exile, the film is a way to remember and honor the past — and a way to share their recent history with the world.

Director Martin Scorsese attended the Gold Medal Gala to meet again with Kundun (the Tibetan word for "The Presence" that is a beloved honorific for the Dalai Lama). Scorsese addressed the gathering and screened an excerpt of the film on its tenth anniversary.



The staff of the International Campaign for Tibet recommends this breathtaking film. If you've already seen it, perhaps it's time for another look. If you haven't seen it yet, you're in for a treat. Mr. Scorsese is one of our finest filmmakers — and this movie showcases his talents and his sympathies with brilliance.

Statement of Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the United States Senate:

"Truth is persistent, and in the case of the Dalai Lama, so is the messenger. He's carried the plight of his people to the world for nearly fifty years, never growing tired or frustrated. It's this constancy and hope in the face of violence and intimidation that inspires Tibetan teenagers and grandfathers to risk arrest, or worse, by keeping pictures of him in their homes or by scrawling his name on a school-house wall. In recent weeks he has inspired the suffering people of Burma to similar acts of heroism. And he has inspired Congress to give him the greatest honor in our power to bestow."

Statement of Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen:

"But the efforts of this blessed man are not limited to Tibet. His wisdom and compassion transcend national boundaries. He has said, 'May I become at all times both now and forever, a protector for the helpless, a guide for the lost ones and a ship for those who cross oceans and a bridge to those who cross rivers, a sanctuary for those in danger, a lamp for those in darkness, and a refuge for those who need shelter, a servant to all in need.' I believe this clearly explains why we are honoring him today."

Statement of Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the United States Senate:

"In the history of our republic, the Congressional Gold Medal has been awarded just 145 times, far less than one a year. Each and every recipient from George Washington to Mother Teresa, to Elie Wiesel ... have made a staggering and indelible contribution to the cultural fabric of our country and the world. Today we gather in this great chamber ... to award the 146th Gold Medal. I can think of no one living on the earth today more deserving of this honor than His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet."

Statement by Professor Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Laureate:

"My dear friend, as long as you are in exile, our yearning for freedom will accompany you. You will not be alone, ever. And one day, you and I, if God gives me years, will go to Tibet together."

Letter from Lodi Gyari

from page 3

thinking leaders do not meet the same fate as Hu Yao Bang, a liberal minded Chinese leader.

One very optimistic and hopeful sign is the ever-increasing awareness among the Chinese people themselves of the true nature of the Tibetan issue. There is unprecedented interest among educated, young Chinese in Tibetan culture and its Buddhist tradition. The Chinese people yearn for more meaning in life than just material success, and the phenomenal growth in religious practice throughout China has compelled the Communist Party to adopt a more reconciliatory stand toward religion. Many traditions, including Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam are making a remarkable comeback within China. This is a positive sign that will have a profound impact in the Chinese society.

The Tibetans must also understand that the reason there is such an outpouring of support for their struggle is because their leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, has adopted a most pragmatic stand and that he has also chosen nonviolence as the method. Any deviation from such a path will not only be counterproductive but could also distance many of our international supporters.

Many traditions, including Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam are making a remarkable comeback within China.

As Tibetans and as friends of Tibet we must continue to make vigorous efforts to obtain international support for our legitimate struggle while engaging in dialogue with the Chinese leadership in all sincerity. That's why I am so grateful for your steadfast support.

Your past efforts have proven that, working together, we can overcome seemingly impossible circumstances.

Tashi Delek and Happy New Year.



Lodi Gyari
ICT Executive Chairman

Recent Reports from ICT

Available in January:

New findings on the environmental, and socio-economic impact of the railroad that crosses the Tibetan plateau



ICT's latest groundbreaking report explores the alarming impact of the new railway on Tibet's land and people through first-person testimony, official documentation, original writings by Tibetans and Chinese, and compelling new photography.

The railway across the Tibetan plateau — the highest railroad in the world — is a tool of China's economic policies imposed on the lives of Tibetans. The trains have brought a significant influx of Chinese people to the plateau, which intensifies the rate at which Tibetans are marginalized in their own country. The increased ease of access has also caused a boom in tourism and real estate in Lhasa — leading to real fears about the survival of the distinct Tibetan cultural identity.

Further, the railway is affecting Tibet's fragile high-altitude environment, and opening up large-scale exploitation of Tibet's mineral and natural resources — helping to consolidate the investment of foreign corporations for the first time in what Beijing now calls the 'rail economy' of Tibet.

The report will be available for download in late January at www.savetibet.org/reports.

A Message of Thanks to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

Many friends, allies, and supporters of ICT ask if there are actions that individuals can take that will further the cause of the Tibetan people — and the answer is: Of course!

If you would like to take an extra step in helping us further our mission, consider writing a note of thanks to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. She has been a dedicated friend to Tibet for years — and now in her new leadership position, she's standing firm in defense of human rights and peace in Tibet.

She, with other supporters in Congress, have shown Beijing that the government and people of these United States support the people of Tibet — but in the months to come, as we look to the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, there are opportunities that the Congress could take — or pass on. That's why any individual can take action to help the Tibetans by encouraging Speaker Pelosi's continued support.

A sample letter is provided here; you can send it in its entirety ... modify it as you please ... or create a unique message of your own. ICT tries to keep track of messages sent on the subject of Tibet, so if you could make a copy and send it to us as well, we'd be grateful. You can call, write, or e-mail Ms. Pelosi, or ask to meet with her either in her Washington, DC offices or in California when she's home. Her contact information is:

- Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515
- (202) 225-0100
- sf.nancy@mail.house.gov
- <http://www.house.gov/pelosi/> or <http://www.speaker.gov/>

SAMPLE MESSAGE:

To Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

Dear Madam Speaker,

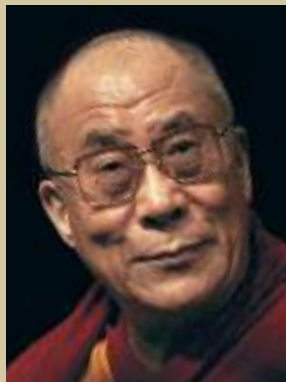
I am a supporter of the International Campaign for Tibet, and I want to thank you personally for your exceptional history of support for the Tibetan people. You were fundamental in ensuring that His Holiness the Dalai Lama was honored with a Congressional Gold Medal — an award celebrated by peace-loving people around the world.

And by so doing, you helped our nation make a public and positive statement to the world and to the government of China: The United States supports human rights and religious tolerance.

As we approach the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Congress will be presented with many opportunities to reinforce this message. I know that you will continue to be a strong friend to Tibet and support their rights and freedoms. Together we can make a real and lasting improvement in the lives of Tibetans.

Thank you,

(Your name here)



The Dalai Lama is Honored in Washington, DC

The Celebrations, the Repercussions

Photo Essay and Press Reports Inside



More than sixty-five thousand people watched ICT's live webcast of the Gold Medal ceremony and West Lawn events. Here, thousands of Tibetans watch the live broadcast in Dharamsala, India, home of the Tibet Government in Exile.