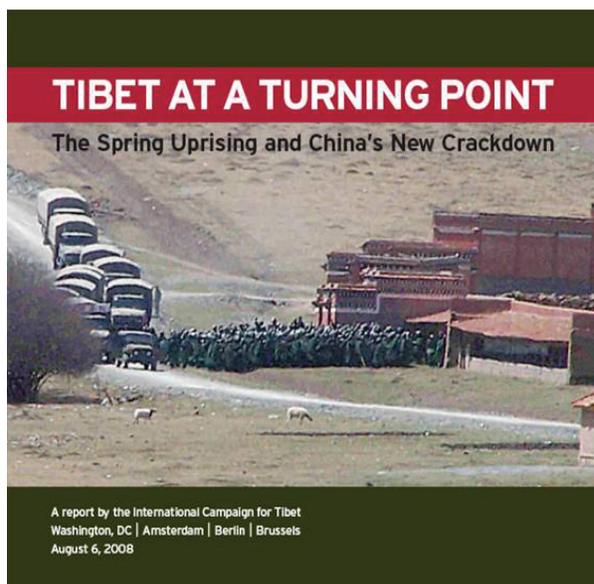


“Hu Jintao has imposed a brutal crackdown that owes more to the political extremism and paranoia of the Maoist era than to a 21st century would-be superpower.”

– ICT

NEW ICT REPORT REVEALS INTENSIFICATION OF CRACKDOWN IN TIBET AS OLYMPICS OPEN

Despite its promotion of a ‘peaceful Olympics’, China has further intensified its crackdown on Tibet in the past few weeks following the most significant uprising there in nearly 50 years. This is the finding of a new report by



the International Campaign for Tibet, “Tibet at a Turning Point: the Spring Uprising and China’s New Crackdown”.

Since March 10, a wave of mainly peaceful protests against the Chinese government has swept across Tibet. Tibetans have risked their lives to demonstrate that their exiled leader the Dalai Lama represents their interests, and not

the Chinese state. This uprising is a result of more than half a century of Communist Party misrule and reveals the breakdown of Beijing’s Tibet policy at a time when China seeks to convey an image of harmony in the buildup to the Olympics.

In order to hide its repression in Tibet, China has virtually sealed off the entire plateau, despite promising increasing openness in the buildup to the Olympics, and imposed a news blackout. China has dramatically tightened security in Tibet and announced new ‘anti-terror’ plans in order to prevent any possible embarrassment during the Olympics.

The new ICT report provides evidence gathered at great risk of:

- The ‘disappearance’ and detention of hundreds of Tibetans, including monks, nuns and schoolchildren, who are treated with extreme brutality in custody
- Unarmed peaceful protestors who have been shot dead, and names of those who have died following torture in prison or as a result of suicide due to despair over the crackdown or being made to denounce the Dalai Lama
- More than 125 protests across the Tibetan plateau - the overwhelming majority non-violent. Tibetans have risked their lives to demonstrate that the exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, represents Tibetan interests, and not the Chinese state
- Sweeping new measures to purge monasteries of monks and ban worship in the wake of the protests, revealing a systematic new attack on Tibetan Buddhism led by Chinese leader Hu Jintao that is reminiscent of the excesses of the Cultural Revolution

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Barack Obama expresses support for Tibet in letter to Dalai Lama

Senator Barack Obama, the presumptive U.S. presidential nominee of the Democratic Party, sent a letter to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 24 July to assure him of his highest respect and support “for your mission and your people at this critical time.” Arizona Senator John McCain, presumptive U.S. presidential nominee of the Republican Party, met the Dalai Lama to discuss Tibet on 25 July in Aspen, Colorado.

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The full text of the letter appeared on Senator Obama's website:

July 24, 2008

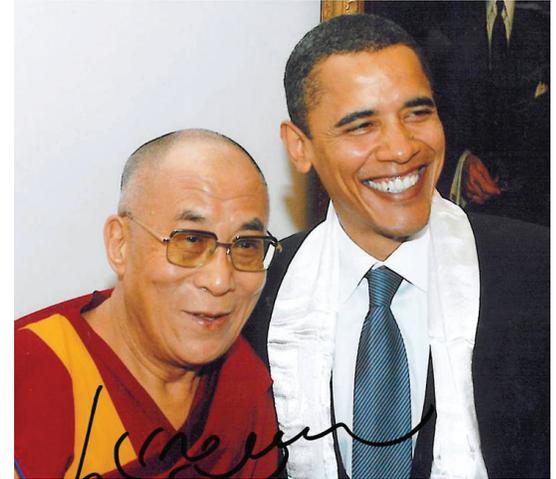
Your Holiness,

I regret that our respective travel schedules will prevent us from meeting during your visit to the United States this month, but I wanted to take the opportunity to reassure you of my highest respect and support for you, your mission and your people at this critical time. I hope that this letter and your meeting with Senator McCain will make clear that American attention to and backing for the people of Tibet is widespread and transcends the divisions of our political contest in this important election year.

I was heartened to read of the continuing dialogue between your representatives and the government of the People's Republic of China. Although progress is likely to be slow, and the travails of the people of Tibet will continue, I am hopeful that the process of dialogue and negotiation will bring positive results if both sides demonstrate good intentions and mutual respect. I remain optimistic that this process will continue beyond the Beijing Olympics, and pledge that I will continue to support it. The right to practice their religious beliefs without punishment or obstruction is one that should be accorded the people of Tibet, and I will continue to encourage the Chinese government to put aside its suspicions and act in accordance with its own constitution.

I will continue to support you and the rights of Tibetans. People of all faiths can admire what you are doing and what you stand for, and I look forward to meeting you at another time.

With great respect,
Barack Obama



Senator Barack Obama last met the Dalai Lama in 2005 at a US Senate Foreign Relations Committee event

In remarks to the media after meeting the Dalai Lama, Senator McCain said, "I urge the Chinese leaders to engage in talks and make progress with His Holiness' Representatives in addressing the just grievances of the Tibetan people. I urge the Chinese government to release Tibetan political prisoners and account for Tibetans who have 'disappeared' since the protests in March and engage in meaningful dialogue and genuine autonomy for Tibet."

Senator McCain also said: "The Olympics next month should be a time for China to demonstrate to the world that it is committed to respecting the basic human rights of its people. The United States welcomes good relations with China but it does no service to the Chinese government, and certainly no service to the people of China, for the United States and other democracies to pretend that the suppression of rights in China does not concern us. It does, will and must concern us." ■

New ICT report...

Mary Beth Markey, Vice President for Advocacy for the International Campaign for Tibet, said at the launch of the report: "Hu Jintao's leadership appears to have chosen no other means than force and intimidation to restore control in Tibet, and has imposed a brutal crackdown that owes more to the political extremism and paranoia of the Maoist era than to a 21st century would-be superpower. As a matter of urgency, world leaders attending the Olympics must publicly express concern in Beijing about the crackdown in Tibet and the hardline policies that led to the spring uprising."

The International Campaign for Tibet is also pressing leaders to seek a full accounting from Beijing of the more

than one thousand Tibetans whose status following the spring demonstrations in Tibet is currently unknown.

President Hu, whose rise to power is linked to his role as former Party boss in Tibet, was intimately involved in drafting the hardline policies that have been the primary cause of Tibet's spring uprising. In order to resolve the deepening crisis, President Hu must be urged to engage directly with the Dalai Lama - recognized by the world as the pre-eminent representative of the Tibetan people -- on Tibet's future.

The report can be downloaded at www.savetibet.org ■



Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama, Lodi Gyari, at a news conference in New Delhi, April 2008

DALAI LAMA'S OFFICE:

Tibet issue concerns the future of six million Tibetans, not the Dalai Lama

The Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has issued a statement (17 July 2008) reiterating that the issue of Tibet concerns the future of six million Tibetans in Tibet and not the Dalai Lama, saying "he personally had nothing to ask of the Central Chinese government." The statement also restated the Dalai Lama's position that once the Tibetan people in exile are able to return to Tibet with meaningful autonomy, he "will not play any role in the future government of Tibet, let alone seek the Dalai Lama's traditional political position in the government".

The statement followed comments made earlier by Dong Yunhu, the Director General of the Seventh Bureau of the State Council Information Office, who told journalists: "The central Government will never discuss the future of Tibet with the Dalai Lama. What we can discuss with him is his future and that of some of his supporters." (Indo-Asian News Service July 15 2008, and other reports). Dong Yunhu is responsible for providing information on Tibet.

Dong Yunhu's statement followed the 7th round of dialogue between the Dalai Lama's envoys and Chinese officials during July, a meeting that was characterized by the Tibetans as disappointing.

The two sides have agreed to meet again after the Beijing Olympics. Speaking on the US's National Public Radio on 23 July, the Dalai Lama's Special Envoy, Lodi Gyari, said: "This is the great opportunity for [China] to prove itself. To prove, one, that China does things by herself, not because of international pressure; two, that they're serious, and they were not doing all these talks for the sake of the Olympics." Gyari also cited the chance for the Dalai Lama and Chinese President Hu Jintao to prove that they are serious about a mediated solution. "I think the October meeting is very important," he said.

Gyari told NPR, "China sometimes takes the position that, 'Oh, there's no problem in Tibet. Everything's fine. Tibetans are very grateful, there's prosperity, there's this, there's that.'" And when rallies and demonstrations break out, Gyari said, China's government treats them as threats to law and order, often leading to a crackdown. "This is not going to resolve the issue. The more you suppress, the more [there is] resentment." Instead, he urged them to accept the Dalai Lama's offer of cooperation with China's leaders. "We can provide them legitimacy," Gyari said. "But if - and only if - Tibetans are given the opportunity to live in dignity." ■

New Chinese documents reveal "Measures for dealing strictly with rebellious monasteries and individual monks and nuns"

New measures specified in an official document from Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan province (the Tibetan area of Kham) to purge monasteries of monks and restrict religious practice in the wake of protests across the plateau reveal a systematic

new attack on Tibetan Buddhism that is reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution. The new measures, which will apply to hundreds of monasteries, strike at the heart of Tibetan religious identity at a time of unprecedented tension on the

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New Chinese documents...

plateau and are likely to create further resentment among the Tibetan people.

According to the new measures:

- Monks who express dissent or refuse to 'conform' can be expelled and their residence demolished
- Tulkus (reincarnate lamas) could be 'stripped of the right to hold the incarnation lineage' if they communicate with foreigners or engage in protests against the Chinese authorities - a measure that is consistent with an earlier ruling that all reincarnate lamas must have the approval of the Chinese government
- Buddhist practice will be suspended in monasteries where a specific percentage of monks have engaged in protest or dissent
- Senior religious teachers could face public 'rectification' or imprisonment if they are shown to have even 'tolerated' peaceful protest activity

The document, dated 28 June and published in Tibetan on an official website, has been translated into English by ICT (see <http://tinyurl.com/5wsdpj>). The measures are aimed at "dealing clearly with participants in illegal activities aimed at inciting the division of nationalities, such as shouting reactionary slogans, distributing reactionary writings, flying and popularising the 'snow lion flag' and holding illegal demonstrations".

The measures have disturbing implications for the lives of monks and nuns in Tibet, and emerge from the authorities' position of equating any expression of Tibetan identity with 'separatism', which has stifled debate, led to a climate of fear, and created a serious threat to the survival of Tibetan culture and religion.

Hundreds of Tibetans, including monks, nuns and laypeople, have been imprisoned in Kardze in the last few months for peaceful protests against Chinese rule since demonstrations began across the Tibetan plateau on March 10, the anniversary of the Lhasa Uprising in 1959. Tibetans in Kardze are known for their strong sense of Tibetan identity and nationalism; hardline Chinese campaigns against the Dalai Lama and economic policies that have led to the loss of their land and livelihoods as well as the extraction of minerals by Chinese prospectors have caused deep resentment in the region. Monks and nuns in Kardze led a second wave of protests in the last few weeks demonstrating against the severe implementation of 'patriotic education' in religious institutions, which requires monks and nuns to denounce the Dalai Lama. Many nuns in Kardze were also detained for protesting against the brutal treatment of other Tibetans in custody since March.

Entitled *'Measures for dealing strictly with rebellious monasteries and individual monks and nuns (An order from the Peoples Government of Kardze TAP no.2)'*, the new measures issued by the prefectural government describe how monasteries with "10%-30% of monks or nuns participating in disturbances" will be systematically "sealed off, searched, suspect persons detained according to law and any banned items they have hidden handed over (to the authorities). All religious activities will be suspended, inmates will be prohibited from leaving the premises, and they will be cleaned up and rectified in the proper manner."

The ruling states that the rooms of monks and nuns who refuse to be registered or who do not conform to the demands of political education will be demolished, and the monks and nuns expelled: "Monks and nuns returning to the monastery who cannot give a clear reason for having gone outside, who cannot make a clear stand with respect to the unification of the Motherland and rejection of the separation of nationalities will be expelled, and their cells demolished."

The Kardze document also places a strong emphasis on the public 'rectification' of senior lamas and religious figures, and states that those "who fail to make their attitude clear or take a two-faced stance will not only be strictly warned, but will have to give a detailed examination of their behaviour in front of a general assembly of the monastic community, and a written guarantee, and the giving of this examination and written guarantee will be shown repeatedly in newspapers and on television."

The new official measures also state that reincarnate lamas (tulkus) can be "stripped of the right to hold the incarnation lineage" and will be "severely punished by the law" if they attempt to communicate information about what is happening in their monastery outside, or participate in protests or "tolerate them." This ruling appears to follow from, and is consistent with, earlier controversial measures introduced in September 2007, 'Management measures for the reincarnation of living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism, which give the Chinese authorities final oversight over the selection process for reincarnate lamas.' (See: 'New measures on reincarnation reveal Party's objectives of political control,' ICT, April 15, 2007.) This new edict in Kardze means that not only can the Chinese state, that promotes atheism, approve or reject a candidate to be a reincarnate lama, but the government can also withdraw the title.

Like these earlier measures, the new edict is deliberately targeted at one of the core belief systems of Tibetan Buddhism, revealing the Party's agenda to undermine and supplant the Tibetan religious hierarchy and weaken the authority of legitimate Tibetan religious leaders including the Dalai Lama. ■