

## Tibet's Stolen Child is Still Missing!

On May 17, 1995, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the six year-old boy identified by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as one of Tibet's most important religious figures - the 11th Panchen Lama, disappeared. Suspicions that he had been kidnapped were confirmed in 1996 during questioning by the UN Commissioner on the Rights of the Child, when the Chinese government admitted to holding the boy and his family in "protective custody." He has now been missing for nearly two decades.

### Whereabouts Still Unknown

Despite repeated appeals to gain access to him, no government representative international agency or human rights organization has been granted contact with the young Panchen Lama or his family. To date, their well-being and whereabouts remain unconfirmed.

As recently as October 2013, a UN committee asked China about his whereabouts. They only said he didn't want to be bothered and is living a happy life. The committee reiterated the UN's request to see him.

Furthermore, in an attempt to establish their pre-eminence in all "internal affairs" of China, political or otherwise, in November 1995 the atheistic Chinese government selected a different boy and proclaimed him to be the 11th Panchen Lama. China's chosen boy is overwhelmingly rejected by the Tibetan



people and is commonly referred to as the "Panchen Zuma" (literally "fake Panchen Lama"). China increasingly uses this boy as a mouthpiece for its calculated policies in Tibet. Both boys are victims in China's plan to undermine and control the Tibetan people, religion and culture.

### The International Campaign for Tibet recommends that:

- China allow international observers to meet with the Panchen Lama and his family; and that
- China recognizes Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the real Panchen Lama and restores him to his rightful position of 11th Panchen Lama of Tibet at Tashilhunpo Monastery.

### Q & A:

#### Why did China abduct the Panchen Lama?

The Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama have traditionally played a leading role in the recognition of each other's reincarnation. Intent on curbing the influence of the Dalai Lama within Tibet and on controlling his next reincarnation, the Chinese government has disrupted the close relationship between the Panchen Lama and the Dalai Lama, which dictates by tradition that the confirmation of either must be mutually recognized.

#### Where is the Panchen Lama?

Despite repeated requests by the UN and foreign delegations to have access to him, the current whereabouts of the Panchen Lama and his family are unknown.

#### How old is he now?

The Panchen Lama turned 25 on April 25, 2014, but the last known photograph of him was taken when he was only six.

### How you can help...

1. Promote awareness about the Panchen lama by sharing ICT's film 'Tibet's Stolen Child' via social media.
2. Write to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, urging her to take action on behalf of the Panchen Lama.
3. Join the ICT Action Network to receive regular updates and calls for action by going to [www.savetibet.org/email](http://www.savetibet.org/email).