

Tibet

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PRESS WATCH

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WINTER 2015

*A publication of the
International Campaign for Tibet*



SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

RESPONDING TO CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING'S OFFICIAL STATE VISIT

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The International Campaign for Tibet depends on contributions from members to sustain its work in support of Tibet. Your generosity makes a difference.

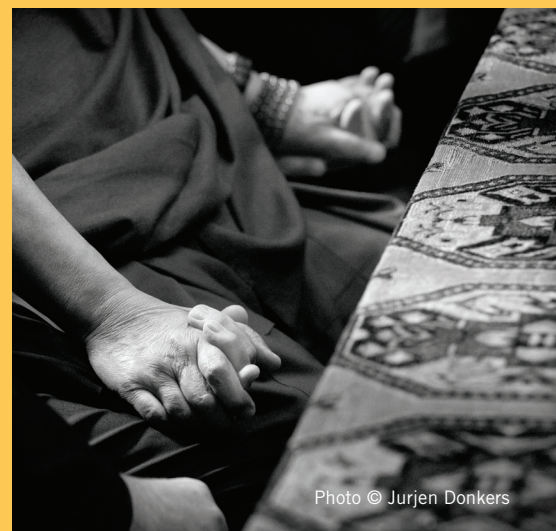


Photo © Jurjen Donkers

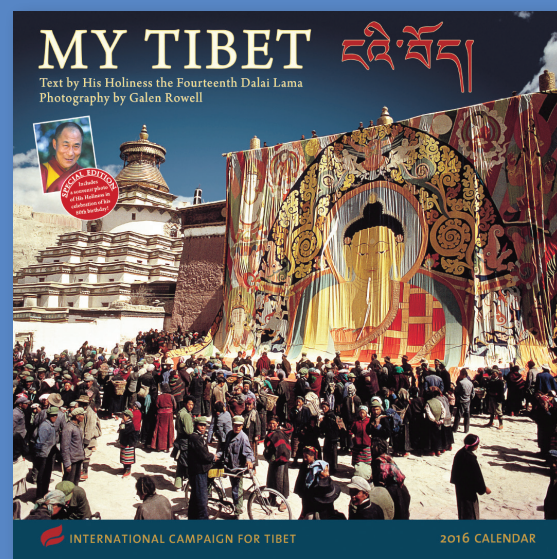
Learn more about these opportunities and other ways to stand with Tibetans by supporting ICT's work at savetibet.org/other-ways-to-give/ or contact Cynthia Hurst at **202-580-6775** or cynthia.hurst@savetibet.org

2016 CALENDAR: MY TIBET

Text by His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama
Photographs by Galen Rowell

This special edition calendar includes an 8"x10" print of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in honor of his 80th birthday. It features landscape and portrait photography taken by American mountaineer and friend of Tibet Galen Rowell during the 1980s. These stunning images are accompanied by His Holiness the Dalai Lama's narration as he viewed the photographs and reminisced about the beauty of his homeland, from which he has been exiled since 1959.

The collaboration between Galen Rowell and the Dalai Lama resulted in the book *My Tibet*. In ICT's 2016 calendar, these words and images are again paired to capture the essence of Tibet. Sadly, much of the ancient culture and natural ecosystem preserved in these photographs is under serious threat today.



Order your 2016 calendar today for \$14.99 plus shipping at savetibetstore.org or by calling **877-259-9209**. Limited quantities are available.

From the President



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*Deceased

Dear Friends,

As 2015 draws to a close, I am so inspired by your dedication to Tibet and your involvement in our activities in support of the Tibetan people this year.

It has indeed been an active and productive fall at ICT! In September, Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Washington, D.C., for an official state visit with President Obama. ICT responded with vigor, holding high-profile demonstrations with a coalition of human rights groups, including an energetic rally near the White House and a "Stateless Breakfast" in conjunction with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the day of the official State Dinner. You can read more about our action-based response to President Xi's visit to the U.S. on pages 6-7.

Then in October, the Chinese leader traveled to London for a state visit and banquet hosted by the Queen. There too, we played an important role in countering Chinese propaganda. I took part in a roundtable discussion at University of Westminster, which called attention to the British government's focus on courting Chinese business interests at the expense of human rights. ICT also collaborated on a "Stateless Lunch" in Parliament hosted by Member of Parliament Fabian Hamilton. The event honored Tibetan, Uyghur, and Chinese human rights defenders, who urged Prime Minister Cameron to speak out on behalf of those persecuted by the Chinese government.

During the visit in London, three peaceful protestors (two Tibetan women and one Chinese man) were unjustly arrested and detained, and their homes were searched. Many suspected that the arrests were made under the influence of Beijing, calling the incident the "great British kowtow." ICT worked with the UK Tibet Society to encourage MPs to raise this issue in Parliament (which they did) and demand that the British government uphold the fundamental tenets of democracy, including freedom of expression and peaceful protest.

Though the specter of China loomed large this fall, ICT continues to energetically spotlight the truth and counteract propaganda from the Chinese government. Hope prevails as we witness the resilience of the Tibetan people in the face of so much oppression.

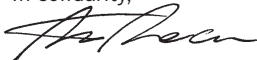
Over the summer, we held the first annual *Tibet at Tuolumne* weekend benefitting the *Rowell Fund for Tibet*. Learn more about this event honoring Galen Rowell's legacy of advocating for the people of Tibet on pages 4-5.

Additionally, we are very pleased to welcome two new staff members to our team at ICT's office in Washington, D.C. You can "meet" them on page 8. We also remember with much fondness and gratitude our longstanding board member Melissa Mathison, who passed away in November. Her kindness and love for Tibet have left an indelible mark on all of us at ICT.

As we go to print, news has emerged that Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi has been able to fulfill her long-held desire to visit Tibet. She was in Lhasa in November with a delegation of seven members of the U.S. Congress plus their staff, including Representative Jim McGovern. Over the past years ICT has advocated for more access to Tibet for U.S. citizens and their representatives, so we welcome such an initiative and will report more about the visit in our upcoming communications.

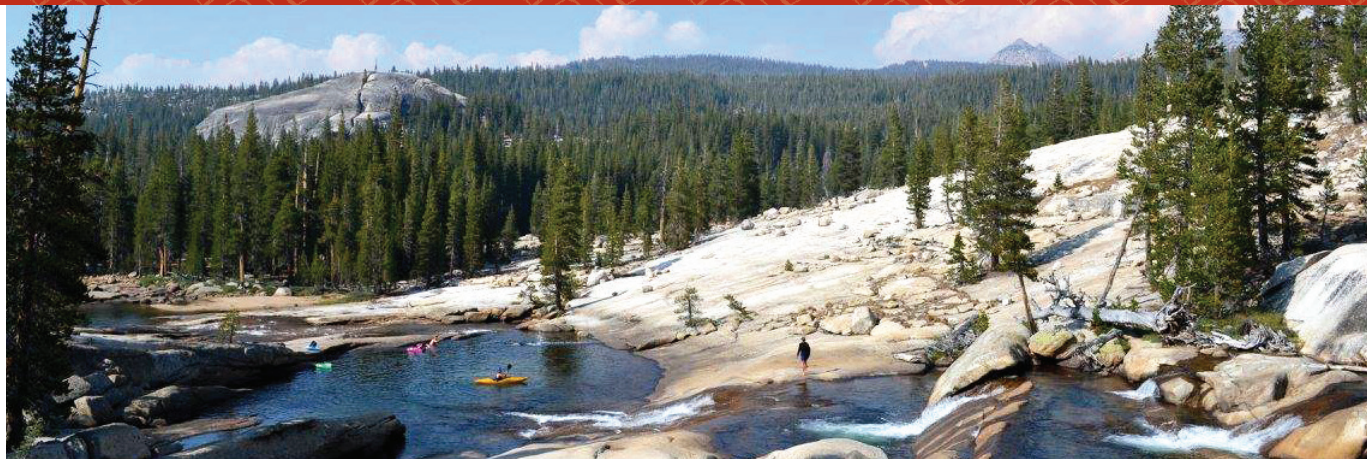
I send you my best wishes for the New Year and my personal thanks for all that you do in support of our Tibetan brothers and sisters. Your fellowship is always remembered.

In solidarity,


Matteo Mecacci

Cover Image: Tibet supporters took part in a rally highlighting China's dismal human rights record across from the White House on September 25, 2015—the same day as the official state dinner honoring Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The Rowell Fund for Tibet



Tibet at Tuolumne: A Benefit Weekend for the *Rowell Fund for Tibet*

From August 21 to 23, 36 friends and supporters of Tibet gathered at Tuolumne Meadows Campground in Yosemite National Park to celebrate the life of climber, wilderness photographer, and Tibet champion Galen Rowell and to lend their support to the *Rowell Fund for Tibet*.

In this magnificent natural setting, participants camped in tents and took part in outdoor activities including hiking and rock climbing with expert mountaineers Conrad Anker, a *Rowell Fund* Advisory Board member, and Peter Croft. A photography workshop was led by Galen and Barbara Rowell's son Tony Rowell. Group meals, shared memories about the Rowells, campfires, and a collective commitment to Tibet fostered a spirit of community.

This celebratory weekend raised more than \$25,000 for the *Rowell Fund*, which was established by friends and family in memory of Galen and Barbara Rowell after their untimely deaths in a plane crash in 2002. The Fund awards small grants to Tibetans who are working to promote their culture and homeland in the arenas of environmental conservation, photography, humanitarian issues, journalism/literature, and women's projects.

The first benefit trip of its kind, *Tibet at Tuolumne* forged lasting memories and friendships, and the *Rowell Fund* Board of Advisors and ICT hope to make it an annual event in support of Tibetan life and culture.

Capturing Tibet's Natural Heritage in Photographs

In 1989, the late photographer and adventure mountaineer Galen Rowell traveled to the residence of the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala to present His Holiness with a slideshow of nature photography of Tibet. That visit resulted in a very special book titled *My Tibet* that was co-authored by Rowell and His Holiness the Dalai Lama and first published in 1990. As Rowell displayed his photographs, His Holiness' comments about them were recorded and appear as captions in the book.

The images included in *My Tibet* were taken in the 1980s, around the time that ICT was established and that Rowell served as Co-Chair of the organization's Advisory Board. In that era, the first Western travelers were granted access to Tibet, and many Tibetans fled into exile as political demonstrations in Lhasa resulted in a crackdown by the Chinese government.

Rowell's photographs brought assurance that the beauty and wonder of Tibet were still alive in spite of the horrors of the occupation.



Ookchoe
(*incarvillea*) on
the Kharta Plains,
Phung Chu Valley;
1988

"If I see, smell or even think about wildflowers, I especially feel happy. I remember that when I first arrived in Lhasa as a four-year-old boy I felt as though I were in a dream ... as if I were in a great park covered with beautiful flowers while soft breezes blew across it and peacocks elegantly danced before me. There was an unforgettable scent of wildflowers and a song of freedom and happiness in the air." — HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

This and other images from *My Tibet* appear in the International Campaign for Tibet 2016 wall calendar. Order yours at savetibetstore.org or 877-259-9209.

John Jancik and Terri Baker: Longtime Friends of Tibet and Supporters of the *Rowell Fund*

John Jancik and Terri Baker first learned about Tibet during a climbing expedition to the northernmost piece of land on Earth. They were traveling with expert climber Galen Rowell on the 1996 American Top of the World Expedition. As they traversed North Peary Land, Greenland, the two discussed with Galen and learned more about his experiences climbing in Tibet and the injustices he saw there.

“I came away as a big admirer of Galen Rowell,” John remembered. “I was pretty uninformed about Tibet before, and his discussions were very enlightening and inspiring—they took me from a place of not really knowing to a place of wanting to learn more and ultimately get involved.”

Since then, John and Terri have become members of the *Rowell Fund for Tibet’s* Advisory Board and avid supporters of Tibet. Terri particularly appreciates that the *Rowell Fund* helps preserve and promote the visual and literary arts. “In terms of learning about Tibet, sometimes art, poetry, photography can reach and connect with people in a way that newspapers do not,” she said.

In 2006, John and Terri along with their son David Baker and Steve Gardiner established a fundraising initiative called 50 for Tibet, with a mission to ascend the highest peaks in each of the 50 U.S. states. It ultimately raised over two hundred thousand dollars—enough to fund approximately five years of *Rowell Fund* grants.

On a trip to Dharamsala, India, in 2014, John and Terri had a chance to witness some of the *Rowell Fund* grants in action. “What struck me most was how important these relatively small amounts of money were to the people who received them in terms of being able to start or continue their work,” Terri says. They were particularly inspired by a visit to the Tibetan Children’s Village, where a *Rowell Fund* grant had allowed the photography club to purchase cameras and other supplies.

The two spontaneously left behind their own DSLR camera and projector for the photography club and were touched by the “big smiles” the gift elicited from the club’s teacher. “To say that I came away from that trip emotionally moved by what I had seen would be an understatement,” said John.



During an ICT trip to Dharamsala, India in 2014, John Jancik and Terri Baker had an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

This summer, John and Terri were among those who participated in the first annual *Tibet at Tuolumne* weekend. They were particularly moved by Galen’s son Tony Rowell’s presentation of his own photography, and by fellow board member Conrad Anker’s slideshow of Galen’s last expedition. Both said they were inspired by being among a group of like-minded individuals. They envision even bigger and better *Tibet at Tuolumne* events in the years to come.

When asked what has motivated them to continue their work with the *Rowell Fund*, Terri recalled a remark made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama during their audience with him in Dharamsala. “He told us that there is so much value in preserving Tibetan culture, especially in its focus on nonviolence and compassion. Not just for the sake of Tibetans, but for the good of the whole world.” John and Terri could not agree more.



“John and Terri took on leadership roles at the *Rowell Fund for Tibet* through their own donations but also through doing benefit climbs, raising publicity and motivating others on the Advisory Board. They also went to India and met with many recipients of the grants and helped to direct funds toward effective projects.”

—John Ackerly, ICT Board of Directors



Advocacy Update



Left: Congressman Jim McGovern and House Leader Nancy Pelosi welcomed participants to a “Stateless Breakfast” on Capitol Hill. Right: Tibetan activist Tsering Kyi raised a glass to human rights defenders at the event.

“Stateless Breakfast” Offers Counterpoint to State Dinner

As a counterpoint to the White House State Dinner honoring Chinese President Xi Jinping on September 25, ICT and a coalition of human rights groups hosted a Stateless Breakfast for Human Rights in China in conjunction with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. The coalition held the event on Capitol Hill to honor human rights defenders in China who have been persecuted and imprisoned and to call attention to the ongoing crackdown on human rights activists in China, as President Obama held high-level meetings with President Xi.

The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Co-chairs, Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Congressman Joe Pitts (R-PA), led the event, which included U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), and a number of well known human rights activists. An empty chair symbolized those human rights defenders who remain in Chinese custody or have been disappeared.

Speaking at the Stateless Breakfast, Leader Pelosi said, “In terms of the U.S. and China, in our relationship, it’s important for us to be who we are as America. We lose all moral authority to talk about human rights any place in the world, if we refuse to make it a priority in our conversation with a country with whom we have a strong economic relationship. That cannot be the determining factor as to whether we will recognize violations of human rights in China... Again, the situation in Tibet and the human rights situation in China challenge the conscience of the world, and we cannot let that challenge go unrecognized and unmet.”

Referencing Chinese political prisoners Liu Xiaobo, who received the Nobel Peace Prize while imprisoned in 2010, and Gao Zhisheng, a human rights attorney currently under house arrest, along with “a whole list” of others who remain imprisoned and under house arrest, Leader Pelosi said, “We want to be sure that every political prisoner in the world... knows that we carry them in our hearts, and that we will speak about them in our forums.”

In his remarks, Representative McGovern said the event sent a “clear bipartisan message that human rights must be at the top of the agenda.” He continued, “We want to build a constructive relationship with China as a partner on the world stage, but the human rights abuses that continue there cannot be ignored... This is a moment for real leadership and the world is watching.”

Representatives Pitts and Jackson Lee joined Representative McGovern in welcoming guests and delivering opening remarks at the breakfast, and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) contributed a video message. The Chinese activists and leaders who spoke at the Stateless Breakfast about the dire human rights situation inside China included Chen Guangcheng, a human rights defender who escaped torture and house arrest; Yang Jianli, a former political prisoner and veteran human rights activist; and Rebiya Kadeer, President of the World Uyghur Congress. Tsering Kyi, a Tibetan blogger and poet who escaped into exile, described her nephew’s self-immolation in 2013 in response to Chinese oppression.

In addition to ICT, the other host organizations included China Aid, Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, Initiatives for China, Project 2049 Institute, Reporters Without Borders, World Uyghur Congress, and Uyghur American Association.

Rally at White House Highlights China's Human Rights Abuses

During Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington D.C., a coalition of human rights groups, including ICT, held a rally at Lafayette Park, across from the White House, on September 25—the same day as the official state dinner. The rally served to highlight China's dismal human rights record and to urge President Obama to send a strong message to the Chinese leadership that human rights abuses in China must end.

Since Xi Jinping came to power in China, Tibetans and other communities, including Uyghurs, Mongols, Chinese Christians, writers, human rights lawyers, and others, have suffered increased persecution and an unrelenting assault on their basic human rights.

Under the banner of "Let Freedom Ring for Chinese, Tibetans, Uyghurs and Mongols," the rally brought together many activists and supporters in a vibrant display of solidarity. Meanwhile, the hashtag #ChinaRightsNow, adopted by the coalition of human rights groups who organized the event, gathered strong support on social media outlets.

The coalition included Amnesty International, China Aid, Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA), Initiatives for China, International Campaign for Tibet, Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center, Students for a Free Tibet, Uyghur American Association, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, as well as the Capital Area Tibetan Association.



ICT Plays Key Role in Side Events at United Nations

On September 24, ICT EU Policy Director Vincent Metten spoke at a side event held in conjunction with the 30th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva that was titled "Torture and the Chinese Government." In addition to ICT, participants in the discussion about China's systemic use of torture as a tool to suppress human rights defenders and peaceful dissent included prominent experts such as former Tibetan political prisoner Golog Jigme.

The conversation also called attention to the opportunities that exist for States to challenge China's actions and encourage positive change. This event was held in the run-up to China's review by the Committee Against Torture (CAT) in mid-November, to raise awareness of and engagement in the issue.

Hosting organizations included the Tibet Justice Center, Students for a Free Tibet, International Service for Human Rights, International Tibet Network, International Campaign for Tibet, and the World Uyghur Congress.

On November 4, ICT and FIDH (Worldwide Movement for Human Rights) coordinated a side event at the United Nations in Geneva titled "The Situation of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal." Vincent Metten served as moderator. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Nepal took place the same day.

Recent News

ICT Welcomes New Staff

CYNTHIA HURST, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



ICT is happy to announce that Cynthia Hurst joined the organization as Director of Development in August. For the past nine years she managed Butterflies in Progress, LLC, a nonprofit management and development consulting company that she founded. Her clients included dozens of national, regional, and local organizations working on educational, environmental, historical, political, and social justice causes.

She began her nonprofit career at the national organization, Clean Water Action, where she first learned the basics of fundraising and later directed the organization's Baltimore and Miami offices. She also worked in development with the Wildlife Center of Virginia and the public television station, WHTJ Charlottesville PBS.

Cynthia has served on the boards of directors of Wild Virginia, the Environmental Fund for Florida, the Baltimore League of Conservation Voters, the Coalition to Preserve Black Marsh, and the Baltimore Recycling Coalition, which she co-founded. She has also chaired the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce's Nonprofit Council and taught fundraising courses at the University of Virginia.

She is grateful for the opportunity to put her skills and background to use in helping the Tibetan people.

JACKIE HERNANDEZ, DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE



ICT is pleased to welcome Jackie Hernandez as Development Associate. Jackie joined the organization in July with six years of nonprofit experience. Her most recent role involved liaising with a large membership population at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, where she started as a volunteer. She previously worked with the Dallas Museum of Art and Lincoln Park Zoo.

Jackie's interest in human rights began during college, where she majored in anthropology and minored in international studies. She was first exposed to Buddhism through her studies and her visit to the Teng-do Buddhist temple in South Korea in 2006, where she had the chance to spend the night and to take part in meditations and monastic meals with monks.

Her role at ICT has allowed Jackie to channel her passion for human rights advocacy. She commented, "I am thrilled to be part of the ICT team and have great respect for all the work they do toward promoting human rights for the Tibetan people. I look forward to applying my nonprofit experience toward such a wonderful cause."

PRIMARY ELECTIONS HELD FOR THE TIBETAN LEADERSHIP IN EXILE

In Dharamsala, India, and around the world on October 18, Tibetans in exile gathered to take part in the first stage of an election process that will determine the next Tibetan leadership in exile, including the Sikyong or political leader and members of the 16th Tibetan Parliament in exile.

In North America, thirty-four cities held elections, including six in Canada. The final general elections are scheduled to take place on March 20, 2016. ICT plans to send a delegation to Dharamsala to observe the general election, with government representatives from the US and Europe, in support of this exercise of democracy.

ARTS & CULTURE

Tibetan Sweet Rice

Tibetan families prepare a sweet rice dish to celebrate special occasions. This dish, called *dresil*, is served for weddings, religious festivities, and holidays, including *Losar* (the Tibetan New Year). Traditionally, *dresil* is made with rice, raisins, a wild harvested root called *droma* (like a miniature sweet potato), and butter from the female yak (*dri*). Since *droma* can be difficult to find outside Tibet, the recipe below uses nuts as a substitute, and cow butter for *dri* butter. If you make it on February 8, 2016, you will be joining in a festive *Losar* meal with Tibetans all over the world. *Tashi Delek!*

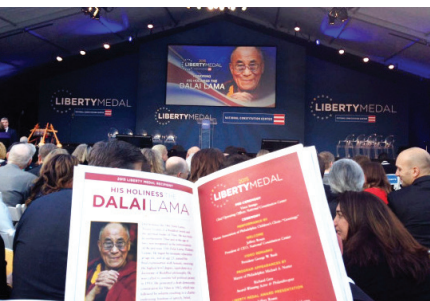
DRESIL RECIPE

2 cups cooked basmati rice
6 tablespoons butter (salted or unsalted)
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup unsalted cashew nuts, or any other nuts
1 cup raisins
Additional dried fruits and nuts to your taste

Mix butter and sugar into rice while it is still hot from cooking, then stir in dried fruits and nuts.

Serve warm with sweet tea or butter tea.





Dalai Lama Awarded the Prestigious Liberty Medal

On October 26 in Philadelphia, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was awarded the 2015 Liberty Medal by the National Constitution Center in recognition of the Tibetan spiritual leader's pursuit of the ideals of freedom, dialogue, and tolerance. ICT Chairman Richard Gere participated in the ceremony, while the award was accepted on His Holiness' behalf by his principal translator Thupten Jinpa, Dr. Richard Davidson, member of the Board of Directors of the Mind & Life Institute, and Dr. Carolyn Jacobs, Interim President of the Mind & Life Institute.

A video tribute prepared by the National Constitution Center included remarks by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, former President George W. Bush, Senator Dianne Feinstein, actress Priyanka Chopra, and writer Pico Iyer. Jeffrey Rosen, president of the Constitution Center, described the Dalai Lama as "one of the world's most enduring symbols of liberty."

The Dalai Lama himself prepared a video statement for the occasion in which he spoke of his commitment to the values of freedom and liberty. The Liberty Medal has been awarded annually since 1989, with previous awardees including Lech Walesa, Václav Havel, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Malala Yousafzai. The award ceremony coincided with a Day of Kindness organized in the city of Philadelphia to honor the Dalai Lama.

Remembering Melissa Mathison



Melissa Mathison, a longstanding member of ICT's Board of Directors, passed away of cancer on November 4, 2015. The board and staff of ICT mourn the passing of our friend and colleague.

Melissa was an advocate for the Tibetan people through both her personal and professional life and she contributed greatly to putting the spotlight on the plight of the Tibetan people. Most well-known for the iconic film *E.T.*, Melissa wrote the screenplay for *Kundun*, a biography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Melissa described *Kundun* to the *New York Times* as "a story of destiny and nurturing and tragedy, the idea of finding a 2-year-old child and then investing in him everything that is good about human beings, your people and your beliefs."

Melissa began writing the screenplay for *Kundun* in 1990 and in 1992 she traveled to Tibet with her then husband, Harrison Ford. There they had a tour guide named Gendun Rinchen who

took them to places few tourists went, including the route that His Holiness had taken out of Lhasa. Soon after they left Tibet, Gendun Rinchen was arrested and imprisoned for trying to pass human rights information to a group of visiting European diplomats. Upon learning of his arrest, Melissa and Harrison led the campaign for his release writing opinion pieces for the *New York Times* and testifying before the U.S. Congress.

In 1998 Melissa and *Kundun* director Martin Scorsese were presented with ICT's *Light of Truth* award that recognizes individuals and institutions who have made significant contributions to the public understanding of Tibet and the fight for human rights and democratic freedoms for the Tibetan people.

Melissa recognized that she occupied a special position that allowed her to educate a great many people about Tibet and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama made the forward thinking decision to remove himself from political power and transition the Tibetan people to a democratically elected leader, which caused confusion among many people. Melissa knew as a friend of His Holiness that she could help explain his decision to the wider world and wrote an article for *Rolling Stone* magazine in which His Holiness was able to clarify his decision for a western audience.

Melissa was an active member of the Board of Directors right up until her final weeks. All of us at the International Campaign for Tibet miss her wit, wisdom and vital spirit. As former ICT Executive Chair Lodi Gyari said upon her passing: "Losing her will be like a bright star in the sky vanishing. Her presence was always so uplifting and energetic. A smile never left her face."

Inside Tibet

MAJOR REPORT

The Highest Plateau

Tibet's Water and Global Climate Change

As the source of Asia's major rivers, the Tibetan plateau is of great strategic significance for water security in China, India, and the region. But few people realize that Tibet is warming nearly three times as fast as the rest of the globe. Climate change is causing Tibet's glaciers to melt and its permafrost to thaw, with enormous implications for the security and well being of millions of people downstream.

2015 has been a crucial year for the global battle against climate change; the state of the global climate in the second half of the century and beyond will depend upon decisions made this year, and failure to act could be catastrophic. ICT produced a major report on Tibet's environment in anticipation of COP21—a pivotal UN Conference on Climate Change in Paris at the end of November in which world leaders worked to reach a deal to cut carbon emissions.

Our aim was to connect the global battle against climate change with the significance of the Tibetan plateau and its water, and to draw attention to Tibet's strategic and environmental significance as a global climate change epicenter at a critical moment in time.



Photo © Niki Taxis

Self-Immolation Report

Two additional self-immolations have occurred since our last report, bringing the total to 143 self-immolations since 2009. Each issue, we present with sadness those individuals who have most recently chosen this act of protest.

August 27, 2015

Tashi Kyi, a Tibetan mother of four in her mid-fifties, set herself on fire and died, apparently as a protest against China's policies of relocation and demolition of housing. Described as a "generous Buddhist" who was "devoted to her family," she was a relative of a prominent monk who escaped into exile after a bold protest in 2008. Although local Tibetans attempted to save her life by extinguishing the blaze, Tashi Kyi died hours after setting herself on fire in her housing compound, a nomad settlement site in Sangkok township, Sangchu (Chinese: Xiahe) in Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province. Her body was taken away by the authorities.

Wellbeing: Deceased

July 9, 2015

A Tibetan monk in his late twenties, Sonam Topgyal (also spelled Tobgya), set fire to himself in the main square of Kyegudo (Yushu) in an atmosphere of heightened security imposed around the period of the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday on July 6. According to Tibetan exile sources, Sonam Topgyal was taken away by armed police while still alive and is believed to be in a hospital, although his whereabouts and welfare are not known.

Wellbeing: Unknown

The most up-to-date information and analysis on the self-immolations inside Tibet is available at savetibet.org

Call to Action



Jim McGovern (D-MA)



Joseph Pitts (R-PA)

Calling All Supporters:

Take Action! Ask your Representative to support the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act

Help us promote Americans' freedom to travel to Tibet by asking your Member of Congress to cosponsor the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2015, H.R. 1112, a bill introduced by Congressmen Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Joseph Pitts (R-PA). 34 Members of Congress have already joined in cosponsoring this important bill, but more cosponsors are needed!

Pressure from supporters like you, and your elected representatives, resulted in a historic Congressional delegation to Tibet in November 2015, led by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Rep. Jim McGovern, who traveled with Pelosi to Tibet and China, stated at a press conference on Capitol Hill following the trip: "We must find ways to build on this visit," and that China must allow "more Members of Congress, more journalists, more members of parliament from other nations, and more people in general- including members of the Tibetan community here in the United States- to travel freely to Tibet." Severe restrictions for travel to Tibet are still in place, and with your help we can push for greater access for Americans to travel to Tibet.

The Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act would deny access to the United States to Chinese officials who are responsible for creating or implementing policies on travel to Tibetan areas until China eliminates discriminatory restrictions that severely limit the ability of Americans, including diplomats and journalists, to travel to Tibet. The bill also cites the diplomatic principle of reciprocity, wherein "a country should give equivalent consular access to the nationals of another country in a reciprocal manner to the consular access granted by such other country to its own citizens."

We ask all members and supporters to sign and return the enclosed petition to ICT in the attached envelope so we can deliver them together for maximum effectiveness. Please consider copying this page and asking friends and family to join in the effort to support the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act.

For the latest list of cosponsors, visit: <http://bit.ly/tibetact>

PLEASE CLIP HERE

TO: My Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives
FROM: A Mindful Constituent

Dear Representative,

I write to ask you to cosponsor H.R. 1112, the "Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2015," a bill introduced by Reps. Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Joseph Pitts (R-PA). H.R. 1112 promotes the ability to travel to Tibet, where access to foreigners is severely limited. The Chinese government rejects most State Department requests for visits to Tibet. The message of H.R. 1112 is simple: China should extend the same level of access for Americans to travel to Tibet as Chinese people are given in coming to the United States. Citing the diplomatic principle of reciprocity, the bill would:

- Ensure that Americans wishing to travel to Tibet would face no more restrictions than they do travelling to other parts of China.
- Enable American officials to provide services to Americans in Tibet without undue hindrance.
- Ban entry to the U.S. by Chinese officials who design and implement restrictions on travel by Americans to Tibet.

As a concerned constituent, I ask you to please cosponsor this important bill. Thank you.

(Sign Here) _____

Name _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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Share us with your contacts and join in the Tibet conversation. The more people who care about Tibet, the bigger the impact we can have!

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The *Friends of Tibet* are a small inner circle of supporters of the International Campaign Tibet who pledge to make a monthly automated gift. The steady, reliable support of our *Friends of Tibet* gives us the ability to act (and not just react) in defense of the people and culture of Tibet. Take the next step in your support by joining the *Friends of Tibet* today. Enroll online at www.savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet, or by contacting Brian Ahern at brian.ahern@savetibet.org or (202) 580-6770.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and members of a Congressional delegation visited Tibet in November 2015, marking the first US Congressional visit since 2008. They spoke with Chinese leaders about the importance of respecting Tibet's autonomy, ecology, and the human rights and religious freedoms of its people. Leader Pelosi said, "We also conveyed to the Chinese government officials the strong, bipartisan support the Dalai Lama enjoys in the Congress of the United States and among the American people." Here, the delegation stands in front of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, the former home of several Dalai Lamas. In addition to Leader Pelosi, members of the delegation included Representatives Timothy Walz (D-MN), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Joyce Beatty (D-OH) and Ted Lieu (D-CA).

