



International Campaign for Tibet

2014 Annual Report



What does ICT do?

ICT promotes human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet. Empowered by the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, we have provided support to Tibetans in exile, intervened on behalf of political prisoners, and helped amplify the voices of Tibetans inside and outside Tibet. We have called the world's attention to the oppression and brutality suffered under Chinese authority.

Founded in 1988, ICT, a 501(c)(3) organization, maintains offices in Washington, D.C., Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels with a field office in Dharamsala, India.

FOCUS ON THE US GOVERNMENT AND ADVOCACY

President Obama Welcomes the Dalai Lama for Third Meeting

President Barack Obama meets with the Dalai Lama in the Map Room of the White House, Feb. 21, 2014. ICT President Matteo Mecacci said, “This meeting affirms the long-standing friendship and respect of the United States toward His Holiness, his message, and his cause.”

On the same day the Dalai Lama was welcomed into the White House, the State Department announced that Sarah Sewall, a Harvard and Oxford-trained academic and foreign policy adviser, will serve as the next Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, after her concurrent role as the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the State Department was confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The Tibet Coordinator position was created by Congress as part of the 2002 Tibet Policy Act and represents the United States’ strong commitment to a negotiated resolution on Tibet that preserves the distinct religious, cultural and linguistic heritage of the Tibetan people.

Congressional Advocacy

US Congressmen McGovern, Pitts introduce Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act

In June 2014, Members of Congress introduced bipartisan legislation to promote travel by Americans to Tibetan areas where access is routinely denied by Chinese authorities.

The bill, H.R. 4851, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, was introduced by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Joseph Pitts (R-PA) on June 12, 2014.

“The bill’s premise is straightforward. If China doesn’t allow foreigners into Tibet, then we shouldn’t allow Chinese officials with oversight on Tibet into our countries, said Matteo Mecacci, President of the International Campaign for Tibet. “Chinese leaders praise the landscape and people of Tibet, yet keep it hidden from view. Freedom of access to Tibet should be demanded of China just as established powers already provide to travelers from China. I thank Congressmen McGovern and Pitts for their leadership.”



His Holiness the Dalai Lama has met every US President since 1991. President Barack Obama met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in the White House’s Map Room, in February 2014.

(Photo: The White House)

FOCUS ON CHINA'S POLICIES IN TIBET



Weibo Report

Images and messages shared on social media sites by Chinese tourists have been found to document China's systematic militarization of Tibet, according to a new report by ICT. The report, released on the 55th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 Tibetan uprising that led to the Dalai Lama's escape into exile, uses photos and messages posted to the micro-blogging site, Weibo, which show an expansive security apparatus that belies the Chinese state narrative of successful and inclusive government policies. The report is accompanied by a slideshow highlighting the main findings, as well as an appendix of the social media postings collected and analyzed by ICT.

ICT Releases Report on Chinese Policy and the Birthplaces of the Dalai Lamas

New information and examining how the homes of previous Dalai Lamas are treated, ICT found that Chinese authorities seek to represent the renovation of the 14th Dalai Lama's birthplace, and restoration work on other homes of earlier Dalai Lamas, as an assertion of control and 'ownership' of the Dalai Lama lineage. This is linked to Beijing's objectives of controlling and managing the successor of the Dalai Lama. The Beijing leadership takes the enduring influence of the Dalai Lama seriously and in recent years has stepped up its efforts to strengthen its position as the 'official' arbiter of Tibetan Buddhist culture. Consistent with this approach, the Chinese authorities have referred publicly to their imperative of 'recovering' the home of the Sixth Dalai Lama, situated outside Tibet in the sensitive border area of Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, India, which Beijing claims as part of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

New Wave of Repression in Tibet Following Quasi-legal Response to Self-immolations

The Chinese Communist Party has responded to Tibetan self-immolations with an intensified wave of repression that has led to the convictions, detention without trial, or disappearance of at least 98 Tibetans by using a quasi-legal framework to criminalize them.

A report by the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) documents the impact of rulings announced in December 2012, a month after Xi Jinping became head of the Chinese Communist Party. The measures, adopted in response to self-immolations across Tibet (totaling 131 at the end of 2014), have resulted in a spike in political imprisonments, including one instance of the death penalty, and numerous cases of Tibetans being ‘disappeared’, with family and friends unaware of whether or not they are still alive, often for weeks or months.

New Strategic Rail Network to Tibet's Borders Endangers Environment, Raises Regional Security Concerns

Massive investment in infrastructure in Tibet by the Chinese government – railways, airfields and roads – has served the dual purpose of facilitating an unprecedented tourism boom, expansion of mining Tibet's resources and serving China's strategic and military objectives. ICT's report outlines the new routes and their significance in the context of China's ambitious infrastructure plans, regional security concerns, and new scientific findings on the fragility of Tibet's high-altitude environment, which is warming more than twice as fast as the global average. While Chinese scientists have observed and recorded accelerating environmental degradation, no responsibility for policy failures has been taken by the Chinese government.



POLITICAL PRISONERS

The International Campaign for Tibet asked the UN Human Rights Council to look into 41 cases of enforced disappearances in Tibet that ICT documented between April 2010 and February 2014

Presenting a joint statement with Helsinki Foundation at the interactive dialogue with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGIED), ICT's Elena Gaita said, "during the period of April 2010 to February 2014 the International Campaign for Tibet in its report 'Acts of Significant Evil: The Criminalization of Tibetan Self-Immolations' recorded at least 41 cases of individuals feared disappeared because of these new measures. We endorse the Working Group's call to State's to take specific measures to prevent threats, intimidation and reprisals against victims of enforced disappearances including family members, witnesses and human rights defenders."

ICT's report 'Significant Acts of Evil: The Criminalization of Tibetan Self-Immolations' documented the impact of rulings announced in December 2012, a month after Xi Jinping became head of the Chinese Communist Party. The new measures, adopted in response to self-immolations across Tibet (now totaling 131), have resulted in a spike in political imprisonments, including one instance of the death penalty, and numerous cases of Tibetans being 'disappeared', with family and friends unaware of whether or not they are still alive, often for weeks or months.

Matteo Mecacci, President of the International Campaign for Tibet said, "I call upon the High Commissioner and the Council to ensure that the Chinese government puts an end to these unacceptable policies that amount to collective punishment."

Advocacy for Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

In a letter released October 30, ICT and other prominent non-governmental organizations urge President Obama to take up the Chinese government's crackdown on civil society as a barrier to bilateral relations on his upcoming visit to China. President Obama will meet with President Xi Jinping in Beijing on November 12.

The letter urges President Obama to publicly call for the releases of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a Tibetan Buddhist leader whose health is reportedly deteriorating after a decade in prison, 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo and his wife Liu Xia; Uighur economist and advocate of interethnic dialogue Ilham Tohti; and human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who is not free despite having been released from prison. For more information please see our report.

ICT Interviews Golog Jigme After His Daring Escape from Tibet

Golog Jigme, a respected Tibetan monk, teacher and former political prisoner, arrived safely in India in May after a perilous journey into exile from Tibet following 20 months in hiding. He was imprisoned after working with film-maker Dhondup Wangchen in interviewing 108 Tibetans about their views and feelings before the Beijing Olympics in 2008. The interviews became a powerful documentary, 'Leaving Fear Behind', that enabled the voices of Tibetan nomads, elders, monks and others in remote areas across the plateau to be heard in international capitals, by Parliamentarians, government officials, Tibetans in exile, and even journalists in Beijing.

ICT took the opportunity to interview Golog Jigme upon his arrival in Dharamsala, to learn from him about his experiences in Tibet, his remarkable work and perilous escape. We talked to him through our India-based Tibetan field team member and another Tibetan colleague based in London, who translated the interview into English.

ICT Highlights Extra-Legal Detentions in Tibet on U.N. International Day of Enforced Disappearances

On the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on August 30, 2014, the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) calls for an end to a wave of enforced and extra-legal disappearances across Tibet, in particular following intensified repression after the self-immolations began in 2009.

There has been a new spike in enforced disappearances since the self-immolations in Tibet in 2009. The authorities' draconian response to the more than 130 self-immolations across Tibet has included reprisals against those allegedly associated with self-immolators, including friends, families, witnesses to the act, and even entire communities.

"Enforced disappearance has been used as a tactic by the Chinese authorities in Tibet to spread fear and attempt to ensure allegiance to the Party-state," said Matteo Mecacci, President of the International Campaign for Tibet. "We are highly concerned about the cases of 'disappearances' connected to self-immolations – such as friends, family, and individuals who may have simply witnessed a self-immolation," Mecacci added.

CHINESE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Roundtable Discussions

On October 17, 2014, the International Campaign for Tibet and Beijing Spring magazine jointly organized a roundtable discussion on the Middle Way and dialogue on Tibet in Washington DC at the office of the International Campaign for Tibet. Moderated by Hu Ping and Yu Dahai of Beijing Spring magazine, a number of Chinese scholars and writers, including Su Xiaokang, Chen Kuide, Xia Yeliang, and Qin Weiping attended the session. Others, including Yang Jianchi and Yu Jie, were not able to attend and sent their written remarks. The four hour long session was conducted in Chinese language and discussions took place on many aspects, including culture, social and political system, interpretation and implementation of Middle Way. Full video and written remarks are available on Beijing Spring magazine and Liaowang Xizang website for online viewing in the coming days.

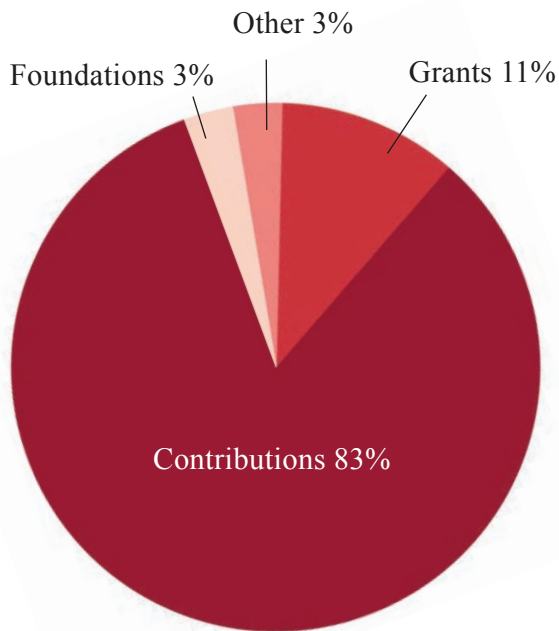
ICT hosted a roundtable discussion on July 17, 2014 in Washington, D.C. with Chinese writers and democracy advocates on the issue of Tibet to discuss how to strengthen outreach to Chinese society. They discussed the present state of understanding of the Tibetan issue by the Chinese people in China and what steps the Chinese democratic community can take under the existing legal and administrative channels, to help redress Tibetan social, environmental, judicial, and political grievances.



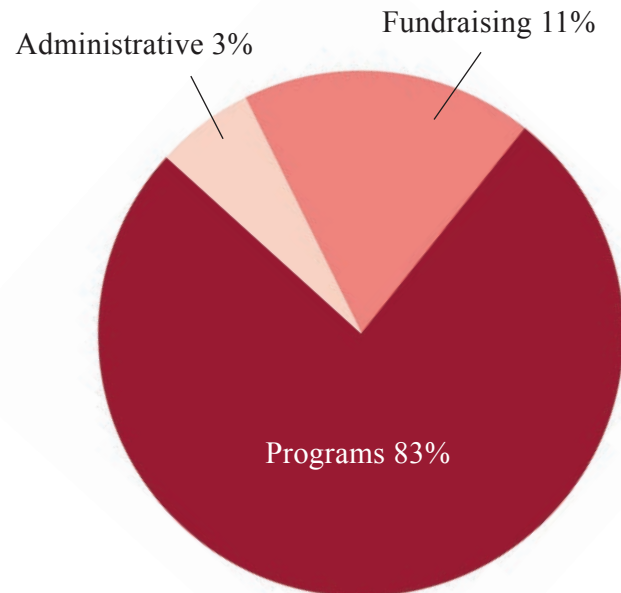
2014 Financial Condition

In 2014 ICT received \$3,223,573 in revenue with \$3,846,897 in expenses.

Revenue



Expenses



STAY INFORMED, STAY CONNECTED

Via our websites and social media, you can keep informed about the Tibet movement and the work of ICT. "Like" us, "share" us, and help us spread the word.

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!



Visit our blog

weblog.savetibet.org



Friend us on Facebook

International Campaign for Tibet



Follow us on Twitter

@SaveTibetOrg (English)
@SaveTibet_Tibet (Tibetan)
@LiaoWangXiZang (Chinese)

www.savetibet.org
liaowangxizang.net

ICT Board of Directors

Lodi Gyari
Executive Chairman

Richard Gere
Chairman

Gare Smith
Vice Chairman

Steve Schroeder
Treasurer

John Ackerly

Ellen Bork

Pam Cesak

Jim Kane

Tony Karam

Melissa Mathison

Joel McCleary

Keith Pitts

Grace Spring

ICT Board of Advisors

Michele Bohana

David Breashears

Victor Chan

Rinchen Dharlo

Marvin Hamlisch*

Bette Bao Lord

Nancy Nash

Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi

Abdullah Omidvar

Ven. Gelek Rinpoche

Dr. Orville Schell

Ven. Geshe Sopha

Prof. Robert Thurman

Dr. Michael van Walt

Harry Wu

Qiang Xiao

Adam Yauch*

Ven. Lama Zopa

International Council of Advisors

Harrison Ford

The Honorable Vaclav Havel*

The Honorable Hideaki Kase

Kerry Kennedy

The Honorable Vytautas Landsbergis

Dr. Fang Lizhi

Mairead Maguire

The Honorable Adolfo Perez Esquivel

Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta

The Honorable Rabi Ray

Professor Samdhong Rinpoche

Ajan Sulak Sivaraksa

Tenzin N. Tethong

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Dr. Elie Wiesel

** Deceased*

ICT

1825 Jefferson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20036
United States
T. 1 202 785 1515
info@savetibet.org
www.savetibet.org

ICT-GERMANY

Schönhauser Allee 163
10435 Berlin
Germany
T. 49 (0)30 27879086
info@savetibet.de
www.savetibet.de

ICT-EUROPE

Vijzelstraat 77
1017HG Amsterdam
The Netherlands
T. 31 (0)20 3308265
www.savetibet.nl

ICT-BRUSSELS

11, Rue de la Linière
1060 Brussels
Belgium
T. 32 (0)2 609 44 10
ict-eu@savetibet.org
www.savetibet.fr