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ICT holds High-Level Roundtable on Counter-Terrorism in China



ICT's EU Policy Director Vincent Metten and the second panel. From left to right: Jessica Carl, Political Officer at the US Mission in Geneva; Garrie van Pijxteren, Sinologist and Senior visiting fellow at the Clingendael Institute; Christa Meindersma, former ICT Board member; Jayadeva Ranade, President of the Indian Centre for China Analysis and Strategy; and Joëlle Hivonnet from the China Division of the European External Action Service.

Following the adoption of a [highly controversial law on counter-terror in China](#) at the end of last year, the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) held a high-level roundtable discussion on the issue on 7 June.

The event, "China's new Counter-Terrorism Law and its Impacts on Minorities", which took place at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, was aimed at exploring the scope of the new legislation that came into force at the start of the year, and in particular the repercussions for groups such as Tibetans and Uyghurs.

The roundtable brought together a varied panel of speakers, including national

and EU officials, researchers, academic experts, journalists and representatives from NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations). Collectively they provided a good understanding of the domestic political context in which the new counter-terrorism law was adopted, including the current Chinese leadership's obsession with control and stability and the way the law is deeply rooted in broader Chinese security policy. Speakers also analysed the individual

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Around 80 people attended the event, including diplomats, representatives from NGOs, Chinese dissidents, representatives of the Tibetan and the Uyghur communities, academics and journalists.

provisions of the law curtailing the rights of groups such as Tibetan and Uyghurs, and

noted the counter-productive character of the legislation. Instead of bringing stability, as sought by the Chinese authorities, it is likely to create more resentment and opposition from these ethnic groups.

The international dimension was also discussed, in particular with regards to China's push to co-operate on the issue with third States and regional or international organisations. Speakers agreed on the necessity to understand China's real motivations behind this push, and raised the importance of a co-

ordinated and united approach towards these offers of agreements or dialogues on counter-terrorism with China.

Strong emphasis was put on the possibilities to follow-up this issue, including monitoring of the law's implementation regulations and the development of new and ambitious methods to counter China's "divide and conquer" strategy.

ICT will issue a report later this year with key recommendations for China and foreign policymakers. ■

Beijing Bars German parliament Human Rights Committee Chairman from China because of Tibet-related Events and Articles

In an unprecedented development, the Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Federal German Parliament, Michael Brand, was banned by the Chinese government from travelling to China as head of a committee delegation to visit China and Tibet this May.



Chair of the German Bundestag's Human Rights Committee Michael Brand

In a newspaper article, Brand criticised the Chinese government for "repeated attempts to blackmail" and intimidate Tibet-related reports on his website and his attendance at Tibetan-themed events in Germany. A Chinese diplomat in Berlin claimed Brand had made "absurd accusations" and urged him to delete articles on his website critical of Chinese policies in Tibet.

"This was an attempt to censor and blackmail me", Brand said.

The Chinese government said that the Human Rights Committee of the Federal Parliament is still invited to visit the PRC, but not its chairman, according to the article. Brand instead insisted "The Federal Parliament itself decides about the composition of its delegations."

The International Campaign for Tibet in Germany welcomed the comments

by the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee. ICT Germany Executive Director Kai Müller said: "The reported attempts to blackmail and intimidate are unacceptable and symptomatic of Beijing's systematic attempts to silence criticism about its policies in Tibet. Banning the Committee Chairman Brand indicates a lack of sincerity of the Chinese government to engage in any genuine human rights dialogue. Committee Chairman Brand shares the same fate as a number of United Nations Human Rights experts who have been seeking to visit the PRC for some time already, to no avail. The Chinese government must instead open up, allow criticism and make a serious commitment to bring about change".

[Click here](#) to read Kai Müller's article on how China's attempts to export its censorship and authoritarianism raise serious questions for all European countries. ■

His Holiness The Dalai Lama Meets President Obama in Washington DC

The Dalai Lama visited Washington D.C between 12-16 June during which he met with President Barack Obama, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and a bipartisan group of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.



President Barack Obama greets His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the entrance of the Map Room of the White House, 15 June 2016.

Himalayan glaciers and the environment on the Tibetan plateau.

During his stay in the United States, the Dalai Lama also visited the American University and addressed a packed Bender Arena on "A Peaceful Mind in a Modern World." He interacted with youth leaders at the US Institute of Peace and National Endowment for Democracy. The NED event awarded posthumous honours to the late Tenzin Delek Rinpoche (accepted by his relative Geshe Nyima), who died in prison in July 2015 after 13 years of detention, and on the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). ICT was privileged to host a conversation between the Dalai Lama and ICT's Board Chairman Richard Gere in front of 200 invited members. ■

In its [official readout of the President's Meeting with His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama](#) (the fourth one during his two-term presidency), the White House stated: "The President and the Dalai Lama discussed the situation for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China, and the President emphasized his strong support for the preservation of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic traditions and the equal protection of human rights of Tibetans in China". According to the readout, the President also "welcomed the Dalai Lama's leadership on climate change issues, and expressed support for the Dalai Lama's efforts to raise awareness of the importance of limiting global warming, including to protect the



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with ICT's Board Chairman Richard Gere, ICT Board Members and Senior staff in Washington D.C on 14 June.

Composition of the New Tibetan Government in Exile Announced



The members of the new Tibetan government in exile. On the left, Lobsang Sangay, Sikyong (or Prime Minister) of the Tibetan government in exile. On the top row, left to right: Mr Ngodup Tsering; Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok; Mr Khorlatsang Sonam Topgyal. Under, left to right: Mr Labrang Phagpa Tsering; Mr Karma Yeshe; Mr Choekyong Wangchuk.

On 1 June, the 16th Tibetan Parliament in Exile approved the names of the new members of the Kashag (Cabinet) nominated by the Sikyong (Prime Minister) Dr. Lobsang Sangay.

The Tibetan parliament in exile, which was meeting for its first session, approved all seven names proposed by the Sikyong. **Ven Yuthok Karma Gelek** was appointed as the Kalon (minister) of the Department of Religion and Culture; **Khorlatsang Sonam Topgyal** as the Kalon of the Department of Home, **Karma Yeshe** as the Kalon of the Department of Finance; **Labrang Phagpa Tsering** as the Kalon of the Department of Security; **Choekyong Wangchuk** as the Kalon of the Department of Health; and **Sharling Tenzin Dhardon** as the Kalon of the Department of Information and International Relations. Her name was withdrawn shortly afterwards however,

as she did not meet the minimum age requirement of 35 to be a Kalon, as enshrined in the Charter of the Tibetans in exile. Lobsang Sangay has temporarily taken the additional charge of the Department.

The Sikyong thanked the Parliament for the approval of his cabinet: *"The composition of the new cabinet has been carefully drafted with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's vision and the official stance of the CTA, middle way approach in mind. The new Kashag will strive to serve the Tibetan cause to its best ability and we hope the house will extend its co-operation as always"*.

Following the nomination of the new Kalons, **Tashi Phuntsok**, former Secretary at the Department of Information and International Relations, has been appointed as the new Head of the Office of Tibet in Brussels. He is expected to take office from July. His predecessor at the post, Tseten Samdup Chhoekyapa, has been appointed to the private office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala. In addition, Kelsang Gyaltzen, the Special Representative of the Dalai Lama to Europe announced his retirement at the end of June. ■

To read the biographies of the new Kalons, [click here](#).

ICT Highlights China's Repressive Policies and "Security Architecture" in Tibet at UN Human Rights Council 32nd Session

At the 32nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, the International Campaign for Tibet once again highlighted issues pertaining to China's repressive policies in Tibet.



United Nations Webcast

ICT Brussels' Policy and Advocacy Officer Mélanie Blondelle at the UN Human Rights Council – 17 June.

At a side event organized by the Society for Threatened Peoples, Kai Müller, Executive Director of ICT Germany who heads ICT's UN advocacy Team, said that the Chinese "security architecture" in Tibet creates neither peace nor stability. In his speech, delivered on June 20, Müller detailed policies, laws and regulations as well as local and regional measures that amount to a climate of repression and fear in Tibet, and which are in contravention of international human rights law. The event was moderated by Ngodup Dorjee, Representative of the Dalai Lama in Geneva. Tienchi Martin-Liao, President of the independent Chinese

PEN, was among the panelists.

Earlier, on June 17, ICT had delivered an oral statement on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights at the Human Rights Council session. The statement, which responded to the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, David Kaye, was delivered by Mélanie Blondelle, Policy and Advocacy Officer at ICT's office in Brussels.

The statement focused on the risks Tibetans face in expressing their

views in an increasingly repressive environment (including a new emphasis on "counter-terror" and "stability maintenance" measures) in which almost any expression of Tibetan identity or culture can be characterized by the authorities as "splittist" and therefore "criminal", as well as on the suppression of a wave of solo peaceful demonstrations in the area of Ngaba (Tibetan region in Sichuan province).

The statement also echoed the concerns raised by the United States earlier in the debate regarding the recently adopted Chinese law on counter-terrorism, which in conflating "terrorism" with an undefined religious "extremism", gives scope for the penalization of almost any peaceful expression of Tibetan identity, acts of non-violent dissent, or criticism of ethnic or religious policies, and risks further curtailing freedom of expression in Tibet.

"We call upon the Human Rights Council, of which the People's Republic of China is a member, to ensure the release of all those detained for the mere reason of having exercised their right to freedom of opinion and expression, and to urge China to allow independent observers access to Tibet to verify the extent of the violations to freedom of expression on the ground", Ms. Blondelle said. ■

Tibetans Protest Leaders Hospitalised as Chinese Police Suppress Demonstrations Against Mining Project in Amchok

Following days of peaceful protests against an enormous open-air mining project, armed Chinese police beat and detained a number of Tibetan demonstrators in the Amchok region of northern Tibet.



Tibetan protestors and mining equipment at Gong-ngon Lari

The protests, which focused on stopping a gold mining project at Gong-Ngon Lari, a mountain located in Sangchu (Chinese: Xiahe) county, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu province (in the Tibetan area of Amdo) and viewed as holy by local Tibetans, started at the end of May 2016. Some footage of the demonstration posted on Youtube shows local Tibetans confronting armed police forces, with banners in the background calling upon authorities to prevent the mining going ahead. A Tibetan speaking in the video can be heard making references to Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping's speeches, which have voiced support for ecological and environmental protection.

On 3 June, the demonstrations were stopped following the release of a circular written by the township government claiming that the protests were instigated by "evil people". Shops and restaurants were closed in Amchok, as six Tibetan protest leaders were

severely beaten and subsequently hospitalised. The violence appears to have been sanctioned by the township government, which warned protestors would have to "take full responsibility" for the consequences of their demonstration.

Amchok has seen 15 years of tensions between local Tibetans and authorities attempting to operate a gold mine. Two Tibetans (Tsering Dhondup, age 35, and Kunchok Tsering, age 18) set fire to themselves and died near the entrance to the mine in November 2012.

Protests against mining to protect Tibet's fragile high-altitude environment have become increasingly frequent, and dangerous, as the Chinese authorities accelerate large-scale mining in copper, gold, silver, chromium and lithium. Tibetans who express even moderate concern about the impact of toxic waste, deforestation, and large-scale erosion risk being imprisoned, tortured, or killed. ■

Political Prisoner Focus

Lobsang Jamyang (Lomik)



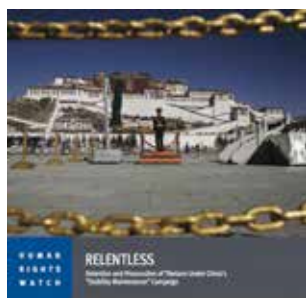
According to two monks from Kirti monastery in exile in India, Lobsang Jamyang's hearing took place behind closed doors at Wenchuan county court in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture after he had been held in detention for more than a year, "suffering ongoing mistreatment".

Lobsang Jamyang was arrested by police on the streets of Ngaba county town (in Sichuan, the Tibetan area of Amdo) on 17 April 2015. At the time of his detention, he was studying Buddhism in the Prajnaparamita class at Kirti, which he had joined at a young age. Kirti Monastery is an important and influential monastery known as the location where the wave of self-immolations began in 2009 in Tibet. In 2010, Lomik wrote a book called "The Yellow Fog" that was published from Xining, according to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy. He also contributed articles to popular Tibetan language websites in Tibet such as Chomei, Sangdhor, and Tso Ngon. His more recent articles are titled "Story Shackled By Iron Chains", "Weapons Target Writers of Ngaba", and "Until I Die, I Will Express My Views".

According to the [Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy](#), Lobsang Jamyang may be accused of "leaking state secrets" and "engaging in separatist activities". His family members were not informed about the trial and were not provided any details on the exact date of his sentencing. ■

Reading Suggestion

Human Rights Watch report: Relentless: Detention and Prosecution of Tibetans under China's "Stability Maintenance" Campaign



On 22 May 2016, Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a new report that says the "Chinese government's campaign to suppress peaceful dissent in Tibetan areas has continued to produce a high rate of detentions, prosecutions, and convictions since the outbreak of widespread unrest eight years ago."

The 86-page report, "*Relentless: Detention and Prosecution of Tibetans under China's 'Stability Maintenance' Campaign*", shows how changing patterns of unrest and politicised detentions,

prosecutions, and convictions from 2013-2015 correlate with the latest phase of the government's "stability maintenance" campaign – a policy that has resulted in unprecedented surveillance and control in Tibetan villages and towns.

According to the report, the Chinese authorities have detained Tibetans for expression and assembly that are protected under Chinese and international law and had previously been tolerated. Many of these cases took place in rural areas or involved segments of society not previously targeted.

"Tibetan areas are at the forefront of the Chinese government's country-wide crackdown on peaceful dissent," said Sophie Richardson, China director of Human Rights Watch. "The authorities are treating all Tibetans as potential dissidents and are trying to extend surveillance to the entire Tibetan community," she added.

Human Rights Watch's findings are based on a dataset of 479 cases drawn from reports by foreign media, the Chinese government, and exile sources. Human Rights Watch analysed this data to identify changing patterns of detention and sentencing.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

Cartoon by Fifi



A cartoon by Belgian artist Fifi (Philippe Sadzot), illustrating the new Chinese law on counter-terrorism.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **1 JULY 2016**
Start of the Slovak EU Presidency
- ▶ **12 JULY 2016**
First anniversary of the death in custody of popular monk Tenzin Delek Rinpoche
- ▶ **12-13 JULY 2016**
18th EU-China Summit in Beijing
- ▶ **15-16 JULY 2016**
11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) In Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- ▶ **SEPTEMBER 2016**
Visit of the Dalai Lama to Europe (Brussels 9-11 September and Strasbourg 17-18 September)
- ▶ **SEPTEMBER 2016**
Visit of the Dalai Lama to Europe (Brussels on 9-11 September, for a Dialogue: www.powerandcare.org and a Public Talk: www.dalailama2016.be and Strasbourg on 17-18 September)
- ▶ **16-19 OCTOBER 2016**
Forum 2000 in Prague (with the participation of the Dalai Lama; more information at www.forum2000.cz)