

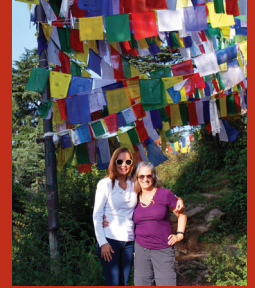
# Tibet

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## PRESS WATCH

### INSIDE:

- Tibetan Youth Leadership Program 2016
- ICT Members in India
- ICT in the News
- Petition to the President



WINTER 2016

*A publication of the  
International Campaign for Tibet*

INTERNATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR TIBET



## FINDING STRENGTH IN COLLABORATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TIBET SUPPORT GROUPS



## Members Making a Difference for Tibet Every Month



**SEAN SANDS** became a member of the International Campaign for Tibet in 2005, after reading a book that happened to fall off the shelf in a bookstore: *Buddhism for Dummies*. It helped him to bridge his awareness of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the struggles

he was then experiencing with his faith. Now, he practices with his Sangha and has a lama leader.

Taking time away from his work as Chief of Staff at Events DC and his demanding MBA studies, Sean stopped by the ICT office in Washington, DC, and spoke passionately about why he feels compelled to be a *Friend of Tibet* monthly donor.

"If something doesn't change, Tibetan culture will disappear," said Sean. He believes we must preserve the Tibetan way of life for the world, which needs its teachings. He appreciates that ICT has "a culture built on compassion," and that it is helping clear the path to spread teachings before they are gone.

Recognizing the challenges of dealing with a "giant global state actor," Sean said the organization has earned his support especially with its reporting. He described ICT as a "one-stop shop for all information on Tibet."

When an ICT staff member asked him to be a monthly giver in 2011, he said, "Absolutely—this is perfect!" We are so glad he did. Thank you, Sean!

...

**DIANE MADIGAN** became a member of ICT in 1989, when she was a young mother who wanted to make the world a better place for her son. She was appalled by the Chinese government's killings of Tibetan monks and nuns and its destruction of monasteries, and she saw ICT as the main organization amplifying Tibetan voices.

Building trust between Tibetans and the Chinese government is critical to improving the situation in Tibet, and Diane spoke of this need as she drew a comparison to her own faith in ICT: "I know I can share ICT information directly with my friends without checking it. I trust ICT."

While working in many fields and regions throughout the years—as a geologist, a National Outdoor Leadership School guide, a musician, and now, a nurse in Colorado—Diane has remained steadfast in her support of ICT. She is motivated by the fact that "ICT works in a joint partnership with Tibetans from their framework."

She was deeply honored to attend an ICT event with His Holiness the Dalai Lama this past June and remembered his remark, "We humans need to solve the problem of violence." She sees ICT as a "mouthpiece presenting the problem to the world and a direct link with people in Tibet."



Diane became a *Friend of Tibet* when she was making out her will and decided she wanted ICT to receive money every month, in addition to when she passes. Thank you, Diane, for choosing to help Tibet through ICT.

Join *FRIENDS of TIBET*



Compassionate monthly supporters fuel ICT's fearless and relentless efforts to end the oppression suffered by Tibetans.

**JOIN SEAN AND DIANE AS A FRIEND OF TIBET BY CONTRIBUTING AS LITTLE AS \$5 A MONTH.**

Your monthly gift will help ensure that ICT continues the critical work of shining a light on the injustices being suffered in Tibet—every day, every month, all year long.

**TO LEARN MORE**, contact Brian Ahern at 202-580-6770 or [brian.ahern@savetibet.org](mailto:brian.ahern@savetibet.org) or enroll online today! [savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet](http://savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet)

# From the President



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Andrea Calabretta and  
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Dear Friends,

As we go to print, the forty-fifth President of the United States is about to be elected. With the beginning of this new era in American politics, our priority will be to make sure the new administration will strengthen and build upon the existing relationship between the United States and Tibet.

This past summer, seventy-two Members of the U.S. Congress signed a letter drafted by Congressman Jim McGovern asking President Obama to take proactive steps to protect Tibetan rights during the final months of his term. Such a strong show of support is an indication of the ongoing significance of the Tibet issue among the American political leadership.

We are already working to ensure that Tibet is a priority of the new administration. Just prior to the election, we delivered over 7,500 petitions from ICT members to the candidates' campaign offices, asking the candidates to prioritize Tibet if elected. As the next U.S. President takes office in January, our efforts to amplify the voices of our Tibetan brothers and sisters in the halls of government will continue.

You can join in one such effort by turning to page 11 and adding your name to the appeal to the new U.S. President, urging the appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibet as soon as possible. The Special Coordinator is an influential envoy for Tibet at the U.S. State Department, and it is vital that this position be filled as soon as possible.

As we look to the future, we are excited to announce that ICT's capacity to pursue justice for Tibet is now bolstered by a new partnership with UK Tibet Society, the oldest existing Tibet support group. Founded in 1959, Tibet Society is a UK-based group that for decades has effectively advocated for Tibet with the British government and in Parliament. Our partnership came about during the International Conference of Tibet Support Groups in Brussels, which is covered in detail on pages 4-5. His Holiness the Dalai Lama opened the 3-day conference, which was attended by ICT Board Chair Richard Gere, many of our staff members, and myself.

We also found encouragement in the energetic rally held at the Human Rights Council of the United Nations on September 16. Thousands of Tibetans and Tibet supporters gathered in Geneva to rally for religious freedom in China. At a UN side event moderated by ICT's Kai Müller, Nyima Lhamo, the niece of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche (who died last year in Chinese custody) spoke powerfully about the injustices suffered by Tibetan political prisoners.

In the same month, the European Parliament made an important gesture by welcoming His Holiness the Dalai Lama to speak on its floor as an advocate of freedom, human rights, and the environment, and to meet with its president, Martin Schulz.

You will find other recent events of note and topics of interest to our community as you read through the issue, including memorials to two individuals whose work has had a profound impact on us here at ICT: Pema Wangyal and Lowell Thomas, Jr. They are missed.

As 2016 draws to a close, we wish you a happy and prosperous new year. Thanks to your continued support, we are hopeful about what the future holds for Tibet.

In solidarity,

Matteo Mecacci

Cover Image: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and ICT Board Chairman Richard Gere greet one another at the opening of the International Conference of Tibet Support Groups in Brussels. Photo Credit: Olivier Adam ([www.olivieradam.net](http://www.olivieradam.net))



# International Conference of Tibet Support Groups



*“The story of Tibet is the ‘power of gun’ versus the ‘power of truth.’ For immediate [solutions], power of gun is more powerful. For long run, power of truth is much stronger.”*

HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA,  
SPEAKING AT THE 7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
OF TIBET SUPPORT GROUPS IN BRUSSELS



## ICT Co-Hosts 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Tibet Support Groups in Brussels

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Tibet Support Groups was held in Brussels on September 8-10 and included more than 250 delegates representing support groups from 50 countries. The conference was convened by the Tibet Interest Group in the European Parliament, and co-hosted by the International Campaign for Tibet, Lights on Tibet, les Amis du Tibet, and the Tibetan Community in Belgium. It was facilitated by the Department of Information and International Relations of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Attendees from ICT included Board Chairman Richard Gere, Prof. Dr. Jan Andersson, Vice Chairman of ICT Europe Board and member of the ICT Germany Board, Christa Meindersma of the ICT Europe Board, ICT Treasurer Jim Kaine, ICT Board special observer Mollie Rodriguez, Michael Van Walt, advisor of the ICT Europe Board and ICT Board member Tony Karam, who also heads Casa Tibet Mexico. President Matteo Mecacci, Vice President Bhuchung Tsering, Executive Director of ICT Europe Tsering Jampa, Executive Director of ICT Germany Kai Müller and ICT Europe Policy Director Vincent Metten were also present.

As the Guest of Honor, His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressed the conference at the inaugural ceremony on September 8, outlining his three commitments and encouraging those in attendance to promote harmony: “The essence of Tibetan Buddhist culture is peace, non-violence and compassion—what the whole world needs. I believe all 7 billion human beings have a responsibility to make an effort to create a more compassionate world. We won’t

see a result next year or even in the next decade, but if we start now we may see positive change within this century.”

His Holiness said, “The story of Tibet is the ‘power of gun’ versus the ‘power of truth.’ For immediate [solutions], power of gun is more powerful. For long run, power of truth is much stronger.”

He added that the Chinese Communist Party’s present policy “brings more fear,” and that “fear and trust cannot go together.” Referring to his Middle Way approach to the Tibet issue, he said, “We are not for one side victory and one side loss. We are for benefit for both sides.”

In his opening remarks to the group, ICT Chairman Richard Gere said, “We have to try to create the world we want our children to live in, taking His Holiness’ sense of fairness and justice as a guide. We have to see the Chinese people as brothers and sisters. We need to look ahead to a brighter future.”

The TSG Conference issued a statement that read, in part, “The Conference drew inspiration and strategic benefit from the diverse skills and perspectives and from the sense of common purpose of Tibet Support Groups from around the world. It examined the current situation in occupied Tibet, especially the political, human rights and environmental developments there, assessed the state of the Tibet freedom movement, and drew up plans for coordinated action.”

Photo credits: ICT thanks photographer Olivier Adam, [www.olivieradam.net](http://www.olivieradam.net)

Sales of his work support the Tibetan Nuns Project at [www.etsy.com/shop/daughtersofbuddha](http://www.etsy.com/shop/daughtersofbuddha)



THE TSG CONFERENCE STATEMENT OUTLINED  
FOUR PROPOSALS FOR ACTION PLANS  
TO BE DEVELOPED, INCLUDING:

### Human Rights Action

- Joint and individual action by governments on religious freedom, in particular against the demolitions at Larung Gar [Buddhist Institute], which has been brought to the world's attention by the international press.
- Legal action in national courts on the basis of universal jurisdiction.
- Expression of solidarity with the cultural and national identity resilience movement in Tibet.
- Action on language rights at the United Nations.
- Place the release of the Panchen Lama on the agenda of a US-China Presidential summit.

### Reclaiming the Truth

- Take action against the Confucius Institutes' political agenda and obstruction of academic freedom.
- List the 1959 Tibetan national uprising among UNESCO's heritage of Memories of the World.
- Establish a system for providing correct information on Tibet on Wikipedia sites.

### Chinese Outreach

- Translate Tibetan testimonies and personal stories for distribution in Chinese.
- Establish a system for providing correct information on Tibet on Chinese language Wikipedia sites.

### Environmental Action

- To press all affected countries in particular the People's Republic of China to enter into a water-sharing agreement regarding the waters originating from the Tibetan plateau.
- To persuade the PRC to allow the Tibetans to be stewards of the Tibetan plateau to slow down climate change for global benefit.
- To get the PRC to earnestly implement the protection of the environment of the Tibetan plateau through beneficial provisions of the PRC's environmental laws.



Read the full statement of the International Conference of Tibet Support Groups at [tibet.net/2016/09/statement-of-7th-international-conference-of-tibet-support-groups](http://tibet.net/2016/09/statement-of-7th-international-conference-of-tibet-support-groups)



(Top) His Holiness the Dalai Lama greets ICT President Matteo Mecacci. (Middle) Supporters surround His Holiness at the event. (Bottom) Tibetan children and their families present His Holiness with *khata* scarves.

# Tibetan Youth Leadership Program

## What Does It Take to Be a Leader in the Tibetan Community?

Reflecting on the 2016 Tibetan Youth Leadership Program

By Passang Gonrong



The eleven participants of this year's TYLP, shown here at the State Department, are flanked by ICT's Director of Tibetan Empowerment & Chinese Engagement Programs Tencho Gyatso at far left and Vice President Bhuchung Tsering at far right.

*Each fall, ICT hosts the Tibetan Youth Leadership Program (TYLP), an initiative that brings together Tibetan American college students from across the country for a week of leadership development training and community building in Washington, DC.*

My experience with the TYLP started when I was applying to the program in March. The essay prompt was, "What does it take to be a leader in the Tibetan community?" On the surface, it sounded like an easy question; however, when I tried to come up with an answer, I questioned not only the complexities of what constitutes a leader, but more importantly what the Tibetan community means to me. These ideas were just the tip of the iceberg for my week with TYLP.

This year's cohort came from seven states across the country, with ages ranging from 19 to 26 years old. There were students who were born and raised in Tibet, students who were born and/or raised in India and Nepal, and students who were born and/or raised in America. Although we had a shared identity, our diverse backgrounds allowed us to learn greatly from each other. As a Tibetan born in America, hearing stories from my peers who had escaped from Tibet and those who were raised in India and Nepal was eye opening.

We arrived to the capital on the Fourth of July and were lucky enough to see the fireworks on the National Mall. It was a magical start for our week, where we learned the importance of not only our Tibetan but our American identity. Bhuchung la, Vice President of ICT, stressed that as Tibetan Americans we have the right and privilege to advocate for Tibet to our representatives in the American government, and to help our brothers and sisters in Tibet through this country. This was valuable to me because I had always compartmentalized my identity; I was a proud Tibetan and I was a proud American, but I did not think those two were entwined.

It was our mini lobbying day on Capitol Hill that made me realize how mistaken I was. The representatives we met, including Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Congresswoman Betty McCollum (D-MN), demonstrated to me the duty we as Tibetan Americans have to champion Tibet. Members of Congress would not have heard or supported Tibet if it were not for His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the persistent Tibetan Americans, and the numerous pro-Tibetan organizations.

Our week was packed with visits to the State Department, where we were able to attend a media briefing, have an interactive session with Ambassador David Saperstein, and meet with Todd Stein in the Office of the Special Coordinator for Tibet. We visited the Tibetan Language Service for both Radio Free Asia and Voice of America. We went on a White House Tour, had a meeting with the President of the National Endowment for Democracy, and met Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama Kaydor Aukatsang la during our visit to the Office of Tibet.

One of the most meaningful sessions for me was when it was just Bhuchung la and us. We were able to reflect on the programs we attended, freely exchange ideas, and come up with solutions that focused on Tibet through the lens of the American government.

I urge every Tibetan college student to apply to the Tibetan Youth Leadership Program. The knowledge and friendships I have gained this week will be everlasting.



Passang Gonrong is a 21-year-old college student from Illinois. She was one of eleven participants in this year's program.





## ICT Petition Delivered to Presidential Candidates

Thanks to members who raised their voices for Tibet, ICT delivered more than 7,500 petitions urging presidential candidates

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump to make Tibet a priority of their presidency if elected in November. The petitions were delivered to the campaign offices in October in order to make a powerful statement from the collective ICT community that would reach the candidates before special interest groups clamored for their attention following the election.

## Tibet Rally in Geneva Draws Hundreds

Approximately 1,500 Tibetans and Tibet supporters gathered at the United Nations in Geneva in September for a rally to highlight injustice in Tibet, express solidarity with Tibetans, and call for religious freedom. The rally coincided with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council, calling attention to the increasing deterioration of human rights in Tibet and East Turkestan under the People's Republic of China.

Tibetan Buddhist monks from The Tibet Institute in Rikon, Switzerland, recited prayers to open the rally. Kai Müller, Executive Director of ICT Germany, delivered opening remarks, including a statement by ICT Chairman Richard Gere.

## Final Report of the Tibet Election Observation Mission Released

The Final Report of the 2016 Tibetan Election Observation Mission (TEOM) was released in Brussels during the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Tibet Support Groups. It was presented by Hon. Thomas Mann, Member of European Parliament and Chair of the TEOM, and Matteo Mecacci, President of ICT and former Member of Italian Parliament.

The report analyzes both the campaign and the election framework adopted by Tibetan institutions in exile, and comments on their compliance with international democratic standards. It also offers to the Tibetan Election Commission and the Tibetan Parliament in exile a number of recommendations to improve the electoral process. The report was distributed to over 300 electoral participants all over the world.



Read the full report at <http://bit.ly/tibet-election>



Participants in ICT's TYLP meet with Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA).

## Letter Urges Obama to Prioritize Tibet at the End of His Term

Seventy-two Members of the U.S. Congress urged President Barack Obama to formulate "new, creative strategies to encourage meaningful dialogue, protect Tibetan rights, and preserve their unique cultural, religious and linguistic identity" during the final months of his term in office.

This appeal was delivered in a letter initiated by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA). The letter also urged the Administration to take proactive steps to support His Holiness the Dalai Lama, including supporting his right to return to Tibet.





## ICT Members Are Honored Guests in Dharamsala

Nine ICT members, along with Director of Development Cynthia Hurst, Director of Tibetan Empowerment & Chinese Engagement Programs Tencho Gyatso, and Director of Special Programs Lesley Friedell Rich, made a special trip to Dharamsala, India, home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Nyima Lhamo, niece of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, shared her experience of escaping from Tibet with ICT's group during a visit to the Refugee Reception Center.



During a visit to the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, ICT Director of Tibetan Empowerment & Chinese Engagement Programs, Tencho Gyatso, presented Venerable Khenpo Sonam with a 2017 ICT wall calendar.



After being treated to a cultural performance by the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts, ICT's group joined the performers for a picture on stage.



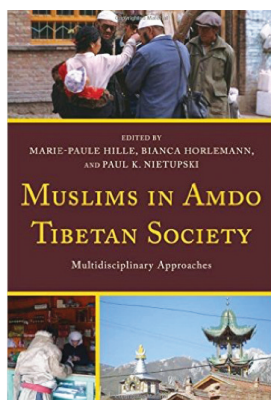
These young Tibetans were among the many students ICT's group was fortunate to meet during a tour of the Tibetan Children's Village School.



ICT Director of Development Cynthia Hurst and Member Carrie Sachs-Sorenson on a *kora* around the Tsuglakhang, His Holiness' Temple.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama greets ICT member Paula Ayala prior to a public teaching at the Tsuglakhang.



## Recent Release

### MUSLIMS IN AMDO TIBETAN SOCIETY

EDITED BY MARIE-PAULE HILLE, BIANCA HORLEMANN, AND PAUL K. NIETUPSKI

Tibetans have lived side by side with a number of Muslim minorities in northern Tibet for centuries: the Salar, Hui, Dongxiang, and Xidaotang, to name just a few. This new release, composed of nine chapters by different authors, explores different facets of the Tibetan-Muslim relationship, ranging from lasting bonds between Buddhist monks and Muslim caravan leaders to conflicts between Tibetan nomads and the armies of the Hui warlord Ma Bufang. *Muslims in Amdo Tibetan Society* is a fascinating read, bringing context and background to one of the most important relationships in northern Tibetan society.



The world's leading news outlets cite the International Campaign for Tibet as a source of authoritative information and commentary on Tibet.



**NEW YORK TIMES**  
“Police in China Push  
for Trial of Tibetan  
Education Advocate”  
*August 31, 2016*

ICT is cited as having urged the United States government to raise the cases of Tibetan language education advocate Tashi Wangchuk and imprisoned Tibetan writer Shokjang.

**WASHINGTON POST**  
“A Woman’s Gruesome  
Hanging Shocked Tibet—  
But Police Have Silenced  
All Questions”  
*August 15, 2016*

ICT’s January report on police control and surveillance is cited. The article also contains a statement by ICT saying that the issue of the woman’s death and its aftermath “reveals the extent of the impunity of officials and police in Tibet, and the fact that it took so long to reach the outside world shows how tightly information flows are restricted.”

**“China Prepares for Dalai  
Lama’s Death by Looking to  
Its Own Top Tibetan Cleric”**  
*September 26, 2016*  
ICT offers commentary on

the Chinese government-appointed Panchen Lama.

**BANGKOK POST**  
(AFP, Reuters)  
“China Demolishing Housing  
at Buddhist Institute”  
*July 26, 2016*

News of the destruction of living quarters at the Larung Gar Buddhist Institute in the southwestern province of Sichuan is attributed to a statement published by ICT.

**DAILY MAIL (AFP)**  
“In Tibet, Religious Freedom  
with Chinese Characteristics”  
*September 22, 2016*

ICT Communications Director Kate Saunders is quoted, saying, “Faith is an integral element of Tibetan identity and nationalism and is therefore perceived as a potential threat to the authority of the Chinese state.”

**“Chinese Demolitions at  
Buddhist Institute Draw Fire”**  
*July 26, 2016*

The article quotes ICT President Matteo Mecacci at length: “These demolitions are part of a set of policy measures implemented by the Chinese government

that severely restrict the religious freedom of Tibetan Buddhists...This is a regressive and dangerous approach aimed at managing and controlling Tibetan Buddhism that sends a chilling signal to the outside world about the pressures faced by people seeking to peacefully practice their religion in the PRC.”

**CHANNEL NEWSASIA**  
“Despite Fears, Support for  
Dalai Lama Remains Strong  
in China’s Sichuan Province”  
*September 12, 2016*

ICT Communications Director Kate Saunders is quoted as saying that harsh measures by the Chinese authorities to criminalize self-immolation and to charge, sentence, and imprison families, friends, and even witnesses of self-immolation have “played a part in perhaps individual decisions not to take this step.”

**“Millions of Tibetan  
Nomads Move Into  
Permanent Homes”**  
*September 13, 2016*

The article contains a quote from Kate Saunders, ICT’s

Communications Director: “At least part of the Chinese authorities’ intent behind these policies is to administer control more effectively. Settling people obviously makes it much easier to administer control over a large population in the grasslands.”

**KUSI NEWS, SAN DIEGO**  
*September 21, 2016*

ICT’s Tencho Gyatso is interviewed on air regarding the organization’s role, the history of Tibet, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the Tibet situation today (see photo above).

**DER SPIEGEL**  
“Chinas Bulldozer fahren in  
buddhistischer Stätte auf”  
*July 29, 2016*

ICT’s Germany office is quoted regarding the destruction of the Larung Gar Buddhist Institute.



For the latest news on Tibet, visit the ICT newsroom at [savetibet.org/newsroom](http://savetibet.org/newsroom)

# In Memoriam



## PEMA WANGYAL, TIBETAN SCHOLAR AND ICT STAFF MEMBER 1962-2016

A brilliant scholar and beloved colleague, Pema Wangyal made invaluable contributions to ICT's work as a Research Analyst for ten years before his untimely death in September. He is survived by his wife Tsewang Tso, their children Luguma and Tuga, and his family back in Tibet.

Pema possessed a deep and profound knowledge of Tibetan Buddhism, history, and culture, and used his fluency in Tibetan, Chinese, and English to build bridges between Chinese and Tibetan communities. Born in Tibet, he came to the United States by way of Beijing, where he taught at the prestigious Minzu University of China. In America, he first lived and taught in the Bay Area before coming to Washington, DC.

It would be impossible to properly honor Pema's memory without mentioning his love of laughter, good conversation, friends, and his family. He enjoyed spending his weekends hiking and camping with his family and swimming in the pool. Despite his advanced achievements in scholarship and translation, Pema remained truly humble and modest. His hospitality and sense of humor won over those who were lucky enough to know him, and our office was blessed by his kind heart and truly Tibetan spirit. He was a friend, mentor, and teacher to so many, and his kindness will not be forgotten.

He is deeply missed.



Pema Wangyal is survived by his wife Tsewang Tso, pictured above, and children.



Lowell Thomas, Jr. received the Light of Truth award from His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 2005.

## LOWELL THOMAS, JR., WHO BROUGHT TIBET ALIVE FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS

1923-2016

Lowell Thomas, Jr., among the first Westerners to visit Tibet in the last century, passed away on October 1, 2016. His trip to Tibet in 1949 resulted in scores of photographs, articles, radio programs and books that shaped Americans' views of Tibet at a critical time in Tibetan history. He is one of the genuine grandfathers of the Tibet movement in America.

Thomas was the former Lieutenant Governor of Alaska as well as an author, lecturer, glacier pilot, and public servant. When he and his father visited Tibet, they were among the first of only seven or eight Americans to be granted permits to travel to Tibet at that time.

Meeting with the young Dalai Lama and his ministers on the eve of the Chinese invasion, they vowed to rally support for the Tibetan people. Thomas subsequently published the book *Out of This World: Across the Himalayas to Forbidden Tibet*, which became a bestseller.

In recognition of Thomas' contribution to spreading awareness about the Tibetan issue, His Holiness the Dalai Lama bestowed upon him the International Campaign for Tibet's Light of Truth award in 2005. Thomas was preceded in death by his wife Mary Taylor "Tay" Thomas. He is survived by his daughter, Anne Donaghy, and son, David, and their children and grandchildren.



## CALLING ALL SUPPORTERS

### Urge the New U.S. President to Appoint a Special Coordinator for Tibet

As President Obama's term in office ends, so too ends the appointment of Sarah Sewall, who since 2014 has served as Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues and Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the U.S. State Department.

ICT has worked closely with Special Coordinator Sewall and her predecessors and understands the importance of the Tibet Coordinator's role, as mandated by the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002. In this year's Tibet negotiations report to the Congress, the State Department has outlined the actions taken by the President as well as the Secretary of State and the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. Special Coordinator Sewall met with the Dalai Lama twice this year—on January 16, 2016, in Dharamsala, India and on June 13, 2016, in Washington—to discuss nonviolent approaches to conflict resolution, climate change, and questions of preserving Tibetan culture, religion, and education.

The Special Coordinator's work on Tibet is critical. Unfortunately, it took a full year into Obama's last term to name Sarah Sewall to this crucial position. We want to urge the new President to designate the new Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the earliest.

That is why we are asking for your support in urging our new President to select an appointee as soon as possible.

**We want to show the President the strength of our base of support and the urgency of selecting a qualified candidate for the role of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues.**

We ask all members and supporters to sign and return the enclosed petition to ICT in the attached envelope so that we can deliver them together for maximum effectiveness.

PLEASE CLIP HERE



**TO: THE U.S. PRESIDENT  
FROM: A CONCERNED CITIZEN**

For more than two decades, the U.S. government has responded to the Dalai Lama's message with programmatic and policy initiatives to support the Tibetan people. As Tibetans' pleas for dignity and rights continue to be met by a smothering Chinese security presence and information blackout, this support remains vital. The role of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the U.S. State Department helps keep critical U.S. support for Tibet in place.

**As outlined in the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, the role of Tibet Coordinator includes:**

- vigorously promoting the policy of seeking to protect the distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and national identity of Tibet, and pressing for improved respect for human rights;
- maintaining close contact with religious, cultural, and political leaders of the Tibetan people, including regular travel to Tibetan areas of the People's Republic of China, and to Tibetan refugee settlements in India and Nepal;
- consulting with Congress on policies relevant to Tibet and the future and welfare of the Tibetan people;
- making efforts to establish contacts in the foreign ministries of other countries to pursue a negotiated solution for Tibet.

As you take office as the President of the United States, you have the opportunity to fill the crucial role of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the State Department by quickly designating a qualified individual. I ask that you show your support for Tibet by naming a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues as soon as possible.

Sign Here \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNATIONAL  
**CAMPAIGN**  
**FOR TIBET**

## 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.



Join us for the online conversation at our blog at [weblog.savetibet.org](http://weblog.savetibet.org).

Visit our website in Chinese at [liaowangxizang.net](http://liaowangxizang.net).



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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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ICT members and staff members, Cynthia Hurst, Director of Development, Lesley Friedell Rich, Director of Special Programs and Tencho Gyatso, Director of Tibetan Empowerment & Chinese Engagement Programs, had an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at His Holiness' temple in Dharamsala, India.