

# Tibet

## PRESS WATCH

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- Petition: Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act



SUMMER 2014

*A publication of the  
International Campaign for Tibet*



A GLOBAL APPROACH  
OUR OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD SUPPORT TIBET

# Join supporters around the world in building a better future for Tibet.

These are a few ways to invest in ICT's work.

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Join an intimate group of supporters who have chosen to create a living legacy to Tibet. Place ICT in your will or trust, make a gift of stocks, retirement funds or real estate, or participate in a gift annuity.

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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.*



Gill Penney (photographer). 2007. From flickr.com

Learn more about these opportunities and other ways to stand with Tibetans by supporting ICT's work at [savetibet.org/other-ways-to-give/](http://savetibet.org/other-ways-to-give/) or contact Lizzy Ludwig at **202-580-6767** or [lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org](mailto:lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org)

## 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.

Photo © Jurjen Donkers

INTERNATIONAL  
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FOR TIBET on social media...



9 feeds  
5 languages

@SAVETIBETORG  
ENGLISH

@SAVETIBET\_TIBET  
TIBETAN བོད་ཡིག

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GERMAN

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CHINESE 中文

@SAVETIBETNL  
DUTCH

PLUS:  
@MATTEOMEACCI @BHUCHUNGTSERING TIBETAN བོད་ཡིག  
@TODDSTEINICT @KATESICTIBET



8 websites  
6 languages



English German  
French Dutch

SAVETIBET.ORG  
ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR TIBET

SAVETIBET.NL  
DUTCH

INTERNATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET  
DEUTSCHLAND

savetibet.de  
GERMAN

INTERNATIONAL  
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INTERNATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR TIBET

# From the President



## TIBET PRESS WATCH

The International Campaign for Tibet works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet.

Founded in 1988, ICT is a non-profit membership organization with offices in Washington, DC, Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels and a field office in Dharamsala.

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Dear Friends,

This past spring I returned to Asia—my first trip since going to Dharamsala to meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan leadership in exile last winter when I began my tenure as president. At ICT, we are pursuing opportunities to raise awareness in Asian countries, so I was excited to be in Taiwan and to meet with activists interested in the future of democracy and freedom in China, including Tibet.

While there, I was honored to deliver the opening speech of the 9th Conference on Inter-ethnic and Interfaith Dialogue, which included Chinese democrats, Taiwanese activists, Hong Kong and Macau activists, representatives of the Tibetan, Uyghur, and Southern Mongolian diaspora, and members of the Falun Gong and of Christian churches. We know that for the future of Tibet, it is crucial to build confidence and trust among the different groups that are trying to advance the cause of freedom in China.

It is likewise crucial that democracies around the world coordinate a joint position on Tibet—a point that ICT board member Ellen Bork and I recently made in an op-ed (entitled “Oslo Snubs the Dalai Lama”) that was published in the Asian and European editions of the *Wall Street Journal*. We are increasingly certain that many of the citizens of the world’s democracies want their governments to take stronger positions with regard to Tibet. An opinion poll that was commissioned by ICT prior to China Party Secretary Xi Jinping’s visit to Europe showed that a vast majority of French and German citizens express solidarity and concern for the lack of human rights for Tibetans and want their leaders to address these issues.

You can read more about this poll and our other global initiatives in support of Tibet on page 6 in the feature story highlighting our international offices. I hope you’ll also take the time to read the page 4 article on developments at the UN Human Rights Council, and the page 8 highlights of a recently released ICT report on tourists’ impressions of Tibet as shared via Weibo, China’s version of Twitter. I encourage you to take action by signing the petition on page 11 and help promote the freedom of US diplomats, journalists, and citizens to travel in Tibet.

Last December, I took on the role of president at ICT with much enthusiasm, and in the time that has passed since then, I’ve become even more certain that one of the greatest assets of this organization is its members. I am excited to continue meeting more of you—whether in person, or virtually via the pages of our website and printed publications.

Because I want you to know more about the great work we do, I’ll also continue posting weekly on my blog, called *A Free Tibet in a Free World*, which you can find at <http://weblog.savetibet.org/matteo-mecaccis-blog/>

I invite you to keep in touch, and I look forward to hearing from you as we work together to bring new attention to the oppression of our Tibetan brothers and sisters.

In solidarity,

Matteo Mecacci  
President

Cover: (Clockwise) Tsering Jampa (L), Executive Director of ICT Europe, and Tsewang Lhazom (R), President of the Tibetan Community of the Netherlands, mark the 25th anniversary of the Dalai Lama’s Nobel Peace Prize in the Netherlands (photo by: Jurjen Donkers). Participants in the Tibetan Youth Leadership Program gather with Kaydor Aukatsang, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to North America, in Washington, DC. Refugee children of the Tibetan Children’s Village in Suja, India, are supported by members of ICT-Germany. Learn more about these and other Global Initiatives on page 6.



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Canada spoke in favor of allowing FIDH to speak, while Pakistan and Cuba opposed if FIDH was also speaking on behalf of ICT and HRiC. German ambassador to the HRC Hanns Schumacher said that he was “quite amazed to hear of a position that even NGOs who are mentioned in the speeches of other NGOs need to be accredited to the ECOSOC.” He called this “a raping of procedural rules.” The HRC’s secretariat ultimately ruled that “the fact of mentioning other entities is the practice established over a long time,” and FIDH was allowed to continue with the joint statement.

The United Nations human rights system is one of the few universal institutions that offer an effective platform for global action. It is clear that China places great emphasis on this forum: The PRC sends its biggest delegation to push through its point of view and lobby other countries to support it. While the states are the most important actors in the UN, the HRC offers plenty of areas where NGOs can directly challenge states on their actions and hold them accountable. ICT continues to highlight the issues in Tibet at every available forum in the UN.

Subsequently, in May, ICT made a statement when a UN Committee reviewed China’s compliance with the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). ICT told the UN Committee that the implementation of Chinese policies to relocate Tibetan nomads is a threat to the survival of an ancient way of life that is integral to Tibetan identity, especially since resettlement policies in Tibet are usually carried out without consultation or consent, and local people have no right to challenge them or refuse to participate. The statement also focused on the Tibetans’ right to education and right to cultural life.

In its concluding observations, the Committee expressed concern over resettlements of nomadic herdsmen in “new socialist villages” carried out without proper consultation; the restrictions faced by Tibetans and Uighurs regarding education in their languages; and the reports on the high rate of unemployment among Tibetans, Uighurs, and Inner Mongolians, in part due to the Han Chinese migration into minority areas. The Committee urged China to halt non-voluntary resettlements of nomadic herders, take all necessary measures to ensure the use and practice of the Tibetan language and culture, and adopt effective strategies to reduce unemployment rates, with special attention to minorities.

The UN’s many forums offer one of the best opportunities to advance the cause of human rights and justice in Tibet. With this in view, ICT has worked diligently to ensure that no stone is left unturned and, whether at the HRC or other UN agency, to focus global attention on Tibet.

## Ideas, Advocacy & Dialogue on the ICT Blog

*Read more at [weblog.savetibet.org](http://weblog.savetibet.org)*

### My Experience with ICT’s Tibetan Youth Leadership Program

Rinchen Phuntsok, June 27, 2014

An alumnus of this year’s TYLP shares his experiences of the program, which provides a platform for exchange of views, immersion in the Tibet issue, and exposure to advocacy strategies, efforts, and opportunities.

### Chinese Admiration for the Enduring Tibetan Faith

Rinchen Tashi, June 25, 2014

During the month of Saka Dawa celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha, an increased number of postings on Chinese social media comment on Tibetans’ faith.

### Tibetan Dumplings with Soul: A Visit to a New Café Run by Drapchi’s Former “Singing Nuns”

Kate Saunders, June 5, 2014

The women behind Momo café in Brussels were once political prisoners inside Tibet.



### In Italy, to Keep Tibet on the Agenda of the European Union

Matteo Mecacci, June 20, 2014

A week-long trip coincides with a visit by the Dalai Lama and affords an opportunity to make sure Tibet is on the agenda as Italy chairs the European Union for the next six months.

# Global Initiatives

Highlighting activities in support of Tibet by our offices around the world

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Visit to the Netherlands Co-Organized by ICT-Europe

The International Campaign for Tibet and the Tibetan community in the Netherlands marked the 25th anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's receiving the Nobel Peace Prize by presenting His Holiness with a medal on May 10 during a three-day visit in the Netherlands, which was co-organized by ICT-Europe.

Tsering Jampa, Executive Director of ICT-Europe said, "His Holiness' promotion of the concept of oneness of humanity and the common message of all religions have contributed to better understanding between different communities and religious traditions, while his call to make the 21st century one of dialogue has the potential to reduce violence and promote mutually beneficial approaches to international conflict resolution."

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Dalai Lama in Oslo in 1989. His visit coincided with the launch by the Amsterdam office of an ICT website in Dutch called "I support the Dalai Lama" and a large-scale public awareness campaign.

## Leadership Program Engages Tibetan Youth



Ten Tibetan-Americans who took part in this year's Tibetan Youth Leadership Program in Washington, DC.

The ninth Tibetan Youth Leadership Program took place in Washington, DC, from June 3 to 7, with 10 participants from across the country. The program is designed to motivate and train young Tibetan-Americans to become effective leaders within the Tibetan community by providing meaningful exposure to the US political process and the discourse around foreign policy in the American capital. Though specifically geared to meet the need to carry the Tibet movement forward in the US, ICT's TYLP is a starting point for greater involvement within the Tibetan community worldwide.

Through workshops, discussions and hands-on activities, participants honed their leadership skills, helping them to convert their convictions into activism. Activities included workshops on media and message development; discussions on human rights, contemporary China, Tibetan history, and modern politics; and visits to think tanks and to the offices of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America—Tibetan Language Service. Three participants were interviewed on RFA, while two others had the opportunity to appear live on a VOA Tibetan TV program.

There were also opportunities to engage in discussions with distinguished professionals working on foreign policy issues, meetings with their Congressional offices as well as the State Department. Participants were also thrilled by a surprise Skype conversation with ICT Board Chair Richard Gere.

The support of ICT members makes this unique and impactful program possible and helps ensure the strength of the Tibet movement by fostering future leaders. As one participant commented, "This program is exactly what I need to renew my commitment to working for Tibet."

## Candidates to European Parliament Take a Stand for Tibet

Thanks to the work of ICT-Brussels, the ICT campaign, “2014 for Tibet,” has gained the support of 73 candidates to the European Parliament (EP). Forty-one re-running Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and 32 candidates have promised to stand for the rights and freedoms of the people of Tibet during the upcoming mandate.

ICT EU Policy Director Vincent Metten emphasized that joining the “2014 for Tibet” campaign is a clear indication that the next EP will continue to draw attention to ongoing human rights violations in Tibet and insist on addressing this issue with the Chinese authorities.

Signatories came from 16 EU Member States and from all political groups in the European Parliament. More than half are affiliated with the Greens/EFA Group, among them all the re-running Écologie Europe MEPs from France. “We can’t accept the way in which Tibetans are treated today. The EU has an important role to play, defending vigorously the rights of Tibetan people,” they stated in their joint address.

A list of MEPs and candidates who signed the pledge, along with their comments in support of Tibet, is available at [www.2014fortibet.eu/who-signed/](http://www.2014fortibet.eu/who-signed/). After the EP elections, ICT will continue reaching out to the elected MEPs with the objective of collecting more signatures to the pledge and increasing support to Tibet.



### WHO SIGNED?

#### Eva Lichtenberger

*European Green Party*

“Jacques Rogge, Chairman of the International Olympic Committee, said back in 2002 that he was convinced that allowing Beijing to host the Olympic Games in 2008 would help to improve the human rights situation in China. He was proven wrong big time as the situation especially in Tibet has deteriorated significantly since then. China’s fast economic growth has turned out to be by far more a threat than an opportunity for Tibet. But I am convinced that in the long run a country cannot prosper economically if it keeps on oppressing its people. I fervently hope that this will be the chance for genuine autonomy for Tibet!”



Tibetan refugee children with their instructor at the Tibetan Children’s Village in Suja, India.

## ICT-Germany Supports Tibetan Children’s Village

ICT-Germany recently completed a project to improve the living conditions for approximately 2,000 Tibetan refugee children living in exile at the Tibetan Children’s Village at Suja, about 50 miles east of Dharamsala in northern India.

The project, which was made possible by RTL (Europe’s largest commercial broadcasting corporation) and ICT-Germany members, began in 2008. Several new buildings were constructed, including a health center to improve healthcare for children, dormitories, staff quarters, and a dining hall and sports ground. Sanitary conditions were improved, alternative energy equipment was installed, an ambulance was provided, additional nurses were hired, two thousand blankets were purchased, and teachers’ quarters were renovated. Additionally, funded by the Gere Foundation, staff were offered training in trauma care that combined Buddhist practice with Western approaches to trauma treatment in children.

The ICT-Germany office reports a successful outcome for the children of TCV and hopes to extend its work there in the future.



These photographs were captured by tourists in Tibet and posted to the microblogging site Sina Weibo, China's version of Twitter.

## Chinese Microbloggers Reveal Systematic Militarization in Tibet

“There are People’s Armed Police patrolling the streets of Lihang county, there were a lot of police gathered in Xianhe Square...They were holding big guns...The streets are full of explosives-proof vehicles and police cars, there are people wearing Tibetan clothes everywhere, and there are non-stop police car patrols on the streets...Repression is in the air...There’s a pervasive feeling like the White Terror...Could something happen? I’m really terrified.” Sina Weibo post by a tourist in Tibet (2013)

A recent ICT report uncovers how social media messages posted by tourists visiting Tibetan regions have provided a revealing window into Chinese policies in Tibet. The messages recovered by ICT provide further evidence of the large-scale security personnel deployments that have increasingly become part of the Tibetan landscape since the widespread protests of 2008, followed by self-immolations that now number more than 130. These observations counter the portrayal by Chinese officials and state media of a tranquil and grateful Tibetan population.

The messages highlight the disparate security conditions under which Tibetan and Chinese people live, with Tibetans treated with greater suspicion and targeted for even low-level information sharing. Authorities have implemented an extensive security apparatus and show overwhelming force

in order to “maintain harmony and stability in Tibet.” At the same time, the Chinese government has sought to suppress the dissemination of accurate news from Tibet through censorship and restrictions on foreign tourists.

Chinese authorities go to great lengths to censor the information available in the PRC, including responding to the ever-shifting landscape of the Internet with what is often called the Great Firewall. Despite authorities’ efforts to crack down on social media, ICT was able to collect hundreds of images and messages from the popular Chinese microblogging site, Sina Weibo, using the crowd-sourced perspective of tourists to further document the harsh security measures implemented in Tibet by Chinese authorities.

See the full report online at [bit.ly/weiboreport](http://bit.ly/weiboreport)



# Inside Tibet

## Self-Immolation Report

One additional self-immolation has occurred since our last report, bringing the total to 131 self-immolations since 2009, 130 of which have taken place since March 16, 2011.



April 15, 2014

Thinley Namgyal, 32, self-immolated in Sichuan province's restive Kardze prefecture to protest Chinese rule, triggering a security alert and a clampdown on the flow of information, according to sources. Namgyal's protest happened at noon in Khangsar

township in Tawu (in Chinese, Daofu) county in Kardze (Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, sources said.

Wellbeing: Deceased

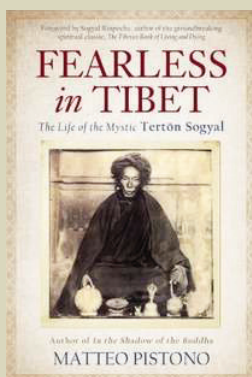
## Upcoming ICT Report

ICT is currently compiling a report detailing the intensified wave of repression in Tibet wherein the Chinese government is using a questionable legal framework to impose criminal penalties on Tibetans allegedly "associated" with self-immolators, including friends, families and even entire communities. This report documents more than 70 cases, including several where there is no evidence that those convicted spoke to, or even knew the self-immolator beforehand. This report will soon be available at [www.savetibet.org](http://www.savetibet.org).

# Recently Published

## Fearless in Tibet: The Life of the Mystic Tertön Sogyal

By Matteo Pistono



*Fearless in Tibet* is the biography of a Buddhist mystic whose mastery of meditation led him to be a revered teacher to the 13th Dalai Lama, and whose rituals were used to protect Tibet from military aggression in the tumultuous late 19th-early 20th centuries. *Fearless in Tibet* captures the essence of Tertön Sogyal's teachings, his yogic training, as well as his efforts to promote harmony between Tibet, China, and British India.

tual practice." *Fearless in Tibet* includes a foreword by Sogyal Rinpoche.

Author Matteo Pistono is a practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism who lived and traveled in Nepal and Tibet for over a decade. His images and writings about Tibetan and Himalayan cultural, political, and spiritual landscapes have appeared in *The Washington Post*, the *BBC*, and elsewhere. Pistono's memoir, *In the Shadow of the Buddha* (2011) detailed his work as a human rights monitor in Tibet, about which His Holiness the Dalai Lama wrote, "This story of Matteo Pistono's quest to visit places in Tibet associated with Tertön Sogyal... is revealing not only of the Tertön's life but also of circumstances in contemporary Tibet."

*New York Times* best-selling author Sharon Salzberg says, "The life of Tertön Sogyal offers an epic tale of great spiri-

# Member Engagement

## Member Profile: Carol Dyall

*Friend of Tibet since 2001*



Starting in 1968, Carol Dyall, shown here in Laos, traveled as a volunteer to Nepal working with Tibetan refugees, and to Laos.

Carol Dyall's first connection with Tibet came when she began volunteering among Tibetan refugees in Nepal in 1968. It was her career as a flight attendant for Eastern Airlines that brought her to Asia. The airline received a request from the Thomas Dooley Foundation (now Dooley Intermed) for stewardesses who would take a 3-6 month leave of absence to volunteer in Nepal and Laos. In Kathmandu, she met Tibetan people for the first time and came to "love them dearly."

For the next several years, she spent 3-4 months each year volunteering with the foundation, which brought doctors and nurses to refugee camps. Eventually, she became director of the stewardess program, taking a leave of two years to devote herself to the work. Among other activities, she was involved with starting a kindergarten for young children and with teaching some of the students' mothers beginner English. The Tibetans she met were very open to advice and assistance, but as independent people they wanted a way to be able to support themselves. So the foundation brought in looms and wool, and the Tibetans made rugs to sell at the market.

Carol, now 74 and a resident of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, called those years "the most blessed time of [her] life." Some of the Tibetans she met introduced her to His Holiness the Dalai

Lama through the photographs they carried, and she began reading up on Tibetan culture and beliefs. In 1993, she had an opportunity to meet His Holiness with a group from the Parliament of World Religions. She knew her initial positive feelings about him were right. Carol became involved with the International Campaign for Tibet in 1999 because of the organization's connection with His Holiness and because she feels that "ICT's values seem to be my values." She said that she appreciates Richard Gere's involvement and his willingness to lend his name as a longtime advocate for Tibet.

[Tibetans] provide such a light, an example of endurance under the worst conditions. They're not giving up, and I'm not giving up. —Carol

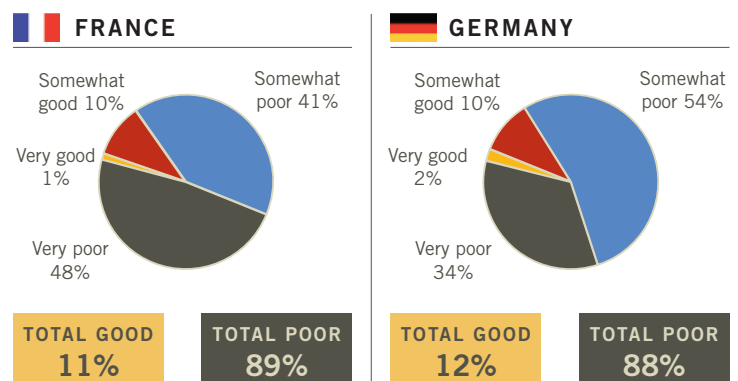
Today, Carol is a practitioner of yoga and continues to travel around the world to visit with the friends she has made over a lifetime. She has visited Dharamsala several times and has participated in a month-long retreat with Buddhist monks in Nepal. Asked why she chooses to support Tibet among so many worthy causes in the world, Carol remarked, "These are honorable people who deserve to have their homeland as their own. They have been neglected by the international community since day one. They have suffered so much. The Chinese government is powerful, and no other government wants to take them on. It's hard to believe that Tibetans stay so strong when they've been through so much. These people provide such a light, an example of endurance under the worst conditions. They're not giving up, and I'm not giving up."

Join Carol as a Friend of Tibet by visiting [savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet](http://savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet) or by contacting Lizzy Ludwig at [lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org](mailto:lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org) or 202-580-6767 today.

## Poll Finds French and German Citizens Want to Prioritize Human Rights and Tibet

An overwhelming majority of French and German citizens express solidarity and concern for the lack of respect for human rights and civil liberties of Tibetans; have a favorable opinion of the Dalai Lama; and call on French President Hollande and German Chancellor Merkel to officially invite the Dalai Lama to their capitals, according to a new poll commissioned by ICT and released by the French Institute of Public Opinion (IFOP) in advance of China Party Secretary Xi Jinping's visit to Europe.

### How would you assess the human rights in Tibet?



Full results of the survey, carried out March 10-14, 2014, can be found at [savetibet.org](http://savetibet.org)

# Take Action



Congressman  
Jim McGovern  
(D-MA)



Congressman  
Joseph Pitts  
(R-PA)

## Calling All Supporters:

### Take Action! Support the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act

Help us promote the freedom to travel to Tibet by asking your Congressman to cosponsor H.R. 4851, the “Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act,” a bipartisan bill introduced by Congressmen Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Joseph Pitts (R-PA) on June 12, 2014.

Its message is simple: If we can’t get into Tibet, you can’t come to the United States. The bill would allow those Chinese officials who formulate and implement travel policies to Tibet to enter the United States only if they allow reciprocal access to Tibet by American diplomats, journalists, and tourists. It 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.”

ICT needs your help in building Congressional support for this initiative. As ICT President Matteo Mecacci commented, “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 our Western governments already provide access to travelers from China.”

**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.**

PLEASE CLIP HERE:

To: My Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives  
From: A Mindful Constituent

Dear Representative,

On June 12, H.R. 4851, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act was introduced by Congressmen Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Joseph Pitts (R-PA). This bipartisan legislation would promote the freedom of U.S. citizens, journalists and diplomats to travel to Tibet.

We ask you to join Representatives McGovern and Pitts in supporting the bipartisan Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, which 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.

(Sign Here) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



Visit us at [savetibet.org](http://savetibet.org)

## Stay in Touch, Connect with Others!



Join us for the online conversation  
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Visit our website in Chinese at  
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[@LiaoWangXiZang](https://twitter.com/LiaoWangXiZang) (in Chinese)

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!

## Small Gifts, Big Difference

The *Friends of Tibet* are a small inner circle of supporters of the International Campaign for 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](http://www.savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet), or by contacting Lizzy Ludwig at [lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org](mailto:lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org) or (202) 580-6767.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave a teaching during his three-day visit to the Netherlands in May.  
Photo © Jurjen Donkers