

# Tibet

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## PRESS WATCH

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- Tibetan Students in Exile Connect with Nature



INTERNATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR TIBET

SUMMER 2018

*A publication of the  
International Campaign for Tibet*



HIS HOLINESS THANKS US CONGRESS  
FOR DECADES OF SUPPORT

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS DHARAMSALA

# From the President



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Dear Friend,

As we work to keep Tibet on the agendas of our leaders in Washington, DC, I was thrilled to be a part of the recent Congressional Delegation to Dharamsala that took place in early April. Two congresswomen and I met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the leadership of the Central Tibetan Administration, the students of the Tibetan Children's Village and several others during our stay. See page 3 for more details.

Then on April 25<sup>th</sup>, which is the birthday of the Panchen Lama, the US Senate unanimously passed a resolution clearly stating that it is up to Tibetan Buddhists to select reincarnate lamas, not the Chinese Communist Party. More on the resolution is detailed on page 6.

Also this spring, we were grateful to have our Board Chair Richard Gere in town at the end of May to help us encourage political leaders across the spectrum to lend their support to the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act. You can read more about his activities while in DC on page 6.

Additional positive news came recently, as we received an encouraging response from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to questions about Tibet posed to him by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We believe his on-the-record promises to support Tibet (see page 10) are due in no small part to the ICT members who raised their voices and wrote to government officials. If you ever doubt that you can make an impact, let this success remind you that your voice has real power. We thank you for making yourself heard.

Now it is time to urge Secretary Pompeo to put his pledges into action—as priorities at the start of his tenure in office—and set the tone for his approach to China. I encourage you to add your name to a petition on page 11 that asks him to make good on those commitments.

Finally, few things inspire us more than the energy we feel each spring as we welcome a cohort of enthusiastic young Tibetan Americans to take part in the Tibetan Youth Leadership Program (TYLP). ICT has been running the TYLP for more than ten years, and each year the participants bring inspiration to our organization. See the ten talented youths who recently completed a full week of trainings in DC on pages 4-5.

As you may recall from the last *Tibet Press Watch*, we have recently introduced a new logo (see it on the cover of this issue!) and a brand “refresh” designed in part to deepen our engagement with the millennial audience. Read about Paul Opperman, the creative talent and long-time ICT member who led our rebranding efforts, on page 9.

Our new look is part of our commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Campaign for Tibet. Later this year, we will devote a special issue of the *Tibet Press Watch* to that milestone.

It is your enduring dedication to the people of Tibet that has allowed us to come so far, and fuels our ongoing efforts. As ever, we thank you.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matteo Mecacci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matteo" being more prominent than the last name "Mecacci".

Matteo Mecacci

Cover Photo: Congresswomen Claudia Tenney (left) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (right) meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama on April 6, 2018 during a Congressional Delegation to Dharamsala. Also in the photo are ICT President Matteo Mecacci, Central Tibetan Administration Rep. Ngodup Tsering and congressional and embassy staff. Read more about their visit on page 3.



## Congressional Delegation Visits Dharamsala



A US Congressional Delegation composed of Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY), accompanied by staffers from the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the US Embassy in India, made a three-day visit to Dharamsala, India, on April 4-6. The delegation journeyed to Dharamsala to discuss the United States Congress and government's bi-partisan support of the Tibetan cause and to hear the latest on the situation in Tibet firsthand from His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA).

The delegation began their visit with a public meeting at the CTA, where President

Dr. Lobsang Sangay welcomed them. They also visited the Tibetan Parliament, some of the Tibetan institutes in Dharamsala, the Tibetan Children's Village and the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts.

They concluded their trip by meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the morning of April 6<sup>th</sup>. His Holiness welcomed the delegation and thanked the United States Congress and government for their decades-long support for the Tibetan cause. This support, he added, provides inspiration not only to the Tibetan people, but also for communities that are battling oppression all around the world.

Subsequent to the delegation's visit to Dharamsala, Rep. Tenney announced that she would sign on as a co-sponsor of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, with Rep. Ros-Lehtinen voicing her support as well. The act is a pivotal piece of legislation that demands access to Tibet for Americans, just as Chinese citizens enjoy in the US.



## ICT President Leads Discussion on Access to Tibet in the UK

On May 9<sup>th</sup> at Westminster Palace in London, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Tibet, a group of Members of Parliament and Lords with an interest in the Tibet issue, hosted a roundtable discussion on the issue of access to Tibet led by ICT President Matteo Mecacci.

The recent detention and expulsion of two *New York Times* journalists visiting Eastern Tibet in February is just one example of China's attempts to limit access and control what kind of information reaches the outside world. The roundtable discussed the major human rights concerns related to these restrictions, as well as how such measures reflect an unwillingness by the Chinese authorities to engage in reciprocal relations with other states, including the United Kingdom.

Mecacci said: "It is crucial that the principle of reciprocity is implemented not just in terms of trade and the economy, but also in relation to freedom of movement,




information and the exchange of peoples." He briefed MPs, representatives of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, NGOs and members of the public on new developments currently taking place in Washington, DC, where Members of Congress have introduced bipartisan legislation, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act.

The APPG for Tibet discussed new ways forward for political advocacy in the UK, and Mecacci provided insight into how the UK government can press for a more reciprocal and fair relationship with China.

**NEW REPORT:**  
**ACCESS DENIED**

At the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the APPG for Tibet, Mecacci presented a new ICT report titled *Access Denied: China's Enforced Isolation of Tibet, and the Case for Reciprocity*. It calls for a more robust international approach on Tibet, based on the principle of reciprocity and an emerging awareness that China's increasing authoritarian influence under Xi Jinping has extended beyond the borders of the People's Republic of China.

 To read the full report, visit <http://bit.ly/Tibet-Access-Denied>.

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# Tibetan Youth Leadership Program



## Tibetan Youth Gather for Leadership Training in Washington, DC

Ten Tibetan students from universities in Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Washington state traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the 2018 Tibetan Youth Leadership Program (TYLP), held June 2-9. The program, which ICT has run for more than ten years, is designed to motivate and train young Tibetans to become effective leaders within the Tibetan diaspora community by providing meaningful exposure to the US political process and the discourse around foreign policy in the American capital.

The program is specifically geared to meet the need to carry the Tibet movement forward in the United States. Toward this goal, participants took part in workshops, team-building exercises and meetings with Congressional leaders, Administration officials and civil society advocates. Speakers discussed the relevance of the Tibet movement in the United States; Chinese perspectives on the Tibet issue; US-China relations; the role of civil society in shaping American foreign policy; Buddhist meditation; and the work of the International Campaign for Tibet.

In order to gain a better understanding of government and foreign policy, participants spent a full day on Capitol Hill meeting with members of Congress and staffers and advocating for their support for initiatives on Tibet, including the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act. They also visited the State Department as part of their exposure to the US political process, and met with US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback.



At the Office of Tibet, they heard from the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Ngodup Tsering, about the priorities of the Central Tibetan Administration. They also took part in networking sessions with Tibetan American professionals and students in the Washington, DC area. As part of developing their communication skills, participants visited Radio Free Asia and Voice of America, and several of them took part in live and recorded discussions by the Tibetan services on the topics of Tibet and their experience in Washington, DC.

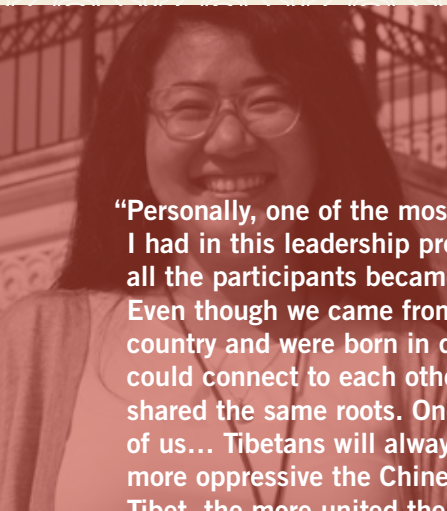


Top left: The ten participants in the TYLP gathered on Capitol Hill in June. Top right: This year's participants were welcomed by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA). Bottom right: The young leaders also met with Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R-NY).



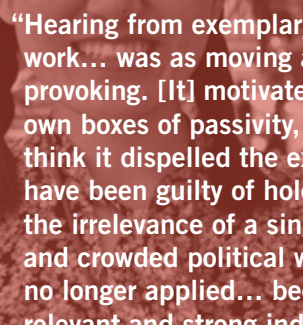
# Young Leaders in the Tibetan Diaspora Community

Participants were selected based on their academic achievement, leadership potential and an essay on “What it takes to be a leader in the Tibetan community.” The group included both participants born in the United States and those who were born in Tibet, Nepal or India. All of these young leaders are currently enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students at universities across the US.



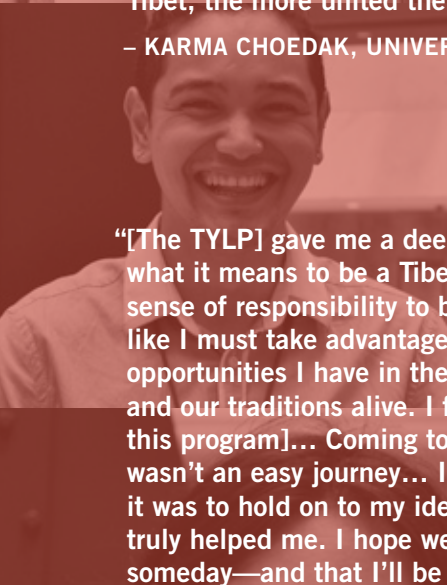
“Personally, one of the most powerful experiences I had in this leadership program was how quickly all the participants became close to each other. Even though we came from different parts of the country and were born in different places, we could connect to each other easily because we shared the same roots. One thing was evident to all of us... Tibetans will always remain Tibetans. The more oppressive the Chinese regime becomes in Tibet, the more united the Tibetan people will be.”

– KARMA CHOEDAK, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA



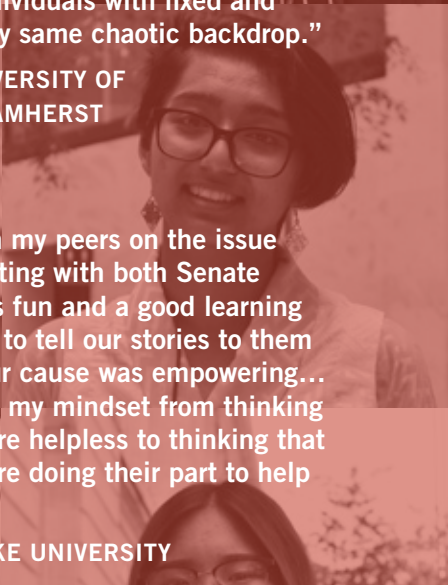
“Hearing from exemplary people about their work... was as moving as it was thought-provoking. [It] motivated us to come out of our own boxes of passivity, and most importantly, I think it dispelled the excuse that I personally have been guilty of holding onto, the excuse of the irrelevance of a single person in a chaotic and crowded political world. This reasoning no longer applied... because there they were, relevant and strong individuals with fixed and visible roles in that very same chaotic backdrop.”

– TENZIN TSEDON, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST



“[The TYLP] gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Tibetan. It provided me with a sense of responsibility to be a voice for Tibet... I felt like I must take advantage of the freedom and the opportunities I have in the US to keep our culture and our traditions alive. I felt like I found myself [in this program]... Coming to America [ten years ago] wasn't an easy journey... I've noticed how difficult it was to hold on to my identity... But this program truly helped me. I hope we'll achieve our goals someday—and that I'll be alive to see that day.”

– TENZIN DRONGSAR, UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



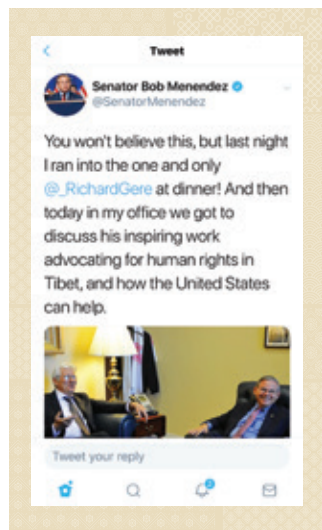
“I loved interacting with my peers on the issue we all care about. Meeting with both Senate and House staffers was fun and a good learning experience. To be able to tell our stories to them and engage them in our cause was empowering... and helped me change my mindset from thinking Tibetans inside Tibet are helpless to thinking that Tibetans inside Tibet are doing their part to help build the community.”

– TENZIN YANGKEY, DUKE UNIVERSITY



“It is gratifying to see the enthusiasm, energy and full-hearted participation of the students in the program.”

– TENCHO GYATSO, ICT DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH



## ICT Board Chair and President Meet with Political Leaders on Capitol Hill

At the end of May, ICT Board Chair Richard Gere and ICT President Matteo Mecacci participated in a number of meetings in Washington, DC with members of Congress, including Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Representatives Ted Yoho (R-FL), Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).

Gere's visit was a continuation of ICT's ongoing advocacy to keep Tibet high on the agendas of influential political leaders. Gere and Mecacci discussed with representatives what Congress could do to keep the attention of the current

administration focused on Tibet as trade discussions with China intensified—especially with regard to the need for reciprocity. Gere and Mecacci encouraged the political leaders to support the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, a bipartisan legislation that calls for allowing US journalists, diplomats, academics and others the same access to Tibet that Chinese citizens enjoy in America.

Photo (left): Senator Menendez committed to co-sponsoring the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act following his meeting with Gere and Mecacci.

## ICT Leaders Meet US Ambassador for International Religious Freedom to Call for Release of Panchen Lama

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, in a meeting with US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback, ICT President Matteo Mecacci and ICT Director of Outreach Tencho Gyatso discussed the important role the US government can play in securing the Panchen Lama's release. The date marked the 29<sup>th</sup> birthday of the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama, the second most well known religious figure in Tibet, who has not been seen in public since he was taken away by Chinese authorities in 1995—at age 6—after being recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Ambassador Brownback reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to call on the Chinese government to release the Panchen Lama and reveal the truth concerning his wellbeing and whereabouts, as well as ensuring the respect of religious freedom for the Tibetan people.

Speaking to reporters on the same day, His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed his hopes for the Panchen Lama and explained that he has “reliable information” asserting that the Panchen Lama is still alive.



## US Senate Passes Resolution Calling on China to End Interference in Tibetan Buddhism

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, the birthday of the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama, the US Senate unanimously passed Resolution 429, which expresses support for the human rights and religious freedom of the Tibetan people and Tibetan Buddhists. The resolution specifically references their right to identify reincarnate lamas without Chinese government interference, and recognized March 10, 2018 as Tibetan Rights Day.

This resolution, introduced by Senators Leahy, Cruz, Feinstein and Rubio, is a manifestation of the enduring support Congress has offered for the aspirations of the Tibetan people over the course of several decades.

## ICT Vice President Takes Part in Task Force on Sino-Tibetan Dialogue



The 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on Sino-Tibetan Dialogue was held May 1-3 in Dharamsala, India. ICT Vice President Bhuchung K. Tsering participated in the three-day meeting, which reviewed future prospects for dialogue between envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese representatives.





## Exploring the Natural World with Tibetan Children in Exile

In 2017, a project called Nature Trail was awarded a *Rowell Fund for Tibet* grant to expose Tibetan children living in urban environments in India to the natural world outside cities. Led by natural history filmmaker Tenzin Khepakh, Nature Trail offers excursions and activities focused on the environment and conservation in partnership with local schools. The project is particularly meaningful to children in exile since the natural environment is so intertwined with Tibetan culture and religion. Many natural sites in Tibet including mountains and lakes have spiritual significance, and one of the cornerstones of Tibetan Buddhism is its respect for the land and all living beings.

*The Rowell Fund for Tibet is administered by ICT and supports Tibetans who make a significant contribution to their community and/or an international audience in the fields of visual arts, media, the environment and women's rights.*

**"I must share that the project has helped open up students, teachers and school administration to a new experience... learning to look at nature and its miracle in a whole new way."**

—TENZIN KHEPAKH



1. Tibetan students enjoy the beauty of Renuka Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. 2. Special "Green Champions" work together to learn about conservation. 3. Young Tibetan adventurers look out for wildlife on a nature reserve. 4. A nature walk through Simbhalwara National Park allows students to explore. 5. Staff at Simbhalwara National Park share conservation information with visiting students. 6. Students learn from experts at the Wildlife Institute of India. 7. On campus at a local school, students conduct a bird survey and count.



## IN MEMORIAM: NICOLE ROWELL RYAN

BY TERRI BAKER AND JOHN JANCIK, ROWELL FUND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



It is with deepest sorrow that ICT and *The Rowell Fund for Tibet* announce the passing of Nicole Rowell Ryan on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at the age of 54.

Nicole, a member of the Rowell Fund Advisory Board, joined the ICT family in 2003 when she, along with former ICT President John Ackerly, developed *The Rowell Fund* in honor of her late father Galen Rowell. Galen, a famed photographer and mountaineer, was an avid supporter of the Tibetan cause during his life. *The Rowell Fund* supports Tibetans who can make a significant contribution to their local community and/or an

international audience through projects that focus on humanitarian work, photography, journalism/literature, women's projects or the environment (see an example of one such project on page 7).

Nicole was instrumental in the success of *The Rowell Fund* over the years. Her husband, Ray Ryan, remembers her insistence that the grant recipients help advance an understanding and appreciation of Tibet so that the culture would not fade away and be forgotten. Though her leadership and passion for Tibetan culture will be dearly missed, her legacy of support for Tibetans lives on.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

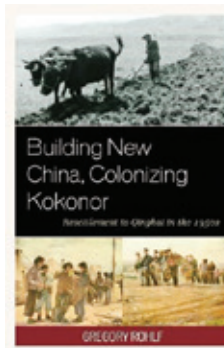


### **BLESSINGS FROM BEIJING: INSIDE CHINA'S SOFT POWER WAR ON TIBET**

**Greg C. Bruno**  
ForeEdge, 2018

Journalist and author Greg Bruno began his journey to understand Tibet on a meditation cushion. He says that the realizations that led to this book were honed by accompanying an elderly Tibetan man, Pala, on the kora in

Dharamsala. The more he returned to the kora around the Dalai Lama's temple, he writes, "the more I viewed it as a window into the Tibetan diaspora itself: displaced for decades, unyielding in its devotion." Bruno's insightful journey across the Himalayas gives the reader a new understanding of the unfolding impacts of China's aggressive and insidious interventions on a fragile exile community.



### **BUILDING NEW CHINA, COLONIZING KOKONOR**

**Gregory Rohlf**  
Lexington Books, 2016

In 1955, the newly formed People's Republic of China called for tens of thousands of Chinese and Hui migrants from Eastern China to resettle around Tso Ngonpo (also known as Kokonor, or Qinghai Lake) in northern Tibet. *Building New China* examines the experiences of the migrants as they struggled to adapt to life on the edge

of the Tibetan Plateau and transform vast high-altitude pastures into farmland. That wave of resettlement ended in failure, summed up by Rohlf as a "wretched and destructive ordeal for the land, the locals, and the resettlers themselves."



### **THE BATTLE FOR FORTUNE: STATE-LED DEVELOPMENT, PERSONHOOD, AND POWER AMONG TIBETANS IN CHINA**

**Charlene Makley**  
Cornell University Press, 2018

Charlene Makley spent years in and around the Rebkong region of Tibet, and in *The Battle for Fortune* she weaves complex sociological frameworks with intimate portraits of the people and recent events that have dominated the area. Chapters explore the contentious pronouncements of oracles and the cracked concrete floors of village schools, and in a striking passage she sees the words of an anonymous Tibetan scrawled on an earthen wall. It's better for Tibetans to resist Chinese rule, the writer has concluded, than live as serfs.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

### Meet Paul Opperman, the Man Behind the ICT Rebrand

ICT MEMBER SINCE 2000

In conversation with Paul Opperman, his enthusiasm for Tibet is as breathless as it is steadfast. A creative director in New York City who has worked with global brands like Bacardi and Chobani yogurt, Paul has been studying the Dharma for as long as he can remember—at least as far back as high school. “When you study these things,” he says, “it leads you to Tibet.”

In the 90s, he started going to talks and classes given by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and they inspired him to get involved. “Hearing him, it just galvanizes you. You *have* to do something... When there is something [like Tibetan Buddhism] that has literally changed your life and sustained you, you can’t not get involved.”

Asked what drew him to ICT specifically, he cites the organization’s long-standing leadership in the movement. “I feel that ICT is the legitimate voice of the movement—the mature, enduring flame—and that’s why I want to put my energy behind it. With Richard Gere’s involvement, and of course His Holiness, things can be accomplished. And Matteo Mecacci has brought a new energy as president.”

Paul describes being asked to collaborate with ICT on the recent rebranding of the organization as a dream come true. Leading the ICT team through the process of refining and defining the ICT brand—including modernizing our communication platforms to build upon the movement and creating a cohesive style to visually unite our international offices—was a project that allowed



Paul to combine his creative talents with a cause about which he cares deeply.

“It never occurred to me that I could contribute in this way—I never thought the work I do could be so impactful in service to Tibet, and that it would be so personally fulfilling. If you are reading this and want to be more involved, think about what you are good at and what you could do that would answer a need. I promise it will be so meaningful to you.”

As a result of the rebranding project, Paul is now approaching other professionals in his field to do pro bono work for ICT in support of Tibet.

“My hope is that I can be a tool that ICT can use to achieve its goals for the Tibetan people,” he says. “And I hope that I can go to Lhasa and eat a momo with His Holiness, Richard and Matteo someday,” he adds with a laugh.

## Our New Look

This year, ICT commemorates 30 years of service to the people of Tibet. In honor of this anniversary—and our redoubled commitment to Tibet—we have released a new visual identity, developed with the creative guidance of ICT member Paul Opperman and his highly talented team in New York City, including Jeff Weiss, Curtis Wingate, Richard Hart, Matt Poveromo, Elyse Juliano and Christina Mauro. After an intensive consultation period with our staff, they detailed the ICT brand and outlined our identity, including a new typeface and graphic approach, and a common style for all our communications.

One of the outcomes is a new ICT logo—a fresh and modern take which includes the existing flame that symbolizes our brand belief: The Skillful Action of Compassion. Visually, the new logo has a redrawn, more fluid flame; a clear and concise display of typography; and a modern typeface with playful serifs that mimic the ornamentation of Tibetan artwork. We hope you like it!

ICT’s offices in the US, Amsterdam, Brussels and Berlin are all deeply grateful to Paul and his team for the immense time, talent, energy and vision they gave to this project pro bono. A truly unique and heart-giving way to support ICT!







## Secretary Pompeo Expresses US Support for Tibet

In response to written questions from members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said that he will publicly ask China to engage in direct dialogue with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He further said he is committed to pressing for respect for human rights for Tibetans in his conversations with Chinese officials and advocating for the release of Tibetan political prisoners. He said he will also raise concerns about the lack of regular access to the Tibetan Autonomous Region for US journalists, diplomats, academics and others.

Below is an excerpt of the questions for the record on Tibet that were submitted by US Senators, and the answers provided by Secretary Pompeo. The full text of the questions and answers can be found at: → <http://bit.ly/Pompeo-on-Tibet>

### QUESTION:

During the US-China Summit held last April in Florida and last November in Beijing, President Trump did not raise the question of respect for human rights and the rule of law in China and in Tibet. Since 1997, all US Presidents have publicly challenged the sitting Chinese President to negotiate with the Dalai Lama or his representative to find a lasting solution to the Tibetan issue. If appointed, would you recommend that President Trump call publicly on the Chinese President to address the grievances of the Tibetan people through dialogue with the Dalai Lama?

### ANSWER:

I share your concerns about the Chinese government's repressive policies and lack of respect for human rights in Tibet. If confirmed, I will recommend that the United States express publicly, and at the highest levels of government, that Chinese authorities need to engage in meaningful and direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, without preconditions, to lower tensions and resolve differences.

### QUESTION:

The Tibetan people continue to resist injustice without resorting to violence. Since the mass demonstrations of 2008—where around 200 Tibetans were killed and thousands were imprisoned—more than 150 Tibetans have self-immolated to protest against Chinese rule and for the return of the Dalai Lama in Tibet. Over 600 Tibetans continue to be prisoners of conscience. Would you ask the Chinese authorities to allow independent humanitarian organizations to visit Tibetan political prisoners and the families of Tibetan self-immolators to ascertain their welfare?

### ANSWER:

Yes. Consistent with the Tibetan Policy Act, if confirmed, I will encourage the release of all those held prisoner for expressing their political or religious views, and will support access to prisoners by international humanitarian organizations to ensure prisoners are not mistreated and are receiving necessary medical care. If confirmed, I will push Chinese authorities to lift restrictions on visits by diplomats, journalists and NGOs to the Tibet Autonomous Region and Tibetan areas.

### QUESTION:

China's censorship and information and communication blockade, specifically in Tibet, prevents reporters from investigating the reality of the situation in Tibet. What steps will you take with the Chinese authorities to ensure that American journalists will be able to freely access Tibet just as Chinese journalists are able to do so in the United States?

### ANSWER:

If confirmed, I am committed to pushing for reciprocity regarding the open access China and many other countries enjoy in the United States, and will raise concerns about the lack of regular access to the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) for US journalists, diplomats, academics and others. I will work to ensure that US journalists, civil society, legislators and scholars have full access to China, including the Tibet Autonomous Region and Tibetan areas.



# Call to Action

## Calling All Supporters

### Urge Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Act on His Pledged Support for Tibet

In April, Mike Pompeo was confirmed by the Senate and took office on May 2<sup>nd</sup> as Secretary of State. In June, Secretary Pompeo went on record in support of Tibet in response to written questions from members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee (see page 10). These questions were submitted as a result of the ongoing advocacy work for Tibet that ICT is doing thanks to the support from members like you. It is vital that we communicate to and impress upon Secretary Pompeo the importance of implementing and acting on his pledged commitments for Tibet, most urgently through fulfilling obligations under the Tibetan Policy Act and speaking out on behalf of unjustly imprisoned Tibetans.

The Tibetan Policy Act is a comprehensive expression of US Congressional support for the Tibetan people that was enacted 16 years ago, in 2002. Its mandates in-

clude establishing a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the US State Department. The current administration has not yet appointed a Special Coordinator—leaving vacant this critical role, which helps keep crucial support for Tibetans in place.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government continues to act with increasing flagrancy in its moves to oppress the Tibetan people, including subjecting political prisoners to unjust sentences and unconscionable treatment behind bars.

That is why we are asking for your help now in urging Secretary Pompeo to take action in support of Tibet. **We want to show Secretary Pompeo the strength of our base of support for the Tibetan Policy Act, for selecting a qualified candidate for the role of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, and for demanding the release of Tibetan political prisoners like Tashi Wangchuk.**

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.



Tashi Wangchuk, 33, was arrested in 2016 for allegedly "inciting separatism." The main evidence against him was a video interview with the *New York Times* about his work to preserve the Tibetan language. His sentencing to 5 years in prison was announced in May, signaling China's criminalization of peaceful efforts to protect the Tibetan language.



简其磊律师今天上午在玉树市看守所会见了扎西文色，简律师说：扎西文色“状态很好，上诉的态度很坚决，表示如果判决不公，还会继续申诉。”扎西文色已经提起上诉，案件将由青海省高级人民法院审理。

6:54 AM - 18 Jun 2018

Lin Qilei, Tashi Wangchuk's lawyer, met with Tashi (in Chinese: Zhaxi Wense) at Yulshul (in Chinese: Yushu) City Detention Center the morning of June 18, 2018. Lawyer Lin says, "Tashi Wangchuk is in good spirits and he has been firmly holding on his decision to appeal. He says that he will continue to appeal if the first appeal judgment is unfair." Tashi has filed an appeal and the case will be heard by Qinghai Provincial High Court.

PLEASE CLIP HERE

## DEAR SECRETARY POMPEO,

I am writing to you because of my deep concern for the Tibetan people, whose basic human rights and religious freedoms continue to be systematically oppressed under the Chinese government.

I am pleased to see that in your answers for the record to the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, you committed to support Tibet. My call to you now is to implement and act on those commitments. I urge you to:

- Fulfill your statutory obligation, established under the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, "to support the aspirations of the Tibetan people to safeguard their distinct identity."
- Appoint a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, whose role ensures an envoy for Tibet in government.
- Raise the case of political prisoner Tashi Wangchuk and others like him at the highest levels of government and especially in interactions with Chinese leadership.

At a time of increasing boldness from China, it is more important than ever that the United States continue to stand firm on its values and reiterate its concerns on the situation in Tibet.

I ask that you back up your words of support for Tibet by taking action as soon as possible.

Thank you,

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

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



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His Holiness the Dalai Lama takes a moment to offer a warm greeting and blessing to ICT President Matteo Mecacci during a recent Congressional Delegation visit to Dharamsala. Mecacci accompanied the delegation to India in April. Read more on page 3.