

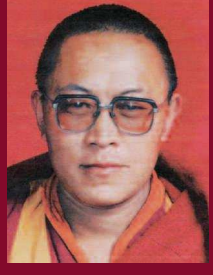
Tibet

བོད

PRESS WATCH **SPRING 2010**
A publication of the
International Campaign for Tibet

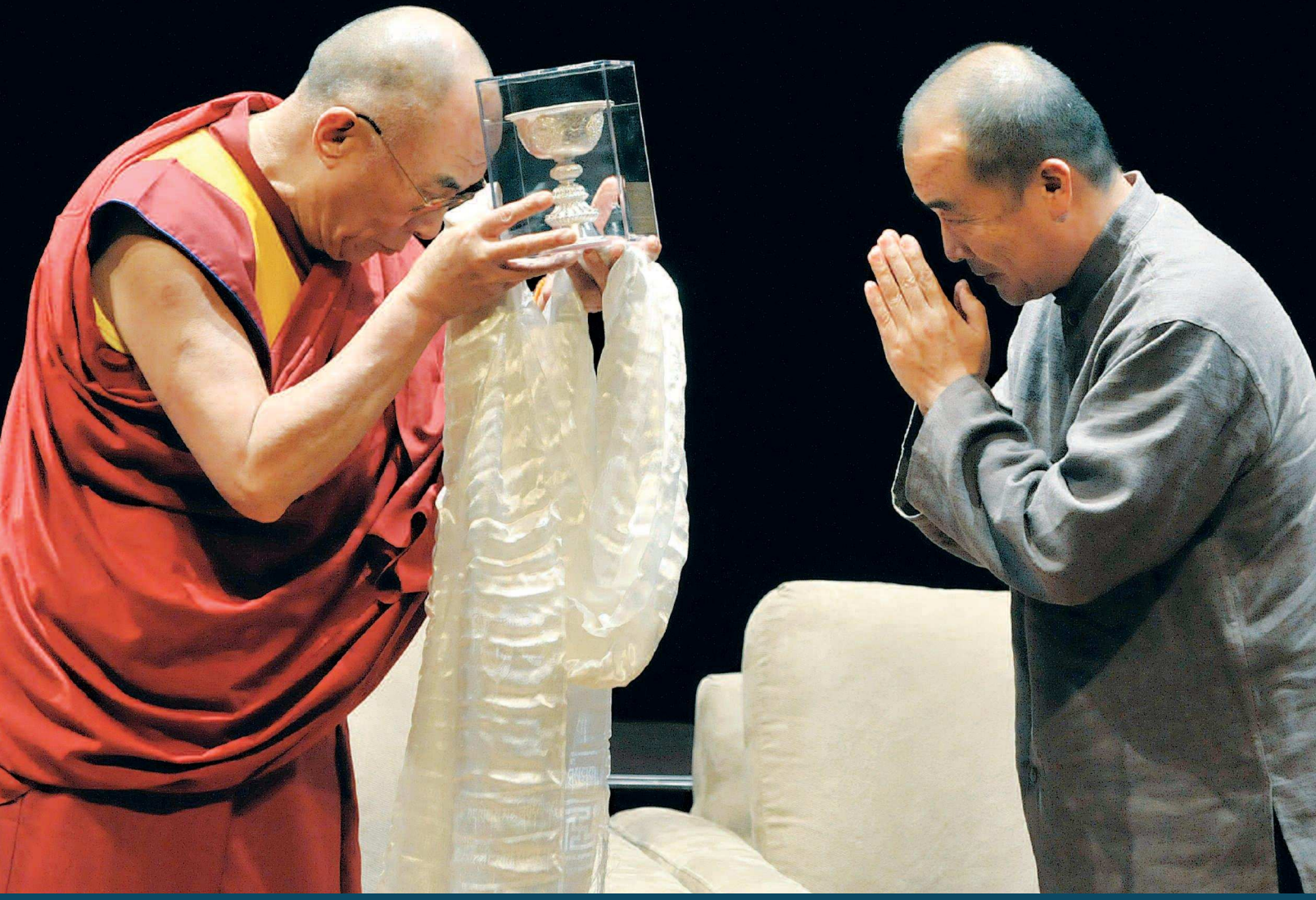
INSIDE:

- Light of Truth Awards
- New Book: Like Gold That Fears No Fire
- World Parliamentary Convention on Tibet
- Take Action: Political Prisoner
Tenzin Delek Rinpoche



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

The Dalai Lama Presents the Light of Truth Awards



For news and analysis on the Dalai Lama's meeting with President Obama,
visit www.savetibet.org. See page 4 for more late breaking news.

Become a
Friend of Tibet

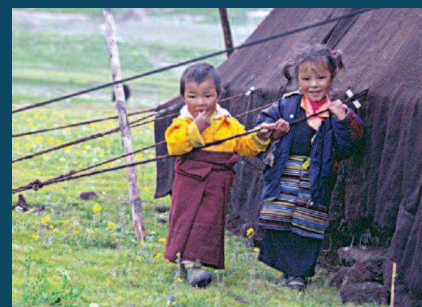
When you become a *Friend of Tibet* and pledge to contribute just \$10 a month or more (that's just 33¢ a day) to the International Campaign for Tibet, you give us a reliable fund that allows us to act immediately and strategically to benefit the people and culture of Tibet.

You'll be working for justice and compassion with just the spare change in your pocket.

Can we count on you to be a *Friend of Tibet*?

To establish a *Friend of Tibet* monthly gift, please visit us online at www.savetibet.org/friendsoftibet or use the enclosed envelope to request more information.

Should the need arise, you can change or cancel your pledge at any time. Thank you!



Did you know you change a life for only 33¢ a day?
Find out how at www.savetibet.org/friendsoftibet

From the Leadership

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, D.C., Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels, and field offices in Dharamsala and Kathmandu.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Richard Gere, Chairman
Lodi Gyari, Executive Chair
Mary Beth Markey, V.P. Intl. Advocacy
Bhuchung Tsering, V.P. Special Programs

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Ackerly
Ellen Bork
Richard Gere
Lodi Gyari
Jim Kane
Tony Karam
Melissa Mathison
Joel McCleary
Keith Pitts
Steve Schroeder
Gare Smith
Grace Spring

CONTACT INFORMATION

International Campaign for Tibet
1825 Jefferson Pl, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-785-1515
www.savetibet.org
info@savetibet.org

Newsletter Design:
Wm. Whitehead Design

Editorial Support:
Pru Bovee and
Mal Warwick Associates

Cover photo: Sonam Zoksang

We have been quick off the mark in the New Year, with high expectations for a challenging 2010 agenda as we prepared for His Holiness' meeting with President Obama this February. In recent months, President Obama's emissaries went to Dharamsala; His Holiness the Dalai Lama presented the Light of Truth Awards; the 5th World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet was held in Rome; and the UN Climate Change Conference took place in Copenhagen.

I had the privilege of representing ICT or directing our efforts in these venues, working with an outstanding ICT team in Europe and in the field. I must say that the Tibet issue is well served by ICT's professional staff, an expert Board of Directors, and much-valued colleagues in the activist community and in governments and governmental organizations around the world. Our movement has never been broader, deeper or stronger in its commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms for Tibetans.

Of course, the Chinese government is working to solidify control, with harsh policies and extreme positions to curb Tibetan freedom of opinion and expression, and to block the exchange of information. We are awed by the courage of many Tibetans, determined to break through the wall of censorship to reach the outside world with news of their difficult and often desperate situation.

ICT is resolved to tell the stories of Tibetans who have been willing to pay a great price for freedom, justice and peace. In 2010, we will continue to campaign for the release of Tibetan political prisoners, and are grateful for your support. We know international pressure can make a very important difference. Look at just a few of the prisoners restored to freedom because of global attention:

- Filmmaker Ngawang Choephel, released after six years in prison.
- Ngawang Sangdrol, released after 11 years in prison for shouting "Free Tibet!" and "Long live the Dalai Lama!"
- Takna Jigme Zangpo, released after 37 years for teaching Tibetan history, culture and language to Tibetan children.
- Tibetan nun Phuntsog Nyidron, released after 15 years of torture and imprisonment and sent to the United States for medical care.

You and I and people like us are behind these victories. Together we can stand up for other men and women of courage and face down those who say China is too strong or too rich to be pressured.

Thank you for your partnership and support. In 2010, our solidarity on behalf of the people of Tibet will create the international pressure on the Chinese government that can free Tibetan political prisoners.



Mary Beth Markey
Vice President for International Advocacy

Our movement has never been broader, deeper or stronger in its commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms for Tibetans.

BREAKING NEWS

As this issue of the *Tibet Press Watch* goes to press, the White House has just announced the February 18 meeting between the Dalai Lama and President Obama. Also in the news, envoys of His Holiness have recently returned from their ninth round of dialogue with Chinese officials in Beijing. We are very encouraged by the strong and constructive position that the Tibetans outlined in their February 2 press statement (excerpted below), especially given the harsh statement from their Chinese counterparts and a warning directed at the White House that a meeting between President Obama and the Dalai Lama would “seriously undermine the political foundation of Sino-U.S. relations.”

The February 18 meeting between His Holiness and President Obama will be covered in our next issue of the *Tibet Press Watch*. Until then, keep up with the latest news on Tibet, ICT commentary and analysis by visiting us online at www.save-tibet.org. And be sure to sign-up for ICT email updates when you visit so you’ll receive ICT’s free bimonthly *Tibet Update* e-newsletter.

Excerpt from the “Statement by Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Kasur Lodi Gyari, Head of the Delegation which Visited China in January 2010”

His Holiness’ concern is with the rights and welfare of the Tibetan people. Therefore, the fundamental issue that needs to be resolved is the faithful implementation of genuine autonomy that will enable the Tibetan people to govern themselves in accordance with their own genius and needs.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaks on behalf of the Tibetan people, with whom he has a deep and historical relationship



Front, left to right: Secretary for Information Thubten Samphel, Special Envoy Lodi Gyari and Envoy Kelsang Gyaltzen address the media in Dharamsala, India following the ninth round of discussions on Tibet in January.



photo © DII/R/CTA

Special Envoy to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Lodi Gyari (center), with Envoy Kelsang Gyaltzen (left) during their January 30, 2010 meeting with Du Qinglin, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (right).

and one based on full trust. It cannot be disputed that His Holiness legitimately represents the Tibetan people, and he is certainly viewed as their true representative and spokesperson by them. It is indeed only by means of dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama that the Tibetan issue can be resolved. The recognition of this reality is important.

We emphasized the point that His Holiness’ engagement for the cause of Tibet is not for the purpose of claiming certain personal rights or political position for himself, nor attempting to stake claims for the Tibetan Administration in Exile.

We called upon the Chinese side to stop the baseless accusations against His Holiness and labeling him a separatist. Instead, we urge the Chinese leadership to work with him to find a mutually acceptable solution to the Tibetan problem based on the Memorandum. This will ensure stability, unity and the development of a harmonious society.

The Chinese side laid out “Four Not to Indulge In” points to outline their position. They also provided us with a detailed briefing on recent developments relating to Tibet, particularly on the important Fifth Tibet Work Forum. They said the Forum decided to further improve the livelihood of Tibetans in the Tibet Autonomous Region and all Tibetan areas, specifically in public services, such as education, medical services, and environmental protection. Based on the initial reports that we had of the Forum, we welcomed the issues it has taken up to improve the lives of the Tibetan people especially in rural areas. We welcome the fact that the Fifth Tibet Work Forum has looked into the issues of development in all Tibetan areas — The Tibet Autonomous Region as well as other Tibetan areas. It is our strong belief that all the Tibetan areas must be under a uniform policy and a single administration. If we take away the political slogans, many of the issues that have been prioritized by the Forum are similar to the basic needs of the Tibetan people outlined in our Memorandum.

A major difference between the two sides is the conflicting perspectives on the current situation inside Tibet. So, in order to have a common understanding of the real situation, we suggested a common effort to study the actual reality on the ground, in the spirit of seeking truth from facts. This will help both the sides to move beyond each others’ contentions.

Tibet Press Coverage

News from around the World

China's policies continue to draw international criticism as events continue to expose the legacy of repressions that have made Tibetan life so difficult. President Obama made his first visit to Beijing in November and took with him the thanks and encouragement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The International Olympic Committee's selection of Rio de Janeiro inspired global attention on the question of how the Olympics have — and should — create change and progress in the host country. Especially in light of the bold promises about human rights protections that China left so arrogantly unfulfilled at the Beijing Olympics, editorials are questioning the missed opportunities of global unity.

China's influence in Nepal continues to cause alarm for Tibetans fleeing across the Himalayas. A proposed and very dramatic border guard expansion could mean appalling danger for refugees at the bitter end of a brutal trek. Within China's borders, reasoned dissent and protest continue to be smothered. In all cases, we do our most effective work when we shine the spotlight of international attention on the information China would rather keep quiet. That's why we're pleased to share with you here excerpts from just a few of the articles of note about Tibet and China from the past few months.

What an Olympic Glow Can't Mask

October 23, 2009 Washington Post by Minky Worden

Corks popped this month in Copenhagen, with Rio de Janeiro voted as host city for the 2016 Summer Games and the convening of the XIII Olympic Congress, the first since 1994. Meanwhile, in a dark cell in Fuzhou, a coastal city on the East China Sea, Ji Sizun has no cause to celebrate. The 59-year-old legal activist was sentenced to three years in prison in January. His crime? He took the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Chinese government at their word when authorities set up three official protest zones during the Beijing Games and said that any citizen could apply to protest.

In fact, not one of the 77 applications filed by Chinese citizens was accepted. Instead, applicants were detained, harassed or jailed. Two women in their 70s were sentenced to camps to be "reeducated" through forced labor, before an international outcry sprang them. Two days before the Opening Ceremonies of the Beijing Games, IOC President Jacques Rogge told Reuters:



"We believe the Games are going to move ahead the agenda of the social and human rights as far as possible; the Games are going to be a force for good."

More than a year later, however, it is clear that awarding the 2008 Games to Beijing actually worsened the human rights climate in China.

The Beijing Games led to a deep freeze of civil society development in China and unleashed a wave of xenophobia and nationalism — especially after protests during the Olympic torch relay — which gave rise to attacks on foreign

journalists and tightened Internet censorship. The unrest in Tibet in February and in Xinjiang in July may have been a byproduct of intense security preparations across the country.

Dalai Lama Thanks Obama for Support

November 18, 2009 The Financial Times by Guy Dinmore

The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, on Wednesday expressed his appreciation for the support given to him by Barack Obama, the US president, while in China, as members of the exiled government said they were hopeful that stalled talks with Beijing would resume soon.

Speaking in Rome at an international parliamentary conference on Tibet, the Dalai Lama said the Obama administration had been "very supportive", as had the previous Bush and Clinton administrations. He noted the appointment by the White House of a special Tibet coordinator.

In Beijing on Tuesday, Mr. Obama called for the "early resumption of dialogue" between the Chinese government and representatives of the Dalai Lama.

A White House official, briefing reporters, said Mr. Obama discussed Tibet with Hu Jintao, China's president, "making clear his respect for the Dalai Lama as a cultural and religious leader, and his intention to meet with the Dalai Lama at an appropriate time".

(continued on page 14)

Founder of Tibetan Cultural Website Sentenced to 15 Years in Closed-Door Trial in Freedom of Expression Case

November 16, 2009



Kunchok Tsepel, founder of the influential Tibetan literary website, Chodme ('Butter-Lamp', www.tibetcm.com), has been sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of disclosing state secrets, accord-

ing to reports from Tibet received by Tibetan exiles. Some of the charges are believed to relate to content on his website, which aims to protect Tibetan culture, and passing on information about last year's protests in Tibet.

The news emerged as US President Obama made a pointed reference during his visit to China about the importance of free flow of information and uncensored internet access. Speaking to students in Shanghai today as part of a week-long visit to Asia, President Obama said: "I think that the more freely information flows, the stronger the society becomes, because then citizens of countries around the world can hold their own governments accountable."

Presidents Obama and Hu Discuss Tibet at their First Summit

November 17, 2009

At the US-China summit in Beijing, Presidents Obama and Hu have released a joint statement that indicates they discussed a resolution for Tibet, human rights and religious freedom.

In the joint statement, President Obama said, "I spoke to President Hu about America's bedrock beliefs that all men and women possess certain fundamental human rights. We do not believe that these principles are unique to America but rather they are universal rights

and that they should be available to all peoples, to all ethnic and religious minorities. We did note that, while we recognize that Tibet is part of the People's Republic of China, the United States supports the early resumption of dialogue between the Chinese government and the representatives of the Dalai Lama to resolve any concerns and differences that the two sides may have."

"The joint statement shows that Tibet remains a prominent issue in the US-China relationship," said Mary Beth Markey, ICT Vice President for International Advocacy. "Chinese officials may have perceived President Obama's break with precedence on meeting with the Dalai Lama as an opening to press for a change of policy. It remains to be seen whether President Obama's new approach will be understood by the Chinese as a desire to be substantially helpful in resolving the Tibet issue, and whether President Obama uses the weight of his office to promote an early resumption of the dialogue with meaningful progress toward a resolution."

U.S. Congress Funds Tibet Programs for Fiscal Year 2010

December 11, 2009

In a strong assertion of support for Tibet, the U.S. Congress is moving to give final approval to legislation that provides millions of dollars for Tibet programs. The House of Representatives passed the bill on December 10; the Senate is expected to consider the measure this weekend.

"Through this legislation the United States Congress once again gives strong support to Tibetans' efforts to preserve their culture and identity," said Todd Stein, Director of Government Relations at ICT.

The bill includes \$2 million to modernize Tibetan refugee settlements in India through organic agriculture and workforce development, designed to improve the sustainability and vitality of the long-standing settlement communities. It also funds several long-standing programs.

China Jails Tibetan Filmmaker Dhondup Wangchen for 6 Years

January 6, 2010

Dhondup Wangchen, the Tibetan filmmaker who was arrested by the Chinese government for documenting the current situation in Tibet and the Tibetan people's aspiration for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet, has been sentenced to six years in prison, according to information received by the Central Tibetan Administration. The sentence was pronounced on December 28, 2009. It is not known where the filmmaker was tried.

Dhondup Wangchen, aged 35, was arrested with his monk assistant Jigme Gyatso on March 26, 2008 for making the film "Leaving Fear Behind" in Tibet, which documents the lives of Tibetans under China's rule, views about His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Beijing Olympics.

Google Decision a "Crack in the Wall of Censorship" that Sets New Standard

January 13, 2010

Google's decision to halt censorship on its search engine in China and its threat to pull out of the Chinese market in response to cyber-attacks that seek to access the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists sets a new standard for other companies operating in China. A Google blog announcing the decision was front page news worldwide.

Mary Beth Markey, ICT Vice President for Advocacy responded to the news, saying: "This could be an historic step in the advancement of free speech in China, one that we hope will be seized on by the people as a crack in the wall of censorship that separates them from the truth. Whatever Google's calculation, they have publicly pinned their decision on the principle of freedom of speech. This sets a new standard that we call on them to stand by and other foreign companies to meet."

Obama's Nobel Speech through a Tibet Lens

Posted by Todd Stein on Thursday, December 10, 2009

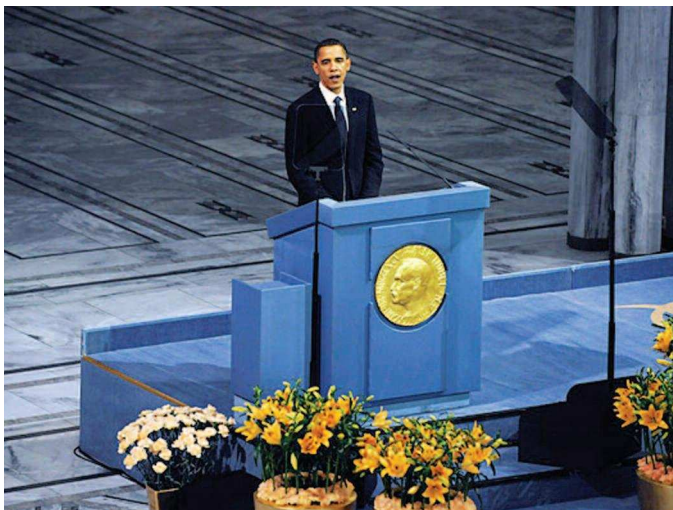
Barack Obama has now officially joined the very elite club of Nobel Peace Prize winners, almost as exclusive as the club he joined last year: United States Presidents.

Many were watching to see how Obama would deal with two touchy issues: the fact that he was awarded the Prize with scant accomplishments to date, and the seeming incongruity of his receiving a peace award days after announcing he would send 30,000 more soldiers into a battle zone. Personally, I thought he did a good job on those points.

Readers of this blog, however, are interested in how the speech, and its messages and ideals, can be interpreted for the Tibet issue.

Tibet was not mentioned in the speech. This is not surprising. Unlike State of the Union addresses, this speech was not designed to be a laundry list of issues and programs to please certain constituencies. This was a Big Picture speech if there ever was one.

The omission of His Holiness the Dalai Lama was curious, however. Not once, but twice, Obama cited Gandhi and Rev. Martin Luther King regarding the "moral force of non-violence." It would have been quite appropriate to list the most notable living advocate for non-violence. (Unlike the Dalai Lama, Gandhi is not a fellow peace-prize laureate, although there may be no one more deserving.) Speculation will abound about whether the omission of His Holiness was related to the ongoing negotiations with China at the Copenhagen climate



change conference.

At the same time, President Obama's speech was imbued with themes resonant to the Dalai Lama's message. Obama sounded most like His Holiness when he said,

"... we do not have to think that human nature is perfect for us to still believe that the human condition can be perfected. We do not have to live in an idealized world to still reach for those ideals that will make it a better place. The nonviolence practiced by men like Gandhi and King may not have been practical or possible in every circumstance, but the love that they preached — their faith in human progress — must always be the North Star that guides us on our journey."

As he did in Beijing, President Obama stressed the universality of human rights: "So even as we respect the unique culture and traditions of different countries, America will always be a voice for those aspirations that are universal."

And here's the part that Chinese leaders should hear (emphases mine):

"In some countries, *the failure to uphold human rights is excused by the false suggestion that these are Western principles, foreign to local cultures or stages of a nation's development.* And within America, there has long been a tension between those who describe themselves as realists or idealists — a tension that suggests a stark choice between the narrow pursuit of interests or an endless campaign to impose our values.

"I reject this choice. *I believe that peace is unstable where citizens are denied the right to speak freely or worship as they please, choose their own leaders or assemble without fear.* Pent up grievances fester, and the suppression of tribal and religious identity can lead to violence. We also know that the opposite is true. Only when Europe became free did it finally find peace. America has never fought a war against a democracy, *and our closest friends are governments that protect the rights of their citizens.* No matter how callously defined, neither America's interests — nor the world's — are served by the denial of human aspirations."

As ever, the challenge to Tibet supporters is to encourage the Obama Administration to put these words into a concrete policy initiative for Tibet. Perhaps, he can imagine Hu Jintao in that hall in Oslo, joining that elite club, as the Chinese leader who negotiated with the Dalai Lama a durable peace for Tibet.

A Celebration of Hope and Progress — The Light of Truth Awards

On behalf of the International Campaign for Tibet, His Holiness the Dalai Lama presented the Light of Truth Award to two recipients at a moving ceremony at the Harman Center for the Arts in Washington, DC on October 7, 2009.

The late Julia Taft was appointed Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues in 1999 and served on the board of ICT from 2002. She passed away in 2008, and her award was received by her husband, William H. Taft IV.

Wang Lixiong is the Chinese writer who co-authored and disseminated a petition calling on the Chinese authorities to exercise restraint and caution in their response to the wave of protests that swept Tibet in March 2008. He received the award on behalf of all of the signatories to the petition “Twelve Suggestions for Handling the Tibetan Situation.”

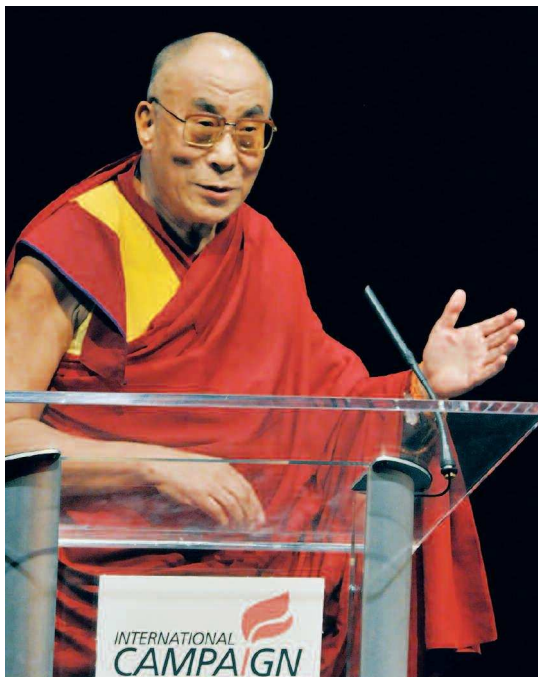
...Wang insisted it was the pursuit of truth which put him and other signatories of the petition on Tibet in opposition with the Chinese government.

In his acceptance speech, Wang Lixiong was careful to stress that he was not “taking sides” by offering

criticism of the Chinese government, and that his stance should not be regarded as “anti-China” — sentiments later echoed by the Dalai Lama. Instead, Wang insisted it was the pursuit of truth which put him and other signatories of the petition on Tibet in opposition with the Chinese government. “Daring to criticize the government is done for the good of China, but a government that cannot accept criticism can only bring harm to China,” he said to applause.

In the Dalai Lama’s comments closing the award ceremony, he talked about his admiration for Julia Taft and Wang Lixiong, adding that the label of being “pro-Tibet” does not and should not make someone automatically “anti-China”, and that rather people who are “pro-Tibet” are in fact “pro-justice”.

The Light of Truth Award was first presented in 1995, and is bestowed upon individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the public understanding of Tibet and the plight of the Tibetan people. Previous recipients include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Václav Havel, and Martin Scorsese.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the audience following the Light of Truth Award presentations.



William H. Taft IV was presented with a khata by the Dalai Lama before accepting the Light of Truth Award for his late wife, Julia Taft.

photos © Sonam Zoksang



More than 600 attended the award ceremony, held at the Harman Center for the Arts near Chinatown in Washington, DC.

Our position did not arise from choosing camps, it arose from a pursuit of the truth.

Excerpts from Wang Lixiong's Light of Truth Acceptance Speech

Your Holiness the Dalai Lama; honorable Ladies and Gentlemen.

We are very grateful to ICT for bestowing this group of us with the Light of Truth Award.

At this moment of honor, I remain deeply worried for Mr. Liu Xiaobo who participated in the drafting of "Twelve suggestions for dealing with the Tibetan situation," and who at this time is being held in a prison in China for the crime of "incitement to subvert state power".

I must also add that there are 308 public signatories; the volunteers who were responsible for collecting the signatures were threatened by police, they were hounded out of their jobs, and their email accounts were attacked by hackers, leading to the ruin of an uncounted number of signatories. And so there was no way of collecting the names of later signatories. Even though we will never know their names, they should be included among those receiving this award today.

This group of people is in no way what the Chinese police or the Great-Han nationalists profess us to be: anti-China. The opposite: we dearly love China. But loving China does not amount to loving the government. Daring to criticize the government is done for the good of

China, but a government that cannot accept criticism can only bring harm to China.

Neither is this group what some critics have accused us being: standing on the side of Tibet. Our position did not arise from choosing camps, it arose from a pursuit of the truth. Just as it is unthinkable that a ship sailing the ocean through the black of night would not seek a beacon of light, so the truth is a light in the darkness for us. And the name of this award, "The Light of Truth", conveys this meaning exactly.

The fake propaganda and information blackouts by the totalitarian power has made it difficult for the majority of the Chinese people to understand the truth about Tibet, and they have no way of knowing about the Dalai Lama's Middle Way. This is the major long-term obstacle to resolving the Tibet Question. Removing this obstacle should be the mission of China's intellectuals, for there is no greater knowledge than the truth.

In the face of obstacles placed by totalitarian powers, channels of communication between nationalities within civic spaces will need to rely on new technologies such as the Internet; unprecedented democratic forms need to be



photos © Sonam Zoksang

Wang Lixiong speaking on behalf of all the signers of the "Twelve Suggestions."

discovered and greater organizational structures need to be created. And to this end, we are joining hands. The hardships will be many and there is a lot of work to do. Fortunately, in today's era of globalization, such just undertakings can seek support from all over the world. Our gathering in this place today is a portrait of these wonderful times.

Thank you, Your Holiness, for your unrelenting search for common understanding with the Chinese people, and for your struggle to find a future where the Han and Tibetan peoples both win; and thank you, all of you here, for the support you have granted in the past, and for the support you will grant in the future.

To read the complete speech or to watch the presentation on YouTube, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ykoe7om>.

Words of Appreciation

at the Light of Truth Ceremony



Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House:

“American presidents and the American people have been inspired by His Holiness, who describes himself as a ‘simple monk, no more, no less.’ To Tibetan Buddhists, he is the earthly manifestation of the living Buddha. To them and the international community, he is the leader of the Tibetan people. To millions of believers and admirers, he is a source of wisdom and compassion. To young people, His Holiness is a positive example of how to make the world a better place.

“The Tibetan culture, religion, environment, and people are a source of inspiration to people the world over. So too is His Holiness the Dalai Lama a source inspiration for all people.”

Mary Beth Markey, ICT Vice President:

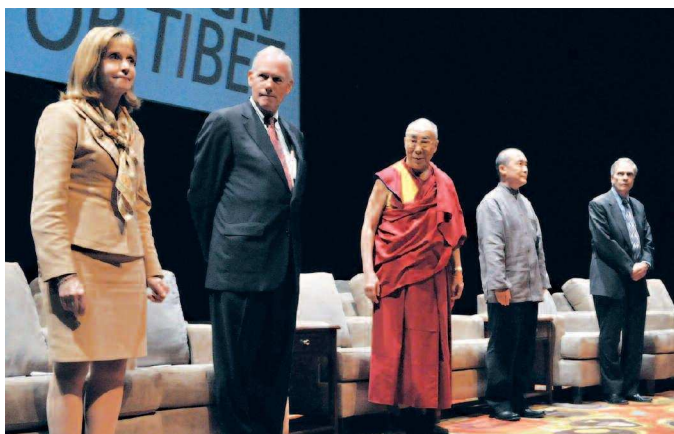
“This is an extraordinary time for Tibet. What has happened over the past 18 months has raised the stakes for each of us who hold the conviction that Tibet matters, and it must raise the stakes for our political leaders in how Tibet is counted within the U.S.-Chinese relationship.

“Tibetan solidarity is stronger than ever, despite a determined Chinese government suppression.

“As the Tibetan poet and essayist, Woeser, has written from Beijing: ‘Tibetans living under the Chinese political system are breaking through the silence, and there are more and more instances of these voices being bravely raised, and this is encouraging ever more Tibetans.’”



photos © Sonam Zoksang



Left to right: Paula Dobriansky, William H. Taft IV, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Wang Lixiong and Winston Lord.

Winston Lord, Former US Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China:

“This award is presented in a year replete with resonating anniversaries in China: Sixty years since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, fifty years since the Dalai Lama was forced to flee his land, thirty years since the establishment of Sino-American diplomatic relations and twenty years since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

“Those whom we honor today, and countless others, are striving to fashion happier anniversaries in the future.”

The Dalai Lama Honored on Capitol Hill: Lantos Human Rights Prize Ceremony

“The Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice hereby awards its inaugural Lantos Human Rights Prize to the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, the religious and political leader of the Tibetan people. With courage, compassion, and humility he has given voice to the aspirations of all humanity for a life of dignity, justice, and respect. As an unflinching advocate of non-violent reconciliation, he has advanced the cause of human rights in every corner of the globe. His Holiness the Dalai Lama is one of the most highly honored peacemakers of our time and is a unique moral voice for our day.”

On October 6th, attendees at the Congressional Auditorium at the U.S. Capitol watched as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi presented His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the inaugural Lantos Human Rights Prize. Named for the late Congressman and human rights activist Tom Lantos, the Lantos Human Rights Prize is intended to raise awareness about human rights violations and honor the brave individuals who are committed to fighting for human rights throughout the world.

Speakers at the event honored His Holiness and spoke movingly of the need for united effort to protect human rights. Among the comments:

Senator John McCain:

“We are distinguished from other countries because we were conceived not in loyalty to land or tribe or from a particular race or creed, but in an idea, that

liberty is the inalienable right of mankind and in accord with nature and nature’s Creator. To accept the abridgement of that right for other societies should be no less false to the American heart than to accept its abridgement in our own society. Injustice and tyranny abroad should be as intolerable to Americans as they are intolerable here.

“Should we be tempted to look away, to ignore the trials of those deprived of the rights we so safely enjoy, let us look to the example of the Dalai Lama, and his good and righteous friend, Tom Lantos, and accept the moral responsibility that will dignify our own life.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi:

“U.S. Presidents, Members of Congress, and the American people continue to be inspired by His Holiness’s message of peace, non-violence, human rights, and

religious understanding. And we can all learn from him. We had a delegation that visited him in India last year and we were particularly stirred up by his concerns and about what is happening in Tibet. His Holiness reminded us then, particularly me, to rid myself of a negative attitude and to think more of reconciliation, peace, and friendship. We are learning from His Holiness.

“For more than 20 years, His Holiness has advocated for Tibetan autonomy within the framework of the People’s Republic of China. It is our hope that the Chinese government will welcome this opportunity for a peaceful resolution of the issue of Tibet. The cause of Tibet is a challenge to the conscience of the world. We must not fail to meet that challenge. In fact, unless we speak out on human rights in China and Tibet, we lose all moral authority to talk about human rights anywhere in the world.



From left to right: Rep. Howard Borman, Katrina Lantos Swett, Sen. John McCain, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Annette Lantos, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.



From left to right: Sen. John McCain, the Dalai Lama, and Annette Lantos.

photos © Sonam Zoksang

Report from the World Parliamentary Convention on Tibet

Posted by Todd Stein to the ICT Blog on November 20, 2009

I am on my way back from attending the 5th World Parliamentary Convention on Tibet (WPCT) in Rome. Let me share some observations.

First, we must remember how busy the job of a member of parliament is. Given all the demands on them, it was energizing to see 133 legislators and associates from 30 countries devote the time to travel to and participate in this conference.

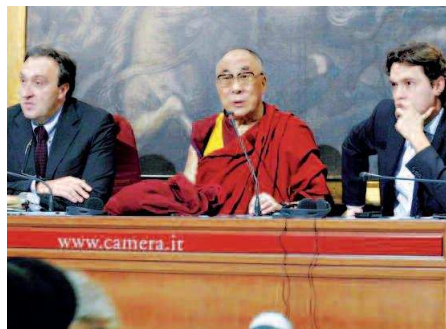
Second, there is a reason they came: their desire to do something concrete for Tibet. The WPCT agenda was substantive and informative, as was the participants' engagement.

Third, there was serious interest in ensuring that the convention produce deliverables to help parliamentarians advocate for Tibet.

Fourth, I was struck by not only the geographical range of the participants (from El Salvador to South Africa to Estonia to Tuva in the Russian Federation), but also by the thirst of the parliamentarians in these regions, where Tibet movements are nascent but growing, for help in building capacity in their governments for Tibet.

ICT, a co-organizer of the WPCT, will do what we can to facilitate these efforts, building on our experience of working with parliaments in Europe and North America, and coordinating with Tibet support groups around the world.

For more on the World Parliamentarians Conference on Tibet, search keyword "Rome" at www.savetibet.org.



The Dalai Lama at the WPCT with Gianfranco Fini, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (left photo), and speaking with Matteo Mecacci (on his right), Italian Member of Parliament and organizer of the WPCT (right photo).

Tibet's Importance as Earth's Third Pole Raised for First Time at COP15 International Climate Change Forum



For the first time at a major international forum on climate change, Tibetans were present at the COP15 summit in Copenhagen in December to present new information about the global implications of climate change in Tibet.

Tibet, the world's largest and highest plateau, is the 'world's third pole' because it contains the biggest ice fields outside of the

Arctic and Antarctic. The Tibetan plateau is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world and the impact of melting glaciers could be catastrophic. No other area in the world is a water

repository of such size, serving as a lifeline for much of a continent and for millions of people. The sustainable management of Tibet has become a serious security issue in the region.

ICT calls for an independent, international scientific assessment of Tibet's ecosystem and current land-use policies. Cooperation of all stakeholders — from Tibetan nomads to Chinese scientists and representatives of countries downstream that depend on Tibet's water — is essential given the scale of the threat before us.

ICT was present at Copenhagen. Our briefing paper on climate change in Tibet and its global implications is available at <http://tinyurl.com/yegkato>.

For information on Tibet Third Pole events at Copenhagen, see: <http://www.tibetnetwork.org/campaign-tibetthirdpole>.

Rowell Fund for Tibet Awards over \$42,000 to Tibetan Projects

The Rowell Fund for Tibet announced in December 2009 the awarding of \$42,000 to seven Tibetan grassroots organizations and projects, including:

- Tenzin Yangchen's work with the Tibet Oral History Project to record and translate the personal histories of Tibetan elders in Tibetan settlements (www.tibetoralhistory.org).
- Yosay Wangdi's academic research project constructing a portrait of early Tibetans on the Himalayan frontier.
- Ju Amnyi Trulchung Rinpoche's art and cultural education project for Tibetan nomads (www.vistaproject.org).
- Tsering Yangkey's work with the Tesi Environmental Awareness Movement to set up 50 monastery Eco-TEAMS (www.ecotibet.org).

The Fund strives to support environmental, conservation and research projects as well as innovative aid work in India, Nepal and Tibet. It is named after life-long Tibet supporters Galen and Barbara Rowell who died in a plane crash in 2002. As avid mountaineers and outdoor photographers, Galen and Barbara Rowell helped bring Tibet and the Himalayas into the public eye. Their fund continues this legacy, providing small grants to Tibetan writers, academics, photographers, and conservationists.

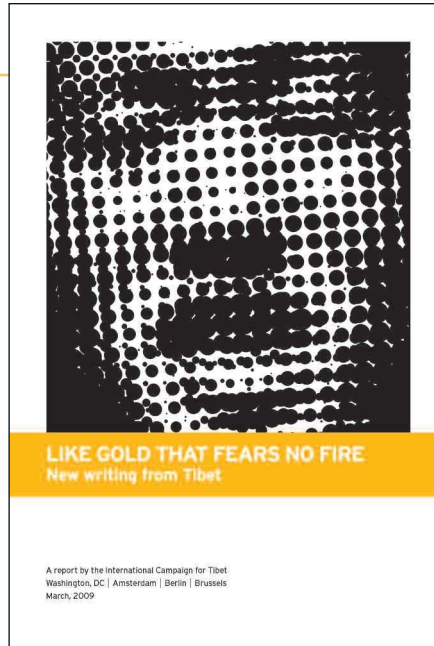


Barbara and Galen Rowell

This year's application pool of over 67 applicants came from 10 different countries. The seven selected projects will receive grants ranging from \$3,150 to \$6,750. Four are led by women.

New ICT Publication

Like Gold that Fears No Fire: New Writing from Tibet



The International Campaign for Tibet unveiled a new publication at the Frankfurt International Book Fair, the biggest literary trade event in the world. The new book, *Like Gold that Fears No Fire*, is a collection of writings by Tibetans inside Tibet, including extracts from books that are banned by the Chinese government and work by writers now in prison. The Chinese government was Guest of Honour at this year's fair, and caused controversy by seeking to block dissident voices.

The new book features stories of imprisonment, interrogation, death and loss, as well as perspectives on a better future that reveal an unquenchable spirit and deeply-felt Tibetan identity. The stories, poems and essays focus on the experiences of Tibetans since a wave of overwhelmingly peaceful protests swept across Tibet from March 2008, to be met by a violent crackdown. Writers and artists are among hundreds of Tibetans who have faced torture and imprisonment for peaceful expression of their views.

In one book that was banned as soon as it was published in Tibet, a writer reflects: "In a year that turned out to be like a raging storm... how could we remain... in fear. [This work is] a sketch of history written in the blood of a generation."

Since the protests began, the Chinese government has sought to cover up the disappearances and killings that have taken place across Tibet combined with a propaganda offensive against the exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama. The Tibetan writers featured in the book, most of whom are still in Tibet and China, dare to challenge China's official version of events representing a more profound challenge to the Communist government than ever before.

Like Gold that Fears No Fire features:

- Reflections on Tibetan identity today by a blogger: "[Tibetans] are no longer just trying to fit into the Chinese national story; instead they are creating their own. It is a new cultural moment ... [young Tibetans] are starting to have the chance to be many things and at the same time still be Tibetan."
- Powerful poetry by writers inside Tibet and in exile
- The diary of an interrogation by a Tibetan writer
- An essay by Tibetan scholar Lamajabb, who finds the cause of the protests that convulsed the plateau not in some phantom instigation of the 'Dalai clique' but "in the tragic Tibetan history that began in the 1950s and the shortcomings of China's Tibet policy"
- Lyrics of a song by monks imprisoned in Tibet
- Contemporary art by Tibetan artists now in exile with commentary
- The first English translation of a section of a book by Tibetan author Dolma Kyab, serving ten and a half years in prison as a result of his manuscript

You are invited to download a free copy of *Like Gold that Fears No Fire* from our website at <http://tinyurl.com/y18bgal>.

Tibet Press Coverage

(continued from page 5)

Member's Corner Member-Get-a-Member Winner

China's Strong and Brittle State

December 14, 2009 The Financial Times

This year, we have grown accustomed to thinking about China's strengths. We have been awed by its mountainous foreign exchange reserves and by its ability to power ahead in a global downturn. We have seen its ever-more sophisticated military and naval hardware on display. And we have witnessed its growing confidence on the world stage.

But our infatuation with China's strengths is in danger of blinding us to its palpable weaknesses. How else can we explain Beijing's indictment for subversion of Liu Xiaobo, a veteran human rights campaigner?

Mr Liu's "crime" is that he co-authored Charter 08, an appeal for multiparty democracy, constitutional reforms and the rule of law, that was signed by several thousand people last year before it was snuffed from the internet by censors. The Charter, inspired by Czechoslovakia's Charter 77, contained the line: **"We should end the practice of treating words as crimes."** Clearly, the Communist party has not heeded that message. The 53-year-old former literature professor, who has already done stints in jail, now faces a further five years, perhaps more, in prison.

The Communist party seems to think that by cracking down hard on Mr. Liu, one of the most consistent and high-profile rights activists of the past 20 years, it will scare others into silence. In a depressing recent pattern, China's authorities have, if anything, been clamping down harder on critics. In a year of sensitive anniversaries, including 20 years since Tiananmen and 50 years since the Dalai Lama fled Tibet, censorship of the internet has tightened.

Last spring, ICT held its first Member-Get-A-Member drive. More than 50 ICT supporters took on our challenge to tell their friends about ICT and ask them to become our newest member. Longtime ICT member Connie Pham was our top fundraiser and winner of this year's drive, and we asked her to tell us more about her involvement with Tibet and ICT.

How did you first become involved with the situation in Tibet? Why is it important to you?

In the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, we have the conviction that "our gurus are the source of all our good," and this was certainly the case here. I owe my deep commitment to social advocacy and activism to my late teacher (and former ICT Board member), the amazing Venerable Geshe Tsultim Gyeltsen, with whom I attended my first Tibet rally and candlelight vigil, along with my parents, siblings, and our friends from the Buddhist and Tibetan communities. I was in the 6th grade when we showed up at the Wilshire Federal Building in Los Angeles on March 10, 1994. After chanting and marching on a very cold evening, as we packed up to leave, a man drove by, saw our signs, and yelled out his window, "Who is Tibet?" pronouncing "Tibet" wrong. I was incredulous, amused, and disappointed he didn't know and rushed up to tell him. It was a huge pivotal point for me and what inspired me to become an educator. I tell this story because I want to highlight the critical role parents and mentors can play in exposing young people to inspirational struggles and planting seeds of social consciousness early on.

How did you first become aware of ICT and what motivated you to participate in this year's membership drive?

The Tibetan cause will be a lifelong commitment for me because as indigenous peoples, the Tibetans remind us of our

true relationship to each other and the earth. Their struggle embodies how much dignity can really be possible in this world, and as such, constitutes a struggle for the heart of humanity. I wanted to take part in this year's drive as a humble way to commemorate the courage of the 1959 generation, of which my precious teacher was a part. There is absolutely no way to overstate the value of their gifts to us, and if we are to honor their example, we need to continue serving with integrity and joy. What we lack in funds we must make up in spirit! There is no other way! Thank you, ICT, for all you do!

In Memoriam

Late in 2009, the world lost two great humanitarians and fighters for justice.

On December 5, 2009, former German politician Count Otto Lambsdorff, passed away. Count Lambsdorff received the 2005 Light of Truth award from ICT for contributing to the better understanding of the plight of the Tibetan people through the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and also for helping to strengthen the democratic structure of the Tibetan community in exile. ICT Executive Chair Lodi Gyari remembered Count Lambsdorff as "a man of principle who was dedicated to the cause of truth and justice."

Former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, who was a member of ICT's International Council of Advisors, passed away on December 9, 2009. Don Rodrigo was also one of the founding members, along with Lodi Gyari, of Kreddha, a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention and sustainable resolution of violent conflicts.

Take Action!

Help Us Match the Courage of the People of Tibet!



“Since I am a Tibetan, I have always been sincere and devoted to the interests and well-being of Tibetan people. That is the real reason why the Chinese do not like me and framed me. That is why they are going to take my life even though I am innocent.”

— Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

Recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as a reincarnated lama in the 1980s, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was a community leader and a staunch advocate for the protection and preservation of Tibetan culture, religion, and way of life for decades — always mindful of threats to his freedoms and the possibility of continuing his good works.

In 2002, Delek was arrested along with his relative, Lobsang Dondrub, on false charges of exploding bombs and distributing separatist leaflets. The only evidence against Delek was extracted from Lobsang Dondrub during torture, although Dondrub later recanted and cleared Delek of any wrong doing. The trial was

secret, neither man had independent legal counsel, and the evidence was non-existent. Both received death sentences.

Lobsang Dondrub was executed and Tenzin Delek, also condemned to death, was then given a life sentence. He remains in prison today and there is reason to believe he is suffering from heart disease, and that he may have been tortured.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche is widely respected by the people (both Tibetan and Chinese) in his home province of Lihang in eastern Tibet. Proof of that respect is the astonishing actions taken by residents. Over 40,000 have signed their names to a petition asking for his release, each

attesting to their signature by adding a thumbprint in red ink.

Every single one of the 40,000 Tibetan signers knows that they risk their freedom and perhaps their lives by speaking out for Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

The International Campaign for Tibet is joining an international effort to match — and hopefully surpass — the total of 40,000 signatures on the petition to release Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. **We ask every supporter to please sign and return the attached petition** for delivery to authorities in China. You can also download a copy from our website at www.savetibet.org/action-center/action-alerts to share with family and friends.

The Tibetan people are counting on sheer numbers to protect each other. We can help with that goal and hopefully help a good man regain his freedom.

Petition to Release Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

**To: Zhou Yongkang
Chair, Politics and Law Commission
People’s Republic of China**

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche (Chinese name: A’an Zhaxi) was unjustly persecuted by the Chinese authorities in Sichuan Province during your term as Party Secretary there.

Like the people of Lihang, Kham (Ch: Litang, Sichuan Province), I do not recognise the verdict against Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. No credible evidence has ever been presented to support the charges against him. As a revered Buddhist leader, it is unfathomable that he would have been involved in “conspiring to cause explosions”.

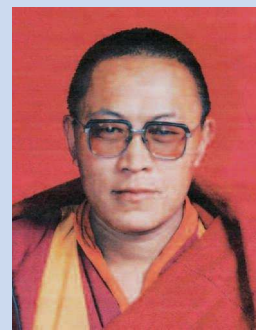
I, the undersigned, call on you to immediately grant

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche independent legal assistance and a new trial on the basis of three points: that there is no proof against him, that he steadfastly asserts his innocence, and that there is a widespread belief in Tibet and worldwide that he was framed by Chinese officials who viewed his influence as a threat to their power.

If, in a new trial, no credible evidence is presented against Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, I demand his release.

Signed:

Supporter, International Campaign for Tibet



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

1825 Jefferson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Visit us at www.savetibet.org

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANGHORNE, PA
PERMIT NO. 114



photo © Stepniak

ICT's new publication, *Like Gold That Fears No Fire*, was released at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2009 despite moves by the Chinese government, Guest of Honor at the event, to block dissident voices. See page 13 to find out how to download a free copy.