

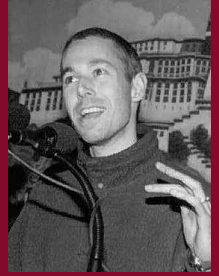
Tibet

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PRESS WATCH **SUMMER 2012**
A publication of the International Campaign for Tibet

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INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET



The Conscience of Mankind

Protesters in Vienna Speak Out on Tibet



KARMA

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Other great ICT items are available at our online store, including Tibetan flags (illegal for display within Tibet), prisoner bracelets, back issues of Tibet Press Watch, and more.



Cover: His Holiness the Dalai Lama greeted over 10,000 people at the European Solidarity Rally for Tibet, supported in part by the International Campaign for Tibet. At the rally His Holiness said, "Because of our Buddhist culture, we are committed to the principle of non-violence. We are a small community who have remained dedicated to pursuing our struggle through non-violent means, which is why your support is so extremely valuable and I want to tell you how much I appreciate it." (photo©Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL)

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

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Dear Friends,

I want to thank so many of you who have worked with, responded to, or otherwise contacted me in recent weeks about the dire situation in Tibet. It is an encouragement to all of us at ICT to know that you are supporting our efforts and, most importantly, that you are standing with the Tibetan people. Tragically, the self-immolations in Tibet have continued, a sad reality that underscores what many of us have heard directly from the field — that Tibetans are responding to the daily hardships of life under Chinese government policies that have become increasingly intolerable.

If you have not already seen it, I urge you to watch the May 27, 2012, BBC News piece, “The Human Torches of Tibet”. We have included in this issue of Tibet Press Watch an excellent New York Times article by Edward Wong (see page 5), also on the self-immolations. Both of these reports were created with the support and advice of ICT field and communications teams who work continuously to ensure that journalists have access to the most comprehensive story.

On another front, ICT has been working to defend Congressional allocations to Tibetan issues. Thanks to your support, we have over the years helped to build up millions of dollars in funding (primarily for humanitarian and refugee services and for the sustainability of Tibetan communities) and now we can gladly report that this funding looks secure for another year. Given the current crisis in Tibet, it is a relief to know that our hard work and the hard work of our champions in the U.S. Congress has shored up a strong base of support. Once again, the United States will provide critical funding for refugee programs. Of special note, we’re grateful to the members of Congress who helped to turn back cuts in the Voice of America Tibetan language broadcast service.

The continuing self-immolations indicate we must continue to press for solutions

in Tibet, even in the midst of political tumult in China and political transition in Dharamsala. Among the changes in Dharamsala is the May 31 resignation of Lodi Gyari as Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, part of the process initiated by His Holiness to devolve his political authority to the elected leadership. I suspect that few outside of government circles know of Lodi Gyari’s tremendous skill as the Dalai Lama’s chief diplomat-at-large. Not only has Lodi served as the chief interlocutor in the dialogue with officials from the Chinese government since 2002, but he has spent a life’s time and energy building international support for Tibet.

It has been the great privilege of everyone at ICT to observe at close range his skill and breadth of knowledge at work in earnest for the cause we share. We’re pleased and honored that Lodi will continue to serve as ICT’s Executive Chairman, helping to guide our work for the Tibetan people.

Of course public support for Tibet, expressed and resourced by ICT supporters for nearly 25 years, has been critically important, and we are, as always, deeply grateful for your continued dedication. Clearly we have more to do, and are glad to move forward confidently with you as our ally.

Onwards!



Mary Beth Markey



Tibet... In The News

The articles presented here for your review are but a sampling of the growing international attention being paid to the situation in Tibet. For reasons of space, we are providing excerpts only. The journalists who tell these tales paint rich and important pictures of a region in crisis. If these excerpts move you, we encourage you to take the extra step of seeking out the full article. The authors certainly deserve a very wide readership. And we encourage you to thank these journalists for acting with determination to provide first-hand, accurate reporting on the current situation inside Tibet.

Losing Tibet Forever: Beijing Has Only a Narrow Window of Opportunity to Convince Tibetans They Have a Stake in China

By Thupten Jinpa, Wall Street Journal, March 8, 2012



Thupten Jinpa

This year's anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising in Tibet and the escape into exile of the Dalai Lama takes place at a time of deepening crisis. Since February 2009, at least 27 Tibetans, including many monks, have set fire to themselves in what is an unprecedented development in Tibetan society.

So far, Beijing's response has been simple: censor the news, label the protesters terrorists, blame it on outside forces and use excessive security force. This is almost exactly the same script we saw used by the ill-fated Gadhafi regime and currently in use in Syria by Bashar al-Assad.

There is a growing recognition among Tibetans that Beijing lacks the political imagination and will to resolve the question of Tibet. There has been a total failure to engage constructively with the Dalai Lama despite the latter's concessions and numerous overtures over more than three decades.

This especially became evident when the Party failed to respond to the Dalai Lama stepping down as Tibetans' political leader. Beijing hasn't appreciated that the current struggle has gone on even after the Dalai Lama stepped down as Tibetans' political leader. This means Tibetans now envision their struggle beyond the life of the Dalai Lama, and not necessarily in keeping with this style.

Unwittingly, the Party has been more successful than the exile Tibetan political establishment ever was in creating a strong united sense of national Tibetan identity across the entire

plateau. If the current impasse continues, Tibetans may become bolder and demand full independence. We can also expect to see the current wave of self-immolation spreading to other parts of Tibet. No regime can have an effective weapon against individuals who are not afraid to die.

Mr. Jinpa is adjunct professor at McGill University and the principal English translator to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Tibetans End Hunger Strike Outside UN, 1 Month After the Strike Began

By David Common, CBC News, March 22, 2012

Three Tibetans who have been quietly starving themselves in the shadow of the United Nations headquarters in New York City in an effort to get the UN to pressure China to end its repressive rule over Tibet ended their hunger strike March 22, a month after it began.

Richard Bennett, special adviser to the UN assistant secretary general on human rights, met with two of the men and agreed



Shingza Rinpoche, 32, Dorjee Gyalpo, 59, and Yeshe Tenzing, 39, held a hunger strike at the UN headquarters in New York from February 22 to March 22.

PHOTO © TOM PHOM BRADLEY

to appoint a special rapporteur for human rights to look into the hunger strikers' concerns, according to supporters of the men who spoke to the media.

They sealed the deal — and broke their month-long fast — by drinking a glass of orange juice.

The three have spent a month together, sitting quietly on the sidewalk across the street from the UN headquarters on the east side of Manhattan, 12 hours a day, seven days a week, leaving only to sleep in the homes of supporters, since city rules prevent them from camping on the street overnight. They would return no later than 7 a.m. the next day.

The end of the hunger strike couldn't have come sooner for those concerned about the men's health. In the first three days of a hunger strike, the body can feed off stored-up glucose. When that is exhausted, the liver starts to process body fat. Typically, that lasts about three weeks, and then the body enters starvation mode, raiding its own muscles, bone marrow and organs for energy, which is considered life-threatening.

The men's bodies were likely in this final dangerous phase when the strike ended.

In Occupied Tibetan Monastery, a Reason for Fiery Deaths

By Edward Wong, New York Times, June 2, 2012

DHARAMSALA, India — One young Tibetan monk walked down a street kicking Chinese military vehicles, then left a suicide note condemning an official ban on a religious ceremony. Another smiled often, and preferred to talk about Buddhism rather than politics. A third man, a former monk, liked herding animals with nomads.

All had worn the crimson robes of Kirti Monastery, a venerable institution of learning ringed by mountains on the eastern edge of the Tibetan plateau. All set themselves on fire to protest Chinese rule. Two died.

At least 38 Tibetans have set fire to themselves since 2009, and 29 have died, according to the International Campaign for Tibet, an advocacy group in Washington. The 2,000 or so monks of Kirti Monastery in Sichuan Province have been at the center of the movement, one of the biggest waves of self-immolations in modern history. The acts evoke the self-immolations in the early 1960s by Buddhist monks in South Vietnam to protest the corrupt government in Saigon.

Chinese paramilitary units are now posted on every block of the town of Ngaba, and Kirti is under lockdown. Journalists

are barred from entering the monastery, which has made the question of how Kirti became the volcanic heart of this eruption of self-immolations something of a mystery.

But monks and laypeople from Ngaba who have fled across the Himalayas said that Kirti had been radicalized in the last four years by an occupation of the monastery that amounted to one of the harshest crackdowns in Tibet. Chinese security measures have converted the white-walled monastery, with its temples and dormitories and rows of prayer wheels, into a de facto prison, which has fueled the anger that the measures are aimed at containing.

The Ngaba exiles here say the security measures imposed on the town and the monastery have been extreme, even by the standards of Chinese control in Tibet. In 2008, during a Tibet-wide uprising, security forces shot protesters in Ngaba with live ammunition, killing at least 10 civilians, including one monk, according to reports by advocacy groups and photographs of corpses that had been brought to Kirti. It was one of the most violent events of the uprising, and anger and alienation set in among local Tibetans. Officials tightened security.

Chinese officials ordered the People's Armed Police to surround the monastery; built a wall to cut off a rear entrance; banned all religious activities; smashed photographs of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader; forced monks to attend patriotic re-education sessions; cut off Internet access; and barred pilgrims from entering. They also took away 300 monks in a nighttime raid; many of them have not returned.

A Kirti monk, Lobsang, said there did not appear to be any coordination or organized plan for self-immolation.

"I think those who self-immolated didn't have an official agreement, but there was spiritual solidarity between people," he said. "The energy of the Tibetan people is totally linked like a bracelet of prayer beads. You cannot find the end and the beginning because it's a circle."

Chinese officials have condemned some of the self-immolators as "terrorists" and blamed the Dalai Lama for inciting the acts, a charge he has denied.

At least 38 Tibetans have set fire to themselves since 2009, and 29 have died, according to the International Campaign for Tibet, an advocacy group in Washington. The 2,000 or so monks of Kirti Monastery in Sichuan Province have been at the center of the movement, one of the biggest waves of self-immolations in modern history.

Press Releases

From the International Campaign for Tibet



Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate which called on the Chinese government to end repressive policies targeting Tibetans. It was approved by unanimous consent on March 29, just two weeks after Tibet Lobby Day.

Senate Passes Resolution Calling on China to End Crisis in Tibet; House Resolution Introduced

March 30, 2012

The United States Senate has approved a resolution which calls on the Chinese government to end repressive policies targeting Tibetans, address the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people, and allow unrestricted access to foreign journalists and diplomats to Tibet. The resolution, S. Res. 356, was approved by the Senate by unanimous consent on the evening of March 29. An identical resolution has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

“Congress has made clear its expectation for meaningful action by the Chinese government to address the legitimate grievances of the Tibetan people,” said Todd Stein, Director of Government Relations at the International Campaign for Tibet.

S. Res. 356 was introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and cosponsored by a bipartisan group including Sens. John McCain (R-AZ), Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Mark Udall (D-CO). The House resolution, H.Res. 609, was introduced yesterday by Reps. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and George Miller (D-CA).

Congressional Committees Act to Save VOA Tibetan Radio and Fund Other Tibet Programs

May 29, 2012

Two key Congressional Committees have acted to save the Voice of America Tibetan Radio service from a proposed cut, and have continued funding for a number of programs that support Tibetan communities in Tibet and Tibetan refugees in South Asia.

“These bills demonstrate that Congress’ support for the Tibetan people remains rock solid,” said Todd Stein, Director of Government Relations at the International Campaign for Tibet. “At a time when every dime of spending receives extra scrutiny, Congress re-affirms that these Tibet programs are a worthwhile investment in Tibetan communities’ efforts to keep Tibetan culture and identity alive. It also shows the premium Congress puts on giving closed-off societies, like Tibet, access to independent sources of information.”

On May 17, the House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version on May 24. Under normal procedures, the bills would be considered this summer by the House and Senate, respectively, and reconciled into a final bill in the fall.

In the President’s proposed budget for FY2013, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) had sought to eliminate the Voice of America’s (VOA) Tibetan radio service, consolidating it with Radio Free Asia.

The House bill rejected this approach by directing continued funding and broadcast hours for the Tibetan language services at the current levels. It also provided \$17 million more than the request for overall VOA operations. The Senate Committee also rejected the cut, and expressed concern that the cuts to East Asia broadcasting were not aligned with foreign policy priorities, referencing the Obama Administration’s “pivot toward Asia.”

The BBG’s proposed elimination of VOA Tibetan radio, revealed in February 2012, was criticized for cutting one of the only sources of independent and world news for Tibetans, at a time when Chinese authorities have imposed a near-blackout on communications inside Tibet during the ongoing crisis. On April 20, the BBG announced a “renewed strategy” that essentially rescinded the proposed cut.

See page 15 to take action on this issue.

From Our Blog

Hu Jintao, Culture Warrior, and the Cultural Genocide in Tibet

By Todd Stein, January 11, 2012

In “China’s President Pushes Back Against Western Culture” (New York Times, January 3), Chinese President Hu Jintao claims the West is waging a culture war against China. According to Hu’s essay and the Decision, culture is a tangible instrument to be used by the Party in the pursuit of “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” Culture is something that can be manufactured, like an engine or a dam, operated by a controlling authority — an unsurprising notion given that Hu and many top leaders are engineers. As Hu writes, “*we must scientifically determine the people’s basic cultural rights and interest, and diverse spiritual culture requirements, completely grasp the responsibilities and functions of government and market in cultural construction...*”

Professor Stephen Walt critiques this view in *Foreign Policy*:

“What Hu doesn’t understand is that you can’t just order creativity up by fiat or by making a cheerleading speech. Nobody in Washington told Louis Armstrong to redefine the art of jazz solos, a government official didn’t order Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker to invent be-bop in order to increase America’s global influence, and the Beatles didn’t spend all those hours in the Cavern Club or in Hamburg because somebody at the BBC had been told to create a “British invasion.” Instead, these things happened because these various individuals were free to assimilate influences from all over, and to work on their art for essentially selfish reasons.”

Thus, China’s leaders portray Western culture (however one defines that) as a

tool by “hostile foreign powers” to undermine China. The government announced on January 5 that it would launch a 24-hour television channel in New York to “propagate information about China overseas.”

(For more information, see page 12 on how to download your copy of ICT’s most recent report ‘60 Years of Chinese Misrule: Arguing Cultural Genocide in Tibet.’)

Chinese Propaganda and the Tibetan Self-Immolations

By Bhuchung K. Tsering
January 12, 2012



Bhuchung K. Tsering

When a dog is cornered it tends to bark ridiculously. I was reminded of this when reading the Global Times editorial of January 11, 2012 concerning another three Tibetans who have committed self-immolations in recent days. How else can we interpret its effort to blatantly ignore the real cause of the self-immolations by Tibetans by questioning their power of judgment and virtually calling them tools of the West?

Global Times, which “dares to touch the sensitive issues,” is surpassing the official Chinese propaganda in its effort to divert blames for the Tibetan self immolations being put rightly on the policies of the Chinese authorities. Even a person with little or no education would know that no one commits such extreme actions for the pleasure of it. Blaming outside forces for interfering in China’s “domestic

affairs” is just an easy excuse and merely sweeps the problem under the carpet without addressing it.

China Plays the Nazi Card with the Dalai Lama

By Todd Stein, March 28, 2012



Todd Stein

A few days ago, the Chinese state-run propaganda portal China Tibet Online posted an unsigned commentary that equated the Dalai Lama with Hitler and the Nazis. It said:

“The remarks of the Dalai Lama

remind us of the uncontrolled and cruel Nazi during the Second World War... How similar it is to the Holocaust committed by Hitler on the Jewish! (sic)”

This analogy is the latest in the Chinese attempt to characterize the Dalai Lama’s criticism of Chinese policies that encourage/tolerate Chinese migration into Tibet as “ethnic cleansing.” (In reality, his envoys make the case that regulating migration is both consistent with China’s autonomy system and practicable under existing household registration laws.)

As the Wall Street Journal observed, “Maybe somebody needs to tell the writer that when anyone starts flinging Hitler comparisons, it’s usually a sign he has run out of arguments.”

ICT’s blog can be found online at weblog.savetibet.org.

Inside Tibet...

As the crackdown continues in Tibet, it remains challenging to learn the truth about events. The International Campaign for Tibet works closely with the Tibet community in exile and with brave individuals inside Tibet to gather reports, accept testimony, verify accuracy, and report the results to the U.S. government and to the world. With sorrow, we note that the self-immolations in Tibet are continuing; since the last issue of Tibet Press Watch, the following people have taken this desperate step in order to attract the world's attention and action:

JANUARY 14, 2012



Losang Jamyang, a young Tibetan in his twenties, doused himself in petrol and set himself on fire. He walked into the street calling for

the long life of the Dalai Lama and for freedom in Tibet. After police began to kick and beat him with clubs spiked with nails, local Tibetans demanded that they hand the body over to them. He was taken away by the police. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Rinzin Dorje, 19, a former monk from the Kirti monastery, set himself on fire at a primary school early in the evening in Ngaba county town in Sichuan province. He was taken away by police, and two monks were also detained from the vicinity. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Sonam Rabyang, a monk in his mid-thirties from Yuthung village in Qinghai Province. He was at Lab monastery, and set fire to himself in Tridu town. It is thought that he survived, but it is not clear. **Wellbeing: Unknown**

FEBRUARY 11, 2012

Tenzin Choedron, 18, set herself on fire, shouting slogans against the Chinese government. She chose the same place as nun Tenzin Wangmo, the Sumdo



bridge area below the nunnery. Tenzin Choedron did not die immediately, but was taken away by soldiers and police. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

FEBRUARY 13, 2012



Lobsang Gyatso, a 19 year old Kirti monk, set himself on fire at the top of the main street of Ngaba town shouting slogans of protest against the

Chinese government. In the same moment, armed police and special police officers came and extinguished the fire and took him away while beating him. **Wellbeing: Unknown**

FEBRUARY 17, 2012



Damchoe Sangpo, a 38 year old monastic official, self-immolated in Qinghai province. This is the first time that a monastic official has self-immolated.

He set himself ablaze after monks were banned from marking a religious ceremony. Other sources reported that he had committed the act in protest of a rigorous "patriotic education" campaign at his monastery. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

FEBRUARY 19, 2012

Nangdrol, 18, set himself on fire in Dzamthang, Sichuan. Nangdrol cared passionately about Tibetan culture and language and had urged fellow Tibetans to be united, and to preserve their cultural and religious identity. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 3, 2012



Tsering Kyi, 19, a pupil at the Tibetan Middle School in Manchu, set fire to herself in the vegetable market. Authorities blockaded her school,

imposed a tight military lockdown, and investigated cell phones to prevent dissemination of any images of the self-immolation. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 4, 2012

Rinchen, a Tibetan mother in her thirties, self-immolated near a military camp in the vicinity of Kirti monastery in Ngaba. According to Tibetan monks from Kirti who are now in exile, as she set herself ablaze, Rinchen shouted, "Return His Holiness to Tibet," and, "We need freedom." **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 5, 2012

Dorjee, 18, set fire to himself and walked towards the local government office in Cha township, Sichuan province. Dorjee shouted slogans against the Chinese government's policies on Tibet. It is believed that he died at the scene, and that authorities took away his body. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 10, 2012

Gepey, 18, self-immolated near a military camp near Kirti monastery. Chinese authorities took Gepey's body and forced cremation of his body the same night. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 14, 2012



Jamyang Palden, a monk in his thirties from Rongpo monastery, set himself on fire, marking the first self-immolation in Rebkong. Despite the buildup

of troops, images from Rebkong today show local people gathered at the scene of his self-immolation, quietly praying for him. **Wellbeing: Unknown**

MARCH 16, 2012



Losang Tsultrim, 20, set himself on fire and marched along the main road in the upper part of Ngaba county town, shouting slogans of protest against the

Chinese government. The police extinguished the flames, and threw him into the back of a pickup. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 17, 2012



Sonam Thargyal, 44, in Northwestern Qinghai province. He drank kerosene and poured the fuel over his cotton-padded body before setting himself

alight, dying just minutes later as his body was swiftly consumed by the flames. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 28, 2012

Lobsang Sherab, 20, at Ganden Tenpeling monastery. A monk since the age of nine, Lobsang Sherab had studied at Kirti while some 300 Chinese government officials have been stationed there, repressing religious freedom and human rights. His family pleaded unsuccessfully for the return of his body. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

MARCH 30, 2012



Tenpa Darje, 22, and Chimey Palden, 21, outside government offices in Ngaba. The area is now under lockdown by armed troops and no further information is known about the two monks' survival or whereabouts. **Wellbeing: Unknown**

APRIL 19, 2012

Sonam and Choepak Kyap, both in their twenties, near a government office in Ngaba. Locals managed to prevent para-

military troops from taking away the bodies after the self-immolation, and the bodies were taken to the Jonang Dzamthang Gonchen monastery for funeral services. **Wellbeing: Both deceased**

MAY 27, 2012



Dorje Tseten, 19, (pictured) and Dargye, 25 (a former monk), self-immolated outside the Jokhang Temple (one of Tibet's holiest sites). These are

the first immolations in Lhasa. The self-immolations took place during Saga Dawa, an important religious period for Tibetan Buddhists that commemorates the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. **Wellbeing: Both deceased**

MAY 30, 2012

Rikyo, 33, from a nomadic family. A large number of Tibetans gathered to honor her sacrifice at a prayer service; although they stood in a heavy storm, the crowd did not withdraw until 3 am. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

TIBETAN SELF-IMMOLATIONS
2009-2012



... and Beyond Tibet's Borders

AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Governments Confront China at UN Human Rights Council

On March 14, 2012, European governments and the United States raised strong concern about Tibet in their statements to the U.N. Human Rights Council. Chinese delegates imposed substantial pressure on countries not to raise the situation in Tibet, and denied that there are any human rights abuses in the PRC.

Among the countries raising serious concerns about the current crisis in Tibet at the UN Human Rights Council (19th session, February 27–March 23) were the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Denmark's statement, on behalf of the European Union, was supported by 34 countries, including non-EU members Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Serbia, Albania and Liechtenstein.

In addition to voicing criticism and alarm about the violent suppression of Tibetan protests, governments called upon China to take the following actions:

- Allow all Tibetans, including monks, to exercise their cultural and religious rights without hindrance (Denmark, on behalf of the EU);
- Refrain from the use of force against peaceful protest (Denmark, on behalf of the EU);
- Improve the human rights situation in Tibet as well as in other parts of China, as a means to ensuring peace and stability (Denmark, on behalf of the EU);
- Allow for unhindered access to all areas for international monitoring (Czech Republic);
- Re-assess policies that undermine Tibetan and Uighur linguistic, religious, and cultural traditions, creating grievances and fostering unrest (United States);
- Safeguard the civil, political and cultural rights of all its citizens, in line with its international obligations (United Kingdom); and
- Respect freedom of religion and belief for all, including Tibetans (France).

Tsering Jampa, ICT Executive Director in Europe, said: "The international community has sent a clear message to the Chinese government on Tibet at this critical global forum, and the Beijing authorities have heard this loud and clear. The human rights situation in Tibet has figured prominently in the debate

at the UN, demonstrating the value of the Human Rights Council as a significant multilateral venue for confronting even the most egregious human rights violators."

IN WASHINGTON, DC

Tibet Lobby Day Sets Records in U.S. Capitol

Tibetan-Americans and Tibet supporters from across the United States visited the U.S. Congress in the fourth annual Tibet Lobby Day on March 19 and 20, 2012. This year saw a record-setting number of participants and the highest number (more than 120) of Congressional offices visited. Tibet Lobby Day is a collaborative effort organized by the International Campaign for Tibet and other Tibet groups, including Tibetan Associations, the Tibetan Youth Congress, and Students for a Free Tibet.

Todd Stein, ICT Director of Government Relations said "It is deeply inspiring to work with so many committed individuals and to know, as a former Hill staffer, how well their personal advocacy will be received in Congress."

In addition to the days' actions on Capitol Hill, Tibet supporters who could not travel to Washington, DC lent their voices to Tibet Lobby Day by participating as Virtual Lobbyists in an online appeal that has already produced thousands of messages to more than 504 congressional offices. That's almost 95% of Congress!



Tibet Lobby Day participants in Washington, DC send their thanks to Virtual Lobby Day participants around the world.

IN OTTAWA, CANADA

World Parliamentarians Conference on Tibet

ICT participated in the Sixth World Parliamentarians' Convention on Tibet from April 27–29, parliamentarians from around the world gathered in Ottawa for intensive deliberations on the worsening situation in Tibet. The Sixth World Parliamentarians' Convention on Tibet was attended by legislators from Asia, Europe, the Americas, Africa and Oceania. Also in attendance were His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the democratically elected Tibetan political leader, the Kalon Tripa, Dr. Lobsang Sangay.

Participants at the conference adopted the Ottawa Declaration, which draws attention to the repressive policies of China in Tibet and serious patterns of human rights violations. Senior ICT staff from all of our global offices participated in the conference as observers or presenters.

HONORING THE MARCH 10 ANNIVERSARY

In March 1959, the revolt against the Chinese presence in Tibet that had begun in eastern Tibet and reached to Lhasa, Tibet's capital, erupted in a popular uprising. The Lhasa uprising was brutally put down by the People's Liberation Army, but not before the Dalai Lama had safely escaped into India. The anniversary of the uprising has been observed annually on March 10 since 1960.

Following are excerpts of three statements from March 10:

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi Statement

“On Tibetan Uprising Day, we honor the many brave Tibetans who have lost their lives fighting for their religious freedom and human rights. We rededicate ourselves to the liberty and fundamental dignity for the Tibetan people — to economic and political empowerment for all Tibetans, and a future of stability and democracy for Tibet.

“On this anniversary, we call on the Chinese government to cease its religious repression, allow access to the region by journalists and international observers, and release Tibetan political prisoners.



Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in the U.S. Capitol in 2007

“The cause of Tibet continues to be a challenge to the conscience of the world. We must heed the guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and we must not forget the people of Tibet and their ongoing struggle.”

Department of State

Undersecretary Maria Otero, Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues said at the Council, “The United States remains gravely concerned about recent violence and continuing tension in Tibetan areas of China. We call on all governments including China to respect the fundamental freedoms of religion and expression of all of its citizens including members of ethnic minorities.”

Kalon Tripa's Statement

The Tibetan leader, Kalon Tripa Lobsang Sangay, expressed “hope that China's upcoming leaders will initiate genuine change” to resolve the Tibetan issue through dialogue. “To address the tragedy in Tibet, I call on Beijing to accept our Middle Way Policy, which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibetans within the framework of the Chinese constitution.”

“Let us make 2012 a Tibet Lobby Year. In this Tibetan New Year, I call upon all Tibetans and friends to reach out to elected representatives at the state and national levels in your countries. Invite and educate them about Tibet and the efforts of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the CTA. Generate debate about Tibet and get legislations passed in support of Tibet and the Tibetan people. Initiate activities that raise the profile of Tibetan democracy and visibility of Tibetan political leadership.

“To our dear brothers and sisters in Tibet, you are in our hearts and prayers every day. We will walk side by side with you until freedom is restored for Tibetans and His Holiness the Dalai Lama returns to Tibet. I pray for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. May our long cherished goal of freedom and reuniting in the Land of Snows be realized soon!”

Tibet in the Arts

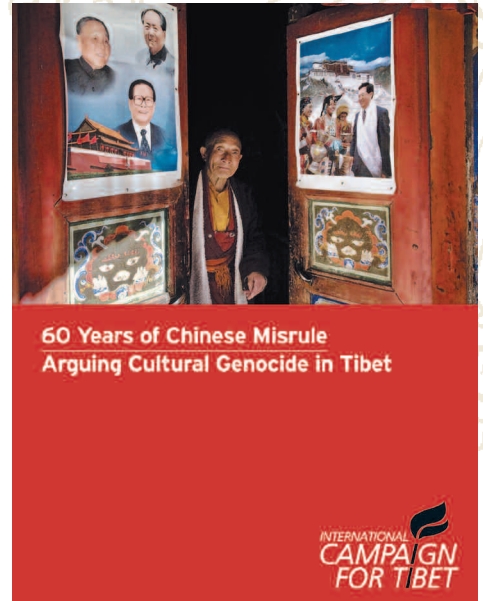
New ICT Report Finds Elements of Cultural Genocide in Tibet

A new report by the International Campaign for Tibet examines the impact on Tibetan culture of Chinese Communist Party rule in Tibet and concludes that policies and practices targeting Tibetan culture and additional risk factors for serious instability in Tibet require a stronger response from the international community.

The report, entitled '60 Years of Chinese Misrule: Arguing Cultural Genocide in Tibet' was released on April 25, the birthday of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, Tibet's Panchen Lama and significant religious figure, who was taken into custody by the Chinese authorities in 1995 and has not been seen since.

A cultural genocide is happening in Tibet. This report argues that the Chinese state has abjectly failed in its responsibility to protect and preserve the distinct Tibetan culture, a role it selected for itself following the invasion and occupation in the 1950s. The report further argues that saving Tibet's culture should be a matter of concern for the international community as a matter of policy and as part of the overall trend toward the development of a more comprehensive regime for combating genocide.

This report is available online. Visit <http://bit.ly/full-ict-report> to download a copy at your convenience.



Book Review: **TIBET: Bradt Travel Guide, 3rd Edition**

For future visitors and armchair travelers alike, this complete guide to Tibet by adventurer Michael Buckley is a must-read. We hold it to be the best travel guide from a social justice and human rights perspective, and appreciate the scope of the Tibetan world captured in its pages.

Exploring ethnic Tibet independently is a challenge — the 'land of snows' possesses some of the wildest and roughest road routes in high Asia. Motoring, mountain-biking and trekking options are all covered in this new edition. Political and cultural issues make Tibet a sensitive destination for Westerners, so Michael Buckley's authoritative advice includes guidelines on cultural etiquette, local customs, and travelling with minimum impact on Tibet's culture and environment. There's a section on exploring the Kham and Amdo regions without travel permits, and the

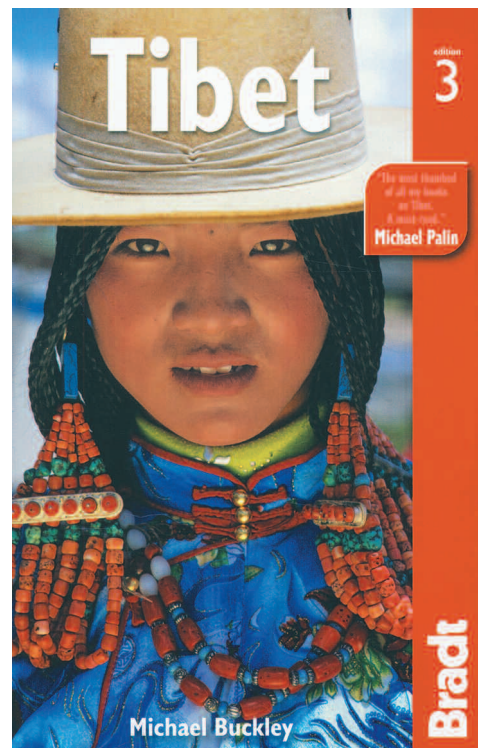
chapter on language includes a section covering Tibetan script. Reviewers said:

'The most thumbed of all my books on Tibet. I might have had some trouble with the yak butter tea, but Buckley made everything else about Tibet wonderfully palatable. A must-read.'

— *Michael Palin* (who used this book on the road in Tibet when making the TV series *Himalaya*)

'Michael Buckley has a most attractive, easy style, speaking (he seems to be speaking) as one traveler to another... This book is undoubtedly the one I would recommend first for reading before a visit to Tibet. For a visit to central or western Tibet it may also be the best single book to take.'

— *Tony Williams*,
travel co-ordinator,
Australia Tibet Council

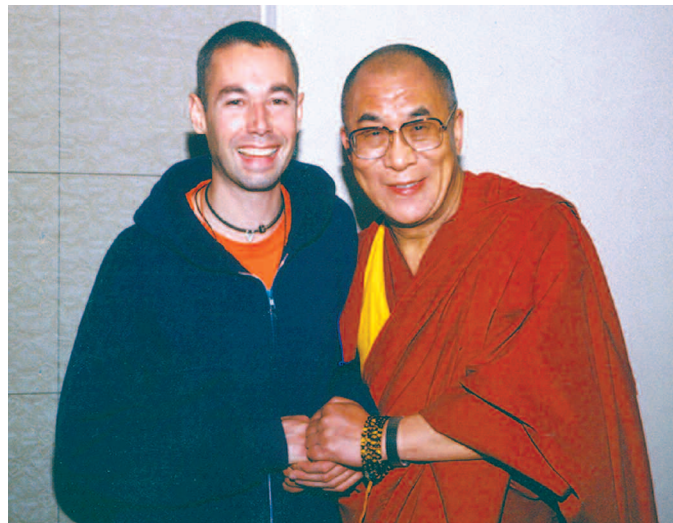


In Memoriam

ICT Mourns the Death of Adam Yauch

The International Campaign for Tibet is deeply saddened by the death of Adam Yauch, a member of the ICT Board of Directors from 1996–2006 and the ICT Board of Advisors from 2006 until the time of his death. Adam died on May 4, 2012. Adam was a prominent and generous supporter of Tibet through many other manifestations, including the Tibetan Freedom Concerts and The Milarepa Fund. His passion for Tibet came from his devotion to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Buddhadharma, and from accepting that celebrity could and should be used for a greater good.

Adam's exuberant MCA persona belied his gentle and compassionate nature, and a well-grounded wisdom — all of which together suggested an inner happiness. Adam lived in a mindful and meaningful way. He left a great and important legacy — in his music, his expert and creative activism, his heartfelt dedication to the cause of Tibet, and his beautiful family. Those who had the privilege to know Adam, even a little, were touched by his kindness. He will be deeply missed by the ICT family.



Adam Yauch with His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Obituary: André Alexander, Founder of Tibet Heritage Fund

Excerpts from The Telegraph

André Alexander, who has died aged 47, was the leading figure in the effort to preserve the old city of Lhasa in Tibet.

André Teichman (who wrote under his grandfather's surname, Alexander, and eventually adopted it as his own), gradually took a serious interest in Lhasa, spending extended periods there and paying attention to the physical fabric of its buildings.

As a result Alexander determined to draw the old city's buildings and to list their features, and in 1993, together with a British friend, Andrew Brannan, he produced a complete inventory of every remaining historic home in Lhasa. Then called the Lhasa Archive Project, the work proved timely: of the more than 400 buildings they described in 1993, only 150 or so were still standing by 2001. The rest had been demolished in the frenzy of urban construction that characterised Chinese modernisation in those years,

and which assumed — incorrectly, as Alexander showed — that concrete replica buildings would be more suitable for the climate and more popular than renovated traditional courtyard houses.

Alexander was not content with merely chronicling the loss of Tibetan heritage, and became committed to reversing it. In 1996, with the Portuguese artist Pimpim de Azevedo, and helped by the British Tibet scholar Heather Stoddard, he founded the Tibet Heritage Fund. It was under the banner of this organisation that he achieved what other Western experts had previously considered impossible: persuading, through charm and persistence, several leading officials in the Lhasa government to permit preservation work.

By 1998 they had created a workforce of up to 300 Tibetan craftsmen in the city, renovated 20 historic buildings, and persuaded the local government to list a total

of 93 others as protected sites. In 2000, however, the government in Lhasa, possibly because of growing international concern about its demolition program, abruptly threw Alexander out of Tibet, replaced his workforce with its own team, and denied the Tibet Heritage Fund further permission to work there.

Alexander did not let this dismay him. Instead he applied himself to saving buildings, both religious and secular, in other areas of the Tibetan cultural world. He and de Azevedo launched renovation projects in eastern Tibet (part of Qinghai and Sichuan provinces in China), Mongolia, Ladakh and Sikkim, as well as a conservation project involving residents in three traditional areas of the old city of Beijing.

André Alexander, who had been in good health, died in Berlin after suffering a suspected heart attack. He is survived by Tashi, a staff member at THF.

Membership Corner

Meet the New Development Manager: Your Liaison within the International Campaign for Tibet



Lizzy Ludwig has recently joined the International Campaign for Tibet's Development team as our new Development Manager. Lizzy brings nine years of non-profit experience to the position, and has expressed much enthusiasm at having the opportunity to work with ICT's devoted staff and members.

"The work being done by ICT is of immeasurable importance, and I am deeply thrilled and honored to be a part of promoting human rights and democratic freedoms for Tibetans. The compassionate culture of the Tibetan people has a positive impact on all who experience it. I look forward to working closely with our supporters to assure the future of this unique and exceptional culture by securing the support necessary to further ICT's efforts."

If you're a Friend of Tibet, new supporter or want to learn more about ICT, you can contact Lizzy at members@savetibet.org.



Lodi Gyari, ICT Executive Chairman on April 17th with ICT Board Member Pam Cesak. Pam and her husband Jerry hosted an event in their La Jolla home that raised over \$20,000 for ICT in celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's first visit to San Diego in 19 years.



PHOTO © GREG CRESPO

Lhamo Tso (right), wife of political prisoner Dhondup Wangchen and former political prisoner Ngawang Sangdrol together in Washington in March.

Leaving Fear Behind: Remarkable Film Cost Filmmaker His Freedom

On March 22nd, ICT hosted a screening of *Leaving Fear Behind*, an heroic film shot at great risk by Dhondhup Wangchen. To bring Tibetan voices to the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, Dhondhup and his assistant, Golok Jigme, spent five months traveling in Tibet on a motorcycle to interview ordinary Tibetans about the Dalai Lama, the Olympics and China. The footage was smuggled out of Tibet under extraordinary circumstances days before the March 2008 uprisings.

Just days after, the filmmakers were detained. Dhondhup Wangchen was sentenced to six years in prison.

His wife, Lhamo Tso, came to Washington to advocate on behalf of political prisoners. She participated in Tibet Lobby Day 2012 and spoke at the U.S. Capitol.

Take Action!

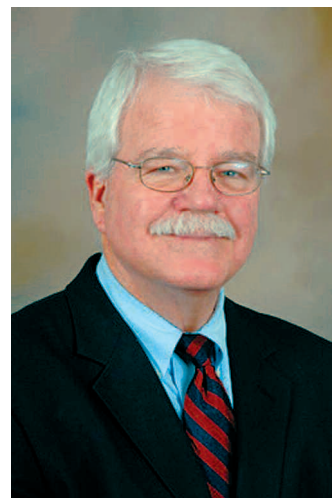
Congress will soon consider H.R. 609, *A Resolution Expressing Support for the People of Tibet*, reaffirming the unwavering friendship between Americans and the people of Tibet during this time of crisis.

The resolution, cosponsored by Representatives James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and George Miller (D-CA), mourns the death of Tibetans who have self-immolated and encourages the Chinese government to take a number of urgent steps to resolve the situation in Tibet.

The Senate unanimously passed an identical bipartisan resolution (S. Res. 356) on March 29, 2012. We need your help to garner similar success in the House of Representatives in order to send a clear message to the world that America stands by Tibet!

You can take two easy steps to help make this happen:

1. Visit www.savetibet.org and click on the button to “Send Your Message” to your representative today.
2. Sign this note of thanks for the House Resolution cosponsors Reps. Sensenbrenner and Miller. Return it to ICT in the enclosed reply envelope so we can deliver all of them in a tidal wave of support. If the envelope is missing, send your letter to ICT at 1825 Jefferson Place NW, Washington, DC 20036.



Representatives Sensenbrenner and Miller co-sponsored a bill in the U.S. House, H.R. 609, which needs your support in order to pass. Please take the action below and send it to ICT in the enclosed envelope.

PLEASE CLIP HERE:

Dear Representatives Sensenbrenner and Miller,

Thank you for introducing H. Res. 609, *A Resolution Expressing Support for the People of Tibet*. As a Tibet supporter, I appreciate your concern and commitment to the people of Tibet. In an act of solidarity, I have contacted my Representative and asked them to cosponsor this resolution. I hope that you will continue your strong support for the Tibetan people and resolve to protect their fundamental human rights.

With gratitude,

(Sign here) _____



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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!

Pass the Word — Help the Planet!

When you're finished with this issue of *Tibet Press Watch*, why not
pass it on to someone who might be interested? By doubling your
issue's readership, you'll help avoid the landfills — and perhaps ICT
can make a new friend. Thank you!



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MANDALA SOCIETY
YOUR LIVING LEGACY TO TIBET

The Mandala Society is an intimate group of Tibet
supporters, committed to helping future generations of
Tibetans. By including the International Campaign for
Tibet in their will or trust, Mandala Society members
ensure that ICT will continue to have the resources to
promote a peaceful resolution of the occupation of Tibet,
and will be able to help rebuild Tibet when Tibetans
achieve genuine autonomy.

For more information about Mandala Society member-
ship, please contact Chris Chaleunrath at 202-785-1515,
ext. 225, chris.chaleunrath@savetibet.org, or use the
envelope attached to this newsletter to request a call.

