

# Tibet

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## PRESS WATCH

WINTER 2013  
*A publication of the  
International Campaign for Tibet*

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- Task Force on Sino-Tibetan Negotiations Convenes
- Tibetan Language: The Struggle for Survival



# His Holiness the Dalai Lama in North America

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At the International Campaign for Tibet, our leading supporters are recognized as PARTNERS FOR TIBET and are known for their devotion to the cause of Tibetan self-determination.

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## 2014 Calendar

### A Spectrum of Tibetan Hats

This year's calendar features exquisite images of Tibetans wearing a wide variety of hats. Tibetan hats come in all sizes, shapes, and colors, and for all occasions—some formal, some casual, some monastic, some handmade. Hats are a unique part of Tibetan culture, and they are worn with great pride. The calendar includes remarkable photography along with information about the places and traditions associated with each Tibetan and his or her headdress.

Order yours now to support our advocacy for the traditional cultures of Tibet. Limited quantities are available. Go to [savetibetstore.org](http://savetibetstore.org) to order your 2014 calendar today.



# The Path Ahead

## TIBET PRESS WATCH

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

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

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Dear Friends,

The International Campaign for Tibet would not exist, let alone be such a powerful voice for Tibetan people, without the commitment of people of conscience like you.

Because you are such an important partner in all of ICT's efforts, I would like to share highlights of recent strategy and listening sessions in which we conducted a thorough reevaluation of our work and organizational standing in the world. We have accomplished much over the past quarter century—including passage of the Tibetan Policy Act to institutionalize U.S. political support and millions of dollars of funding for Tibet, and actively supporting the Congressional initiative to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama—and our focus now will be to expand on what we can and must accomplish in the critical years ahead.

Accordingly, our strategic plan moving forward includes ICT assuming new responsibilities while reinforcing the core advocacy, research, and reporting work of our exceptional staff. Since ICT was founded to support the work of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the legitimate Tibetan exile government, this will be the consideration that we will make in all our activities.

Feedback from ICT supporters also indicated an understanding of the need to expand and deepen our direct engagement with the Chinese people. I was heartened by that finding because, having spent decades working to advance the cause of Tibetan self-determination, I passionately believe that the only way for Tibetans and Chinese to find a mutually acceptable solution for Tibet is through dialogue. As individuals—whether Tibetan, Chinese, American, or any other nationality—we each have the ability to help end injustices in the lives of others. That is precisely what you do through your involvement and interest in ICT's work.

I encourage you to thoughtfully review all the contents of this issue of Tibet Press Watch, and I trust you will find it to be informative.

Once again, and as always, thank you for your friendship and commitment to the people of Tibet.

Sincerely,



Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari  
Executive Chairman, ICT Board of Directors



Cover: ICT Chairman Richard Gere with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and member of the ICT Board, Tony Karam. Karam's organization, Casa Tibet, was a host in Mexico City during His Holiness' three day visit to Mexico this fall. Photo by Jeremy Russell/OHHDL.

# Situation in Tibet

For the most up to date news on events inside Tibet, please visit [www.savetibet.org](http://www.savetibet.org) and sign-up for email updates.

## Self-Immolation Update

### Tibetan Father of Two Sets Fire to Himself in Ngaba

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013



A Tibetan father of two set fire to himself and died on September 28 in Gomang village, Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) county, according to exile Tibetan sources. When Tibetans gathered around his body, police aimed their guns at the crowd. Village elders averted tensions by appealing to both local Tibetans and police for calm.

Forty-year old Shichung set himself on fire outside his house and ran along the road shouting in protest against the Chinese authorities before he collapsed to the ground in flames and died, according to Kirti monks in exile in Dharamsala. The monks reported that before he self-immolated, he lit a butter lamp before an image of the Dalai Lama. A few days earlier, he had said, "The Chinese will never leave us in peace," according to the same sources. Shichung was the 122nd Tibetan to set fire to himself and the first in more than two months.

**Wellbeing: Deceased**

## A Sorrow Plea A poem by Tenzin

Hold on, hold on, just hold on a little bit more.  
I know it is intolerable and I can only imagine the reasons  
behind your tears  
but please, I beg of you, no more.  
Like the birds that fly during the changes of the season,  
I may not know who you are but we fly for the same reason.  
Hold on, hold on, just a little bit more.

My thoughts are never too far away from you,  
I have a special place in my heart for the land I long to  
return to.

Give me time and we can rise together  
and finally live in peace with our apathetic invaders.  
They, who choose to ignore our cries  
and instead watch us burn and spread more lies.  
Please, you are my people  
and no matter how far I am, I will always love you.  
Hold on, hold on, just a little bit more.

I cannot sleep because I feel utterly helpless.  
And yet tonight,  
another young child of Tibet will choose eternal rest.  
I have come all the way here to study the language of your  
oppressors  
so that I may one day convince them to change their ways  
of tyranny.  
There are many of us who have not forgotten you  
and as we get older  
we know we are getting closer.  
Please do not be angered by our progress.

Our will cannot be broken, and we will never digress.  
Hold on...

It's too late,  
I read the news and I fall back into this same bitter state.  
Angry at myself, at him, her, this, that, and even you.  
Why can't you just wait and believe in me, in us?  
Instead, now your ashes float up to the skies,  
And make gray what was once blue.  
You are a hero and no matter what they may say  
this is what is in our thoughts as we prostrate and pray.

You are a protector of peace and a champion of courage.  
Choosing to burn the object of oppression,  
instead of setting aflame the apparatus of repression.  
And to make clearer your soul's intention,  
in your last moments, you wished for the return of the  
teacher of compassion.  
Not even the strength of the flames could shackle your  
final message.

Please, hold on, hold on a little bit longer.  
Let us share the moment we have dreamed for together.  
But you are Right!  
How can I know your pain from such thick lenses?  
I am trying to make sense of it all, but in the end all I can do  
is listen.  
Please... Listen to me as I am listening to you,  
I too am a child of Tibet, so please...  
Please, hold on, hold on, and survive a little bit longer.



# In the News

## Tibetan Task Force Discusses Strategies to Resolve the Issue of Tibet

September 7, 2013

The Task Force on Sino-Tibetan negotiations, which makes decisions concerning the Tibetans' approach to engagement with the Chinese government, concluded its 26th session after reviewing the developments in Tibet and China. Members discussed the overall grave situation in Tibet, including the more than 120 self-immolations since February, 2009.

While the continuing repressive measures in the Tibetan areas have been counter-productive to China's desire for unity and stability, the Task Force also analyzed substantive discourse in China—on ethnic issues in general and Tibet in particular—as well as some recent mixed signals. Clear strategies were discussed on the way forward for the peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue through dialogue between envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and representatives of the new Chinese leadership.

ICT's own Executive Chairman, Lodi G. Gyari and Interim President Bhuchung K. Tsering participated in the meetings. Lodi Gyari is the former Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Task Force was expanded this session with six



Members of the Task Force on Sino-Tibetan negotiations met in September to review the current developments in Tibet and China.

new members, including the former Kalon Tripa, Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche, and China analysts. Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, who chaired the session, reiterated the Central Tibetan Administration's firm commitment to the Middle Way

Approach. The next Task Force meeting will be convened early next year.

*Read more about Tibetans' next move on engaging the Chinese at [weblog.savetibet.org](http://weblog.savetibet.org)*

## Ideas, Advocacy & Dialogue on the ICT Blog

### 50 For Tibet: Celebrating One Mountain Culture to Preserve Another

By Steve Gardiner, August 16, 2013

A team of American climbers ascends international highpoints to raise awareness for Tibet and support the Rowell Fund.

### Lithuanian University Hosts Conference on Tibet

By Vincent Metten, September 11, 2013

In advance of a visit to Lithuania by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, ICT was invited to lecture at one of the country's largest universities on new methods of resistance being used by Tibetans.

### UN Committee Asks China to Resolve Grievances Against Children

By Elena Gaita, October 16, 2013

A UN committee expressed concern about the deteriorating situation of human rights in Tibet and asked China to resolve grievances leading to self-immolation by children and report on the whereabouts of the Panchen Lama.

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

# Arts & Culture Column

## Tibetan Language: The Struggle for Survival By Zorgyi

The Tibetan language—the key to our communication, our culture, our religion and our national identity—has been steadily undermined under Chinese rule over the past six decades. We are now at a critical point in the struggle for survival of one of the most ancient and sophisticated languages in the world.

Beijing is creating the environment for the obliteration of the Tibetan language. Learning Tibetan now creates serious obstacles for Tibetans in terms of their further education, jobs and income. Research shows that children do better when their own language is the teaching medium. Tibetans are still taught in Tibetan at primary schools in many areas. But at middle school, they transfer to Chinese language teaching. This puts them at a huge disadvantage to their Chinese counterparts.

It is not that Tibetans do not want to learn Chinese. They do. My Chinese is just as good as my Tibetan, and both languages are important to me. But Tibetans need and want to learn through their mother tongue and keep their religious and cultural heritage alive.

The Chinese government spends millions in Chinese-language education. In some areas, a nine-year compulsory education program provides three years of free vocational education programs. But the entire curriculum is in Chinese. And students who learn through Tibetan at

middle school have to pay higher fees, even while the Chinese schools are administered by the same education department. After all, if students know Chinese, they are more receptive to propaganda and to quicker integration in a Chinese-dominant society. One could say that the policies on language in Tibet are literally designing the future, creating the internal environment for a new Tibetan generation.

In the early 1980s, the tenth Panchen Lama sought to keep the Tibetan language alive. He travelled across the entire Tibetan plateau, listening to people's stories about daily life under Chinese Communist rule. He built bridges between key schools and monasteries and played a role in the founding of important cultural institutes. He knew how critical the Tibetan language is to our country's monastic system.

Today, with a Chinese-installed Panchen Lama and the great lamas and leaders of the main Buddhist schools in exile, the challenges are great. Chinese authorities claim they want to have a "bilingual" education policy, but in 2010, a plan was launched in Qinghai to prioritize Chinese over Tibetan language. It led to widespread protests by Tibetan students. With remarkable courage and resourcefulness, students are showing their passion for the protection of Tibetan language in new, peaceful ways.

In nomadic and rural areas, "pure language" groups have been set up by educated local people to ensure that even those with little education can learn and speak Tibetan. Wealthy Tibetans are creating small private schools where the Tibetan language is taught, and thousands of nomadic boys and girls have learned about their language and culture from highly educated monks. They operate quietly with the aim to sharpen a new generation's knowledge of their linguistic and cultural identity. Importantly, these schools also teach Chinese as a major subject.

The authorities' response to such initiatives since 2008 has been harsh. Many senior Tibetans have been imprisoned, along with a number of the best students. Private schools have been closed, including, in 2003, the one at Kirti monastery, where the wave of self-immolations began in 2009.

Ultimately, the Chinese response is counterproductive. Tibetans have shown great resilience and determination to protect their language and their national identity. They are not going to give up. The imposition of sheer military force and policies that undermine a culture with deep moral roots will not succeed in bringing genuine stability in Tibet.

*Read the full article online at [www.savetibet.org/language](http://www.savetibet.org/language)*

TIBETAN	འཕགས་མགོན་ཡིད་བཞིན་འཛོམས་བྱུ་	ཞི་བདེ།	རང་ཡུལ།
CHINESE	达赖喇嘛尊者	和平	家园
ENGLISH	DALAI LAMA	PEACE	HOME

# Member Engagement



Beloved friend of ICT Michelle de Cou-Landberg passed away earlier this year.

## Remembering Michelle de Cou-Landberg

The International Campaign for Tibet lost a beloved friend earlier this year. Michelle de Cou-Landberg of Reston, Virginia, dedicated her life to helping others. Born in France, she spent her career teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in the US and Asia—making a lasting impact on many of her students and their families. Having developed a strong interest in Tibet as a child, she stood in solidarity with the Tibetan people and eventually converted to Tibetan Buddhism. She was a steadfast supporter who believed Tibet’s autonomy was only a question of time. Michelle had a genuine presence that emanated compassion and grace, and we are all so grateful to have known her in this lifetime.

## Words of Encouragement

July 29, 2013

Dear Bhuchung Tsering,

From our small remote ranch here in the Tatoosh Mountain Range, nestled among the Cascades very near Mt. Rainier, we send our many thanks to you and all the people who support this meaningful intention.

Our support, for many years, has been with the Tibetan people as they have patiently made their way and lent their voices for a free Tibet. It is so very hard to imagine that in a world that has

come so far in compassion, in 2013 we must all still be working for causes of this nature.

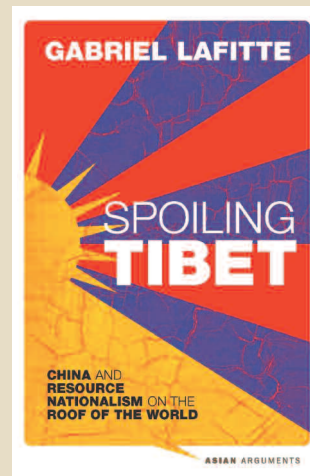
We believe in your message: “There is no question that our just cause will prevail.” We have seen over and over in our almost seventy years of life and almost fifty years married, that when a commitment is tended to and the clear intention focused on, then all that is available to aid our purpose is given to us. Things we may never have imagined are made available. Loving energy cannot fail. Do not give up. As you know, with times and circumstances made by the outer world, we may need to adjust and adapt a bit; however, that is not giving up.

Namaste and blessings,  
Joell and Howard Tuttle

### RECENTLY PUBLISHED

## Spoiling Tibet: China and Resource Nationalism on the Roof of the World

By Gabriel Lafitte



The mineral-rich mountains of Tibet have been landscapes of solitude, where the greatest yogis withdrew from society to deeply realize the nature of the human mind. Those sacred landscapes and pilgrimage routes, hitherto largely untouched by China’s growing economy, are now officially designated as mineral extraction enclaves. China’s Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2011–

2015) calls for massive investment in copper, gold, silver, chromium and lithium mining, with devastating environmental and social outcomes.

Despite great interest in Tibet worldwide, *Spoiling Tibet*—the first book that investigates mining at the roof of the world—is an entirely unique, authoritative guide through the torrent of online posts, official propaganda, and exile speculation. It is available from Amazon.com.

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Share us with your contacts and join in the Tibet conversation. The more people who care about Tibet, the bigger the impact we can have!

## Small Gifts, Big Difference

The *Friends of Tibet* are a small inner circle of supporters of the International Campaign for Tibet who pledge to make a monthly automatic gift. The steady, reliable support of our *Friends of Tibet* gives us the ability to act (and not just react) in defense of the people and culture of Tibet. Take the next step in your support by joining the *Friends of Tibet* today. Contact Lizzy Ludwig at [lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org](mailto:lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org) or (202) 580-6767.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama met with Chinese writers in New York City in October. ICT's Interim President Bhuchung K. Tsering participated in the meeting (seated in the back row, on the right).