

Tibet

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PRESS WATCH

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INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

SPRING 2018

*A publication of the
International Campaign for Tibet*



JUSTICE, COMPASSION, LOVE AND TRUTH

ICT BEGINS 30TH YEAR OF WORKING
FOR THE GOOD OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE



Member Spotlight

Ellen Landa, Mandala Society

In 1976, Ellen Landa visited Dharamsala, India, where His Holiness the Dalai Lama resides, and had the amazing good fortune and honor to meet him as part of a small group of Tibetans and a few Westerners—an experience she treasures to this day.

As a member of ICT, she had the opportunity to see His Holiness at another intimate gathering in 2016. When the Dalai Lama entered next to a picture of his old home, the Potala Palace, he pointed to a small window at the top and said, “My room.” For Ellen Landa, this was an amazing moment filled with overwhelming loss but also hope.

She expresses hope by being an ICT member since 1997 and says she does so to “support human rights and freedom for the Tibetan people. I also support ICT with the heartfelt wish to preserve the beautiful traditions of Tibetan Buddhism, so that they may be of benefit to everyone. Regardless of one’s religion, this path helps us develop the qualities of kindness, compassion and wisdom, so our actions may be of benefit and not cause harm.”

A current librarian and former nurse and ESL teacher, Ellen began her membership with ICT as a *Friend of Tibet*, contributing every month, because she knows steady, reliable funding is important to ICT’s work.

She later joined the Mandala Society, dedicating a portion of her estate to ICT. “It gives me

great joy to know that even after I am gone, I will be able to continue my support of Tibetan freedom and the preservation of Tibetan culture and religion with the hope of benefiting all beings,” Ellen says.

Join Ellen Landa as a Mandala Society Member.

Ellen wants to share a Tibetan Buddhist dedication prayer with you.

TIBETAN BUDDHIST DEDICATION PRAYER

At this very moment for the peoples and nations of the earth,

May not even the names disease, famine, war, and suffering be heard.

But rather may pure conduct, merit, wealth, and prosperity increase,

And may supreme good fortune and well-being always arise.

“This inspiring sentiment conveys what I see as the basic motivation for the practice of Tibetan Buddhism. Our world, with so much suffering, cannot afford to lose such a valuable tradition.”



Mandala Society

The Mandala Society is a special group of thoughtful, committed donors. By gifting a portion of their estates to ICT, Mandala Society members help ensure Tibetans are supported long into the future.

Mandala Society members receive special access to executive briefings, priority invitations to Tibet events across the country, and more.

To learn more about how you can make a difference, contact Cynthia Hurst at 202-580-6775 or cynthia.hurst@savetibet.org.

From the President



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Dear Friends,

Founded in March 1988, ICT marks 30 years of advocating for the rights and freedoms of the people of Tibet in 2018. In that time, we have had many accomplishments, expanded to additional offices in Berlin, Amsterdam, and Brussels, and have grown to 100,000 members strong.

On this occasion, we are proud to introduce our new logo (see page 6), a fresh and modern approach which continues to feature the flame—the light that we all work together to shine on the plight of the Tibetan people. This is the first step in revamping our organization-wide communications, which will be implemented across all of our offices in 2018.

For us, this anniversary is not so much a celebration as it is a time to honor the steadfast commitment shown by our community all over the world—from the leaders who occupy the halls of government to faithful individuals from all walks of life who have dedicated themselves to the Tibet cause. This was the tone of the anniversary reception held in early March in the US Congress (which you can read about on page 6). **We were extremely gratified to receive a special video message sent by His Holiness the Dalai Lama thanking ICT and our members for 30 years of service and encouraging our future efforts.** Keep your eyes out for a special issue of the *Tibet Press Watch* later this year devoted to the history of ICT and the Tibet movement over the past 30 years.

In addition, we are very happy to share the positive news that Tibetan filmmaker and activist Dhondup Wangchen arrived in the US on Christmas Day 2017 and has been reunited with his wife and four children after years of imprisonment in China. His story is told on pages 4-5, where you will also find an excerpt of his testimony on Capitol Hill in February. His words are a powerful reminder of the grim reality so many other political prisoners still face in the Chinese prison system, and how much work remains to be done.

A major priority in our current efforts is to open up Tibet to the rest of the world through passage of the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act*, a bipartisan bill that was introduced by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) in the House of Representatives and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) in the Senate. I hope you will take a moment to add your name to the petition on page 11, urging your Congressmen to support this important legislation.

2018 is off to a strong start. As I write to you, we have just concluded a very successful 10th Annual Tibet Lobby Day (see page 10) and have been energized by the dedication and drive that supporters (over 125!) from across the country brought to Washington, DC and the positive response they received on Capitol Hill.

As we reflect on 30 years, we feel encouraged, proud, and privileged to forge ahead with this essential work, and continue to answer the call of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in raising greater awareness of the Tibetan issue all over the world. Thank you for being our crucial partner on this journey.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Matteo Mecacci".

Matteo Mecacci

Cover Photo: Board Chairman Richard Gere and Ngawang Sangdrol are pictured at ICT's 30th anniversary event, held in the US Congress. Ngawang Sangdrol, a former political prisoner held by Chinese authorities from the age of 13, was released in 2002 and began working with ICT in 2004.

Tibetan Activist Escapes to US



Dhondup Wangchen Carries on His Message

Detained by Chinese authorities in Tibet in March 2008 for making the documentary film *Leaving Fear Behind* (in which ordinary Tibetans expressed their feelings about their situation in light of the Beijing Olympics), Dhondup Wangchen was sentenced to six years in prison for “inciting subversion.” His friend and assistant, Tibetan monk Golog Jigme, suffered from detention and torture, too. Dhondup Wangchen was released at the end of his sentence in 2014, but continued to be denied his freedom.

On December 25, 2017, after an arduous and risky escape from Tibet and China, he arrived in the United States, where he was reunited with his wife and four children, whom he had not seen in over nine years.



Photo: Filming for Tibet

The International Campaign for Tibet worked with Dhondup's wife, Lhamo Tso, and the Zurich-based Filming for Tibet (which released his documentary film) to provide opportunities for his movie to be shown and to spread knowledge about China's oppressive policies in Tibet. Filming for Tibet also collaborated with ICT to arrange Dhondup Wangchen's visit to Washington. In addition to meeting with Members of Congress, officials from the US Department of State, and the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas, he met with Washington-based NGOs as well as the Tibetan community.

On February 14, Dhondup Wangchen testified at a hearing on Tibet. Senators Marco Rubio and Steve Daines and Congressmen Chris Smith and Ted Lieu were present. Others who testified were Dr. Tenzin Dorjee, Commissioner of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, and Dr. Michael Green of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Dhondup Wangchen urged those present to remember that thousands of Tibetans like him are actively involved in the struggle,

and need support and partnership from the outside world. He encouraged political leaders to pass the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act*, to raise the issue of Tibet in international forums, and to urge China to release its political prisoners.

Dhondup Wangchen's courageous non-violent work has earned recognition and support throughout the world. His case was a priority for the United States government, and during his visit to Washington, DC, he personally thanked many of the key actors who called on the Chinese authorities to end his unjust detention. He specifically thanked ICT's members for their support in signing petitions and speaking with their Members of Congress calling for his release over the years.

Dhondup Wangchen Testifies on Capitol Hill

Tibetan activist Dhondup Wangchen visited Washington, DC, February 9-15 to testify at a hearing organized by the Congressional Executive Commission on China and to meet Congressional and Administration officials.



TESTIMONY

Below is an excerpt of Dhondup Wangchen's testimony. The full text can be found online at <http://bit.ly/DWTestimony>.

My name is Dhondup Wangchen. I was born on October 17, 1974 to a family of Tibetan farmers in Bayen which is in the province we call Amdo.

I arrived in USA on December 25, 2017 and it was the first time in many years that I felt safety and freedom. The reunion with my family in San Francisco was a wonderful moment that I had looked forward to in the past years, with a mixture of anxious joy and the hesitation a man feels who was hindered to be the husband he ought to be for his loving wife; a man who was not given the chance to stand by with fatherly advice to his children in a world full of challenges, and a man denied being the son needed for his aging parents.

Making Leaving Fear Behind

As the 2008 Olympic Games were fast approaching, I told [my cousin and mentor] Jamyang Tsultrim that I wanted to do something that would have a big and long-term impact and that would reflect the true feelings and wishes of Tibetan people.

My helpers, including Golog Jigme, and I travelled for several months in the cold winter of 2007 recording interviews and sent our footage to Zurich in several batches via trusted friends. Interview after interview, village after village, we recorded a never ending stream of untold stories of past atrocities, complaints against the current discrimination of Tibetans, their frustration and

anger about the hypocrisy of the Olympic Games and finally their fervent wish to see the Dalai Lama back in Tibet. More people than we could manage lined up to tell their story and witness their unbroken will to fight for truth and right to express their free will.

Detention

Even though I was aware that I was under surveillance, it wasn't until 26 March 2008 that I was arrested and interrogated by secret police. I was not kept in a police station or prison, but in a hotel and my family was not informed of my whereabouts. The torture started as soon as I was detained. I was forced to sit in the "tiger chair." For seven days and eight nights I was given no food and was not allowed to fall asleep.

On 13 July 2008, I was able to escape from this detention for 24 hours only. In a phone call with Jamyang Tsultrim I learned that they had received all the footage and were in the process of finishing editing the film. *Leaving Fear Behind* was released and distributed online just before the Olympic Games started in August 2008.

Sentencing and Imprisonment

I remained in informal detention until I was tried and sentenced on December 28, 2009 to 6 years in prison for "subversion of state power."

During my time in various forms of detention, I had to do manual labour which differed depending on where I was. I had been made to do many different tasks such as peeling garlic or stitching military uniforms and was given only two meals a day, which were barely adequate. The day would start at around 6:30am and we

had to work until 11pm, we never went outside and I was in constant pain with headaches and hurting arms. I always witnessed a difference in how prisoners and political prisoners were treated. When it came to Tibetan prisoners, we were never allowed to speak Tibetan to each other.

On 6 April 2010, I was transferred to Xichuan prison, a labour camp, which operates as an industrial manufacturer. My physical condition declined here and I contracted hepatitis B. Even though doctors did visit prisoners regularly, apart from draining blood from me many times, I never received a diagnosis or any medical treatment.

In March 2012, it was discovered that I had tried to smuggle a letter to the outside world. This letter was a long appeal to the then Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao, outlining the corrupt prison system and the discrimination that Tibetan prisoners suffer. I was punished by being placed in solitary confinement for 84 days.



International Campaign for Tibet Commemorates 30 Years of Service to the Tibetan People

On March 6, 2018, a special event in the US Congress marked the 30-year anniversary of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT). Congressional leaders and staffers, State Department officials, members of the NGO community, Tibetan Americans, ICT members, and other Tibet supporters who were in town for Tibet Lobby Day joined in celebration.

ICT was established in Washington, DC in 1988 to support the Tibetan people and the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The anniversary reception was an opportunity to honor the dedication and support shown to the people of Tibet and His Holiness by Members of Congress, successive US administrations, and friends from all over the world.

ICT Vice President Bhuchung K. Tsering welcomed everyone and shared that when ICT was founded, the US government did not have a positive coherent policy toward either Tibet or His Holiness the Dalai Lama. 30 years later, it is the policy of the United States to protect the distinct heritage of the Tibetan people and to support resolution of the Tibetan issue through negotiations between His Holiness or his representatives and the Chinese government.



Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representatives James P. McGovern (D-MA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Representative Ngodup Tsering of the Office of Tibet, ICT Board Member Kasur Tempa Tsering, former political prisoner Ngawang Sangdrol, and ICT Board Chairman Richard Gere all spoke passionately about the need to continue working for a peaceful Tibet.

A highlight of the event, His Holiness shared a special video message with the group, offering “deep appreciation” for ICT’s 30 years of “showing genuine support for the Tibetan cause.” He said, “I always describe that the supporter of the Tibetan cause is not pro-Tibetan, but rather pro-justice.”

Detailing the importance of Tibetan culture and finding a solution for Tibet that did not aim for independence but autonomy, the Dalai Lama called for “still more action or more activities, in different parts of the world.” He said supporters should look at the wider picture of the Tibet issue, adding, “Raise awareness of the Tibet issue, not only as just a human rights issue, but as a culture, too.”

ICT Chairman Richard Gere was the final speaker of the evening. He referred to the Tibetan cause as “a family business,” emphasizing as the Dalai Lama mentioned, it is about justice, compassion, love, and truth-telling. He also pointed

out that the Tibetan issue can teach you how to live with and embrace others. He stated that working with ICT has been a personal privilege and he playfully described those in the room as “trouble-makers” working for the good of the Tibetan people.

Finally, Gere remarked that the notion that we are all in this together is “really radical.” He concluded with that thought, and thanked everyone for being on this road together for 30 years.



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

30th ANNIVERSARY

Our New Look

ICT continues to answer the call of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in raising greater awareness of the Tibetan issue all over the world, engaging, encouraging, and empowering our members to join us in fighting for peace and human rights in Tibet. As part of this effort, ICT has set about modernizing how we communicate with our supporters at this pivotal time.

On the occasion of ICT’s 30th anniversary, our organization proudly introduced our new logo, a fresh and modern approach which continues to feature the

flame—the light that we all work together to shine on the plight of the Tibetan people. With a redrawn flame icon, new typeface, and simple graphic, the new logo symbolizes what we stand for through the skillful action of compassion. In recognition of this milestone and your vital support, ICT will release a special 30th anniversary issue of the *Tibet Press Watch* at the end of the year!

We are grateful to longtime ICT member Paul Opperman, and his team at Opperman Weiss, who offered pro bono support in developing this idea.

Tibetan Uprising Day

Tibetans and Tibet supporters around the world took to the streets on March 10th, marking the 59th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan Uprising against the Chinese occupation. The March 10th date also commemorates the mass protests of 2008 that began in Lhasa and spread across Tibet.

This year, demonstrations took place in more than 30 cities, from London to New York City, Tokyo, Sydney, Lisbon, Paris, Mexico City, and beyond. ICT's offices in Amsterdam, Brussels, and Berlin participated in marches at The Hague and in Geneva. At the march on the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC, ICT Director of Tibetan Empowerment & Chinese Engagement Programs Tencho Gyatso read a statement from Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi that said, in part:

"Nearly 60 years ago, the Tibetan people stood defiant in the face of oppression and brutality. Guided by their great faith and dignity, the Tibetan people refused to be silent—and the rest of the world heard their clarion call for freedom and justice...

Today, the abysmal human rights situation in Tibet continues to be a challenge to the conscience of the world. All freedom-loving people must continue to speak out, until every Tibetan man, woman, and child is able to celebrate their heritage and culture, learn their own language, freely practice their faith, and secure the dignity and respect that they deserve."

1. Executive Director of ICT Europe Tsering Jampa speaks at the rally in The Hague, Netherlands.
2. ICT Vice President Bhuchung K. Tsering speaks at the march in San Francisco, California.
3. Geneva, Switzerland.
4. The Hague, Netherlands.
5. ICT Director of Tibetan Empowerment & Chinese Engagement Programs Tencho Gyatso reads a statement from Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi in Washington, DC.
6. Washington, DC.



Rowell Fund for Tibet Announces 2018 Grantees



Top Photo: Tibetan children gather to enjoy a story through HelpWithBooks. Photo by HelpWithBooks. Bottom Photo: Tibetan nuns compete in a philosophical debate event as part of the Tibetan Nuns Project. Photo by Tibetan Nuns Project

The Rowell Fund for Tibet's Board of Advisors will award funds to six projects this year focusing on education, elder care, photography, and archival of Tibet heritage documents. *The Fund* will award a total of \$37,320 for projects throughout Asia in memory of lifelong Tibet supporters Galen and Barbara Rowell, who died in a plane crash in 2002.

As avid mountaineers and outdoor photographers, the Rowells helped bring Tibet and the Himalayas into the public eye. Managed by the International Campaign for Tibet, *The Rowell Fund* continues this legacy, providing grants to Tibetan writers, academics, photographers, and conservationists.

Some of this year's grant recipients include:

- HelpWithBooks (Dharamsala) for a mobile library at the Dhondenling Tibetan Settlement in Karnataka, India
- Tibetan Memory Project (Dharamsala) for digitization of photographs
- Tibetan Nuns Project (Dharamsala) for scholarships for nuns to study Tibetan philosophical debate
- Regional Tibetan Women's Association and RTYC (Nepal) for an elder care program in the community
- Thupten Kelsang (United Kingdom) for a project on Tibetan material heritage

For more information about *The Rowell Fund for Tibet*, visit savetibet.org/about-ict/rowell-fund-tibet.

Self-Immolation Report

Three confirmed self-immolations have occurred since our last report, bringing the total to 153 self-immolations since 2009. Each issue, we present with sadness those individuals who have most recently chosen this act of protest.



MARCH 7, 2018

Tsekho Tugchak, a Tibetan man in his 40s, set fire to himself and died in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba), eastern Tibet, marking the first self-immolation of 2018. It occurred during a time of intense securitization leading up to the anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising, and the tenth anniversary of the 2008 protests that swept across Tibet.

Wellbeing: Deceased

DECEMBER 23, 2017

A young Tibetan man named Konpe set fire to himself and died in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba), close to the site of the first self-immolation in Tibet in 2009. Konpe, approximately 30 years old, was taken away immediately by police. By the next morning he had died, according to two monks in exile in Dharamsala.

Wellbeing: Deceased



NOVEMBER 26, 2017

Tenga, a popular Tibetan monk in his sixties who had worked as a volunteer teacher, set fire to himself and died in Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi), in the eastern Tibetan area of Kham. According to Tibetan sources, he called for freedom for Tibet as he was burning,

and armed police arrived quickly to take his body away. There was an immediate lockdown in the area, with Internet communications blocked.

Wellbeing: Deceased

ICT President Matteo Mecacci was quoted in the *Hong Kong Free Press* as saying, "Since the wave of self-immolations in Tibet began in Ngaba, Tsekho Tugchak's home area, the Chinese authorities have responded by intensifying the military buildup and repression... It is unthinkable that China can continue to block all independent investigations and requests of access to Tibet and impose a regime of fear and repression."

The most up-to-date information and analysis on self-immolations inside Tibet is available at savetibet.org/self-immolations-by-tibetans/.

ICT Staffers from Near and Far Gather in Virginia



Staff members and leaders from ICT's offices around the world converged with the Washington, DC-based team at a conference center near the Shenandoah mountains of Virginia for a professional retreat January 17-20. With the goal of promoting integration and strengthening collaboration between offices, staffers focused on the future of the organization and of advocacy work for Tibet. This energetic gathering provided a plethora of new ideas for ICT's work, and the entire team engaged with enthusiasm!

Remembering Longstanding ICT Board Member Grace Spring, Recent Recipient of the Light of Truth Award

A longstanding board member at ICT, Grace Spring, passed away on March 29, 2018 after a struggle with Alzheimer's. Grace was an artist and activist who for 18 years held a solo vigil every Friday morning in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC. The Board of Directors and staff of ICT feel deep sadness at Grace's passing and continue to hold Grace and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

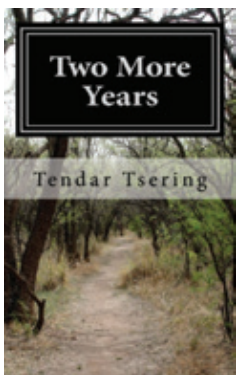


ICT's Board recently honored Grace with the Light of Truth Award, which was presented to her by President Matteo Mecacci at a ceremony on February 17, 2018 hosted by the Vermont Tibetan Association. The award is a Tibetan butter lamp, symbolizing the extraordinary light that each recipient has drawn to the Tibet issue. Previous recipients include Vaclav Havel, Desmond Tutu, and Elie Wiesel.

ICT's Director of Special Programs Lesley Rich, who attended the event, said, "Grace has done things that are so simple and 'small' however they have had a huge impact and meant so much to the Tibetan people... My favorite moment was when Grace arrived at the venue, and all the Tibetans stood up for her. It was a genuine tribute and so moving."

ICT is deeply grateful for Grace Spring's many meaningful contributions in shining a light on the Tibet issue. Her lasting impact will not be forgotten.

Recent Publication of Note: *Two More Years* by Tendar Tsering



Tendar Tsering's slim memoir *Two More Years* (CreateSpace, 2017), as compelling in its narrative as a novella, packs a powerful punch. A child of '80s Tibet, he sets the scene: "I was born in 1985 in a small town on the northeastern side of Tibet, where Mao's Great Leap Forward movement was still prevalent. Everything was censored. Everybody was scared of one another. Suspicion ruled. Trust was nonexistent. Almost everyone was living in fear."

In deceptively simple language, Tendar Tsering is unflinching in his account of his Tibetan childhood; the suffering of his family under Chinese policies; the sacred landscape; the arranged marriage and rape of his cousin; yak, bull and sheep festivals; a ter-

rible incident in which his grandfather is beaten by drunk police for being a follower of the Dalai Lama. Tendar Tsering's account of his escape from Tibet, meeting with the Dalai Lama in person, life in exile, the agony of homesickness, and starting life again in a new country, the United States, is vivid and deeply poignant. A generation of Tibetans have made such journeys, and thousands of them now live in international capitals and communities worldwide, yet they are seldom told, and should be heard. The title *Two More Years* is the answer given to a question from his mother at home in Tibet, when they are finally able to speak via WeChat. "When are you coming home? Was what my mother never missed to ask me, but to their despair, my answer was always, 'two more years.' For years, I had been giving that same answer."

Tendar Tsering's, *'Two More Years: A Memoir'*, 2017, is available for purchase on Amazon.

Tibet Lobby Day

Supporters from Across the Country Take Part in the 10th Annual Tibet Lobby Day in Washington, DC



On March 5-6, 2018, more than 125 advocates from across the country took part in two intensive days of in-person meetings on the Tibet issue with 98 offices of Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill. Supporters traveled from faraway places such as California and Oregon to lobby their elected representatives in Washington, DC.

Following an afternoon of training in lobbying best practices, ICT members met with Members of Congress, legislative directors, and foreign policy staffers in appointments arranged by the International Campaign for Tibet. The primary “ask” this year was passage of the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act*,

a bipartisan bill designed to end China’s restrictive access policies, which prevent American journalists, diplomats, citizens (including Tibetan-Americans), and others from visiting Tibet.

Participants also asked their Members of Congress to sign a Resolution calling on the Trump Administration to fully implement the US Tibetan Policy Act and nominate a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues as a signal to the world that Tibet is a policy priority. They also urged Congress to advocate for the release of Tibetan political prisoners like Tashi Wangchuk, Shokjang—released on March 20th—and others, and to hold China’s leaders accountable for their human rights violations in Tibet. Finally, they asked Members to continue funding Tibet programs in the Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill.

Over 1,700 additional supporters participated in Virtual Tibet Lobby Day by making phone calls and sending thousands of online messages to their Members of Congress, urging them to take action on Tibet via a digital petition.

The International Campaign for Tibet coordinates Tibet Lobby Day in Washington, DC in cooperation with Students for a Free Tibet, and Tibetan Associations across the US, including the Capital Area Tibetan Association.

“Napa is a long way from Washington, DC. However the distance and minor difficulties I face in traveling to DC are a far cry from the difficulties that Tibetans face under Chinese occupation. I hope in a small way my presence and actions had a favorable impact on the legislative process.”

— GEORGE KERR



Together, for Tibet:

1,731

MEMBERS

of our community of compassion

SENT

2,885

MESSAGES

urging Members of Congress

TO STAND WITH TIBET

125

ADVOCATES

went to Capitol Hill and

SPOKE IN SUPPORT
OF TIBETANS

98

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

met with us and

HEARD OUR CALLS
FOR PEACE

Call to Action

Calling All Supporters

Urge Your Members of Congress to Cosponsor the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act*

Help us promote Americans' freedom to travel to Tibet by asking your Members of Congress to cosponsor the bipartisan *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act* (H.R.1872 in the House, S.821 in the Senate). This vital bill addresses the severe limitations on Americans' ability to travel to Tibet by reaffirming the importance of reciprocity in connection to granting Chinese government officials, journalists, NGO workers, and private citizens access to the US.

Our government gives open access to Chinese visitors with an interest in American culture and society. We must insist that Chinese officials allow full access to Tibet in return.

"Since the large demonstrations of 2008, access to Tibet by foreign journalists, diplomats, and NGO's has been either impossible or highly restricted and—

when possible—freedom of movement has not been guaranteed, making Tibet one of the least accessible places in the world to foreign observers," said Matteo Mecacci, President of the International Campaign for Tibet.

This bill would deny access to the United States by Chinese officials who are responsible for creating or administering policies on travel to Tibetan areas until China eliminates discriminatory restrictions on access by Americans to Tibet.

Restricted access to Tibet for foreigners, including Americans, has also raised serious concerns as it has allowed the Chinese government to violate Tibetans' human rights without accountability.

That is why we are asking for your help in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor



Tibet Lobby Day participants from MA meet with Representative Jim McGovern (D-MA), including former political prisoner Ngawang Sangdrol. McGovern co-introduced the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act*, a key policy initiative raised in meetings with representatives during Tibet Lobby Day 2018.

the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act*. **We want to show Congress the strength of our base of support for this initiative, so please sign and return the below petition today!**

We ask all members and supporters to sign and return the enclosed petition to ICT in the attached envelope so that we can deliver them together for maximum effectiveness.

PLEASE CLIP HERE

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS,

I write to ask you to cosponsor the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act* (H.R.1872 in the House, S.821 in the Senate) a bipartisan bill introduced by Congressmen Jim McGovern (D-MA) in the House and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) in the Senate.

The *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act* would promote the ability to travel to Tibet, where access to foreigners is severely limited. The Chinese government rejects most State Department requests for visits to Tibet. The message of this Act is simple: China should extend the same courtesy for Americans to travel to Tibet as Chinese people are given in coming to the United States. Citing the diplomatic principle of reciprocity, the bill would:

- "Ensure that Americans wishing to travel to Tibet have the same degree of access as they do to other parts of the People's Republic of China;
- Enable US officials to provide services to Americans in Tibet without undue hindrance; and

- Achieve these goals by banning entry to the US by Chinese officials who design and implement restrictions on travel by Americans to Tibet, until the Chinese government grants reciprocal access to Tibet.

The freedom to travel is a value reflected in US foreign policy. The US government gives open access to Chinese visitors with an interest in American culture and society. We should insist the same of the Chinese government in regard to Tibet.

I am but one of your constituents who cares about Tibet and the contributions that Tibetan Buddhism has made to our global community. I hope you will take the opportunity to lend your support to the *Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act*.

Thank you,

A concerned constituent

Sign Here _____

Name _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



INTERNATIONAL
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Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Via our websites and social media, you can keep informed about the Tibet movement and the work of ICT. “Like” us, “share” us, and help us spread the word.



Join us for the online conversation at our blog at weblog.savetibet.org.
Visit our website in Chinese at liaowangxizang.net.



“Like” us on Facebook.
International Campaign for Tibet



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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!

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Compassionate monthly supporters help ensure that ICT continues the critical work of shining a light on the injustices being suffered in Tibet—every day, every month, all year long.

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“I always describe that the supporter of Tibetan cause is not pro-Tibetan, but rather pro-justice.”



His Holiness the Dalai Lama recorded a video message of gratitude and encouragement for ICT and its members to mark the occasion of the International Campaign for Tibet's 30th anniversary. Read more on page 6 and view the video message on our website: <http://bit.ly/ICT30Years>.