

Tibet

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PRESS WATCH

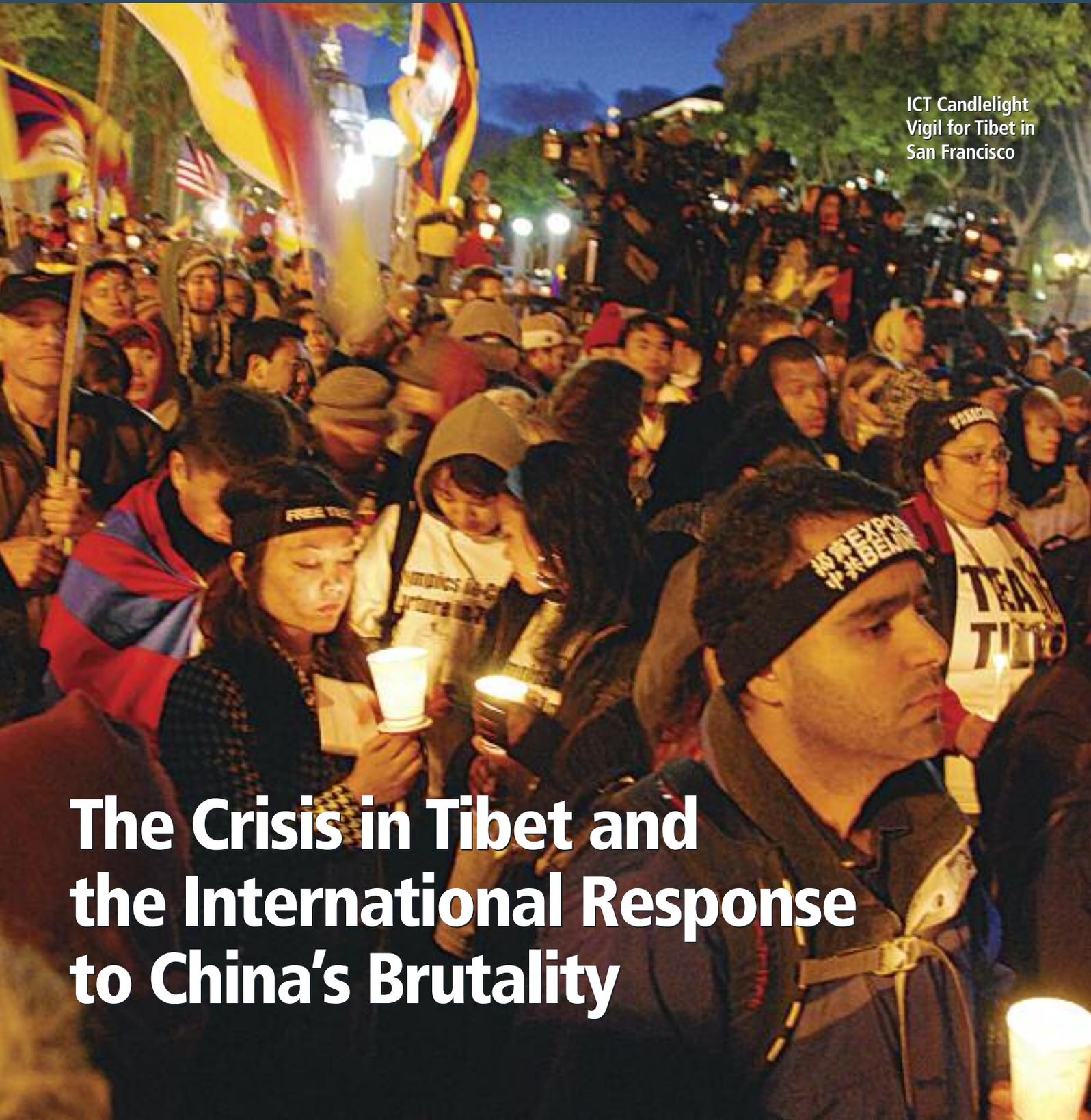
SPRING 2008
*A publication of the
International Campaign for Tibet*

INSIDE:

- Timeline of Tibetan Protests
- Tibet in the News
- Voices: The Presidential Candidates Speak Out



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR **TIBET**



ICT Candlelight
Vigil for Tibet in
San Francisco

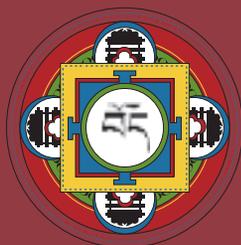
The Crisis in Tibet and the International Response to China's Brutality

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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 membership, please contact Chris Chaleunrath at 202-785-1515, ext. 225, members@savetibet.org, or use the envelope attached to this newsletter to request a call.



The Mandala Society of the International Campaign for Tibet

... as we've been struggling in these past months to help the people of Tibet, I've been struck by some similarities between the U.S. civil rights movement and the plight of Tibetans today.



John Ackerly, 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.

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From the President

Dear Friend,

This issue of *Tibet Press Watch* is devoted to the sweeping protests in Tibet and the international response to the resulting Chinese crackdown. It's filled with facts and information, so I hope you won't mind if I take this moment to make a personal observation.

Before I devoted my career to the cause of justice in Tibet, I was a civil rights lawyer in the American south. As we've been struggling in these past months to help the people of Tibet, I've been struck by the situation's similarities to the U.S. civil rights movement.

The Chinese response to international outrage has been one of resentment. They don't want to be told how to handle "their" Tibetans and seem to believe that their institutionalized racism and repression are an acceptable way to treat the people of Tibet — just as many leaders of the American south insisted that their treatment of blacks was fair and proper.

There comes a watershed moment in any citizen's movement — a point at which a people will no longer accept the excuse of "That's the way we've always done it." At that point, even the most dominant institutions can be overcome. Jim Crow laws are overturned; apartheid is ended in South Africa; the Berlin Wall comes down.

I believe we're closer to that moment now in Tibet.

This March, the Tibetan people — steeped in the proud traditions of compassion and acceptance — rose up to confront their oppressors after decades of abuse. Violent acts were committed on both sides — Chinese immigrants were killed and Chinese shops attacked by Tibetans, and Tibetan protestors were beaten and killed by Chinese police. We condemn the violence on both sides. Perpetrators must be fairly tried. But the incidences of violence must not blur the reality that injustice must be addressed. This is our time to push for peaceful change and a true respect for rights in Tibet — and by so doing, help China grow stronger by confronting its prejudices.

Systemized repression may appear to be immune to protest or change — but we know change is possible. More than that, change is essential, and those who do not take action are unwittingly supporting a brutal status quo.

I thank you for standing with us. Please let us know if you have any questions.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Ackerly". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

John Ackerly

News Round-up: The Eyes of the World

FOR DECADES, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT has implemented heavy-handed policies that undermine Tibetan identity. Large numbers of Chinese immigrants have flooded into Tibet. And China's virulent official denunciations of the Dalai Lama helped to push Tibetans to the breaking point. In March, peaceful protests spontaneously erupted across the Tibetan plateau. The brutal response by Chinese authorities led to violence, imprisonment, death, and the "disappearance" of many Tibetans.

The eyes of the world were already on China in anticipation of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games to be held in Beijing this August — and overwhelmingly, the global response to China's repressions of peaceful protests in Tibet was one of horror and outrage. In the wake of violent repressions of monks in Burma recently, the world press rightly saw the repression of protest in China as an issue of real concern.

The following extracts are a sampling of the widespread attention these protests received in nations around the world. As ICT's Board of Director, Richard Gere has pointed out, it has been challenging in the past to find a forum for discussion of the situation in Tibet — but now the world is watching. Now a tremendous energy has been generated. Now we must pursue every opportunity to keep international attention and interest at a peak in the months before the Games.



The New York Times

OP-ED

CHINA'S LOYAL YOUTH

Matthew Forney in Beijing — April 13, 2008

Many sympathetic Westerners view Chinese society along the lines of what they saw in the waning days of the Soviet Union: a repressive government backed by old hard-liners losing its grip to a new generation of well-educated, liberal-leaning sophisticates. As pleasant as this outlook may be, it's naïve. Educated young Chinese, far from being embarrassed or upset by their government's human-rights record, rank among the most patriotic, establishment-supporting people you'll meet.

As is clear to anyone who lives here, most young ethnic Chinese strongly support their government's suppression of the recent Tibetan uprising. One Chinese friend who has a degree from a European university described the conflict to me as "a clash between the commercial world and an old aboriginal society." She even praised her government for treating Tibetans better than New World settlers treated Native Americans.

Barring major changes in China's education system or economy, Westerners are not going to find allies among the vast majority of Chinese on key issues like Tibet, Darfur and the environment for some time. If the debate over Tibet turns this summer's contests in Beijing into the Human Rights Games, as seems inevitable, Western ticket-holders expecting to find Chinese angry at their government will instead find Chinese angry at them.

Asian Wall Street Journal

TRAGEDY IN TIBET

Robert Barnett — March 17, 2008

Today, Tibetans exist in a shadow world, where criticism of Chinese policies can rarely be spoken for fear of political and professional suicide, or worse. No one



POLITICAL VOICES: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SENATOR BARAK OBAMA

"I am deeply disturbed by reports of a crackdown and arrests in the wake of peaceful protests by Tibetan monks. I condemn the use of violence and call on the Chinese government to respect the human rights of the people of Tibet, and to account for the whereabouts of detained Buddhist monks. If Tibetans are to live in harmony with the rest of China's people, their religion and culture must be respected and protected." —March 14, 2008



Monks demonstrating on March 10, 2008 in Lhasa. Monks throughout Tibet now face an increased 'patriotic education' campaign by authorities targeting the Dalai Lama's influence and attempting to 'restore order' in Tibet.

who has lived in Tibet and speaks Tibetan will have been unaware that Tibetans were hiding deep and unexpressed discontent and fear. Random people would approach me in Lhasa alleyways, sometimes weeping, whispering and begging me to tell the world that the Chinese were denying them freedom, or some such phrase. The only surprise is that after 20 years they dared to take to the streets in such numbers.

All sides have made mistakes. The West has depicted Tibetans as likeable victims, rather than as agents with coherent political agendas that needed urgent answers. The Dalai Lama has been accused by the Chinese of sending mixed signals about his promise to give up independence. The Chinese side has failed to listen to the warnings of their own advisers, let alone those opinions offered by Tibetans and outsiders.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE/OP-ED **TURNING POINT FOR TIBET**

Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari — April 3, 2008

As the representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in talks with the Chinese leadership since 2002, I have been deeply fearful that such events would come to pass. But none of us imagined the scale of the protests, given China's tight control in Tibet.

The protests that we have seen among my Tibetan compatriots are not only a result of several years of hard-line policies by Beijing. They have deeper roots, arising from 50 years of Chinese misrule. I salute the



POLITICAL VOICES: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON

"I am deeply concerned about the violent clashes that erupted in Lhasa. Based on the limited information available, there is an urgent need for all parties, and in particular the Chinese security forces, to exercise restraint, to demonstrate respect for human rights and to protect civilians from danger. I call on the Chinese government to prevent further escalation and to urgently pursue resolution through peaceful means." —March 15, 2008

courage of my compatriots, who, through risking their lives and their freedom, have exposed the bankruptcy of China's Tibet policy and the strength of Tibetan identity.

We are profoundly moved that several Chinese intellectuals have bravely raised their voices in China in response to the way Beijing is handling development in Tibet. The world is watching.

FINANCIAL TIMES

DALAI LAMA'S INTERNATIONAL PROFILE ENRAGES BEIJING

Richard McGregor in Beijing — March 16 2008

Beijing has depicted the violent protests in Tibet over the past week as the product of a dark conspiracy, led by the Dalai Lama, and abetted by foreign forces which want to "split" China and sabotage the 2008 Olympics.

"Now the blaze and blood in Lhasa has unclad the nature of the Dalai Lama, it's time for the international community to recheck their stance towards the group's camouflage of non-violence, if they do not want to be willingly misled," the Xinhua report said.

Such hectoring missives typify the Chinese response, which has been to place the protests firmly in the context of the wider sovereignty dispute, the most sensitive issue for the ruling communist party.

We are profoundly moved that several Chinese intellectuals have bravely raised their voices in China in response to the way Beijing is handling development in Tibet. The world is watching.

—Lodi Gyaltsen Gyari

Associated Press

TIBETAN PROTESTS ESCALATE INTO VIOLENCE

Tini Tran — March 14 2008

BEIJING (AP) — Protests led by Buddhist monks against Chinese rule in Tibet turned violent Friday, bathing Lhasa in smoke from tear gas, bonfires and burned shops, and posing a challenge to China on whether its image can withstand a harsh crackdown ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

Eyewitness accounts and photos posted on the Internet portrayed a chaotic scene in Lhasa, the provincial capital, with crowds hurling rocks at security forces, hotels and restaurants. The U.S. Embassy said Americans had reported gunfire. U.S. government-funded Radio Free Asia reported two people killed.

The Washington Post

TIBETAN OFFICIALS ISSUE STERN WARNING IN ADVANCE OF OLYMPIC RELAY

Jill Drew — April 25, 2008

BEIJING, April 24 — Tibetan government authorities warned Thursday of severe consequences for anyone who spreads rumors that "excite popular feelings," as the region braces for the arrival of the Olympic torch sometime in the next couple of weeks.

Chinese officials are sticking to a controversial plan for torchbearers to bring the Olympic flame over the top of Mount Everest and into downtown Lhasa, the Tibetan capital and the scene last month of deadly rioting against Chinese rule.

We note with sorrow the passing of two good friends of Tibet.

Representative Tom Lantos

1928-2008

CONGRESSMAN TOM LANTOS, the first Congressman to invite the Dalai Lama to speak in Washington, DC and one of the main architects of the United States government's policy on Tibet, passed away on the morning of February 11, 2008. He was 80 years old.

Congressman Lantos was elected to Congress in 1980 and was serving his 14th consecutive term when he passed away. During his political career, which he pursued after a long and successful career in academia, he was known as an impassioned supporter of a broad range of social issues, most of which he was drawn to through his strong commitment to human rights. His championing of human rights throughout the world was a prominent feature of his tenure on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which he served as the senior Democratic member since 2001, and as its Chairman since 2007. He also founded and co-chaired the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983.



Congressman Tom Lantos, who was fundamental to securing the Congressional Gold Medal for the Dalai Lama, joins with his wife in greeting His Holiness in the Capitol before the award ceremony.

Congressman Lantos was a steadfast friend of the Tibetan people, and particularly of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He leaves a lasting legacy for Tibet with his leadership in institutionalizing the issue of Tibet.

ICT Board Member Julia Taft

1943-2008

BOARD MEMBER JULIA VADALA TAFT passed away on March 15, 2008. She was the State Department's Special Coordinator on Tibetan Issues, and had the knowledge and skills not just to understand the problems facing Tibet but also the best ways to work effectively with the U.S. government.

Ms. Taft was widely recognized as a top crisis manager for her work with refugee protection and disaster relief efforts around the world. Beginning in the 1970s, she coordinated major refugee resettlements in the United States and around the world, and worked on dislocations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Armenia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, and Sudan.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton appointed her Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration,

a post she held for four years. In 1999, she was named to the additional post of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to promote dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government. We will miss her sound advice, warm concern, and impassioned determination.



Julia Taft was tireless in her decades-long mission to help refugees around the world, and brought a very personal commitment to her work with ICT.

Peaceful Protests, Violent Responses

Political Upheaval in Tibet at the Hands of the Chinese Government



MARCH 10, 2008: A Tibetan protester after he was beaten by Kathmandu police during demonstrations, and (right) Kathmandu police drag away a Tibetan protester.

Chronology of Events

For reasons of space, this chronology is significantly shortened. It's important to note that each protest required every participant to willingly accept the risk of a beating, the overwhelming brutality of a Chinese prison, or death as the potential price for expressing their opinions and demanding their rights.

MONDAY, MARCH 10: Four apparently unrelated protests occur — two in Lhasa (conducted by the monks from the Drepung and Sera Monasteries), and two in Qinghai Province, which borders Tibet (by the monks of the Lutsang and Ditsa Monasteries). Protestors shout pro-Tibetan independence slogans, distribute leaflets, and raise the banned Tibetan national flag. Police stop the Qinghai protests; police in Lhasa arrest participating monks and reportedly beat them. Police and paramilitary police block roads and encircled other monasteries around Lhasa to prevent the protests from growing.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11: A peaceful protest staged by 600 monks from Sera monastery calls for the release of monks from Sera and Drepung. Thousands of armed police and military personnel use batons and tear gas on protesters. Water supplies to Lhasa monasteries are cut, driving the basic life condition of the monastery into a critical phase.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12: Protests spread to Chutsang Nunnery (on the west side of Lhasa) and Gaden Monastery (about 30 miles east of Lhasa). Police turn back the nuns as they march, and surround and seal off the monastery.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13: All monasteries in Lhasa under lock-down. Protests erupt at Chutsang Nunnery, Drepung and Sera Monastery, and among students at Tibet University. Police reportedly arrest around 500 students from Tibet University. Reports of deaths inspire global requests for Chinese restraint.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14: Tibetan citizens are angered when monks from Lhasa's Ramoche

The Situation in Tibet

On March 10th of this year, a group of monks demonstrated in support of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Tibet. This lone peaceful protest in Lhasa rapidly spread across the nation in a pan-Tibetan assertion of rights — and incurred a brutal crackdown by Chinese authorities. The frustration that boiled over in March dwarfs any recent protests in Tibet, and featured not only monks and nuns in urban centers but also nomads in the east and northeast, students in Beijing, and people of all ages — including many young men and women, who came of age long after the Dalai Lama had been forced to flee in 1959.

As tensions grew and violence spread, the result was the deaths of both Tibetans and Chinese. It may be a long while before credible casualty figures emerge, and current estimates vary wildly. The Chinese government talks of around 20 dead, all of which are said to be Chinese. The Tibetan government-in-exile has claimed the Tibetan death toll to be more than 100. Chinese propaganda has inspired an ultra-nationalistic fervor among ethnic Chinese, and portrayed the Tibetans as the source of the violence.

A serious review of China's Tibet policy is now due, coupled with a forward-looking approach. It is past time to abandon the reigning principle that only the use of force will allow Beijing to establish some form of normalcy in the Tibetan areas of China. Wise counsel is required to prevail in order that this Tibetan uprising, as tragic as it has been, will result in a positive outcome for both the Tibetans and the Chinese.



POLITICAL VOICES: UN SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

"I have been closely following the recent development of the situation in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. I am increasingly concerned about the tensions and reports of violence and loss of life in Tibet and elsewhere. At this time I urge restraint on the part of the authorities, and call on all concerned to avoid further confrontation and violence, and I stress the importance of a peaceful resolution." —March 17, 2008

temple are beaten by police. Thousands of people protest, burning and destroying symbols of Chinese authority. Armed soldiers and armored carriers are deployed throughout Lhasa. Reports say police and armed soldiers open fire and use tear gas. All main roads are sealed and a curfew is imposed. Foreign news reporters are asked to leave.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15: Regular forces deploy in Lhasa, house-to-house raids begin. According to reliable sources, 600 people are arrested. State-run website posts announcement warning the "rioters" to give themselves up. Protests spread to Labrang and Hezuo as well as villages neighboring Lhasa; police and military respond with violence.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16: Violence has not dampened the protests or their spread. Chinese authorities respond with lethal force to protests at Amdo Ngaba Kirti Monastery in Ngaba County (at least seven are killed). Protests spread to Rong Gonchen Monastery in Rebkong County, at the North Western Nationality University in Lanzhou, and in Machu County. Students at Marthang Nationality Middle School erupt into a spontaneous demonstration and call for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

MONDAY, MARCH 17: Protests in Tibet spread to students of the Tibetan Medical College and Teacher Training Higher Institute in Tsoe Township, Kanlho, to Meldrogungkar and Phenpo Lhudnup Counties, to monasteries in Mangra, Chigdril, Toelung Dechen, Dzoge, and Rongren Counties, and to Pangsa Monastery in Lhasa municipality. In almost all instances, citizens join with monks and nuns in protest.

Around 200 Tibetan students hold a six-hour silent vigil in Beijing to honor the courage of Tibetan protestors in Tibet. Beijing University requires minority students to fill out pledges not to participate in any protests.

TUESDAY, MARCH 18: Protests continue to spread across Tibet, with demonstrations at Choephel Shing Monastery in Chone County, Sertha County, Kardze, at Bora Monastery in Sangchu County, at Kakhamey Monastery in Kanlho, Gansu Province, in Lithang County, at

Achok Tsenyi Monastery in Marthang County, at Tsang Monastery in Yulgan County, and in Chabcha, Tsolho Prefecture in Qinghai Province.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19: Mass arrests continue in Lhasa. Nomads and farmers stage a protest in Luchu County.

THURSDAY, MARCH 20: Pro-Tibetan protesters in Kiku (in China's Serthar County) are killed by Chinese security forces as the Chinese attempted to remove a raised Tibetan "snow lion" flag from the government offices. Monks from Serthar Sera Monastery (also in Serthar County) protest the killings.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21: Armed police surround Tarthang Monastery in Jigdril County and close off all access to the town.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22: Despite the deaths, arrests, and violence by the Chinese government, Tibetans continue to find the courage to protest. Demonstrations occur in Chentsa County, in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and at the Palyul Darthang Monastery in Amdo Golog, in Qinghai Province.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23: Protests occur in Chentsa County (Qinghai Province, China) and at Serlho Monastery in the Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.

MONDAY, MARCH 24: Protests by Chokri Monastery and Ngyoe-go Nunnery in Drango County. In Shigatse, police were ready for the monks of Tashilunpo Monastery — the religious seat of the Panchen Lama — and turned back their peaceful demonstration.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25: Monks from a monastery in Drango County protest the murder of an 18-year-old monk in the previous day's demonstration. Monks and citizens march to the county's market square, where security forces open fire. Death totals are unconfirmed.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26: Arrests are made in Drango County. Chinese government conducts a carefully-orchestrated tour of Lhasa for foreign journalists during which brave Tibetans accepted the fate of arrest for speaking truthfully to the reporters.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28: Governmental crackdowns have finally capped outward signs of unrest. Over 100 monks are arrested from Ngaba Kirti Monastery in Ngaba County.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29: First sentences for "rioters" are handed down. One monk is sentenced to life in prison, two receive 20 years. At least one prisoner is seated at the trial, which may mean he is unable to stand after torture.

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK: Drango County, Tibet Autonomous Prefecture

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26: In an apparent measure to bring Tibetans in the area under control, the authorities called for a Getse Township meeting during which the residents were ordered to denounce and criticize the Dalai Lama and the "separatist forces." Ama Tsanglo, an elderly woman, steadfastly refused to abide by the order and called for the early "return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet." In response, the Township Party Secretary beat her brutally as she cried out, "I will never denounce the Dalai Lama. Even if you kill me today I won't have any regrets." Unable to watch his mother being mercilessly beaten, her son sprang from the crowd and attacked the Party Secretary. At last report, both the Secretary and Ama Tsanglo had been hospitalized. The whereabouts of the son are unknown.



PARIS PHOTOS © VINCENT METTEN

On the relay route of the Olympic Torch through Paris, members of the French Assembly gathered behind a banner reading "Respect Human Rights in China" and displayed Tibetan flags (which are forbidden in Tibet).

The World Responds to China's

IN CHINA

Leading Chinese intellectuals and writers bravely defied the fervent ultra-nationalism of the Chinese Communist Party by releasing a petition in the wake of the Tibetan emergency. Entitled "Twelve Suggestions for Dealing with the Tibetan Situation," it urges the government to stop its violent repressions in Tibet and end its anti-Tibet propaganda among the Chinese people.

"The one-sided propaganda of the official Chinese media is having the effect of stirring up inter-ethnic animosity and aggravating an already tense situation. This is extremely detrimental to the long-term goal of safeguarding national unity."

The authors noted that while past protests in Tibet have been limited to Lhasa, the current emergency has spread across Tibet.

"This deterioration indicates that there are serious mistakes in the work that has been done with regard to Tibet. [China's leaders] must reflect upon this matter, examine their failures, and fundamentally change the failed national policies."

The letter urges dialogue between Chinese leaders and the Dalai Lama so as to "eliminate animosity and bring about national reconciliation." It pleads for calm and reflection in China.

IN FRANCE

Protesters at the Eiffel Tower lined the Olympic Torch route with waving Tibetan flags and calls for justice. Members of the French Assembly stood in their sashes of office behind a sign reading "Respect Human Rights in China." The positive public response to the protests astonished event planners and some parts of the planned program were cancelled in response.



Pro-Tibetan supporters filled the plaza before the Eiffel Tower. The city of Paris later made the Dalai Lama an honorary citizen.



Thousands gathered in San Francisco, the only North American stop for the Olympic Torch.

PHOTO © STEVE RHODES

Brutality

IN DHARAMSALA

The U.S. Speaker of the House (and long-time ally to Tibet) led a ten-member delegation of Members of Congress to Dharamsala, where they met with refugees and discussed the situation in Tibet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Tears were shed, friendships were strengthened, hearts and minds were changed — and we hope for more support in the U.S. Congress as a result. The first step, an important House Resolution, is discussed below.

IN WASHINGTON, DC

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, with the members of a bipartisan congressional delegation that met with His Holiness in Dharamsala, introduced House Resolution 1077 on April 3, which calls on China to cease the crackdown, release protestors, provide
(continued on next page)

Speaker for Justice: *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

"I bring you greetings from your sisters and brothers in ... the free South Africa, the democratic South Africa. I want to remind you that it was people like you who demonstrated on our behalf, it was people like you who boycotted South African goods on our behalf. It was people like you who held demonstrations and vigils. It was people like you who were ready even to be imprisoned on our behalf. And today apartheid — which at the time looked invincible — is destroyed. On behalf of all of our people, I want to say a very big thank you to the people who helped us to become free. I thank you for continuing that tremendous tradition to stand for freedom."

Speaker for Justice: *Richard Gere*

"The torch is going through China and around the world, co-opting the idea of harmony, to push a political position which includes the abuse of not only China itself but also Tibetans. This is a fraud. There is no genuine harmony without hope, without truth, without the ability to speak openly, without the freedoms of religion, expression, and culture."



POLITICAL VOICES: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SENATOR JOHN McCAIN

"The tragedy in Tibet should draw the attention of the world. I deplore the violent crackdown by Chinese authorities and the continuing oppression of those merely wishing to practice their faith and preserve their culture and heritage. I urge the Chinese authorities to ensure peaceful protest is not met with violence, to release monks and others detained for peacefully expressing their views and to allow full outside access to Tibet." —March 18, 2008

unfettered access to journalists and independent international monitors to Tibet, and engage in a results-based dialogue with the Dalai Lama. The resolution also cites the Tibetan Policy Act which calls for an official U.S. government presence in Lhasa.

IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Chinese government planned a route for the Olympic Torch that touched North America only once — in San Francisco, on April 9th. The International Campaign for Tibet, in collaboration with nearly a dozen other groups, held a candlelight vigil and rally the evening before, attended by thousands — including journalists from most major news outlets. Speakers included actor/activist Richard Gere (chair of ICT's Board of Directors) and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

At the rally, two American Olympians — their gold medals shining in the chilly evening light — entered the crowd to light candles for the participants. As the flames slowly spread from person to person throughout the crowd, a true spirit of Olympic brotherhood and solidarity went along.

Majora Carter, a torch bearer in the relay through San Francisco, spoke at the rally and did her best to express her support for Tibet without warning anyone of her bold plan; the following day as she prepared for her turn carrying the torch, she tucked a Tibetan flag inside her sleeve. As she was running the route, surrounded by Chinese handlers, she pulled the flag out and waved it for about five seconds alongside the Olympic torch until the Chinese noticed and forced her to surrender the torch.

Overwhelmed by the intense public protests, police and Olympic officials canceled many of the planned torch ceremonies and changed the torch's route without notice. As demonstrators waited along the announced route in vain, the runners carried the torch down a different street some two miles away. After four miles, the torch was carried onto a bus to the airport for the next leg of its journey to South America.

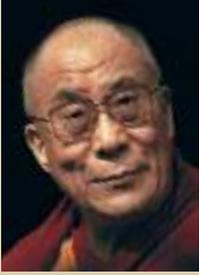


Archbishop Desmond Tutu and ICT Board Chair Richard Gere speaking to Tibet supporters in San Francisco during ICT's April 8th candlelight vigil.



Protesters from around the globe traveled to San Francisco to participate in pre-Olympic torch relay events. On April 8th, they marched from City Hall to the Chinese Consulate and back to United Nations Plaza for ICT's evening rally and candlelight vigil.

PHOTOS © STEVE RHODES



Messages of Peace

from His Holiness the Dalai Lama

March 14, 2008

I am deeply concerned over the situation that has been developing in Tibet following peaceful protests in many parts of Tibet, including Lhasa, in recent days. These protests are a manifestation of the deep-rooted resentment of the Tibetan people under the present governance.

As I have always said, unity and stability under brute force is at best a temporary solution. It is unrealistic to expect unity and stability under such a rule and would therefore not be conducive to finding a peaceful and lasting solution.

I therefore appeal to the Chinese leadership to stop using force and address the long-simmering resentment of the Tibetan people through dialogue with the Tibetan people. I also urge my fellow Tibetans not to resort to violence.

—THE DALAI LAMA

March 28th, 2008

AN APPEAL TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE FROM HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA

... I am deeply saddened by the loss of life in the recent tragic events in Tibet. I am aware that some Chinese have also died. I feel for the victims and their families and pray for them.

Chinese brothers and sisters, I assure you I have no desire to seek Tibet's separation. Nor do I have any wish to drive a wedge between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples. My primary concern is to ensure the survival of the Tibetan people's distinctive culture, language and identity. As a simple monk who strives to live his daily life according to Buddhist precepts, I assure you of the sincerity of my motivation.

Since ancient times, Tibetan and Chinese peoples have lived as neighbors

... Since Buddhism flourished in China first before it arrived in Tibet from India, we Tibetans have historically accorded the Chinese people the respect and affection due to elder Dharma brothers and sisters.

Instead of cultivating enmity towards the Chinese leaders responsible for the ruthless suppression of the Tibetan people, I prayed for them to become friends, which I expressed in the following lines in a prayer I composed in 1960, a year after I arrived in India: "May they attain the wisdom eye discerning right and wrong, and may they abide in the glory of friendship and love." Many Tibetans, school children among them, recite these lines in their daily prayers.

This year the Chinese people are proudly and eagerly awaiting the opening of the Olympic Games. I have, from the start, supported Beijing's being awarded the opportunity to host the Games. My position remains unchanged. China has the world's largest population, a long history and an extremely rich civilization. Today, due to her impressive economic progress, she is emerging as a great power. This is certainly to be welcomed. But China also needs to earn the respect and esteem of the global community through the establishment of an open and harmonious society based on the principles of transparency, freedom, and the rule of law.

Chinese brothers and sisters — wherever you may be — with deep concern I appeal to you to help dispel the misunderstandings between our two communities. Moreover, I appeal to you to help us find a peaceful, lasting solution to the problem of Tibet through dialogue in the spirit of understanding and accommodation.

With my prayers,
DALAI LAMA

April 2nd, 2008

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the world leaders, Parliamentarians, NGOs and public who have expressed their concern over the recent deeply saddening and tragic events in Tibet. We are also grateful for their efforts in persuading the Chinese authorities to exercise restraint in dealing with the peaceful protesters, while at the same time calling for meaningful dialogue to resolve the issue.

I ... appeal for your continued support in calling for an immediate end to the current crackdown, the release of

Chinese brothers and sisters ... I appeal to you to help dispel the misunderstandings between our two communities.

all those who have been arrested and detained, and the provision of proper medical treatment. We are particularly concerned about the provision of adequate medical facilities, as there are reports of many injured Tibetans being afraid to go to Chinese-run hospitals and clinics.

I would also request you to encourage the sending of an independent international body, to investigate the unrest and its underlying causes, as well as allow the media and international medical teams to visit the affected areas. Their presence will not only instill a sense of reassurance in the Tibetan people, but will also exercise a restraining influence on the Chinese authorities.

—THE DALAI LAMA



VOICES OF FAITH: ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU ON BEHALF OF THE ELDERS

"The people of Tibet . . . have long sought autonomy, and chosen negotiation and mediation. They now turn to protest. The Chinese government should . . . find a non-violent solution. That solution is offered by our friend and brother His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who has never sought separatism, and has always chosen a peaceful path. We strongly urge the Chinese government to seize the opportunity for meaningful dialogue." —April 2, 2008

Ways to Support Tibet and ICT

Become a Friend of Tibet!

Join the *Friends of Tibet* — an exclusive inner circle of supporters who pledge to make a contribution of \$10 or more each month, providing ICT with a steady and reliable source of income in support of human rights in Tibet.

To become a *Friend of Tibet* by automatic credit card deduction or through a pre-approved electronic transfer from your bank account, please visit our web site at www.savetibet.org/FriendsofTibet

Give the Gift of ICT Membership

Give a friend or loved one the chance to make a difference — Please include with your donation the name and address of the person on whose behalf you are making this gift. We will then send a card notifying the recipient of your donation. Please also include your name and address so we can acknowledge your contribution.

Gift recipients are entitled to ICT's newsletter, the *Tibet Press Watch*, and other member benefits.

Plan on Long-Term Support!

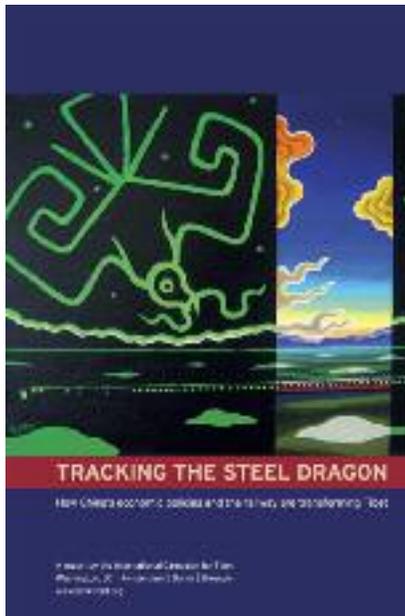
Your commitment to the people and culture of Tibet can outlive you when you make a planned gift to ICT from your estate. Those who put ICT in their will, make a gift of stocks, retirement funds, or real estate — or participate in our gift annuity — are inducted into our Mandala Society to honor that commitment.

For more information on any of these support options, please call 202-785-1515 or email members@savetibet.org.

Recent Reports from ICT:

Tracking the Steel Dragon

How China's economic policies and the railway are transforming Tibet

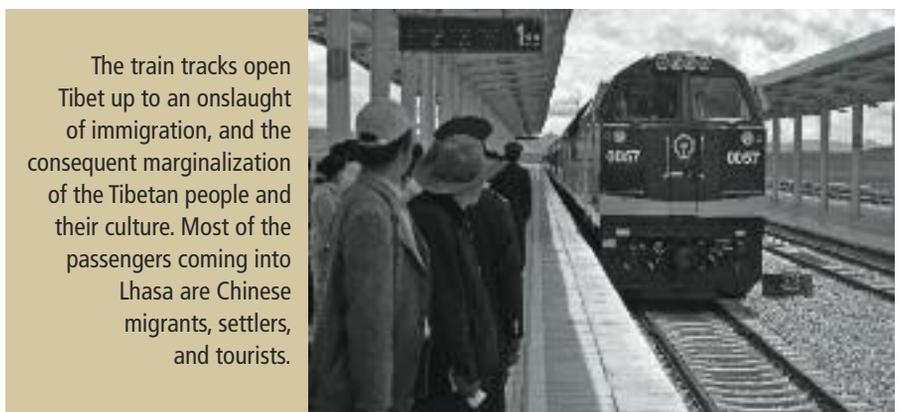


ICT's latest groundbreaking report explores the alarming impact of the new railway on Tibet's land and people through first-person testimony, official documentation, original writings by Tibetans and Chinese, and compelling new photography.

The railway across the Tibetan plateau — the highest railroad in the world — is a tool of China's economic policies imposed on the lives of Tibetans. The trains have brought a significant influx of Chinese people to the plateau, which intensifies the rate at which Tibetans are marginalized in their own country. The increased ease in access has also caused a boom in tourism and real estate in Lhasa — leading to real fears about the survival of the distinct Tibetan cultural identity.

Further, the railway is affecting Tibet's fragile high-altitude environment, and opening up large-scale exploitation of Tibet's mineral and natural resources — helping to consolidate the investment of foreign corporations for the first time in what Beijing now calls the 'rail economy' of Tibet.

The report is available now for download at www.savetibet.org.



The train tracks open Tibet up to an onslaught of immigration, and the consequent marginalization of the Tibetan people and their culture. Most of the passengers coming into Lhasa are Chinese migrants, settlers, and tourists.

Supporter's Petition to George W. Bush

We are calling for President Bush to take a stand for the Tibetan people and not attend the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics.

Please cut out this petition, sign it and send it to us in the enclosed envelope so that we may present them all together for the greatest impact.

It's time the violence and intimidation tactics stop. The Chinese government must resolve this conflict peacefully and begin a dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

For more than 50 years, Tibetans have suffered under the Chinese government. Today, a climate of fear pervades Tibet. As Tibetans stand up to China, Chinese authorities have stepped up their campaign demanding that Tibetans denounce the Dalai Lama — leading to increased resentment and creating a vicious cycle.

Your voice is essential. We must keep the pressure on world leaders and ensure we know what's truly happening inside Tibet. Tourists have been asked to leave. Journalists have been forced out of Tibet leaving China without witnesses to their strong-armed and deadly tactics.

For more information about other ways you can take action please visit: www.savetibet.org/action/

Dear President Bush,

Nearly everyday a new story of brutality in Tibet surfaces as the Tibetan people stand up for their human rights. Chinese soldiers and police arrest, interrogate and torture Tibetans, including Buddhist monks and nuns.

We know that just recently eight Tibetans were killed in eastern Tibet after police fired into a crowd of several hundred monks and laypeople protesting the Chinese government instituted "patriotic education" in monasteries, which demands that monks denounce the Dalai Lama.

China's response to the tragedy unfolding in Tibet has shown that its human rights policies are not improving, as hoped, in the lead up to the Olympics.

I call on you not to attend the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics. This is not the time to stand next to Chinese leaders.

Sincerely,

NAME

CITY

STATE

If envelope is missing, please mail to ICT Supporter Petition; 1825 Jefferson Place, NW; Washington, DC 20036.



PHOTO © STEVE RHODES

Worldwide Protest over the Chinese Crackdown in Tibet *See Inside for Details*



Bodies of Tibetan protesters killed by Chinese authorities during a demonstration in Ngaba County, Sichuan Province in March. At least 10 people were reported dead after police opened fire on the protesters.