

Tibet

བོད་

PRESS WATCH

- INSIDE:**
- Obama's Role as a Champion of Tibet
 - Tibet in the News
 - ICT 20-Year Timeline

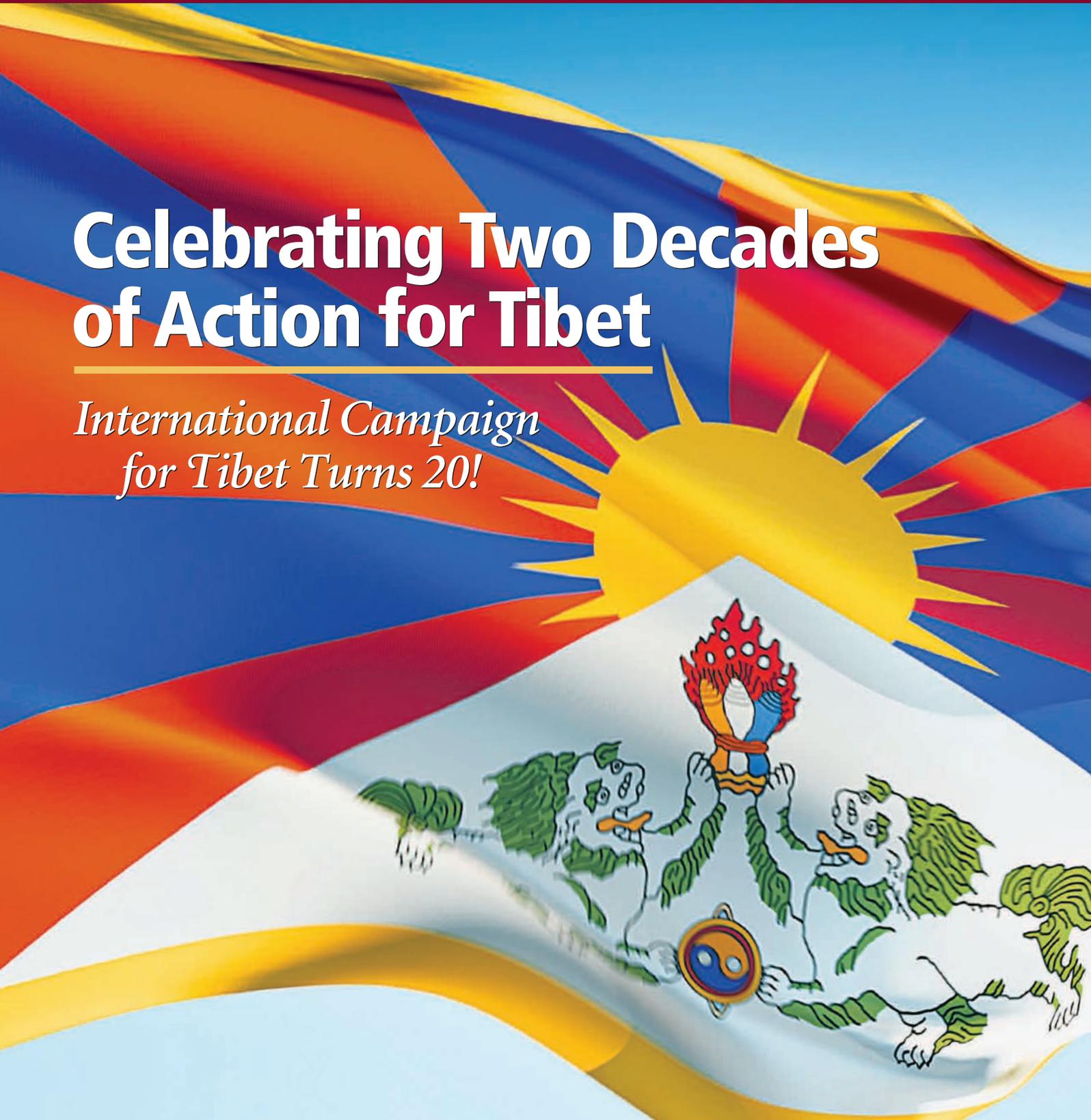


WINTER 2008
*A publication of the
International Campaign for Tibet*

**INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET**

Celebrating Two Decades of Action for Tibet

*International Campaign
for Tibet Turns 20!*



Become a
Friend of Tibet

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

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

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

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

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



You Can't Buy a Soda with 33¢ —
But You Can Change a Life



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, and field offices in Dharamsala and Kathmandu.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Gere
Lodi Gyari
Venerable Geshe Tsultrim Gyeltsen
Melissa Mathison
Joel McCleary
Keith Pitts
Mark Rovner
Steve Schroeder
Gare Smith
Grace Spring

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Newsletter Design:
Wm. Whitehead Design

Editorial Support:
Pru Bovee and
Mal Warwick Associates

From the President

Dear Members and Supporters of ICT,

As ICT celebrates our 20th anniversary, we are thankful for all the tangible assistance that, together, we have been able to secure for Tibetans. And we take this moment to reflect on the tremendous challenges ahead. The election of Senator Obama as the President of the United States brings profound hope and expectation of change, domestically and internationally. ICT is already at work to ensure that the Obama Administration continues and broadens current U.S. support for Tibet, and takes new initiatives for the freedom of Tibetans.

One proposal for President Obama from the renowned author Alice Walker touched me immensely because it brought what I consider a Buddhist perspective to the Presidency, and referenced the Dalai Lama:

“A primary responsibility that you [President-elect Obama] do have, however, is to cultivate happiness in your own life ... From your happy, relaxed state, you can model real success, which is all that so many people in the world really want ... A good model of how to ‘work with the enemy’ internally is presented by the Dalai Lama, in his endless caretaking of his soul as he confronts the Chinese government that invaded Tibet. Because, finally, it is the soul that must be preserved, if one is to remain a credible leader.”

In the human rights community, we have high hopes for Obama’s Administration. We want a President who puts human rights in the forefront of foreign policy. We want torture by U.S. security forces and contractors unequivocally outlawed. With an Obama Administration, we can now envision and work toward this change. Senator Obama’s victory builds on the civil rights movement and the personal courage of many who came before him. It is a tremendous step forward for our country and it should give hope and inspiration to oppressed minorities everywhere. It should also challenge those in majority populations to rethink possibilities for healing, and for justice and equality that has eluded many countries.

Many Americans did not expect to see an African American elected to the highest office in their lifetime. Similarly, many Tibetans probably do not expect to see a Tibetan elected—or appointed—to one of the highest offices in China, but many may begin to envisage a Tibetan in the highest position in Tibet—which hasn’t happened since the Dalai Lama was forced to flee to exile nearly 50 years ago.

ICT is already at work to ensure that the Obama administration continues and broadens current U.S. support for Tibet, and takes new initiatives for the freedom of Tibetans.

continued on pg. 6

Tibet Press Coverage

ICT News Round-up

Strong Support Expected for Tibet from Next U.S. President

ICT — The International Campaign for Tibet welcomes the November 4, 2008 election of Senator Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States and anticipates strong support from the Obama Administration for Tibetan issues.

“The Tibetan people will have a friend and strong supporter in President-elect Obama,” said John Ackerly, President of the International Campaign for Tibet. “This is a critical time for the Tibetan issue and we are confident that the Obama Administration will continue the existing support for Tibet and provide new energy for the efforts of the Dalai Lama to engage with the Chinese government. If we build on what Senator Obama has said about Tibet in the past, then we can expect even stronger initiatives from the United States in the future,” Ackerly concluded.

Senator Obama has a strong record of support for Tibet and has met with the Dalai Lama to discuss human rights issues. Senator Obama attended a private Senate Foreign Relations Committee briefing with the Dalai Lama in November 2005



and has featured a photograph of himself with the Dalai Lama from that briefing in the media section of his presidential campaign website. Senator Obama has personally urged Chinese President Hu Jintao to resolve the situation in Tibet through dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, and this spring, when demonstrations spread across the Tibetan plateau, Senator Obama telephoned the Dalai Lama in India to discuss the situation. The Senator subsequently called on the Chinese to show restraint in dealing with the protests. Comments by the Senator on his phone call are available on the ICT website at www.savetibet.org. Senator Obama was also a Senate sponsor of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama Congressional Gold Medal Act, which awarded the nation’s highest civilian honor to the Dalai Lama in October 2007.

The Obama-Biden campaign has pledged to actively engage China on a number of issues, including human rights in Tibet and China’s crackdown on democracy and religious freedom activists. The campaign has pledged to “be frank with the Chinese about such failings and will press them to respect human rights.”

Among the senior foreign policy advisors to the Obama campaign is Gregory B. Craig, the first U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, appointed by then Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in 1996.

Tibetan Exiles Back Dalai Lama, Challenge Talks with China

November 22, 2008

ICT – The Special Meeting called by the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India closed today with a strong endorsement of the ‘Middle Way’ approach, which seeks a genuine autonomy within the framework of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), but also clearly stated that exile Tibetans might take a position seeking independence if results of engagement were not evident “in the near future”.

Many delegates had specifically urged for the Dalai Lama’s envoys not to be sent again for talks to China, a position that has



The November Special General Meeting in Dharamsala was the first-ever of its kind attended by nearly 600 delegates representing senior officials of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, academic and religious institutions as well as civil society, including political and community organizations and one of ICT's researchers based in Dharamsala.

been noted in the final declaration of the meeting. Delegates told ICT that among most participants, there was a recognition of the importance of retaining some form of engagement with China, with many urging increased efforts to reach out to Chinese people, and Beijing was blamed for the lack of results from the latest round of talks, not the Middle Way approach or the Dalai Lama.

The Special Meeting also provided a strong endorsement of the Dalai Lama's leadership. Karma Choephel, Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament, said today: "We re-affirmed that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the sole representative and leader of the Tibetan people. [Participants in] the Special Meeting prayed that he is not to talk about semi-retirement or retirement." Karma Choephel also said that delegates called upon the Chinese authorities to stop the hostile criticism of the Dalai Lama, and re-asserted that he is not to blame for the Spring Uprising, despite Beijing's attempts to do so. He said that there would be no compromise on the issue of non-violence, and that no alternative would be considered.

No Progress in Eighth Round of Dialogue as Chinese Reject Autonomy Proposal

November 10, 2008

ICT — Chinese official Zhu Weiqun today categorically denounced an autonomy proposal presented by the Dalai Lama's envoys during the eighth round of dialogue last week in an uncompromising stance that counters the hopes of Tibetans for genuine autonomy in their homeland.

In the most recent round of the Tibetan-Chinese dialogue (October 31–November 5), the Tibetan side presented the most detailed and substantive document offered by either side in six years of talks: a memorandum that articulated a concept of genuine autonomy for Tibetans within the People's Republic of China. The proposal was specifically requested by the Chinese side in the May 2008 round.

Rather than use the proposal as a starting point for earnest negotiations, the Chinese side summarily rejected it and resorted to well-worn anti-Dalai Lama rhetoric. In an unprecedented press conference in Beijing, Zhu declared that "We will never make a concession" on the Tibet question while simultaneously asserting that Tibetans should "shoulder full responsibility" for "lack of progress."

Dalai Lama's Faith in Chinese Government Grows Thinner

ICT Translation of the Dalai Lama's Statement on Tibet's Future
October 26, 2008, Dharamsala, India

ICT — "We have a truly unique culture of kindness and compassion that can benefit the whole world. Tibet's struggle for truth is not just for the benefit of the Tibetans alone but it will benefit the whole world and it has the potential to improve the lives of the Chinese people as well. The destruction of Tibet's religion and culture will be a huge loss to everyone. Therefore, our struggle is a struggle to benefit the people of both sides.

"The Tibet issue is an issue of the Tibetan people and the Tibetan people need to decide. So on September 14, I said that this responsibility is becoming too difficult and there is no use in continuing it. If I were dealing with someone who was speaking honestly, then I would have no problem, as I can speak and understand reason. But we are not dealing with honesty here.

"I have not lost faith in the people of China but my faith in the present Chinese government is thinning and it's becoming very difficult."

Evidence of Official Discrimination against Tibetans after Protests

October 8th, 2008

ICT — Following nearly six months of protests across the Tibetan plateau since March, there is increasing evidence of ethnic tension and discrimination of Tibetan and Chinese people, due at least in part to misinformation and propaganda by the Chinese authorities that has resulted in an upsurge of Chinese nationalism and hostility against Tibetans. An official notice states that every hotel and public bathhouse is required to check on the ‘circumstances’ of all Tibetan and Uyghur visitors, and their presence should be reported to local police.

This official acknowledgement that Tibetans and Uyghurs are under suspicion simply because of their ethnicity is supported by numerous anecdotal and eyewitness reports of new discrimination against Tibetans and a breakdown in communications among Chinese and Tibetan colleagues in different workplaces, including at government meetings.

Tibetan Protesters without Nepalese Papers Face Removal to India

September 12th, 2008

ICT — 137 Tibetan protesters who were taken into custody by the Nepalese authorities on September 9, 10, and 11 have been handed over to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees with the understanding that those who do not hold valid papers will be sent to India. Thousands of Tibetans have participated in months of protests in Kathmandu, often near the Chinese Embassy, against China’s crackdown in Tibet.

The Nepal government has taken a series of moves against the Tibetan community in Kathmandu, in deference to what it says is Chinese pressure to stop activities by Tibetans that it deems as anti-China. Tibetans perceive themselves as increasingly vulnerable under the new Maoist regime in power in Nepal, and many fear their status will deteriorate further.

From the President *continued from pg. 1*

Racism is widespread in China, yet China’s leaders usually deny the existence of racism and use the sanitized term “Han chauvinism.” Senator Obama’s victory was a sign that once racism is acknowledged and addressed to some extent, it can diminish in extraordinary ways. We have a long way to go, of course, but we can now hope that all countries will now move faster down this road of justice.

The road to Obama’s victory was paved partially by those who believed in non-violence and showed that non-violence can change the history of the United States. President-elect Obama is part of that legacy and demonstrates that change can extend well beyond our borders.

The news of this election has already reached inside prison cells in Tibet, and to the furthest corners of the Tibetan plateau. Tibetans know that someone from a minority that was once viciously oppressed will soon be the president of one of the

most powerful countries on earth.

I had originally intended to leave ICT at the end of this year but the Board has asked me to stay through the spring to facilitate a thoughtful and unrushed search for ICT’s next president. I gladly agreed. I look forward to sharing with you the news of who is chosen as ICT’s next President in the next issue of the *Tibet Press Watch*.

During this holiday season, I hope, in the words of Alice Walker, that you will be a good caretaker of your soul, so that you can also be a positive leader for change in your community — and to help the people of Tibet.

With warmest regards,


John Ackerly

More Tibet News from Around the World



Lech Walesa hosted His Holiness during this recent trip to Poland.

Dalai Lama Urges Government Action on Global Warming

December 8, 2008

KRAKOW, POLAND (AFP) — The Dalai Lama on Sunday appealed to governments to protect the environment against global warming as UN climate talks continued in Poland — and said even his native Tibet was threatened.

“I do have some serious concerns as a result of learning from specialists (that) unless we pay sufficient attention and (adopt) sufficient method of protection ... global warming is really, really very serious,” the Tibetan spiritual leader said.

Governments had to pay sufficient attention to the problem and where necessary make the appropriate steps to protect the environment even if that involved some economic sacrifices, he told reporters in the city of Krakow.

In the Tibetan plateau area “warming is higher than global rate so if present trend will go continuously without serious protection some of these major rivers covering Asia will dry ... billions of human

beings for life depend very much on these rivers.”

UN climate scientists have warned that any global temperature rise beyond a two degree threshold could unleash devastating consequences across the globe.



Snipers are installed on rooftops around Lhasa's most holy site, the Jokhang Temple.

China's Iron Fist Cracks Down to Subdue Tibetan Rebels

The Australian
November 8, 2008

In the ancient back alleys of Tibet's capital, Lhasa, a grim military operation has played out this week, hidden from the eyes of the world. As night falls, hundreds of Chinese troops fan out across this rebellious city, armed with riot shields and assault rifles.

When the sun rises, the soldiers do not melt away, but are replaced by a new rotation of troops. The military stranglehold on Lhasa by day is maintained with one chilling addition — snipers are

installed on rooftops around the city's most holy site, the Jokhang Temple, ready to train their guns on the hundreds of Tibetan pilgrims praying in Barkhor Square below.

In an interview, the vice-governor of the Tibet Autonomous Region, Bai Ma Cai Wang, reveals that China has recently boosted its security presence in Lhasa above and beyond the crackdown that followed the March riots. This is China's first public acknowledgment that it has beefed up its security forces in Tibet.

“In order for Tibet's stability and for people's safety and for people's desire for security and order, the Government has moderately adjusted the presence of the police force on the street,” he says.

Bai Ma says the Government fears a repeat of the March riots, which he says were the work of the exiled Dalai Lama and his supporters. “After the March 14 riots, the Dalai Lama and his followers have speeded up their separatist activities.”

“Smile, We Now Have a File on You” — Internet Cafés Get New Surveillance Device

Reporters Without Borders
October 24, 2008

CHINA — Reporters Without Borders condemns the Chinese government's latest measure to reinforce surveillance of Internet café users, who will henceforth have to have their mugshot taken and their ID card swiped by a Customer Registration Device to be installed in all of Beijing's estimated 1,500 Internet cafés by the end of the year.

More News *cont'd*

For more ICT news
and updates, please visit
www.savetibet.org.

Since September 2007, the Chinese cyber-police have been dispatching online patrols to Internet café computer screens to check on their users. Two virtual police officers called JingJing and ChaCha pop up on the screens every half hour to remind Internet users that the authorities are monitoring the Internet closely. By clicking on the icons, Internet users can communicate with the cyber-police and report violations.

China Keeps Its Tight Grip on Tibetans in Provinces

The National
October 24, 2008

BEIJING — Tibetan people face [continuing harsh conditions] seven months after protests broke out in Lhasa. While there were expectations that the situation would be relaxed following the conclusion of the Beijing Olympics in August, some Tibet analysts have said conditions are actually getting worse.

Guards at numerous checkpoints on motorways leading into these areas — across several provinces of western China that are traditionally home to the Tibetan people — stop vehicles and search Tibetans from head to toe, according to one source. The road between Xining and Lhasa, a nearly three-day drive, is punctuated by no less than 18 police checkpoints.

Streets in such places as Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, are saturated with military police and army, although some have switched to plain clothes and now hide their weapons in cloth bags, following the return of foreign tourists in recent months.



Paramilitary policemen patrol a street in Lhasa in May.

Some of the worst conditions exist at Tibetan monasteries. Jamyang Norbu, a prominent Tibetan writer living in the United States, said the Chinese regard the monasteries “as the source of all problems”. Security people are stationed inside the monasteries to keep an eye on monks. In recent months, small police stations have been built right beside these monastic centres.

Jailed Tibetan Monk Tortured

The Straits Times
October 19, 2008

BEIJING — A Tibetan monk who helped make a film about alleged Chinese repression in his homeland has been freed after seven months in jail but says he was tortured while in custody, the film-makers said. Mr Jigme Gyatso, also known as Mr Golog Jigme, was arrested in March shortly after completion of the film ‘Leaving Fear Behind’.

‘The interrogators beat him continuously and hanged him by his feet from the ceiling for hours and kept him tied for days on the interrogation chair,’ said a statement by the group Filming for Tibet, which produced the film. ‘During the

interrogations he fainted several times due to the beatings.’

Mr Jigme Gyatso was arrested along with film-maker Dhondup Wangchen, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

China’s Plans to Resettle 470,000 Tibetan Nomads

Reuters
October 11, 2008

SHANGHAI — Authorities in the Chinese province of Sichuan plan to spend 5 billion yuan (\$732 million) to settle 470,000 Tibetan herders in permanent houses, state media said, as part of efforts to promote the development of ethnic Tibetan areas.

Of 533,000 herders in the province, 219,000 have no fixed residences and 254,000 are living in shanty homes. Some ethnic Tibetans claim China has been trying to destroy their way of life as a people.

Row with Chinese Police near Kirti Monastery Leaves 50 Tibetan Monks Injured

The Times
September 27, 2008

Fifty monks have been injured and at least four were taken to hospital after clashes between police and Tibetan monks near an ancient monastery that has been under tight security since anti-Chinese unrest swept across the Himalayan plateau in March.

Tibet Benefit Climb Supports Small Grants Program

Pro-Tibet activists said that the incident happened when a monk left the Kirti monastery after obtaining a pass from the authorities. “The returning monk was beaten so badly by the armed police that he was bleeding when he managed to return to the monastery,” the Free Tibet Campaign said. Other monks went to the police station to protest against the treatment of their colleague and an argument ensued. Police said that they would call local authorities to discuss the matter but shortly afterwards two truckloads of armed officers arrived and began to beat the monks.



China-Tibet Theme in Benetton Ad Courts Controversy

Never a company interested in playing it safe, Benetton took out double-page advertising spreads in a number of leading international news dailies showing a Tibetan monk and a Chinese soldier praying face to face under the word “Victims.” The ads, which coincided with the opening day of the Beijing Olympics in August, also appeared in the 74th edition of Benetton’s Colors Magazine. According to Benetton’s Web site, the image “attempts to make a small contribution to dialogue and engagement between Tibetan and Chinese people.”

ICT Staff, Friends, and Members Scaled Wyoming’s 13,770 Foot Grand Teton on August 5.

The annual benefit climb raised more than \$40,000 for a small grants program for Tibetan environmentalists, journalists and others. The climb is run by ICT’s Rowell Fund for Tibet, in memory of Galen Rowell, one of America’s best climbing photojournalists. The climb requires fitness but no previous experience. ICT supporters from age 11 through 79 have participated and have included several father-son and mother-son teams.

Galen Rowell was the co-chair of ICT’s Board of Advisors and a longtime friend of Tibet. Together, Galen and Barbara produced the book “My Tibet” with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and introduced Tibet to countless people around the world. Through photographs and writing they documented and brought attention to many threatened ecosys-

tems and cultures. The Rowell Fund for Tibet gives small grants to Tibetans who are working to promote their culture and environment in the arenas of environmental conservation, photography, humanitarian issues, journalism/literature, and women’s projects. Since 2003, the Rowell Fund has awarded nearly \$250,000.

Pictured here are ICT staff John Ackerly and Tencho Gyatso, world famous climbers David Breashears, Conrad Anker and Jimmy Chin, and ICT supporters Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Arthur Greg Sulzberger, Bill Ackerly, Charlotte Bonilla, Abby Bronson, and others.

Next year’s climb is scheduled for July 25–28, 2009. For more information, see www.savetibet.org/rowellfund or email us at rowellfund@savetibet.org.



ICT friends, members and staff on this year’s annual Grand Teton benefit climb for the Rowell Fund in August.

ICT and Tibet Timeline 1988–2008

The International Campaign for Tibet proudly celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year. For two decades, we have called the world's attention to the injustices and brutality being suffered by the people of Tibet. We've shone a spotlight on China's repressive authority and intervened on behalf of political prisoners. We've worked with and been guided by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and have provided support to Tibetans in exile.

And without exception, our work has been possible only because of the determined and compassionate support of our allies and supporters. This timeline is in great measure a tribute to our members and supporters like you, and how deeply they have been moved by the plight of the Tibetan people.

1988



Tenzin Tethong, ICT's first President, with ICT Board members Richard Gere and Melissa Mathison.

- ICT opens our first office in Washington, DC.
- ICT urges Congress to pass what becomes one of its first resolutions on Tibet, supporting the Dalai Lama's Five Point Peace Plan.
- ICT launches the *Tibet Forum*, the first Chinese language newspaper to reach out to thousands of Chinese in the West and China.
- Hu Jintao appointed as the top Chinese party official in Tibet.

1989

- ICT-formed coalition successful in getting Congress to establish the Tibetan language service of Voice of America and Tibetan scholarships under the Fulbright Program for Tibetan refugees. (ICT advocacy results in continual funding for both programs.)
- China imposes martial law in Lhasa after

massive demonstrations against Communist Party policies in Tibet.

- ICT's major publicity campaign exposes human rights abuses, calls for an end to martial law in Lhasa, imposed by China on March 5.
- The Dalai Lama is awarded the Nobel Prize for peace.
- Thousands of students take to the streets in Tiananmen Square.

1990



Congress approves more than \$1 million for humanitarian assistance for Tibetan refugees. These refugees passing through Kathmandu are among the beneficiaries.

- ICT coordinates efforts to secure the provision of 1,000 immigrant visas for Tibetan refugees.
- Congress provides humanitarian assistance for Tibetan refugees in India and Nepal.

1991

- ICT coordinates a meeting between the Dalai Lama and President George H.W. Bush, the first meeting ever between a Dalai Lama and a U.S. President.
- President Bush signs into law an Act of Congress that includes language declaring Tibet an occupied country under international law.



The 10th Panchen Lama passes away in Shigatse, setting the stage for an historic dispute over his reincarnation.

- Congress assembles in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda to welcome the Dalai Lama and prints the proceedings as a congressional document.
- In Geneva, ICT staff work to help pass a resolution in the United Nations Subcommittee on Human Rights, the first resolution on Tibet in the UN since 1965.
- ICT participates in a major initiative to broaden dialogue between Chinese and Tibetans at a forum held in Virginia.
- The Panchen Lama dies, opening a conflict with China over the appointment of the successor.
- The Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies adopted the Charter of Tibetans in Exile. It transfers the power to select a cabinet from the Dalai Lama to the legislature.

1995



Tibetan women at the UN Conference on Women in Beijing stage a dramatic protest. ICT supported two delegates to attend the conference, Yodon Thonden and Reed Brody.

ities in Tibet to 18 years in prison for espionage. He had been arrested in 1995 during a visit to Tibet to make a documentary on folk music and dance.

- The World Bank proposes to move 58,000 poor Chinese farmers from the eastern half of Qinghai 300 miles west to an area of Tibet called Dulan.

1997



A protest in front of the White House where Jiang Zemin was being greeted. L to R, Lodi Gyari, Bill Shultz, Gary Bauer, Bianca Jagger, Adam Yauch, Nancy Pelosi and Kerry Kennedy Cuomo.

- ICT helps give voice to Tibetan women at the United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing.
- ICT hosts a major visit of the Dalai Lama to Atlanta, Houston, Boston, and Washington, DC.
- The Dalai Lama names a six-year-old boy, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as the true reincarnation of the Panchen Lama. Chinese authorities place the boy under house arrest and designate another six-year-old boy, Gyancaïn Norbu, as their officially sanctioned Panchen Lama.
- China's President Jiang Zemin visits the U.S.

- ICT hosts World Parliamentarian Convention on Tibet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and delegates from 27 other countries.
- ICT coordinates a series of history-making protests of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit to seven U.S. cities.
- The U.S. Secretary of State appoints the first Special Coordinator for Tibetan Affairs.
- The Hollywood films "Seven Years in Tibet" and "Kundun" are released.
- China blocks a UN resolution criticizing its human-rights record for the 7th year in a row.

1998

- ICT coordinates a national Tibet Awareness Campaign around the release of "Kundun" and "Seven Years in Tibet."
- ICT campaigns in the U.S. and in China to ensure Tibet is a prominent topic at the U.S.-China Summit in Beijing. President Clinton publicly calls on Chinese President Jiang

1992



ICT conducts a fact-finding mission to document prisons and labor camps never before photographed.

- ICT mobilizes an international movement at the UN Earth Summit in Brazil to protest funding of international projects which grow wheat in Tibet for Chinese settlers.
- Ogyen Trinley Dorje (7) is enthroned as the 17th Karmapa under an agreement with the Chinese government
- The Dalai Lama announces the Guidelines for Future Tibet's Polity, based on the hope for a negotiated settlement with the Chinese government for full autonomy.

1993

- ICT coordinates the first meeting between the Dalai Lama and President Clinton and Vice President Gore.
- ICT publishes *Nuclear Tibet*, a ground-breaking report on nuclear waste and weapons in Tibet.
- China and the Tibet Autonomous Region establish the Chang Tang Reserve, setting aside at least 109,000 square miles.

1994

- Following ICT advocacy, the State Department includes a separate section for Tibet in its annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*.
- Dalai Lama suspends dialogue with China due to lack of progress.

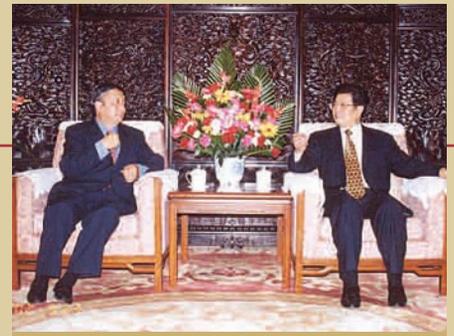
1996



The first of a series of Tibetan Freedom Concerts is organized by the Beastie Boys and the Milarepa Fund.

- After years of effort, Radio Free Asia broadcasts to Tibet, China, and elsewhere. (RFA now broadcasts into Tibet 8 hours every day.)
- ICT releases *A Season to Purge: Religious Repression in Tibet*, highlighting the detention of the Panchen Lama.
- Ngawang Choepel, a musician on a Fulbright scholarship, is sentenced by Chinese author-

2002



Lodi Gyari, Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama, begins dialogue with Chinese officials.

- ICT releases first annual report, *Dangerous Crossing*, examining the reasons Tibetans flee, dangers en route, and situations facing them in India and Nepal.
- ICT helps secure passage of the Tibetan Policy Act through direct and grassroots lobbying. The TPA institutionalizes programmatic and political support for Tibet.
- ICT establishes an office in Berlin, Germany.
- Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and other Tibetan leaders are arrested by the government of mainland China.
- Contacts between the Dalai Lama and Beijing resumé.

2003



Woesser, Tibet's famous dissident writer, is fired from her job in Lhasa and she moves to a safer environment in Beijing.

- ICT helps secure the release to the United States of the longest-held Tibetan female political prisoner, Ngawang Sangdrol, a 26-year-old nun who spent 11 years in Lhasa's Drapchi prison.
- Number of current, active members of ICT's three offices increases to more than 70,000.
- Hu Jintao is chosen to replace Jiang Zemin as the president of China.

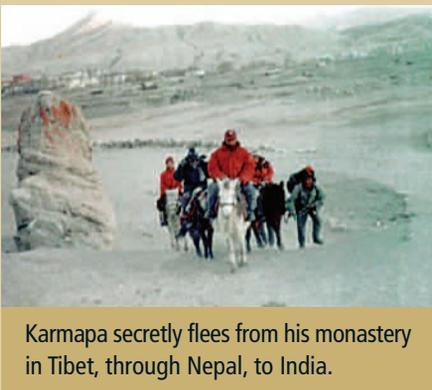
Zemin to meet with the Dalai Lama.

- Five nuns at the Drapchi prison committed suicide after extensive torture.
- China imposes a ban on logging in eastern Tibet due to excess flooding following a half-century of clear-cutting.

1999

- ICT lodges formal review in the World Bank to stop the transfer of 58,000 non-Tibetans onto the Tibetan Plateau.
- The World Bank approves China's plan to relocate 58,000 poor Chinese farmers to land historically farmed by Tibetans.
- In Lhasa, Tashi Tsering, a carpenter, lowers the Chinese flag in the capital and attempts to put up the banned Tibetan flag. He is arrested and dies from beatings while in custody.

2000



Karmapa secretly flees from his monastery in Tibet, through Nepal, to India.



Bhuchung Tsering, Vice President of ICT, addresses a rally in front of the World Bank to halt a Bank funded population transfer.

- ICT and a coalition of partners succeed in mobilizing enough support within World Bank member countries to cancel World Bank support for China's Tibet resettlement project.
- ICT opens its second office in Amsterdam and launches a campaign for the detained Panchen Lama.
- The Karmapa, head of the Kagyü school, escapes from Tibet and arrives in India.
- Gungthang Rinpoche, a senior leader of the Labrang monastery, dies after spending over 20 years in prison for refusing to cooperate with Chinese authorities.

2001



Chinese crack down on monks and nuns at Larung Gar and tighten security on monasteries.

- ICT staff and members successfully sign on more than a hundred House and Senate co-sponsors for the Tibetan Policy Act.
- ICT exposes the massive crackdown at Larung Gar monastery, where thousands of nuns and monks were expelled and their meditation dwellings destroyed by Chinese authorities.
- The UN General Assembly votes to approve the accreditation of the International Campaign for Tibet to the UN World Conference Against Racism.
- The International Olympics Committee awards Beijing the 2008 Summer Olympics.
- President Bush permanently normalizes trade relations with China.



Chinese guards shoot and kill a young nun trying to flee over this pass to Nepal.

2004

- ICT releases *When the Sky Fell to Earth*, an extensive ICT report, with *Devotion and Defiance*, a documentary video, on the crack-down on monasteries in Tibet.
- ICT hosts a roundtable at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva for government representatives and NGOs.
- China deals a crushing blow to Hong Kong's hopes for full democracy when it rules the territory won't have direct elections for its next leader in 2007.

2005

- ICT is awarded the prestigious Geuzen Medal by the Dutch Geuzen Resistance 1940–1945 Foundation.
- ICT releases two special reports: *Crossing the Line: China's Railway to Lhasa, Tibet* and *Dangerous Crossing*, a report documenting conditions impacting the flight of Tibetan refugees in 2004.



ICT moves into its permanent headquarters in Washington, DC.

2006



China completes railway to Lhasa to facilitate population influx and control over the region.

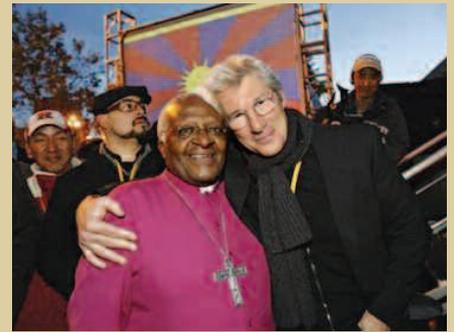
2007



His Holiness, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Bush before the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony.

- ICT arranges for a public address by the Dalai Lama on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol after he accepted the Congressional Gold Medal.
- ICT helps to secure \$2 million for humanitarian assistance, \$600,000 for scholarships, \$250,000 for human rights and democracy initiatives, \$3 million for development assistance, \$500,000 for educational and cultural exchanges, and Radio Free Asia and Voice of America funding to reach inside Tibet.
- ICT's active membership reaches 100,000.

2008



Archbishop Tutu and Richard Gere speak at an ICT organized rally in San Francisco during the Olympic torch relay.



More than 100 demonstrations spread across the Tibetan plateau protesting China's occupation.

- ICT launches emergency mobilization in response to widespread demonstrations in Tibet and the ensuing brutal crackdown.
- ICT launches a campaign around the Olympics to protest the Olympic torch relay, to gain access for international journalists in Tibet, and to highlight human rights abuses during the Olympics.
- Tibetans stage more than 100 primarily non-violent protests all over Tibet five months before Beijing hosts the Olympic Games.
- China blankets Tibetan areas outside of the TAR with troops, bans entry of foreign visitors to all areas of Tibet, and asks tourists to leave following "safety concerns".
- The Dalai Lama convenes a historic, special meeting of Tibetans in Dharamsala. More than 600 delegates attend and endorse the "Middle Way" approach with China.



Visit Us Online ICT Launches New Website

In early December, ICT launched its new, totally redesigned website at www.savetibet.org. The new site features improved navigation and search; a vibrant, streamlined design; a photo gallery on the homepage; and interactive campaigns. The new site also includes expanded areas for media and policy, a Tibet resource center, and direct links to content from our Amsterdam and Berlin offices. In addition, we streamlined the email sign-up and donation pages and added special features that make the action center, upcoming events, and the online store easily accessible.

We're excited about the new site and hope you will visit www.savetibet.org soon. While you're there, don't forget to sign-up for our regular email updates, including the new online version of *Tibet Press Watch!*

Plan to Make Your Support Last!

Mandala Society members make a special commitment to help current and future generations of Tibetans by including ICT in their will or estate plans. Mandala Society gifts help ensure that ICT has resources when needed to help political prisoners, to respond quickly to emergencies and human rights abuses, and to promote a peaceful, negotiated solution for Tibet.

And when Tibetans are afforded the human rights and democratic freedoms they deserve, your legacy will allow ICT to help rebuild Tibet, foster new leadership and act as a critical link to the U.S. Government. For more information, please contact Chris Chaleunrath at 202-785-1515 or by email at members@savetibet.org.

A New Way to Support Tibet!



With the GivingExpress® Online, giving has never been so easy or rewarding

Now you can donate your American Express Membership Rewards® points to ICT. For every 1,000 points donated, \$10 will go directly to support Tibet through ICT's programs, information and advocacy. Giving your points is fast, easy, and available online 24/7. Simply go to www.savetibet.org/rewards and follow the instructions for redeeming Membership Rewards® points to make a donation.

New ICT Social Networks and Digital Tools

More than 300 million people around the world visit MySpace, YouTube, or Facebook each day. It's a staggering figure with big implications for Tibet advocacy organizations.

The International Campaign for Tibet has embraced these new technologies, and we're bringing our advocacy work to the digital frontlines. Since 2007, ICT has successfully launched over a dozen social networking pages, added tens of thousands of new online contacts, and had over 4,000 YouTube videos watched in China. We're off to a great start, but there is much more work to do, and we need your help! Join us on the digital frontlines, and get involved today.



• www.savetibet.org/facebook



• www.savetibet.org/myspace



• www.savetibet.org/youtube



• www.savetibet.org/hi5

Take Action! Campaign 2008

ICT Member Messages for President-elect Obama



Before the 2008 election, we asked members and supporters to tell us what they want the next President of the United States to do for Tibet — here are just a few of your responses!

I want the next president to meet with the Dalai Lama as soon as possible following the election, and to offer unwavering public support for Tibetan autonomy. I want him to encourage the Chinese — through diplomatic and political pressure — to create an autonomous situation for the Tibetans, and to release the spiritual and political prisoners in China who've done nothing but express support for the Dalai Lama and for Tibetans.

— Morty, Jackson Heights, NY

Whoever the next President is, they must make Tibet a priority. Freedom of expression, religion, and culture are some of the very most important values for every American, no matter what their party affiliation. As China grows as a world power, their lack of respect for the most essential human rights is extremely dangerous for China, Tibet, and the rest of the world. Economic growth can only take a country so far; without freedom of expression, religion, and culture for the people of China and Tibet, China will continue to remain unstable.

— Ben, Seattle, Washington

I have three requests for the next presidential administration, that we treat Tibet and its people with the basic dignity and honesty all peoples deserve:

1. Stop exploiting the Tibetan people's suffering for your own political gain. Stop exploiting His Holiness the Dalai Lama as a photo-op. Both parties do it and it's a real disgrace. Either leave Tibet alone and stay quiet and be recognized by the world as a coward, or put real force behind your words. China is calling your bluff, but Tibetans are the ones who lose.

2. Stop patronizing Tibetans by implying that submission to Chinese rule is admirable and that the Tibetan cause is "reasonable" only so long as Tibetans accept successively watered-down "autonomy" proposals and do not assert independence. Recognize and stand up vocally for Tibetans' right to decide their own political future and listen when they speak.

3. Make all of China's future aspirations with the United States, both economic and political, conditional on real, quantifiable and testable on-the-ground changes in Tibet, not token

"feel-good" acts like the release of a high-profile prisoner. At the same time, demand that our allies impose the same level of conditionality on China.

— Rich, Virginia

We need the next president to make Tibet an important priority when they are dealing with foreign dictatorships like China. Tibet has been brutalized for decades and the people need to have their land and freedom back. Tibet is an important issue all around the world and China cannot get away with more brutality there and be expected to become the friend to all. Cleaning up the issue of Tibet with China should be #1 on the agenda for the new president!

— Susan, Los Angeles, CA

Help Tibetans have some say in what is done by the Han in Tibet. Give Tibetans the same opportunities as the Han in Tibet — education, opportunities for employment and advancement. Allow Tibetans to worship the way they want, and to display their flag and pictures of the Dalai Lama.

— Mike

Pass the Word — Help the Planet

When you're finished with this issue of *Tibet Press Watch*, please consider passing it on to a friend instead of throwing it out. Your thoughtfulness will not only ease our carbon footprint in the world, but help to spread awareness about the plight of Tibetans and the mission of peace and compassion of the Dalai Lama. Thank you.

Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled content with soy inks





20th Anniversary Spotlight

ICT has initiated scores of programs during the past 20 years, including the Tibet Youth Leadership Program which brings Tibetans from all over the U.S. for an intensive week of lectures, workshops, trainings and visits to government offices. ICT-Europe hosts a similar program in Brussels for young Tibetans in Europe. Several Tibetans from this program went on to internships or jobs on Capitol Hill, at ICT and at other human rights organizations.