

FALL 2018

INSIDE:

Special Message
from His Holiness
the Dalai Lama

ICT Milestones,
1988-2018

ICT Needs
Your Feedback

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TIBET WATCH



Remembering
Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari



HONORING 30 YEARS OF
ADVOCACY, DIALOGUE & ACTION



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CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

TIBET'S STRUGGLE IS OUR STRUGGLE

Your Support Matters



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Dear Friend,

I would like to begin this letter with a simple word of thanks. As you know, this year we commemorate thirty years of advocacy for the people of Tibet. We are more certain than ever that the successes we have achieved are thanks to supporters like you who have shown steadfast dedication to our cause and unending compassion for our Tibetan brothers and sisters. Please accept my utmost gratitude for all that you do.

In this issue, we take a look back at the history of ICT and the Tibet movement in a special foldout feature. It covers pivotal milestones alongside personal stories and a very special message to members directly from His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The official celebration of our 30th anniversary took place at an inspiring event hosted by our European offices in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in September. Our international staff and Board members came together with His Holiness and thousands of supporters to make it a truly memorable occasion.

2018 has been a strong year for ICT—especially with the recent passage in the House of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, which offers the potential to open up Tibet and shed light on what is happening inside. As we go to press, we are awaiting a vote in the Senate to pass this legislation that could be a change maker in US-China relations.

We have also continued to build our profile at the United Nations, where Board Chair Richard Gere and I held a meeting with the High Commissioner for Human Rights in June. And at an August session of the UN Committee to Eliminate Racial Discrimination, ICT Germany Executive Director Kai Mueller delivered a powerful statement on China's discriminatory policies in Tibet.

Also this summer, ICT facilitated former political prisoner Golog Jigme's attendance at the US State Department's Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, where he spoke about the persecution he suffered in Tibet with Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

This fall, I traveled to Dharamsala to accompany a delegation of Congressional staffers—and had the opportunity to visit with ICT members taking part in a member trip. Soon, I will go to Brussels for a conference with European parliamentarians as we continue our focus on reciprocity and broadening our international outreach.

Sadly, just last month Lodi Gyari Rinpoche, former Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama and Executive Chair of ICT passed away. Lodi was a towering figure in the Tibet movement and played a key role in institutionalizing US Tibet policy. As we mourn his passing, we honor his achievements.

Finally, a time to look back over our 30-year history is also a time to look forward. We close 2018 and begin the new year with a renewed commitment to our work—and a firm sense of the loyalty and generosity of the worldwide community of Tibet supporters.

All of us at ICT wish you a peaceful holiday season and healthy and hopeful new year.

In solidarity,



Matteo Mecacci



Cover Photo: At the ICT 30th anniversary event in Rotterdam, ICT President Matteo Mecacci presented His Holiness with a grant to the Dalai Lama Institute for Higher Education in Bangalore, India, to establish a program in secular ethics. Read more on page 8.

A MESSAGE OF
Thanks and Vision

To ICT Supporters
From His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Firstly, I want to express my deep appreciation. Your organization [ICT] has been, for 30 years, showing genuine support for Tibetan cause. I always describe that the supporter of Tibetan cause is not pro-Tibetan, but rather pro-justice. So your work also, you see, [provides] some sort of help in China proper, to people who are passing through difficult life.

Then regarding Tibetan cause, I think obviously you know we are not seeking independence... I always, you see, admire the spirit of European Union. Think common interest more important, rather than one's own national interest... I am very much willing to remain within the People's Republic of China... [We] are different people, historically different people, with different culture, different language, but we can live side by side, happily as human brothers and sisters.

So now, since 1974 we decided not to seek independence. So now Middle Way Approach, many including United States government—particularly Obama after our meeting—he made a press release officially supporting that. And then, many countries have been supporting that... Then, because we are not seeking independence, separation, a number of Chinese... happily support us. So now time has come... [W]orldwide voice, concern about Tibet, is very relevant.

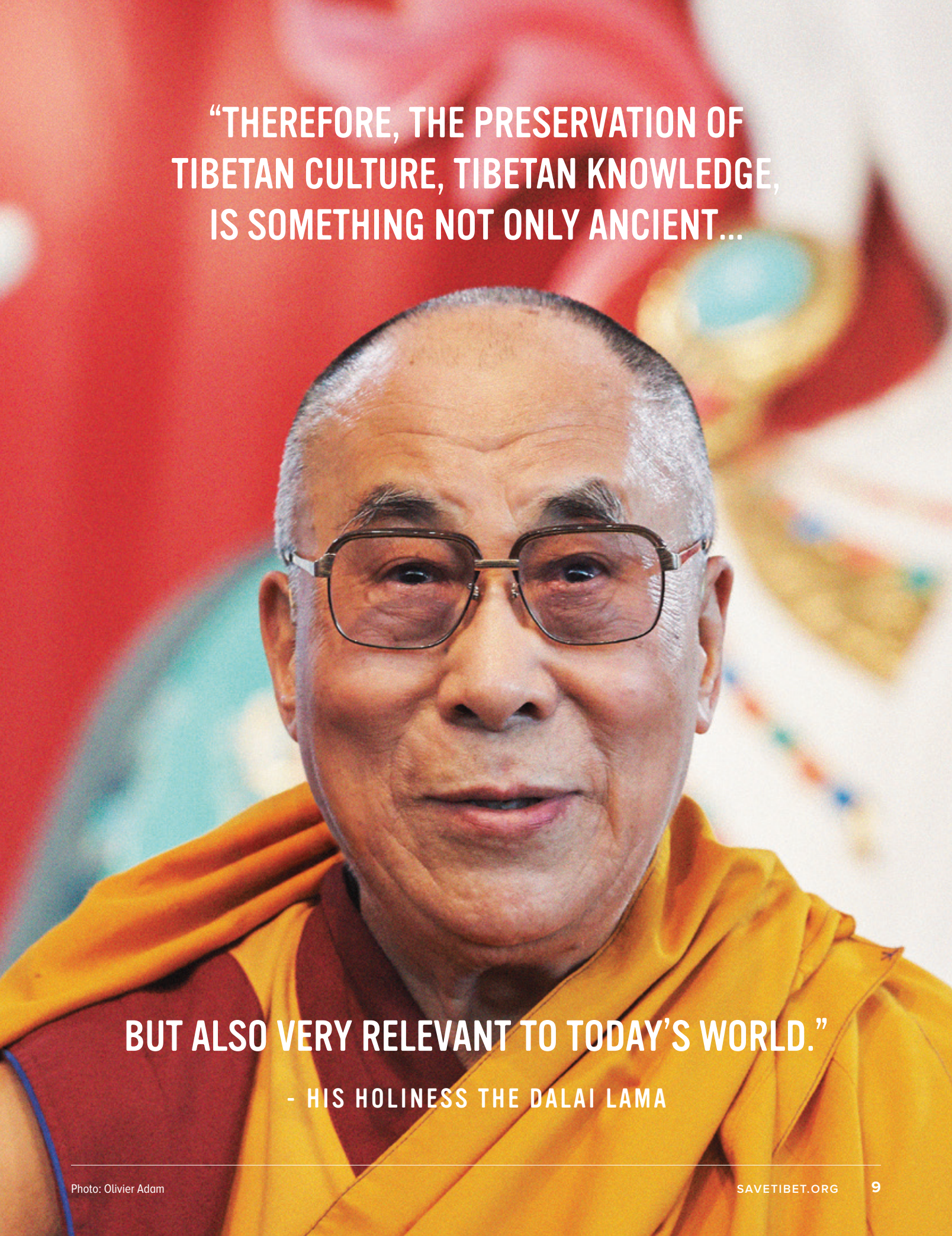
Inside Tibet also, you see, their spirit is very, very strong. And outside Tibet, in free world, wherever Tibetans live, Tibetan spirit is very strong. Similarly, now more and more people, including many Chinese, now showing appreciation about ancient Tibetan knowledge; our knowledge come from India, Nalanda Institution. So now, even scientists are also showing interest.

So therefore living within the People's Republic of China, we can serve, we can help them, and we can share our knowledge... So now, your organization, international organization, please [undertake] still more action or more activities, in different parts of the world, different continent. I think raise awareness of Tibet issue, not only just human rights issue, but culture, too.

So your organization very, very helpful. Now still don't just concentrate on human rights, or some other things, but look at the wider picture of Tibetan issue. I would like you to carry on these.

Thank you very much.

Excerpt of a video recording made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the International Campaign for Tibet. To watch the video or read a full transcript, visit: <http://bit.ly/ICT30Years>

A close-up portrait of the Dalai Lama, an elderly man with a shaved head and glasses, wearing traditional orange and red Buddhist robes. He is looking directly at the camera with a gentle expression. The background is blurred, showing red and yellow colors, possibly Tibetan prayer flags.

**“THEREFORE, THE PRESERVATION OF
TIBETAN CULTURE, TIBETAN KNOWLEDGE,
IS SOMETHING NOT ONLY ANCIENT...**

BUT ALSO VERY RELEVANT TO TODAY’S WORLD.”

- HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO

On March 15, 1988, the International Campaign for Tibet was established to support the Tibetan people's struggle for human rights and democratic freedoms. From a handful of dedicated individuals, ICT has grown into an international organization empowered by the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the dedication of more than 100,000 supporters.

We hope you enjoy reflecting on the stories and moments featured here, as we honor the past 30 years of ICT's work on behalf of the people of Tibet.

1988

ICT OPENS ITS FIRST OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, DC



ICT's original staff and volunteers including John Ackerly (far left), Tenzin N. Tethong, first president, Michele Bohana, founding director, Mac McCoy, Warren Smith and Tibetan volunteers.



John Ackerly first traveled to Tibet in 1987 where he was one of a few Westerners to witness demonstrations by Tibetan monks that were violently suppressed by the Chinese authorities. With no press on site, John returned to the US and widely told his story, including to the *New York Times*. He became a grassroots advocate for Tibet, an original staff member and then president of ICT and currently serves on the ICT Board.



Ackerly's photo of demonstrations in Lhasa became the emblem of the Tibet movement.

1990

ICT HELPS SECURE 1,000 IMMIGRANT VISAS TO THE US FOR TIBETAN REFUGEES



Recent college graduate Tenzin Dawa Thargay's impressive path is linked to two of the visas allotted to Tibetan refugees in 1990. His grandparents fled Tibet and the Chinese People's Liberation Army in 1959, resettling in India where they started families. When Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1990—due largely to ICT's advocacy efforts—both of Tenzin's parents received a visa and moved to the US. It is here that he was born and started his journey as a Tibetan-American.



Tenzin delivered the student address at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst 2018 commencement—an honors student with a dual degree, Fulbright scholar and proud alumnus of the ICT Tibetan Youth Leadership Program.

1991

ICT ASSISTS IN ORGANIZING THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN HIS HOLINESS AND AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT



His Holiness meets with President George H.W. Bush, who signed the legislation declaring Tibet an occupied country.



ICT assisted in meetings between the Dalai Lama and four consecutive US presidents.

THE TIBETAN PEOPLE

1995

ICT HOSTS THE DALAI LAMA FOR A MAJOR US VISIT WHERE HE PRESENTS ICT'S LIGHT OF TRUTH AWARD



For more than 35 years, Richard Gere has vigorously advocated for the human rights of the Tibetan people and the preservation of Tibetan culture, joining the ICT Board of Directors in 1992. In 1995 he began serving as ICT's Board Chair and was honored with the first ICT Light of Truth award, alongside fellow recipients Michael Currier and Lavinia Currier, presented by His Holiness. Over the past 23 years he has addressed the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, the US House of Representatives, European Parliament and the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva on the issue of Tibet. He has also co-sponsored five historic visits to the US by the Dalai Lama.



Richard Gere testifies at a Congressional hearing on US Tibet policy in Washington, DC.

1997

US DEPARTMENT OF STATE ESTABLISHES THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR TIBETAN ISSUES



Greg Craig, the late Julia V. Taft and Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, past serving Special Coordinators for Tibetan Issues, are pictured with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Lodi Gyari. They were tasked with coordinating US programmatic support for the Tibetan people and helping to establish a dialogue between the Chinese government and His Holiness the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

2000

THE WORLD BANK CANCELS SUPPORT FOR CHINA'S TIBET RESETTLEMENT PROJECT AFTER PRESSURED BY ICT AND PARTNERS

2001

ICT ESTABLISHES THE TIBETAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



TYLP participants meet with Representative Claudia Tenney as part of their week-long program, designed to educate and motivate Tibetan-American youth to become engaged citizens and leaders in the community.

2002

TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONER NGAWANG SANGDROL IS RELEASED



A fearless champion of human rights and non-violence, Tibetan Buddhist nun Ngawang Sangdrol was first detained by Chinese authorities at the age of ten and later sentenced to 23 years in prison. The longest serving female political prisoner held by Beijing, she was finally released in 2002, crediting ICT members for playing a large part in winning her freedom. Resettled in the US, she began working with ICT as a Human Rights analyst in 2004.



These six Tibetan Buddhist nuns were charged with counter-revolutionary crimes and imprisoned. Their sentences were increased for recording songs that praised the Dalai Lama and called for Tibetan freedom. ICT pursued an international release campaign on their behalves—all now live in freedom, including Ngawang Sangdrol pictured third from right.

2002

ICT HELPS SECURE PASSAGE OF THE US TIBETAN POLICY ACT, INSTITUTIONALIZING PROGRAMMATIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR TIBET.

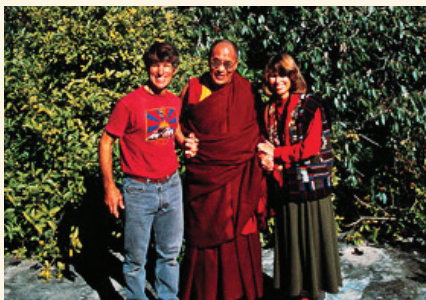


A life-long diplomat and activist for Tibet, Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari served at the highest levels of the Tibetan government in exile and as Special Envoy to the Dalai Lama in Washington, DC. Gyari was among the early founders of ICT, served as Chairman of the Board for 15 years and his work helped institutionalize the Tibetan issue in American government, including through the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002.

Identified early in his life as an incarnate lama, Gyari held the honorific title of Rinpoche.

ICT was deeply saddened to learn of Lodi Gyari Rinpoche's passing on October 29, 2018 in San Francisco. Please read more about this tireless champion of the Tibetan people on page 10.

2005 THE ROWELL FUND FOR TIBET IS ESTABLISHED



The late Galen and Barbara Rowell spend a quiet moment with His Holiness. Their commitment to Tibet lives on through the Rowell Fund that provides grants to Tibetans for cultural preservation.

2007 HIS HOLINESS IS AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL



His Holiness receives the highest civilian honor in the US. ICT members helped support this Congressional initiative.

2010 ICT ORGANIZES THE FIRST TIBET LOBBY DAY



ICT members gathered in Washington, DC for Tibet Lobby Day—the first of many—to meet with and educate Members of Congress on the Tibet issue.

2014 TIBETAN SELF-IMMOLATION FINDINGS ARE PRESENTED AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BY ICT

2017 BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TRAVELS TO DHARAMSALA, INDIA



Photo: Leader Nancy Pelosi's office

For the first time since 2008, a bipartisan delegation meets with His Holiness and Tibetan leadership in Dharamsala.

2018 THE RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO TIBET ACT IS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED IN THE HOUSE



The US House unanimously passed the Act in September, which promotes opening access to Tibet by denying Chinese officials access to the US.

This bill has been a top ICT priority and as we go to print, ICT is working urgently to carry our momentum forward to passage in the Senate, then to be signed into law.

HIS HOLINESS COMMENDS ICT'S HISTORY OF SERVICE BEFORE THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS

Photo: Jeppe Schilder

Supporters and friends from across the world gathered in the Netherlands on September 16, 2018 for a heartfelt public conversation between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and International Campaign for Tibet Chairman Richard Gere in honor of ICT's 30th anniversary.

The event was held inside a packed stadium of more than 12,000 people in Rotterdam. In welcome remarks at the beginning of the event, ICT Europe Executive Director Tsering Jampa gave a passionate overview of ICT's work to advance the Tibetan cause and to support the Dalai Lama's efforts for a negotiated solution to China's oppression of the Tibetan people.

"As the largest Tibet support group," Jampa said, "we are working to keep the issue of Tibet alive on the world stage."

Richard Gere began the conversation with His Holiness by recalling that the Dalai Lama felt that the Tibet crisis could be solved through international support, which led to the founding of ICT in 1988.

His Holiness expressed his thanks to the organization, saying that ICT is "very, very helpful in making clear about the Tibetan issue. I really appreciate. So thank you." He also said that his gratitude extended to Gere personally, saying: "Right from the beginning, you are really fully involved, so I really appreciate it and thank you."

His Holiness drew attention to the importance of supporting Tibetan Buddhist culture, saying that the elements of that culture "are treasures of the world." Gere and the Dalai Lama also discussed the importance of the Nalanda tradition of ancient India, which is still studied in Tibetan monasteries, and the impact of global warming on Tibet.

Gere concluded the conversation by drawing attention to the plight of Tibetan people in Tibet, saying, "Please remember the people inside Tibet, and how difficult their lives are right now... ICT is a vehicle that you can trust that will help them, inside and outside Tibet. So please keep those Tibetans in your thoughts and in your hearts."



SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN SECULAR ETHICS

At the event in Rotterdam, President Matteo Mecacci announced a new initiative by ICT, committing a financial grant to the Dalai Lama Institute for Higher Education in Bangalore, India. The grant will help launch a program on secular ethics, which is one of the core messages of the Dalai Lama, in order to educate Tibetan leaders of the future in these universal moral values.

In Memoriam LODI GYALTSEN GYARI

*A lifetime of service to
His Holiness the Dalai Lama
and the Tibetan people.*

The International Campaign for Tibet is deeply saddened by the passing of Lodi Gyaltsen Gyari and wishes to express our condolences to his family. Mr. Gyari, the retired Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama, Minister of the Central Tibetan Administration and Executive Chairman of ICT, passed away on October 29, 2018 in San Francisco. He was 69.

Mr. Gyari was a seasoned and skilled diplomat who spent the majority of his professional career working directly for and on behalf of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He was an impassioned advocate for the Tibetan people, universal human rights and global democratic reform.

Richard Gere, ICT's Chairman of the Board, said, "Lodi was my dear friend and partner and mentor for over thirty years. He created a life of great meaning and sacrifice that will resonate for many generations—throughout the Tibetan and non-Tibetan world. He was extraordinary."

Tempa Tsering, Board Member, said "I had the pleasure and also many memorable occasions of working with Gyari Rinpoche for decades on many different projects, programs and forums. Rinpoche was an inspir-



ing leader, a true Tibetan nationalist and he dedicated his life to Tibet and the Tibetan people. With his untimely demise, we Tibetans have lost a true nationalist and a great compatriot. We offer our heartfelt prayers to him and condolences to his family."

Mr. Gyari was appointed as the Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama in Washington, DC in 1990 (while simultaneously holding the position of the President of ICT). During his tenure, he was able to make profound political, economic and social contributions to the Tibetan cause, including institutionalizing support for Tibet by the US government.

In May 1998, Mr. Gyari was appointed by His Holiness to initiate and lead a dialogue process with China. He not only conducted nine rounds of high-level talks in China and elsewhere but also led an extensive behind-the-scenes diplomatic effort.

Mr. Gyari successfully worked at the highest levels of the international arena. Upon his retirement in 2012 as Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama, the US Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 557) honoring his service.

Mr. Gyari retired from his position at ICT in 2014. He devoted the time until his passing to writing his memoir, which he felt would be his additional contribution to His Holiness and the Tibetan cause. It is in its final stages of completion. Mr. Gyari is survived by his wife, Dawa Chokyi, their six children (Tenzing Dechen, Tenzing Choyang, Norbu Wangmo, Tashi Chodon, Tulku Penam and Tenzing Tsering) and five grandchildren, his mothers as well as four brothers and three sisters.

MESSAGES TO DHARAMSALA

In early October, ICT members and staff traveled to Dharamsala, India, where they spent time with young Tibetan children at the Tibetan Children's Village School. The day was filled with laughter, conversation and activities—including the hand-delivery of thousands of personal messages of solidarity written to the children from ICT members all over the world.



CALL TO ACTION



ICT NEEDS YOUR HELP

In September of 1988, the International Campaign for Tibet launched *Tibet Press Watch*, a collection of clippings about the Tibet issue from newspapers across the globe. In these early years, the articles were photocopied, collated and mailed to members to keep them informed of media coverage on the situation in Tibet.

Over the past 30 years, *Tibet Press Watch* has grown alongside our organization. This newsletter continues to serve an important role in keeping you up-to-date on not only the current challenges facing our Tibetan brothers and sisters, but also messages and teachings from

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, updates on ICT advocacy efforts, insights into Tibetan culture and actions that you can take to support the people of Tibet.

As you will see reflected on the cover of this issue, the newsletter's name has also evolved to *Tibet Watch* to better reflect the expanded information it now features.

As a loyal and dedicated member of ICT, we value your input. As we honor 30 years of advocating for the Tibetan people, we are taking time to reflect on the past and plan for the future—which includes the direction of the *Tibet Watch*.

Please take a moment to tell us your thoughts and what you would like to see featured in future publications through the questions below. Then clip and mail your responses in the attached envelope. Thank you!

PLEASE CLIP HERE

Member Survey: Please Respond


INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

Name: _____

1. I read every issue of the *Tibet Watch* that I receive in the mail.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never

2. When receiving an issue, I:

- ☐ Read it cover to cover
- ☐ Flip through skimming for stories that interest me
- ☐ Don't read it

3. The content I find most interesting is: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Letter from the president
- ☐ Member news and profiles
- ☐ Recent ICT advocacy successes and challenges
- ☐ Updates on the impact of my donations
- ☐ Reporting on self-immolations

☐ Reporting on happenings inside Tibet

- ☐ Reporting on political prisoners
- ☐ Excerpts from major ICT reports
- ☐ Highlights of ICT efforts around the world

- ☐ Articles on Tibetan arts and culture
- ☐ Petitions to world government leaders
- ☐ Updates on teachings and messages from His Holiness

☐ Other _____

4. I would prefer if the *Tibet Watch* was: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Shorter
- ☐ Longer
- ☐ More frequent

- ☐ Less frequent
- ☐ Featured more images
- ☐ I like it as is

5. I read the *Tibet Watch* online at savetibet.org. (check all that apply)

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never
- ☐ I didn't know it was online

6. I would love if the *Tibet Watch* included:

Thank you for your help in shaping the future of the *Tibet Watch*!

Stay Informed, Stay Connected

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



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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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To learn more, contact Brian Ahern at 202.580.6770 or brian.ahern@savetibet.org.



His Holiness greets ICT Board Chair Richard Gere in Rotterdam at the start of the 30th anniversary event. They have had a connection since the 1980s.

Photo: Jeppe Schilder



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