



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

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TIBET WATCH

SUMMER 2019

INSIDE:

His Holiness & the
Tibetan People Mark
60 Years in Exile

US Ambassador
Visits Tibet

Fresh Look for the
ICT Website

UN Petition:
Critical Juncture for
Religious Freedom



HARNESSING MOMENTUM
TIBET LOBBY DAY 2019



HOPE DIGNITY FREEDOM

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people of Tibet?



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Dear Friend,

2019 marks 60 years in exile for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetans who fled China's occupation of Tibet—and 60 years on a nonviolent path to regain their rights and defend their culture. In this issue, we feature on pages 4-5 the Dalai Lama's forced escape from Tibet and his six decades of leadership since that perilous journey across rivers and mountains.

In so many ways, Tibetans and ICT members are agents of change. The Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (RATA) passed at the end of 2018—the most important legislation on Tibet in sixteen years—is one pivotal example.

Following the bill's passage, in May the US Ambassador to China was permitted to visit Tibet for the first time since 2015. While there, he affirmed the US' position on Tibet, encouraging dialogue with the Dalai Lama and calling for basic freedoms (see page 6).

The power of action and advocacy was also on display in March and can be seen on the cover of this issue. An unprecedented crowd of Tibetan-Americans, ICT members and Tibet supporters came to Washington, DC for Tibet Lobby Day, meeting with government leaders on the Tibet issue and calling for support (read more on page 7). Around the same time, the State Department published its first report due for the implementation of RATA, in which it stated in clear and unprecedented words that "The Chinese government systematically impeded travel to the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) and Tibetan areas outside the TAR for US diplomats and officials, journalists, and tourists in 2018."

Featured in this issue is a key step, part of the Tibet Lobby Day call to action, that our government leaders have recently taken (page 6). Representatives James McGovern (D-MA) and Christopher Smith (R-NJ) released a bipartisan letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urging him to implement legislation on Tibet. Signed by 32 Members of Congress, the letter begins,

"We write today to express our deep concern about the well-being of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule and to call on you to promptly implement key legislation that Congress has passed to guide United States policy on Tibet."

America's relationship with China is complex, and is changing, as there is consensus on the danger posed by the emergence of an authoritarian China on the world stage, with its ambitions to dominate the global economy and reshape the global order established after World War II.

As an ICT Member, you have long advocated for a more principled US foreign policy that would challenge Beijing's abuses against Tibetans. We now have an opportunity to remind our leaders that the Tibetan people have been at the frontline of China's expansion and oppression, and their fate and survival is for the benefit of all, including China.

At ICT, we are continually working to hold China accountable. A new report our team has just issued reveals construction of dams in Tibet that may force the relocation of thousands of Tibetan people and impact the biodiverse area known as the Three Parallel Rivers, which is under UNESCO protection. The report makes obvious China's strategy to seek UNESCO branding in Tibet while simultaneously bypassing proper preservation of the most valuable sites. You can find the report at <http://bit.ly/UNESCO-Tibet>.

As we recognize six decades of exile, we honor the tenacity, courage and determination of the Tibetan people who, despite great challenges, continue to peacefully resist oppression and preserve their culture, language and traditions.

Thank you as always for joining us in support of our Tibetan brothers and sisters.

In solidarity,


Matteo Mecacci



HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA: 60 YEARS

1959: ESCAPE FROM TIBET

On March 10, 1959, His Holiness the Dalai Lama received an invitation from General Zhang Chenwu to attend a dance performance at a Chinese military camp. When he was instructed to arrive with unarmed bodyguards and without an escort of Tibetan soldiers, it was clear that he was being set up for a trap. Repeated incursions into Tibet by the Chinese People's Liberation Army had plagued the country for a decade, with His Holiness and the Tibetan people continually resisting a complete military takeover.

As word spread of the ominous invitation, a crowd of tens of thousands of Tibetans gathered around His Holiness' palace in Lhasa to protect his life. That gathering became the Tibetan National Uprising of 1959—when the Tibetan populace rose up to defend their rights and freedom against Chinese invasion.

Seven days later during a consultation with the Nechung Oracle (the State Oracle of Tibet), His Holiness was given a clear instruction to flee the country, despite his reluctance to do so and the significant risk involved. On March 17th, His Holiness dressed as a common soldier and left the palace among a small group, avoiding detection.



The 14th Dalai Lama fleeing Tibet into exile with Khampa (men from the Eastern province of Kham) bodyguards in March 1959. Photo: OHHDL

Over an extremely grueling two-week journey, he traveled by horseback and on foot with bodyguards and a few members of his family, moving by night and hiding in villages and encampments. The group crossed the Brahmaputra River and mountain passes through wind and snow, pursued constantly by the Chinese government. On March 31st, His Holiness finally reached India and was welcomed by the prime minister.

Back in Lhasa, Chinese troops massacred thousands of Tibetans and dissolved the Tibetan government. Until he appeared in India, many feared that the Dalai Lama had been among those killed.

DECADES OF LEADERSHIP



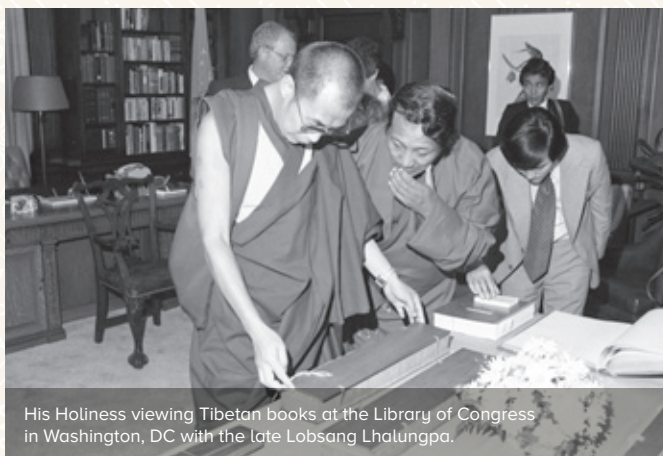
His Holiness spending time at the Nursery for Tibetan Refugee Children in Dharamsala, what is now the Tibetan Children's Village.

1960s

After fleeing Tibet, His Holiness established a Tibetan settlement in Dharamsala, India, formed a government-in-exile and made arrangements for the eighty thousand Tibetans who would soon follow him into exile. This included schools for Tibetan children and Buddhist monasteries and nunneries to preserve his people's culture and faith.

"On this first occasion, I stressed the need for my people to take a long-term view of the situation in Tibet. For those of us in exile, I said that our priority must be resettlement and the continuity of our cultural traditions. As to the future, I stated my belief that, with truth, justice and courage as our weapons, we Tibetans would eventually prevail in regaining freedom for Tibet."

– HIS HOLINESS, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN UPRISING



His Holiness viewing Tibetan books at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC with the late Lobsang Lhalungpa.

1970s

His Holiness made his first visit to the US in 1979 and visited 24 cities across the country, raising consciousness about the Tibet issue among Americans.

"[T]he liberalization which has been taking place in China has not spread to Tibet—it is a vast prison... [But the Chinese] have not succeeded in wiping out Buddhism or in making the Tibetans into Chinese. Once the Chinese listen to what the Tibetan people themselves want, we can reach a solution."

– HIS HOLINESS, FIRST VISIT TO THE US



1980s

The Nobel Committee awarded His Holiness the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, based on his 5-Point Peace Plan.

"The suffering of our people during the past forty years of occupation is well documented. Ours has been a long struggle. We know our cause is just. Because violence can only breed more violence and suffering, our struggle must remain non-violent and free of hatred."

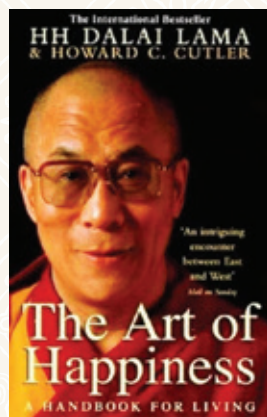
– HIS HOLINESS, NOBEL PRIZE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

1990s

His Holiness published *The Art of Happiness* in 1998. It quickly became a bestseller in the US and a key text in the field of psychology, popularizing Buddhist philosophy and His Holiness' vision in the West.

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

– HIS HOLINESS, THE ART OF HAPPINESS



2000s

The Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the US Congress, was awarded to His Holiness in 2007 and presented by President George W. Bush. This was also the first time a US President appeared publicly with the Dalai Lama.

"The time has come for our dialogue with the Chinese leadership to progress towards the successful implementation of a meaningful autonomy for Tibet... To you, my American friends, I appeal to you to make every effort to seek ways to help convince the Chinese leadership of my sincerity and help make our dialogue process move forward."

– HIS HOLINESS, CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ACCEPTANCE SPEECH



2010s

2010 marked the final year of His Holiness acting as the political head of Tibet. In 2011 he retired and ushered in democratic elections for the Central Tibetan Administration, but retained his role as spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. He also adopted his three main commitments—including promoting human values and religious harmony and preserving Buddhist culture as an independent spokesperson for Tibetans living under oppression.

"The rule by kings and religious figures is outdated. We have to follow the trend of the free world which is that of democracy."

– HIS HOLINESS, REMARKS ON HIS POLITICAL RETIREMENT



2019: A FUTURE OF WISDOM + COMPASSION LAUNCHES IN NEW DELHI

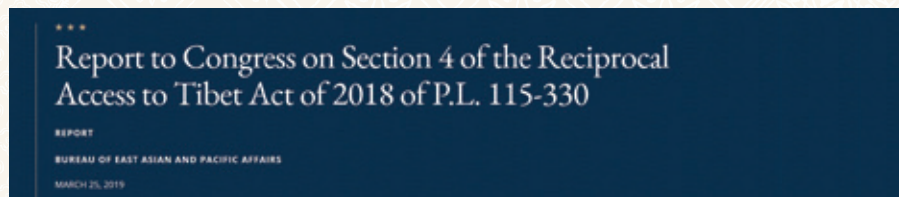
On April 5, 2019, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning Platform (SEE) was launched globally from India by Emory University in collaboration with the Dalai Lama Trust and the Vana Foundation. The program works toward realization of His Holiness' vision for holistic education for the mind and heart, combining wisdom and compassion. ICT President Matteo Mecacci was in attendance, and as ICT continues its work to support the vision of His Holiness, the organization will help spread the knowledge of SEE.



"The launch of this curriculum offers a great opportunity to share through the education system, the benefits and wisdom that are integral to the compassionate Tibetan culture. His Holiness the Dalai Lama continues to blaze the trail, offering the wisdom contained in the Tibetan Buddhist teachings in an accessible and secular way to everyone. At ICT we are committed to help fulfill His Holiness' vision for a better, more peaceful and compassionate world, and we will do our best also to spread the knowledge of this new exciting project."

– MATTEO MECACCI, ICT PRESIDENT

RATA UPDATE: STATE DEPARTMENT DENOUNCES RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO TIBET



A new State Department report—denouncing China for “systematically” impeding Americans’ travel to Tibet—shows the US government is serious about implementing the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (RATA).

Released March 25th, the report documents outrageous attempts by Chinese authorities to keep Americans out of Tibet in 2018, including repeatedly denying requests to visit from the US ambassador and other

US officials, directly threatening to expel journalists and cruelly preventing Tibetan-Americans from seeing their homeland.

This report is the first significant outcome of RATA. As expected, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang immediately lashed out at the report, claiming it “disregards the facts, is full of prejudice, and the Chinese side will never accept it.”

MEMBERS OF HOUSE AND SENATE EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT TIBET

A bipartisan letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, signed by 32 members of Congress, was released May 13th by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Christopher Smith (R-NJ), co-chairs of the bipartisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

The letter urges the Trump Administration to promptly implement key legislation, including the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 and the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018, and

expresses the Congress members’ “deep concern about the well-being of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule.”

Earlier in May, a bipartisan group of US Senators, led by Senators Jim Risch (R-ID) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) sent a letter addressed to US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback drawing his attention to the state of Tibetan Buddhism under Chinese rule, including the issue of the Dalai Lama’s reincarnation, and asking “how the US can best support Tibetan Buddhists.”



US AMBASSADOR TO CHINA VISITS TIBET

Ambassador Terry Branstad’s visit to Tibet at the end of May shows that Congressional and State Department actions make an impact in the Tibet issue, and demonstrates US support for the Tibetan people to the world.

Chinese officials twice cancelled the Ambassador’s visit in 2018. But at the end of last year, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (RATA) was signed into law, and despite China’s negative response to the legislation, it has now allowed Mr. Branstad to enter Tibet for the first visit there by a US ambassador since 2015.

His visit reaffirmed the United States’ three fundamental positions on Tibet: dialogue to resolve the conflict, religious freedom for the Tibetan people and access to Tibet. According to a statement released by the US Embassy in China, Branstad “encouraged the Chinese government to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama without preconditions, to seek a settlement that resolves differences.”

ICT commends Ambassador Branstad for reiterating the US’ fundamental positions on Tibet. His statement should now be followed by concrete initiatives from the Trump Administration to encourage dialogue, as well as by the full implementation of RATA and the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002.

For more information about these developments, visit our website at savetibet.org.



A NEW LOOK

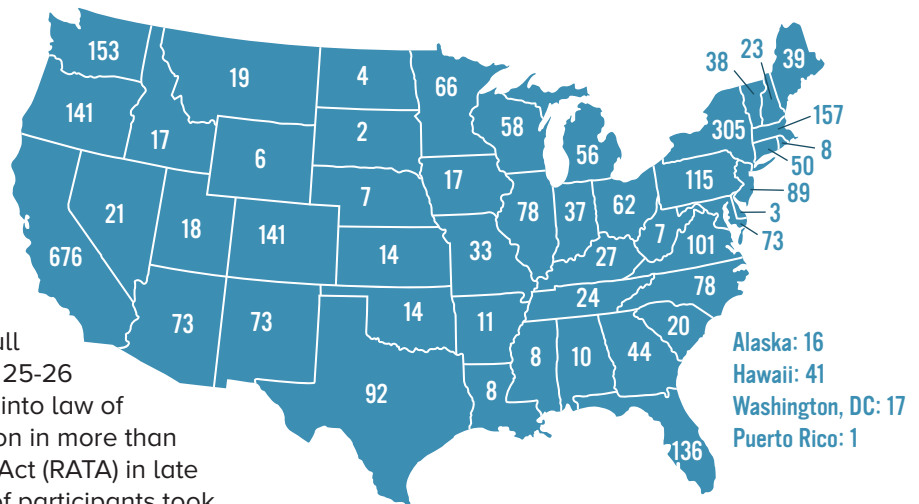
ICT has launched a redesigned website offering a fresh experience for visitors as they explore the Tibet issue and the role ICT plays in supporting the Tibetan people. It incorporates the new logo and branding unveiled for ICT’s 30th anniversary, developed with the support of longtime ICT member Paul Opperman and his team, who offered their expertise pro bono. We hope you enjoy the bold images, fresh content and easy navigation at savetibet.org!

TIBET LOBBY DAY 2019

An undeniable momentum in the effort to bring human rights and democratic freedoms to the people of Tibet was on full display during Tibet Lobby Day on March 25-26 in Washington, DC. Following the signing into law of the most important Tibet-related legislation in more than 16 years—the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (RATA) in late December 2018—an impressive number of participants took part in this year's event.

Participants met with members of Congress and their staff to request support for programs and policies that help the Tibetan people—with many assuring their continued support of Tibet.

TIBET LOBBY DAY PARTICIPANTS BY STATE



IN PERSON PARTICIPANTS: 137
ONLINE PARTICIPANTS: 3,190
MESSAGES CALLING FOR SUPPORT: 9,500

TIBET LOBBY DAY



TIBETAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR TIBETAN AMERICANS



1: ICT President Matteo Mecacci joins supporters during Tibet Lobby Day in the office of Rep. Jim McGovern. 2: Advocates for Tibet stand in solidarity outside the ICT office in Washington, DC on Tibet Lobby Day. 3: Ten Tibetan students participated in ICT's Tibetan Youth Leadership Program this June in Washington, DC. The program included visits to Capitol Hill, USAID, the State Department and Radio Free Asia, as well as media and advocacy training, lectures and workshops. Participants also attended a Congressional-Executive Commission on China hearing where Speaker Nancy Pelosi testified about China's oppression in Tibet. 4: ICT launched an exciting new program this summer, the Washington Internship Program for Tibetan Americans, which offers the Tibetan-American community a meaningful experience in US politics. Tenzin Rangdol (a graduate student at Johns Hopkins) and Tenzin Nangsel (an undergrad at University of Massachusetts, Amherst) are the program's first fellows, pictured at center front surrounded by ICT staff.



WHAT TO WEAR AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD

Traditional Tibetan costumes reflect the geographical environment and cultural values of Tibetans from one region to another. In the past, you could tell by a person's dress which part of Tibet he or she was from. As an old saying goes: *We all are Tibetans, but we have different ways to make and wear our chubas.*

The *chuba* is arguably the most representative of the typical Tibetan outer garment. Due to the cold climate, high altitude and other geographical and natural conditions, the Tibetan people living on the plateau formed a self-contained clothing culture. A long robe worn with a belt, the *chuba* is made of sheepskin in colder areas and felt or cloth in the relatively low-altitude agricultural areas and towns. Nobles wear silk chubas. The wool and sheepskin to make clothing are produced locally, while cotton and silk come from China and India.

Men's chubas are similar across Tibet. Generally speaking, they reach the ankle with long collars and long sleeves. When belted, they become knee-length. Kham-pa men usually place the knot of their belt in the front; Amdo men place it in the back; and some U-Tsang men put it in front and others behind.

Women's chubas reach to the ground and are narrower than men's. When belted, they reach the ankle. They can be sleeved (as in most parts of Amdo and Kham) or sleeveless (as in U-Tsang and southeastern Kham). The knot of a woman's belt usually goes at her back. Women's chubas are more varied than men's, and the style of collars, length of sleeves, colors and silhouettes are different from region to region. Women in the Kongpo area wear long, hooded vests, while in some parts of Amdo and Gyalrong their chubas are composed of two separate pieces.



Aprons and shawls have become part of women's chubas because of cultural practices. In the U-Tsang area, no married woman wears a chuba without an apron, while in Kham and throughout the Jangtang pastoral area, both married women and unmarried girls wear a larger apron.

Chubas are as functional as they are beautiful; they are such a fundamental part of the lifestyle that many Tibetans even sleep in them at night.

Two artists of the Norbulingka Institute, an organization in Dharamsala, India dedicated to preserving the artistic and cultural traditions of Tibet, created this map which shows the variation in colors and styles across the plateau.

Learn more about the Institute at norbulingka.org.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE



ISLAMIC SHANGRI-LA

David G. Atwill
University of California Press, 2018

Last year a group of students from the Tibetan Muslim community in India traveled to Dharamsala, where they visited the Central Tibetan Administration and the many institutes and museums in town. Their very existence might come as a surprise to those who have pictured Tibet as monolithically Buddhist, but small Tibetan Muslim communities have existed in the Land of Snows for centuries.

In the intriguing *Islamic Shangri-La*, David Atwill traces the foundations of their communities. No less a figure than the Great Fifth Dalai Lama welcomed them to Tibet. Over time they came to play important roles in Tibetan society, which valued them for their multilingualism and trade connections. Atwill's book is a great read for anyone interested in learning more about Lhasa's diverse and cosmopolitan culture before the Chinese invasion.



MORALITY AND MONASTIC REVIVAL IN POST-MAO TIBET

Jane E. Caple
University of Hawai'i Press, 2019

After the destruction of the Mao era, Tibet's great monasteries began undertaking the herculean task of rebuilding themselves—often from the ground up. Jane Caple's book, based on years of field research in northern Tibet, aims to look beyond the perspective of repression and resistance to examine the ways that Tibetan monastic communities have grappled with preserving their morality amid a changing society. On the question of economic self-sufficiency, for example, Caple notes how ideas from the Tibetan exile community espoused by the Dalai Lama, moral rhetoric based on the Buddhist scriptures and laws enforced by the Chinese state all influence the different methods monasteries are using to support themselves.

ICT WELCOMES TWO NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Ashwin Verghese, **Communications Officer**

Ashwin brings his experience at the Pew Charitable Trusts, Temple University, the Broadcasting Board of Governors and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* to his new role at ICT. A graduate of Temple University with a degree in journalism, he hails from York, Pennsylvania and Chennai, India and was formerly a reporter.

In his free time, he describes himself as a “huge cinephile.” Years ago, he interviewed Thelma Schoonmaker, legendary editor of Martin Scorsese films, who told him that the film *Kundun* was her favorite project because it introduced her to Tibetan culture. That experience set him on his current path.

Asked what excites him about his new role, Ashwin said, “I believe in a future where people see one another

as equals, and where everyone has compassion for everyone else. I hope to advance that vision using my skills and experience as a writer, as well as my passion as a true believer in the cause.”

Tenzin Gyalpo, **Outreach Associate**

Hailing from Dalhousie, a small town in the northern India state of Himachal Pradesh, Gyalpo started with ICT last fall. He holds a master’s degree in commerce and brings nearly ten years of experience working on behalf of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in India.

As a program coordinator and administrative assistant at the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, Gyalpo coordinated conferences and programs convened by His Holiness, assisted his personal secretaries and handled



his personal correspondence and official emails.

In his free time, Gyalpo loves to sing traditional Tibetan songs. He said his work at ICT offers him the opportunity to serve his country: “I knew ICT had a reputation for playing a vital role in the Tibetan struggle. My new role gives me the opportunity to contribute in my own small way to our cause.”

“By adding Ashwin and Gyalpo to our team, ICT has expanded our outreach and communications efforts and we are very excited for even more progress in the future. Their different backgrounds enrich our office; both bring a strong work ethic and good humor to ICT every day.”

— Matteo Mecacci, ICT President

IN MEMORIAM REMEMBERING TONY ROWELL

BY JOHN JANCİK & TERRI BAKER,
ROWELL FUND FOR TIBET

It is with deepest sorrow that ICT and the Rowell Fund for Tibet announce the passing of Tony (Edward Anthony) Rowell on February 16, 2019, at the age of 50.

Tony was part of the ICT family since 2003 when he, along with former ICT President and active Board Member John Ackerly, helped develop the Rowell Fund in honor of his late father Galen Rowell, a famed photographer and mountaineer, and his wife Barbara, who were avid supporters of the Tibetan cause. Tony became very instrumental in the success of the Rowell Fund over the years. Following in his father’s footsteps, Tony

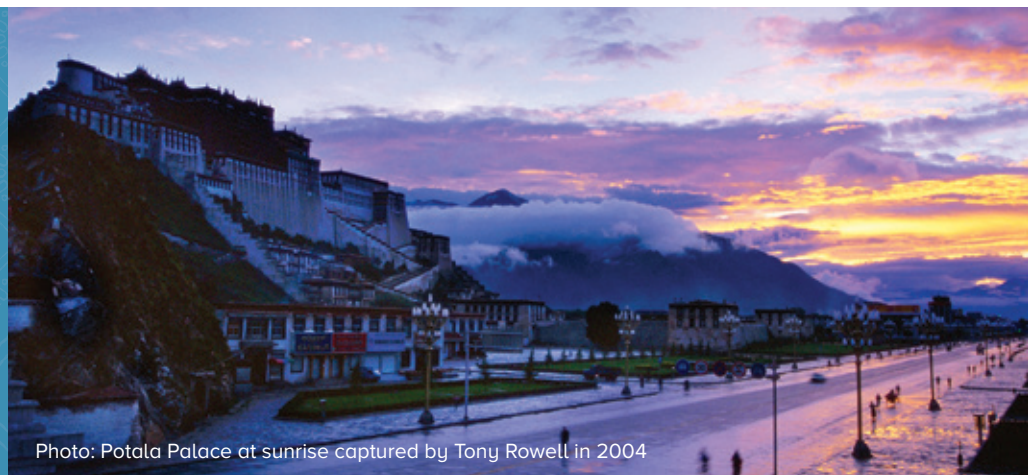


Photo: Potala Palace at sunrise captured by Tony Rowell in 2004

traveled to Tibet in August 2004 with National Geographic Expeditions, and has donated his photos from the trip to ICT. He was a passionate photographer of natural landscapes and the night sky.

John Ackerly shares, “Tony was a great advocate for Tibet and the Rowell Fund for Tibet, which he

helped to co-found. Galen shot his photos quickly during the mountain light, in the early morning and late afternoon, while Tony had the patience to leave the shutter open for minutes or hours, capturing the distant stars and pondering the universe. Like meteors, they both came and went far too quickly.”

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

PETITION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN: PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN TIBET

We have reached a critical juncture for religious freedom in Tibet. Today, simply possessing a photo of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is considered a crime under Chinese rule. The Chinese Communist Party even claims it has the sole right to identify the next Dalai Lama, overruling the centuries-old traditional religious leadership of the Tibetan Buddhist community.

Meanwhile, Tibetans who seek to study Buddhism endure intrusive security measures in monasteries that operate under heavy-handed Chinese restrictions, if they operate at all. Their numbers are limited, their movements are tracked and their

attempts to practice their faith are interrupted by China's attempts at political brainwashing in the form of "patriotic education."

Moreover, the Chinese government has restricted access to Tibet for UN human rights officials, preventing them from seeing the conditions in the Land of Snows with their own eyes.

Please join ICT in issuing an urgent call to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to uphold the Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted by the UN in 1948. Thank you for lending your support at this crucial time.

US CONGRESS WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE A CHINESE- APPOINTED DALAI LAMA

On April 9th, Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) said at a Senate Foreign Relations Asia Subcommittee hearing, "Let me be very clear: The United States Congress will never recognize a Dalai Lama that is selected by the Chinese." China's goal is to name its own Dalai Lama in the hopes of splintering the Tibetan Buddhist community and gaining soft power over Buddhists worldwide. Gardner said the US will follow the Dalai Lama's 2011 statement, introduced into the record by ICT Vice President Bhuchung K. Tsering, that His Holiness' succession has many possibilities and will be determined only by the lineage holder.

PLEASE CLIP HERE & MAIL YOUR PETITION IN THE ATTACHED ENVELOPE

TO: ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL
FROM: A CONCERNED ADVOCATE FOR TIBET

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations to ensure that all can live without the fear of oppression. In your role as Secretary-General of the UN, I hope you share my concern for religious freedom in Tibet, which has been ruled by the Chinese Communist Party for decades. Under Chinese occupation, Tibetan monasteries have been demolished, Buddhist monks and nuns have been forced to disrobe and Tibet's unique cultural heritage is being erased.

In Tibet today, an ordinary person can be arrested simply for possessing an image of the current Dalai Lama. And the Chinese government claims the authority to identify the next Dalai Lama, a gross affront to Tibetan Buddhists everywhere.

The United Nations must act. I call on you to make the protection of human rights in Tibet—including the right to religious freedom—a priority in your interactions with the People's Republic of China, and to make every effort to improve the situation there as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter,

Sign Here _____

Name _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

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



Members of the Tibetan community offering His Holiness the Dalai Lama a traditional welcome on his way to the Main Tibetan Temple for the Long Life Offering Ceremony in Dharamsala, India on May 17, 2019.

Photo: Tenzin Choejor



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