

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSER WANG JUNZHENG APPOINTED AS NEW COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF IN THE TAR

THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF WANG JUNZHENG - A NOTABLE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSER - AS THE TOP CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER IN THE TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION (TAR) IS AN INDICATION THAT CHINESE AUTHORITIES INTEND TO CONTINUE THEIR REPRESSIVE POLICIES ON THE TIBETAN PEOPLE.



On 19 October, China announced Wang's appointment as party secretary in the Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee, replacing Wu Yingjie.

Wang previously served as secretary of the Party Committee of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, a position in which he has been accused of perpetrating human rights violations against the Uyghur people in Xinjiang. In March this year he was put on an unprecedented coordinated sanctions list of the United States, Canada, Britain and the European Union for these violations.

Wang's promotion underlines Beijing's snub of the West's response to its policies in Xinjiang,

and also indicates China's determination to continue stringent policies against Tibetans. Chen Quanguo, his boss in Xinjiang, [took his Tibet experience as party secretary from 2011 to 2016 to Xinjiang](#), where he led the Chinese government's ongoing genocide of the Uyghurs.

Wang's appointment to top party boss in the TAR continues the Chinese authorities' policy of not putting a Tibetan in the position: Wang is an ethnic Chinese from Shandong.

As he is transferred from Xinjiang to Tibet, ICT calls for his continued placement on sanctions lists, particularly as the EU and others may be reviewing their lists on an annual basis.



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FORMER TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONER DHONDUP WANGCHEN CALLS ON BELGIUM AND THE EU TO BOYCOTT CHINA'S 2022 OLYMPICS DURING BRUSSELS VISIT

TIBETAN ACTIVIST AND FILMMAKER DHONDUP WANGCHEN, WHO SPENT SIX YEARS IN JAIL FOR HIS FILM "LEAVING FEAR BEHIND", VISITED BELGIUM AT THE END OF NOVEMBER AS PART OF A EUROPEAN SPEAKING TOUR CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE 2022 WINTER OLYMPICS IN CHINA.



Dhondup Wangchen at the National Olympic Committee of Belgium.
(Photo: ICT Brussels)

At the office of the National Olympic Committee of Belgium, which ignored requests made by ICT for a meeting with him, Dhondup Wangchen handed over a letter presenting his main demand – that the

2022 Winter Olympics not be held in Beijing given China's continued human rights abuses, particularly in Tibet.

During his visit to the European capital, Dhondup Wangchen met with several EU and Belgian officials, as well as with Members of the European and Belgian Parliaments or their representatives. The MEPs/MPs all reaffirmed their support for human rights in Tibet and suggested concrete actions to support Dhondup Wangchen's call for governments to boycott the Games if they are not withdrawn from China.

Dhondup Wangchen also met with fellow Tibetans living in Belgium and Tibet supporters during two screenings of *Leaving Fear Behind* in Antwerp and Brussels.

During the next three months, Dhondup Wangchen will visit over 10 more European countries to share his testimony and gather support for his campaign. Dhondup Wangchen's European tour has been organized jointly by Filming for Tibet, International Tibet Network – as well as by the International Campaign for Tibet for the visits in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

For full details of tour schedule and Dhondup Wangchen's new short film, visit: <https://www.myolympicoath.org/>.

ICT OLYMPICS BRIEFING PAPER: TIBET REPRESSION WORSE SINCE BEIJING 2008

AS CHINA PREPARES TO HOST THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR, ICT HAS ISSUED A NEW BRIEFING THAT DOCUMENTS HOW THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS ESCALATED ITS REPRESSION IN TIBET SINCE IT HOSTED THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS.



"*Olympic Descent: Repression in Tibet since Beijing 2008*" notes that Chinese officials promised that the 2008 Beijing Olympics would improve human rights and social conditions in the country. However, even before these Games began, Chinese authorities launched a brutal crackdown on Tibetans, and China's abuses in Tibet have continued to increase to this day.

The abuses include a system of mass surveillance and militarization developed by the architect of China's Uyghur genocide; the arrest and torture of

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hundreds of Tibetan political prisoners; and an absurd plan by the Chinese government to appoint the next Dalai Lama itself as part of a continued assault on religious freedom.

The briefing paper comes just three months before Beijing hosts the Winter Olympics from 4-20 February. Several governments have already announced they will impose a diplomatic boycott of the sporting event (including [the US](#) , Australia, the UK and

Canada), which ICT commends and hopes will inspire other governments to do the same.

[Click here to read the briefing “Olympic Descent: Repression in Tibet since Beijing 2008”.](#)

ICT URGES FOR RIGHTS-BASED CLIMATE APPROACH AT COP26

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET WAS PRESENT WITH TIBETANS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AT THE COP26 IN GLASGOW LAST MONTH TO ELEVATE TIBET IN THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CONVERSATION AND CALL FOR THE INCLUSION OF A STRONG RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.



Palmo Tenzin, Advocacy and Research Officer in the ICT Germany office at the COP26. (Photo: International Tibet Network)

The team, composed of ICT Germany’s Advocacy and Research Officer Palmo Tenzin and representatives from four other

Tibetan organizations, was able to raise Tibet and its importance as a global climate issue with various countries’ delegations and other stakeholders – including the delegation of Bangladesh and US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry. It also handed ‘5-Point Call to Action for Tibet’ leaflets to prominent personalities and other delegates.

Tibet’s climate is currently warming as much as four times faster than the global average. This has accelerated glacial and permafrost melts and exacerbated desertification, which results in the loss of a major carbon sink. Climate change in Tibet is therefore threatening the livelihoods of more than a billion people, as well as the region’s rich biodiversity, which strengthens the Earth’s resilience to environmental stress. The Tibetan experience is crucial as it underscores the importance of local

knowledge and meaningful inclusion, both of which are largely ignored by the Chinese authorities in Tibet.

On the sideline of the COP26 on 4 November, ICT cohosted a panel discussion on the role of Tibet in the global climate system. The panel, [moderated by Palmo Tenzin](#), featured a glaciologist, anthropologist, policy analyst and civil society researcher. They discussed the lessons Tibet offers for designing inclusive and sustainable global climate policies and provided practical recommendations.

[ICT provided a briefing paper for the COP26, which is available here.](#)

[Click here to watch the recording of the panel discussion “Tibet’s Climate Crisis: Critical Lessons For Global Climate Policy”.](#)

ICT STATEMENT AT 14TH UN FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET ON 2 DECEMBER DELIVERED A STATEMENT AT THE 14TH SESSION OF THE UN FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES, CALLING FOR AN END TO CHINESE POLICIES OF “SINICIZATION” IN TIBET AND FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE SINO-TIBETAN DIALOGUE.

The forum took place in a hybrid format (online and in-person in Geneva) on 2-3 December and focused on “Conflict prevention and the protection of the Human Rights of the Minorities.” It followed four regional forums on the same issue convened throughout the year by the United Nations

Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Fernand de Varennes – including one on Asia-Pacific to which the International Campaign for Tibet also contributed.

ICT’s EU Policy director, Vincent Metten, suggested concrete recommendations for

the Chinese government, including with regard to resumption of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue and a call not to interfere in the process of the succession of Tibetan Buddhist leaders.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

WAVE OF ARRESTS IN EASTERN TIBET OVER LANGUAGE RIGHTS AND DALAI LAMA IMAGES

CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN EASTERN TIBET HAVE DETAINED OVER 100 PEOPLE LAST AUGUST AMID A CRACKDOWN ON TIBETAN LANGUAGE ACTIVISM AND POSSESSION OF IMAGES OF THE DALAI LAMA.

According to reports, on 22 August Chinese security raided private homes in Dza Wonpo (Chinese: Wenbo) township in Sershul (Shiqu) County, Kardze (Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan province and detained 59 Tibetans for possession of pictures of the Dalai Lama. Some of the detainees have been identified as Lodhen Chunglam, Palkyab, Tenzin Losel, Pendo, Losher, Choechok, Gadhen,

Sherab, Jampel, Dalo, Choepa, Sonam Galak, and Tamdin Norbu. They were led to the Sershul county public security bureau detention center.

Three days later, Chinese authorities summoned Tibetans in Dza Wonpo to a public meeting during which they warned against the possession of Dalai Lama pictures and sharing information with

the outside world. In more house-to-house police raids between 25 and 29 August, over 50 Tibetans were rounded up for possessing Dalai Lama images, for having contacts with exile Tibetans and for being members of a social media group promoting the use and preservation of the Tibetan language. After police released four of the Tibetans, the remaining 49 were kept in detention in Sershul County.

ICT'S TSERING JAMPA FIRST TIBETAN TO BE AWARDED A DUTCH ROYAL DISTINCTION

LAST OCTOBER, INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET EUROPE'S THEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TSERING JAMPA RECEIVED THE KNIGHTHOOD IN THE ORDER OF ORANGE-NASSAU - A PRESTIGIOUS DUTCH ROYAL DISTINCTION - FOR HER SUBSTANTIAL EFFORTS TO DEFEND AND PROMOTE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE.



Ms. Sharon Dijksma, mayor of Utrecht, delivers the Knighthood in the Order of Orange-Nassau to Tsering. (Photo: ICT)

The award was presented to her by Ms. Sharon Dijksma, mayor of Utrecht — where Tsering currently lives — on 29 October during a reception held on the occasion of Tsering's retirement. This is the first time that a Tibetan has received this major honor.

Born in 1955 in Tibet, Tsering was only five when she fled with her parents to India, where she worked as an interpreter and teacher before moving to the Netherlands. As Executive Director of ICT Europe from 1999 to

2021, she managed to unite Tibetans, organizations, governments, the Dutch and European public as well as ICT's generous donors to work towards a better future for the Tibetan people.

ICT thank her unwavering commitment and wishes her a peaceful retirement and all the best in her future endeavors!

POLITICAL PRISONER FOCUS

LOBSANG LHUNDUP

A CHINESE COURT HAS SENTENCED LOBSANG LHUNDUP, A TIBETAN WRITER ARRESTED TWO YEARS AGO ON UNSPECIFIED CHARGES, TO A FOUR-YEAR PRISON TERM, [RADIO FREE ASIA HAS REPORTED.](#)



According to Radio Free Asia's source in Tibet, Lobsang Lhundup, who goes by the pen name Dhi Lhaden, was sentenced for writing a book criticizing Chinese rule in Tibetan areas and for "creating disorder among the public." It is unclear when his sentence was announced or where he is currently being detained.

Lhundup was taken into custody in June 2019 while working at a private cultural education center in Chengdu, sources told RFA in an earlier report. Following his arrest, his family was not allowed to meet him or provide him with clothing or food, and his current state of health is still unknown, sources said.

Born in 1980 in Pema district of Sichuan's Golog (in Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Lobsang had previously been a monk and Buddhist teacher, before he started traveling widely in Tibet and writing books about the 2008 protests against Beijing's rule in Tibet.

The International Campaign for Tibet calls on the Chinese authorities to release him immediately, as he was sentenced simply for the expression of independent thought. While in detention, they must ensure he has access to adequate medical treatment, and allow his lawyer, wife and other family members to visit him.

READING SUGGESTION

CHRONOLOGY OF THE HISTORY OF TIBET: 7TH TO 21ST CENTURY, BY KATIA BUFFETRILLE

The long history of Tibet (dating back over 2,000 years) and of its relations with China can be complex, but is crucial to understand its current status as well as contemporary political, economical and societal issues.

In this indispensable chronology of the history of Tibet, French anthropologist and Tibetologist Katia Buffetrille summarizes in a very factual way the main events and developments - both internal and relating to its relations with the outside world - that have taken place in Tibet from the year 618 up to today.

[Click here to access the chronology.](#)

TIBET TALKS

TIBET TALKS: DECODING THE CCP

In this episode of Tibet Talks, Australia-based veteran Tibet observer Gabriel Lafitte and researcher and translator Tsering Dorje discuss the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy's latest publication, "Decoding CCP," a glossary and analysis of slogans from the Communist Party of China. The conversation provides an overview of sloganeering in China and its effects on Tibetans and the global community at large.

[Click here to watch Tibet Talk: Decoding the CCP](#)

TIBET TALKS EUROPE: VISITING TIBET - CONVERSATION WITH CHRISTELLE GENOUD

In this episode of Tibet Talks Europe, Christelle Genoud, who visited Tibetan areas in Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan on several occasions as a diplomat and as a tourist, discusses with ICT Europe's EU Policy Director Vincent Metten the dynamics at stake when visiting Tibet, her own experience travelling in the region, as well as current human rights issues.

[Click here to watch Tibet Talks Europe #13 - Visiting Tibet - Conversation with Christelle Genoud](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 JANUARY 2022: Start of the French EU Presidency
- 4-20 FEBRUARY 2022: Winter Olympic Games in Beijing