


INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

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TIBET

WATCH

WINTER 2022

INSIDE:

China's Inhumane
Zero-Covid Policy in Tibet

New Documentary Film *Amala*

Environmental Defenders
Face Persecution

Member Spotlight: Across
the Country by Train to
Attend Lobby Day

Petition to Congress:
Pass the Resolve Tibet Act



TIBETAN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS
SUPPORTING FREEDOM, SELF-DETERMINATION & CULTURAL PRESERVATION

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Dear Friend,

I hope this issue finds you well.

It has been a very busy fall season at ICT! In September, we hosted our first Tibet Lobby Day in person since 2019, with more than 100 participants traveling to Washington, DC to lobby for Tibet on Capitol Hill. Our principal request this year was support for the Resolve Tibet Act. This bill will, among other things, push the Chinese government to resume negotiations with representatives of the Dalai Lama, which has not happened since 2010.

Over the years, Tibet Lobby Day has played a significant role in advocating for new legislation in US government, but also making Tibetan Americans realize the impact of their political rights, and we feel the supporters who participated this year made a powerful case to political leaders. You can read about this and our other Tibetan Empowerment Programs in the feature story on pages 4-5. These programs are an essential part of our work to support the self-determination of Tibetans and the preservation of their culture and religion.

Also this fall, Interim Vice President Tencho Gyatso traveled to Dharamsala, India, accompanying a delegation of US Senate staffers to meet with the Tibetan community there, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan leadership. While there, she attended a celebration of the 62nd anniversary of the Tibetan Children's Village, which you can see on page 7. On the same page, read about the recent film *Amala*, which centers on Kasur Jetsun Pema, who was the loving head of TCV for 42 years.

Elsewhere in these pages you will find news of the devastating, inhumane COVID-19 restrictions Chinese officials have enforced in Tibet (page 8); the persecution of environmental defenders in Tibet (page 9); and an interview on Indian TV with our Board Chair Richard Gere (page 6).

I'd also like to call your attention to the member spotlight on page 10. Elizabeth McClain travels across the country from Montana by train each year to attend Tibet Lobby Day, and we really admire her dedication to the cause!

With China's ongoing oppression in mind, I hope you will lend your voice to the petition on page 11, asking Congress to support the Resolve Tibet Act and make clear that His Holiness' vision of a negotiated agreement is the only solution to the Tibet-China conflict. This legislation is a new way forward for America's Tibet policy, and it is vital that it passes.

Thank you for continuing to make Tibet a priority in your life; your steadfast commitment fuels everything we do.

With Tashi Delek and gratitude,



Bhuchung K. Tsering



SUPPORTING TIBETAN EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-DETERMINATION

A KEY FACET OF OUR WORK

A key aspect of our work focuses on the empowerment and self-determination of the Tibetan people. As China tries to destroy Tibetans' unique identity, ICT works to counteract that influence through programs that empower the Tibetan people.



Our Lodi Gyari Tibetan Empowerment Programs, named after our former Executive Chairman (read more about him on page 9), include several initiatives to help Tibetans preserve their traditions, protect their heritage, and speak up for their rights.

TIBETAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

This year marks 20 years of the Tibetan Youth Leadership Program, our mentorship and training program for ambitious young Tibetan Americans. This program aims to nurture youth leaders who will not only become the leaders of the Tibetan community in the future, but who will also act now to convert their energy and convictions about issues affecting Tibet into a powerful force for activism and change.

Through workshops, discussions, and hands-on activities, participants are taught the art of leadership in the Tibetan diaspora community. The training is specifically geared to meet the needs of the Tibetan community for a core group of young, articulate Tibetan leaders.

Since 2001, the TYLP has welcomed approximately 160 promising young Tibetan Americans from across the country to Washington, DC for leadership training. During the pandemic, the program went virtual, but we hope to resume in person in 2023.

Several graduates of the TYLP have gone on to promising careers in gov-

ernment and advocacy, including Tenzin Jangchup (TYLP '13), who is Lieutenant Commander in the Department of Health and Human Services; Tashi Chogyal (TYLP '06), who is a Senior Policy Aide at Foreign Policy for America; Tenzin Pelkyi (TYLP '13), who is a Congressional Affairs Adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross; and Tenda Thargay (TYLP '15), who is a member of the US Foreign Service. Others have continued as leaders and vital contributors in their fields, such as Tenzin Wangyal (TYLP '01), who has established his own law firm in New York City, and Tenzin Sonam (TYLP '15), who is a researcher at the SEE Learning Program at Emory University.

We look forward to continuing this program and welcoming additional Tibetan young people to Washington, DC!

TIBET LOBBY DAY

Tibet Lobby Day returned as an in-person event this September for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Tibetan Americans and Tibet supporters traveled to DC on September 22-23 and met with members of Congress and Congressional staff, building crucial support for a

new Tibet bill and sharpening the participants' advocacy skills.

Tibet Lobby Day 2022 brought over 100 Tibetan Americans and Tibet supporters to Washington, DC for more than 80 meetings with Congressional offices. Meanwhile, 4,700 ICT supporters participated online. Thank you to everyone who participated this year!



Traveling all over Capitol Hill and sharing their experiences of how China's illegal occupation of Tibet has harmed them and their families, Lobby Day participants made one main request of their members of Congress: Support the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act, a bipartisan bill introduced in July.

Known as the Resolve Tibet Act, the bill will push the Chinese government to resume negotiations on Tibet's future with the Dalai Lama's envoys, which have been stalled since 2010. The legislation will also support the Tibetan people's right to self-determination.

Over the years, Tibet Lobby Day has played a significant role in lobbying for new legislation regarding Tibet, including the recent Tibetan Policy and Support Act and the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act. We think this year's participants made a big impression too!

ROWELL FUND FOR TIBET

The Rowell Fund for Tibet was established in memory of the late Galen and Barbara Rowell, who were long-time friends of the Tibetan people. Galen and Barbara collaborated with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to produce a book called *My Tibet*, which featured essays by His Holiness and photographs of Tibet by Galen. Their love and passion for photography and writing introduced the beauty of Tibet and its threatened ecosystem and culture to countless people around the globe.

Following their tragic passing, ICT's Board of Directors, along with family and friends of the Rowells, established the Rowell Fund for Tibet to help empower Tibetans and to honor and perpetuate Galen and Barbara's goals and ideals in the Tibetan community. The areas of focus for the grant program are issues that were of importance to Galen and Barbara, including environment/conservation, photography,

humanitarian projects, journalism/literature, and women's projects.

Each year the Rowell Fund supports 5-15 projects in these topic areas, with a total of 154 projects funded since 2004. The grants are made possible through the generous support of ICT members. In 2022, six projects were funded, including a documentary film, a Tibetan language translation program, a climate change program, and others.

Of special interest are a few recent projects in particular, including the installation of a children's playground at Herbertpur, India (2021), with a colorful slide, seesaw, swing, and rock climbing equipment that have been popular with the local Tibetan children living in exile.



In 2020, funds were awarded to Tenzin Menkyi to make a documentary film about "Tibetan Sheroes," or incredible women who are the cornerstones of their exile communities. These strong role models include a refugee camp nurse, an entrepreneur, a manual laborer, an artisan

stone carver, a shepherd maintaining the nomadic lifestyle, and others.

As Menkyi writes, "[These women] are the mothers, the backbone of Tibetan diaspora, who dedicated their lives for the service of their parents, children, husbands and siblings; enabling them opportunities for growth, [and] at the same time, working on par with [the] man of the house in earning beyond bread."

We thank our members for their help in supporting these dynamic projects!

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN POLICY ACT

On September 30, 2002, the Tibetan Policy Act was signed into law. This legislation codified political and programmatic support for Tibet in US law for the first time and set the stage for two decades of US initiatives to empower the Tibetan people. The TPA made promoting dialogue between China and representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama a primary objective for the US government, and created the role of Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the State Department. It also contained provisions for economic development, environmental conservation, and religious freedom.

The TPA paved the way for the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act in 2019 and the updated Tibetan Policy and Support Act in 2020. ICT members and Tibet supporters played a pivotal role in the passage of all these laws.

The current Resolve Tibet Act recently introduced in Congress re-orientes US policy toward dialogue, which is the central concern of the Tibetan people, recognizes Tibet's status as unresolved under international law, supports the Tibetan people's right to self-determination and works to counter disinformation from the Chinese government. The TPA got us where we are today, and the Resolve Act will take us into the future!

ICT CHAIR RICHARD GERE APPEARS ON INDIAN TV

Vocal activist for Tibet and a close friend of the Dalai Lama, ICT Board Chair Richard Gere spoke exclusively to NDTV on what he says is China's threat to the world. Gere said the US had been naive when it comes to the China threat and warned India that China will penetrate borders and plans for economic takeover of countries, citing the Sri Lanka crisis as an example.

Asked why China demonizes the Dalai Lama, Gere said: "China still is deeply insecure. And that's why they behave the way they behave. Their surveillance budget is bigger than anyone's military budget. You only do that when you're deeply insecure about what your people are



thinking and what they're writing, what their pain is."

He also spoke about the success of the Tibetan refugee community, and about the compassion with which His Holiness the Dalai Lama approaches differences among people and religions, with a focus on mutual responsibility.

The interview ended on a note of hope, with Gere asserting that he feels optimistic about the essential goodness of humanity: "We all lean towards goodness, even the bad guys ... We're all leaning towards love. And that is connection. When we connect, we care, because we see ourselves in the other."

NEW BILL SAYS TIBET CONFLICT IS UNRESOLVED AND CHINA IS VIOLATING TIBETANS' SELF-DETERMINATION

A bill introduced in Congress on July 13, 2022 will take concrete action to resolve China's decades-long illegal occupation of Tibet by fully recognizing Tibet's unresolved status and faulting China for violating the Tibetan people's right to self-determination. Reps. Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Michael McCaul (R-TX) introduced the bill.

The Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act or "Resolve Tibet Act" will affirm the US position that Tibet's legal status remains to be determined under international law, despite more than six decades of China's illegal occupation and the



Chinese government's disinformation falsely claiming that Tibet has been part of China since ancient times.

The legislation will make it official US policy that Tibetans have the right to self-determination, and that China's policies are precluding them from exercising that right. Under China's brutal occupation, Tibet is now the least-free country on Earth alongside South Sudan and Syria—according to the latest rankings from the watchdog group Freedom House—and the Chinese government has refused to negotiate with Tibetan leaders since 2010. Pushing for passage of this

ICT DENOUNCES ARBITRARY ARRESTS, CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

At the 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on September 18, 2022, ICT reaffirmed its call for an independent mechanism for Xinjiang (which Uyghurs know as East Turkestan), Tibet, Hong Kong and China.

Speaking on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Kai Müller, Executive Director of ICT-Germany highlighted the worrying pattern of arbitrary arrests, ill-treatment, and torture in Tibet and called on the Human Rights Council to include Tibet as a subject of investigation and monitoring in the event of a possible establishment of an independent mechanism on China.



legislation is ICT's current advocacy priority. Learn more on our website at savetibet.org/occupation.

"The Chinese Communist Party's invasion of Tibet in 1950, and its repression of Tibetans ever since, set the stage for the CCP's ongoing territorial aggression and human rights atrocities... This bipartisan bill will help ensure Tibetans have a say in their own future, and reject the CCP lie that their tyranny over Tibet is historically legitimate."

— Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)



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THANK YOU TO THE ITALIAN BUDDHIST UNION

We are grateful to the Italian Buddhist Union (UBI) for sponsoring this issue of *Tibet Watch* magazine. Founded in Milan in 1985, UBI supports and represents the Buddhist movement in Italy. It also collaborates with nonprofit organizations to support humanitarian and social projects related to human rights, the environment, and social inclusivity. Learn more at <https://unionebuddhistaitaliana.it/en/>.



CELEBRATING AMALA & THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



The recent documentary film *Amala* (2022) tells the story of Kasur Jetsun Pema, the Dalai Lama's younger sister. Lovingly known as Amala (Mother), Jetsun Pema was director of the Tibetan Children's Village School for refugee Tibetan children for over 42 years. Under her leadership, it transformed into one of the most successful school

systems for Tibetan children in exile. *Amala* is a portrait of selflessness and courage, and of one woman's determination to create a brighter future for Tibet's children.

We are fortunate that Jetsun Pema's daughter Tencho Gyatso is a member of ICT's leadership team, currently serving as Interim Vice President. Tencho recently traveled to Dharamsala for the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the Tibetan Children's Village (TCV) school, which took place on October 23. The celebration included a gratitude program for Jetsun Pema, who retired in 2006. More than 400 alumni gathered for the event, including Tencho, who attended TCV from kindergarten to grade ten.

The leadership of the Central Tibetan Administration including Sikyong Penpa Tsering, Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, and other dignitaries such as Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche attended the celebration. In his keynote address, Sikyong Penpa Tsering said, "When His Holiness the Dalai Lama first arrived in India, one of his priorities was to set up separate schools for Tibetan children, which had been possible with the support of the Indian government and the dedicated and hardworking staff of TCV."

"WHEN I LOOK AT THE PROGRESS WE HAVE ACHIEVED WITH THE SCHOOL, I AM FILLED WITH A SENSE OF GRATITUDE AND SATISFACTION." —Kasur Jetsun Pema

Kyabje Ling Rinpoche expressed his gratitude to TCV school and shared about his own upbringing at TCV. He was recognized as the reincarnation of the late Ling Rinpoche while still a young child at TCV school.

The program featured the launch of a book—Kasur Ama Jetsun Pema's biography in Tibetan authored by Lekshay Tenpa—and the movie *Amala* by filmmaker Geleck Palsang.





DALAI LAMA ISSUES MESSAGE TO TIBETANS

The Dalai Lama has called on Tibetans not to feel disheartened amid the Chinese government's inhumane COVID-19 restrictions in Tibet. On October 4, 2022, he said, "You do not need to feel disheartened when faced with temporary difficulties. We Tibetans have a unique karmic connection with Avalokiteshvara, who is our guardian deity. Therefore, you should pray to the three enlightened deities in Lhasa (Tibet's capital city): Jowo Lokeshvara, Jowo Shakyamuni, and Jowo Akshobyavajra."

His Holiness added, "Although you are physically distant from me, since we have an uncommon connection based on our karma and prayers, you can think of me ... What is most important is that you should feel at ease and trust that the truth will eventually prevail."

ICT believes Tibetans are in despair and have no hope for their future under Chinese rule. With Tibet having endured decades of Chinese oppression, the extreme restrictions enforced under COVID lockdown, combined with poor quarantine conditions, raise legitimate fears that this is the future of Tibetan society, and that very little will change after COVID. With no hope for basic freedoms or rights to express their pain or insecurity, they feel the only way out of their situation is to take their own lives.

Chinese authorities are systematically collecting DNA from residents of the TAR, including by taking blood from children as young as 5 without their parents' consent. Though it is unknown what Chinese authorities intend to do with these DNA samples, precedent shows that they are tools of surveillance and oppression.

INHUMANE ZERO-COVID POLICY IN TIBET LEADS TO DESPAIR AND SUICIDE

Since a COVID outbreak in Tibet began in early August, Tibetans have faced extreme lockdowns that have deprived them of food, work, and psychological well-being.

Chinese authorities have manhandled and abused Tibetans and sent them to mass quarantine centers, where the healthy and sick are kept together in overcrowded facilities, allowing the virus to spread. Food in the centers is often unwashed and unhygienic.



The situation got so bad that the Lhasa City municipal government offered a rare public admission on Sept. 17 of mismanaging the pandemic, including through a lack of COVID testing capacity, inadequate garbage removal and cleaning services, cross-infections, and inefficient staff.

However, China's "zero-COVID" policy in Tibet was not changed, nor were any significant changes made in its handling of the pandemic.

On Sept. 23 and 24, at least five Tibetans jumped to their deaths in

Lhasa or its suburbs. Sources in Lhasa say the suicides occurred at mass quarantine sites or residential buildings under lockdown. A closer analysis of the five suicides suggests that all were due to the extreme hardships endured under China's zero-COVID policy restrictions.

China's external propaganda on Tibet portrays the situation as improving with a low number of new infections. But the figures for COVID infections in Tibet have been severely underreported since the beginning of the outbreak. While the state media outlets report tens of COVID cases in the Tibetan Autonomous Region, Tibetans on the ground say hundreds and thousands of Tibetans were being taken in buses to isolation centers.

China's mismanagement of COVID in Tibet reveals the extreme human costs when authoritarian police states prioritize censorship and social control over the well-being of the people.



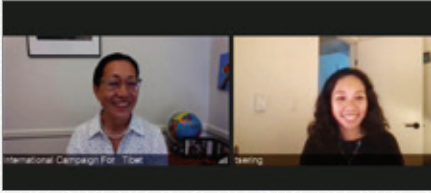
Citizen Lab finds that China's police may have gathered between about 920,000 to 1.2 million DNA samples in the Tibet Autonomous Region over the past six years. Those figures represent one-quarter to one-third of the total population of the TAR, which spans most of western Tibet.

Human Rights Watch also released a report in September saying that

REPORTED MASS DNA COLLECTION AIMS TO UNDERMINE TIBETAN IDENTITY

Two recent reports document a systematic DNA collection program involving Tibetans, the political objective of which can only be the undermining of Tibetan identity. In a report published September 13, 2022,

A READING AND CONVERSATION WITH AUTHOR TSERING YANGZOM LAMA, *WE MEASURE THE EARTH WITH OUR BODIES*



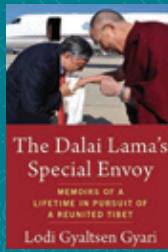
Tsering Yangzom Lama's debut novel, *We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies*, has been longlisted for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, and shortlisted for the 2022 Scotiabank Giller Prize. The book provides an intimate glimpse into the experience of Tibetan exiles as it follows three generations of a Tibetan family over a span of 50 years, beginning in 1960, as they are forced to leave their homeland following China's occupation of Tibet. It is a vivid human story of the refugee experience that deals with colonization, displacement and the loss of homeland in a deeply personal way. In this Tibet Talk, we heard from the author about her book and her experiences as a Tibetan woman.

Tibet Talks stream on Facebook Live and on our website at savetibet.org/live where you can also watch previous episodes. The talks are also released as podcasts, available on iTunes, Spotify, and Google Podcasts. Watch previous episodes and learn more at savetibet.org/pod/.



NEW ICT REPORT: TIBET'S ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Between 2012 and 2020, approximately 1,540 land and environmental defenders globally were killed. Many Tibetans have been persecuted and even killed for protecting their environment, but their efforts and the environmental concerns they raise are less recog-



RECENT PUBLICATION THE DALAI LAMA'S SPECIAL ENVOY: MEMOIRS OF A LIFETIME IN PURSUIT OF A REUNITED TIBET BY LODI GYALTSEN GYARI (Columbia University Press, 2022)

Special Envoy reveals a unique perspective on China's occupation of Tibet and the Tibetan struggle for freedom, and a clear outlining of the significance of the Dalai Lama's vision for the Tibetan people. Given that he is a reincarnation of a Buddhist lama, he also provides insight into his spiritual lineage and provides an overview of Tibetan religious tradition.

This book is highly recommended for anyone who wants to learn about the Tibetan people, their political struggle, and how Tibet figures into America's relationship with China.

Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari, also known as Gyari Rinpoche, was many things to many people.

To the men and women of the Nyarong region of Tibet, he was a member of the prestigious Gyari clan, a descendent of the warrior-leader Gonpo Namgyal. To practitioners of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, he was the reincarnation of Khenchen Jampal Dewé Nyima of Lumorab Monastery. In exile, he became a leading Tibetan activist who helped found the Tibetan Youth Congress in 1970 and was elected as its president in 1975.

And then the Dalai Lama selected him to serve as his special envoy for negotiations with China, a role that brought him into repeated contact with the Chinese leadership to advocate for

the future of the Tibetan people. He most crucially led the nearly decade-long dialogue process (between 2002 and 2010) that culminated in his presenting the Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy, which set forth in writing what His Holiness and the Tibetan leadership called for on behalf of the Tibetan people.

Gyari Rinpoche also had a close relationship with the International Campaign for Tibet, where he was named president in 1991 before being elected as the Executive Chairman of our board of directors. Here he worked tirelessly to promote the Dalai Lama's vision of a peaceful solution to the Tibet issue and became known as Tibet's elder statesman, building deep relationships with the White House and Congress. He was instrumental in undertaking actions that have led to Congress and Administration taking policy initiatives in support of Tibet.

After his retirement in 2012, Gyari Rinpoche devoted his time to writing an autobiography, and this book is the result. *Special Envoy* starts with a history of his native Nyarong before turning to his childhood and his family's history of involvement in the Tibetan movement. It then expands on the Chinese invasion, the flight to India, and the long decades he spent in the service to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people before ending on his recommendations for a resolution to the Tibet issue.

nized by the international community because the Chinese government and international community treat all Tibetan grievances as only related to the territorial conflict.

The failure to recognize Tibet as a major focal point of environmental destruction and climate change has long-term destabilizing effects for the 40% of the world's population who rely on the ecosystem services provided by the Tibetan plateau. This report recognizes Tibetan en-

vironmental defenders, analyzing 50 cases of known defenders who have been reportedly persecuted since 2008. Many of them have experienced imprisonment, while the whereabouts of several are unknown. Four have died due to abuse by state agents: one individual was fatally shot during a protest, while three died in custody.

Learn more and read the full report at savetibet.org/environmental-defenders-of-tibet/.

Member Spotlight:

LIZ MCCLAIN, FRIEND OF TIBET SINCE 2007

Liz McClain has been an activist since her early days. She spent most of her professional life in South Africa and Namibia, teaching and researching insect physiology while becoming actively involved in those countries' liberation struggles. Now she is a Professor Emeritus who for the past 25 years has taught and researched at Aaniiih Nakoda College, a Tribal College in Northeastern Montana on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, located on isolated prairie land populated with buffalo—and forty miles from the nearest stoplight. Similar to efforts to preserve and sustain Tibetan culture, the college emphasizes the Life Way of its people, making sure the Indigenous languages, ceremonies and culture empower the students.

Asked what first motivated her activism, Liz recalls her childhood growing up with parents who were involved in international relations and invited people from all over the world into their home. Her readings about the history of the Silk Road, her love of horses, and her experiences of hearing His Holiness the Dalai Lama in public teachings brought her to the Tibetan cause.

She says, "If one is an activist, staring you in the face is the horrible fate of Tibet and the Tibetans ... So some years ago I joined ICT and was kept abreast with the situation both inside Tibet and what the DC office was doing on all fronts with the US government. The inspiration to join Lobby Day was the utter stagnation and sabotage of the Chinese Communist government in attending to the Tibetan situation, knowing full well they had invaded a sovereign nation!"



Liz feels so passionate about the Tibet issue that she travels by train from Montana to Washington, DC each year to attend Tibet Lobby Day. She says it takes her three days to get to Union Station, but it is a great way to see the country, and the food and accommodations are wonderful.

Liz feels it is especially important for her to attend since she is from Montana: "We are a huge state but with few people. However, we have two Senators as do other states and of course Representatives to Congress. The current bill H.R. 8365 (known as the Resolve Tibet Act) is a powerful one that does not consider the Tibet situation in any way solved." She considers it her responsibility to lobby for the bill since otherwise leaders from Montana may not hear much about it, and may not understand the Tibetan perspective.

Unfortunately, a slip and fall during this year's Tibet Lobby Day landed Liz in the hospital briefly. But she wouldn't let that stop her. She continued doing everything she could to lobby her Representatives remotely—right from her hospital bed.

This year may not have been her best Lobby Day, but she says she is still glad she made the trip. As for her favorite memories of Lobby Days past, they are of working alongside Tibetans and those who support them. She admires Tibetans' love of country and the dedication of Tibet supporters, whom she calls "an inspiration."



LIZ MCCLAIN, WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT TIBET?

- That it is a Sovereign Nation.
- That the Tibetan government in exile chose to be democratic.
- That since 1950 the Chinese Communist government has occupied the country.
- That Tibetans have fled their country as gross human rights abuses and genocide continues unabated.
- That China now claims Tibet has always been a part of China, which is a LIE.
- That Tibet and the government in exile have chosen the Middle Way for dialogue with the Chinese government but to no avail. Any dialogue for a solution to the Tibet issue stopped years ago.
- That the Tibetan people are a non-violent Buddhist people for which His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the most important person.
- That the Tibetan people exude wisdom, compassion, and kindness as a way of life.
- That Tibet and the Tibetan people have a lot to offer the world in helping to make it a better place.
- That the country of Tibet is known as the "Third Pole" for the mountains, fresh water, and environment.
- That the US government has supported Tibet, and Tibet has a close relationship with both the Congress and Senate and with the American people.
- That both the Senate and Congress must continue to support Tibet in its struggle to actualize its freedom and bring about change so Tibetans can return to their own country and their own Life Way, which is under threat of extinction.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS: URGE CONGRESS TO PASS THE RESOLVE TIBET ACT



This year Congress has a golden opportunity to advance our goal of a negotiated agreement on Tibet through dialogue between Tibetan Leadership and the Chinese government by passing the **Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act (H.R. 8365)** and a companion bill in the Senate.

This legislation comes at a critical juncture in the China-Tibet conflict. After abandoning the dialogue process over a decade ago, the Xi Jinping regime has tightened its fist. Arbitrary detention, disappearances, torture, and sacrilegious acts remain commonplace, hidden now behind an iron curtain of pervasive electronic surveillance. New policies are in place that further a systematic attempt to obliterate Tibetan culture, identity, and basic freedoms. DNA and other biometric data collection is escalating surveillance to a new, dangerous level. Forced separation of children from their families to boarding schools where they are

taught only in Chinese risks severing the very roots of cultural identity.

The Resolve Tibet Act represents an important next step by making clear the US government has not forgotten Tibet, and it expects the Chinese to return to the negotiating table. It empowers the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to counter Beijing's disinformation campaigns head on, especially important in the face of the Chinese Communist Party's increasing capacity and willingness to engage in transnational repression.

Urge your elected representatives to join in standing against Tibet's occupation: Make it a matter of US policy that the Tibet issue is not resolved, and that His Holiness' vision of a negotiated agreement is the only path forward. Complete the petition below and return it to us in the enclosed envelope.

PLEASE CLIP HERE & MAIL YOUR PETITION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE



DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the continued plight of the Tibetan people and urge you to work in Congress and with the Administration to support new initiatives to advance the Tibetans' just cause.

Today the situation in Tibet is dire. The very future of Tibetan identity is in peril. However, a bill introduced in the House of Representatives in 2022 by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Michael McCaul (R-TX), the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act, promises a new way forward for America's Tibet policy.

Bipartisan support for Tibet in the US Congress has been the international standard bearer for Tibet for many decades. And Congress has consistently identified China's repressive policies towards Tibet as a serious problem that demands confrontation. Administrations of both parties, and Congress, have long embraced the Dalai Lama's call for meaningful negotiation to end the oppression of Tibetans and repeatedly urged Chinese authorities to respect the fundamental human rights and religious freedoms of the Tibetan people.

The Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people continue to advocate nonviolently for a peaceful, stable solution of the still unresolved Tibet-China conflict and they need the support of the United States. As a constituent, I urge you to make the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act the law of the land. A resolution of the Tibet-China conflict will have tremendous impact on peace in the world.

I look forward to hearing from you on the above.

Sincerely,

Signature _____

Name _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



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“
Although our various religious traditions assert different philosophical points of view, their common purpose is to encourage their followers to be warm-hearted.
”

His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking with the Muslim community at Masjid Sharif, Shey, Leh, Ladakh.

COMING IN JANUARY:

We're thrilled to announce the publication of a very special book on how to heal our relationship with the planet and each other, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Mutts cartoonist, award-winning author and friend of ICT Patrick McDonnell: *HEART TO HEART, A Conversation on Love and Hope for Our Precious Planet.*

Not only is this an incredible publication, but thanks to the generosity of Patrick McDonnell, proceeds will benefit ICT's work devoted to fulfilling the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the preservation of Tibetan identity, culture and tradition. Preorder your copy now to receive a limited edition digital print from the book! <https://bit.ly/ICTheart>





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SAVE TIBET

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To change your address or contact preferences, please write to us at 1825 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20036. To obtain financial information about the International Campaign for Tibet, write to us at the same address, contact the state agencies as noted below or see our website at www.save Tibet.org. ICT is in compliance with all state registrations required.

