



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

35th ANNIVERSARY

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TIBET WATCH

SPRING 2023

INSIDE:

Announcing ICT's
New President

Celebrating Losar,
Tibetan New Year

Heart to Heart, Words
from the Dalai Lama,
Inspired Illustrations
from Patrick McDonnell

Celebrating 35 Years of ICT

Petition: Urge Congress to
Cosponsor the Resolve Tibet Act



STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

TIBET LOBBY DAY 2023

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Dear Friend,

I am so pleased to be writing to you as President of ICT for the first time in these pages. As you may know, I have been with ICT since 2008, and over the past 15 years I have witnessed the strength of our community, and your incredible commitment to the people of Tibet.

As I step into this new role, I look forward with optimism and humility to what the future holds for our organization and for His Holiness' vision of Tibet as a zone of peace and freedom. I am grateful to have the collaboration and backing of a wide network of friends of Tibet and supporters of truth and justice around the world as we work to make ICT even more impactful.

With offices in Washington, DC, Amsterdam, Brussels and Berlin, we are committed to move forward as a united and cohesive organization, with our priorities in government advocacy, reporting, and Tibetan empowerment remaining the same.

Meanwhile, my colleague Bhuchung K. Tsering, who served as Interim President, will lead a new arm of the organization dedicated to research and reporting at this crucial time of heightened repression and surveillance inside Tibet.

This year, ICT commemorates 35 years of advocacy for the people of Tibet. Looking back, it is clear how large a role supporters like you have played in the successes we have achieved. I send my sincere thanks to each one of you for your steadfast dedication to the Tibetan cause.

In this issue, a special feature on page 4 offers a look back at the history of ICT and the Tibet movement. It includes pivotal milestones from three and a half decades of work. You'll also find a report back from a record-breaking Tibet Lobby Day 2023, which was held at the end of March. This Lobby Day brought more Tibet supporters to Capitol Hill than ever before, including our Board Chair Richard Gere, who participated in several important meetings with lawmakers.

In February, the Sikyong, (President of the Central Tibetan Administration) visited Washington, DC. ICT leadership joined his meetings with Senators and Representatives to discuss the recently re-introduced Resolve Tibet Act, which makes clear that US policy views the Tibet-China conflict as unresolved and pushes for renewed dialogue between Chinese leaders and Tibetan representatives.

The Resolve Tibet Act was also the focus of our intensive Lobby Day efforts (see page 8). I hope you will lend your voice to the petition on page 11, calling on Members of Congress to cosponsor the Resolve Tibet Act as the next step forward towards finding a peaceful resolution for the Tibet-China conflict.

Finally, I hope you'll enjoy our coverage of the Tibetan New Year festival of Losar on page 7.

We begin this new phase of our organization with a renewed commitment to our work—and a firm sense of the loyalty and generosity of the worldwide community of Tibet supporters who stand by us. Thank you so much.

All of us at ICT wish you a healthy and prosperous Tibetan Year of the Water Hare.



In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tencho Gyatso". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tencho Gyatso
President

35 YEARS OF UNWAVERING SERVICE TO THE TIBETAN PEOPLE

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 35 years of ICT's work on behalf of the people of Tibet.

1988



ICT OPENS ITS FIRST OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, DC

John Ackerly, an original staff member, 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. John returned to the US and widely told his story as a grassroots advocate for Tibet, president of ICT and a current member of 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, LAUNCHING A JOURNEY FOR MANY TIBETAN AMERICANS

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 later in the year signs legislation declaring Tibet an occupied country. ICT has arranged visits between the Dalai Lama and four US presidents.

1995

ICT HOSTS THE DALAI LAMA FOR A MAJOR US VISIT WHERE HE PRESENTS ICT'S FIRST LIGHT OF TRUTH AWARD TO RICHARD GERE, ICT'S LONGSTANDING BOARD CHAIR

1997



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

Three 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.

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, 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

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.

2002

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

2005

THE ROWELL FUND FOR TIBET IS ESTABLISHED, PROVIDING GRANTS TO TIBETANS FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION

2007

HIS HOLINESS IS AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

The highest civilian honor in the US. ICT members helped support this Congressional initiative

2010



ICT ORGANIZES THE FIRST TIBET LOBBY DAY IN WASHINGTON, DC

2017



Photo: Leader Nancy Pelosi's office.

A BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TRAVELS TO DHARAMSALA, INDIA

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, DENYING ACCESS TO THE US FOR CHINESE OFFICIALS WHO RESTRICT ACCESS TO TIBET FOR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, AND VISITORS, IS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED IN THE HOUSE

2020

THE TIBETAN POLICY AND SUPPORT ACT IS SIGNED INTO LAW

Making it official US policy that the succession of the Dalai Lama be left solely to Tibetan Buddhists without Chinese interference.

2022

THE RESOLVE TIBET ACT IS FIRST INTRODUCED

By rejecting China's claims over Tibet and supporting Tibetans' right to self-determination, this bill will put pressure on China to resume negotiations with Tibetan leaders.



TIBETAN UPRISING ANNIVERSARY BRINGS CALLS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Elected leaders and activists across the globe called for a peaceful resolution through dialogue to the longstanding Tibet-China conflict on the 64th anniversary of Tibetans' national uprising against China's rule on March 10, 1959.

Tibetan Uprising Day this year saw government officials issue statements in several countries, Tibetans and Tibet supporters protest in numerous cities, and Chinese authorities continue cracking down inside Tibet.

Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI), Chairman of the new Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, spoke at a rally outside the Chinese embassy in Washington, DC. Gallagher said the CCP used artillery to subdue Tibet 64 years ago, but now it is trying to subdue Tibetans' minds: "The nice word for this is 'Sinicization'...But the real term, according to the Dalai Lama himself, is 'cultural genocide.'" ICT's Bhuchung Tsering also spoke during the rally at the embassy, and ICT's Franz Matzner spoke at the portion of the rally outside the White House.



TIBETAN SIKYONG VISITS CAPITOL HILL

In early February, Tibetan Sikyong (President) Penpa Tsering, the democratically elected leader of the Tibetan government in exile, came to Capitol Hill as part of his North American tour. The Sikyong arrived in the US capitol on February 2 and stayed in town for most of the next week, meeting with Senators and Representatives of both parties, State Department officials—including Uzra Zeya, the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues—Chinese dissidents, think tank leaders, and others. He was accompanied by Namgyal Choedup, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Office of Tibet in DC, and his Congressional meetings included the participation of ICT Board Chairman Richard Gere (who took part virtually) and ICT staff.

During his visit, the *Resolve Tibet Act* was reintroduced in Congress by Members of the House and Senate, including original cosponsors Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Michael

McCaul (R-TX), Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and Sen. Todd Young (R-IN). The bipartisan bill would recognize that Tibet was historically an independent country prior to Chinese invasion, and that its status is currently unresolved. It would also push for renewed dialogue between Chinese leaders and Tibetan representatives for the first time since the dialogue process stalled after 2010. The bill's reintroduction in the first month of the legislative calendar shows that resolving the Tibetan issue remains a priority for America's elected leaders.

The Sikyong said, "We tell governments that if you keep repeating the statement that Tibet is part of People's Republic of China, then you're going against international law." The hope is that other countries will follow the US's lead in taking this stand, and that a similar bill might be promoted by the European Union and other legislatures.



IMPRISONED TIBETAN BUSINESSMAN'S SISTER CONTINUES HER PROTEST VIGIL IN LHASA

The sister of an unjustly imprisoned Tibetan businessman continues to fight for her brother's freedom. On January 31 Gonpo Kyi was briefly detained by China's authorities after she protested for justice for her ailing brother Dorjee Tashi outside a court in Tibet's capital city of Lhasa before being released with a warning. Within a few minutes, security officers removed her from the site.

Gonpo has reportedly been threatened with arrest if she continues her protests. After exhausting all official channels for over a decade and

maintaining a low profile, Gonpo started openly advocating for her brother's release from the notorious Drapchi prison in June 2022, and has pledged to do so until he is freed.

ICT has documented the torture of Dorjee Tashi, a famous Tibetan businessman and philanthropist, during his pre-trial detention, as well as his family's efforts to seek justice for him. He was first framed as a "secessionist" and later indicted for "loan fraud," for which he is serving a life sentence.

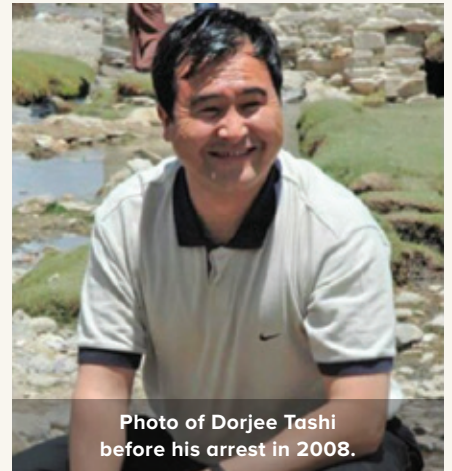


Photo of Dorjee Tashi before his arrest in 2008.

Dorjee Tashi has served 15 years in prison so far and is known to be in poor health. ICT urges the international community to call for the immediate release of Dorjee Tashi.

UN WARNING ABOUT TIBETAN CHILDREN SHOWS URGENT NEED TO RESOLVE CONFLICT

UN experts' warning about China's efforts to forcibly assimilate the "vast majority" of Tibetan children by separating them from their families and boarding them at state-run schools underscores the urgent need to resolve the Tibet-China conflict.

In a February 6 statement, three UN experts warned that nearly 1 million Tibetan children have been separated from their families and sent to residential schools, where they are forced to learn in Mandarin Chinese in a curriculum built around Chinese culture.

The experts expressed their concerns in a letter to the Chinese government on November 11, 2022 and say they remain in contact with Chinese officials. We believe that China's unconscionable efforts to cut Tibetan children off from their language, religion, culture and families is an existential threat to the survival of Tibetan culture inside Tibet. The international community must increase pressure on Beijing to return to the negotiating table with the Dalai Lama's envoys while His Holiness can still play an active role in negotiations and before Tibetans' beautiful culture is erased by China's government.



The UN experts' statement was met with deep concern from Tibetans as well as global leaders, including the US State Department's Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Under Secretary Uzra Zeya.



INTRODUCING: TIBET ROUNDUP

ICT's new Tibet Roundup is a twice-monthly compilation of curated news from various sources, including Chinese state media, official Chinese documents, briefings, information reported by Tibetans in Tibet, and international commentary on Tibet. The roundup is organized in categories, including law, politics, culture, economics, climate, and commentary. The focus is on presenting news and reports with limited analysis and editorializing.

This is a great way to stay informed about recent news and commentary on Tibet from around the world. To read Tibet Roundup, visit savetibet.org/tibet-roundup/.



CELEBRATING LOSAR WATER RABBIT YEAR 2150

Lo (year) **Sar** (new) *literally means* “new year.”

Losar is the Tibetan new year holiday celebration that begins on the first day of the first month of the new year in the Tibetan calendar, when the new moon is sighted. The holiday is a time for joyful celebration, but also an important part of Tibetan cultural identity.

Professor Tenzin Dorjee, who was the first Tibetan Buddhist Chair of the US Commission for International Religious Freedom and joined ICT’s recent Tibet Talk about Losar, says that the holiday may have started around the 13th century, and is celebrated across Tibet and the Himalayas. Prior to Chinese invasion, the festivities lasted as long as 15 days.

These days, the celebration includes 3 main days: Day 1. Lamas Losar, when Tibetans go to monasteries to receive blessings from lamas and gurus; **Day 2.** Kings Losar, a public celebration day presided over by His Holiness; **Day 3.** Gods Losar, when offerings and prayers of thanks are made to the gods, along with requests for a prosperous new year.

ICT’s President Tencho Gyatso shares that Losar is not just a celebration of the new year, but a clearing out of any negative energies from the year that has passed. On the final day of the year, Tibetans enjoy a special soup called *guthuk* made with dough balls that contain ingredients symbol-



White House Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison Erika Moritsugu, pictured center with Tibetan performers Tenzin Choeni (left) and Tsekyi Dolkar Tsultrim (right)

izing different personality traits. Finding a piece of chili in your dough ball means you have a sharp tongue. A piece of garlic means you stink!

Losar is also a time for cleaning house—clearing everything out, dusting, white washing, hanging new curtains and wearing new clothes. Setting up Losar altars with offerings to deceased loved ones and the gods is another important aspect of the celebration.

Tenzin Dorjee says the way Tibetans celebrate Losar reflects their cultural distinctiveness. Losar is inextricably tied up with Tibetan language, religion, and culture, and is therefore a threat to the PRC, which forbids its celebration. That is why it is so important for the Tibetan diaspora to continue to celebrate Losar, hold on to these traditions, and teach them to the next generation.

The full Tibet Talks discussion on Losar is available at savetibet.org/live.

STATE DEPARTMENT HONORS LOSAR

At a lively Losar celebration at the US State Department on February 21, Secretary of State Antony Blinken extended warmest wishes to all Tibetans in a special video message and said that the US honors the spirit and resilience of the Tibetan people.

Secretary Blinken said, “During this time of celebration – a period when Tibetans believe that the impact of our individual acts of virtue are multiplied – we recommit to working alongside the global Tibetan community to support and strengthen the rights and heritage of Tibetans.”

Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya, who also serves as Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, said during her in-person remarks, “Our resolve to advance the human rights and dignity of all Tibetans, as well as preserve their distinct religious, cultural and linguistic identity, is unwavering. We also persist in our call for the PRC to resume meaningful and direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives without preconditions.”

The event also included performances of traditional Tibetan song and dance by the sister-brother duo of Tsekyi Dolkar Tsultrim and Tenzin Choeni from New York. The celebration wrapped up with attendees being lead in a traditional Tibetan circle dance. Parliamentarians and government leaders from several countries also offered their Losar greetings to Tibetans this year and showed their support for preserving Tibetan identity.



RICHARD GERE JOINS RECORD NUMBER OF TIBETAN AMERICANS & SUPPORTERS FOR TIBET LOBBY DAY

On an exciting and impactful day for Tibetans at the US Capitol, ICT Chairman Richard Gere spoke March 28 with the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House, the former Speaker, and the main sponsors of a new bipartisan, bicameral bill on Tibet.

Gere's trip to the Hill was part of events surrounding the 15th annual Tibet Lobby Day. This year the event saw a record-breaking 160+ Tibetan Americans and Tibet supporters converge on Washington to meet congressional members and staff to call for support of the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act.

Also known as the Resolve Tibet Act, the bill will pressure China's government to resolve its decades-long occupation of Tibet through peaceful dialogue with the Dalai Lama's envoys.

The Act was also the focus at a Congressional-Executive Commission on China hearing on March 28 where Gere testified alongside the Tibetan Sikyong (President) and two other Tibet activists. During the hearing, the ICT Chairman talked about the uniqueness of the Tibetan people—and the tragedy of China rupturing Tibet's ancient culture of wisdom.

"These people are unique," Gere said. "They're unique on the planet. They're unique in our present

society. They have so much to offer us, not just Americans but the entire planet ... I don't care about the money. I don't even care about the natural resources. I care about this continuity of love and compassion."

Joined by Representative Namgyal Choedup from the Office of Tibet in Washington and ICT staff, Gere met with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY). Gere also visited Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), a longtime champion of the Tibetan people.

In the afternoon, he spoke at a press conference outside the Capitol with Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and Sen. Todd Young, (R-IN), the original cosponsors of the Resolve Tibet Act.

Gere said at the press conference, "I see this as a moment of possibility ... And it's setting the record straight. It's setting history straight ... and making it as pure as it possibly can be that we are there for the Tibetan people."

McCaul, who is Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said that a markup of the Resolve Tibet Act is coming soon—an important step on the way to the bill passing the House.

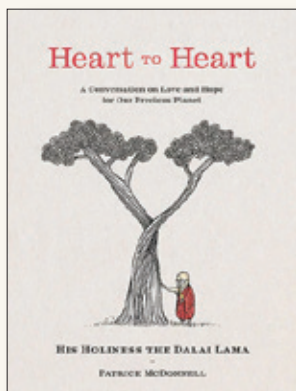
McGovern welcomed the news of the markup. "It is time to say that human rights matter, that the Chinese government cannot rewrite Tibetan history, that the Chinese government needs to restart a formal dialogue with Tibetans," McGovern said.

Meanwhile, Lobby Day participants from 23 states plus the District of Columbia spent March 27-28 meeting with 100 representatives' offices asking their members of Congress to support the Resolve Tibet Act. In addition 4,297 petitions from virtual Tibet Lobby Day participants were submitted to lawmakers across the country. The efforts of our community of compassion had an immediate impact, with the legislation officially gaining several new co-sponsors after Lobby Day.

Other priorities at Tibet Lobby Day included maintaining US funding that benefits the Tibetan people, pressing for the full implementation of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act and the Tibetan Policy and Support Act, and calling for the release of Tibetan political prisoners.



ICT thanks everyone who participated in and supported Tibet Lobby Day this year!



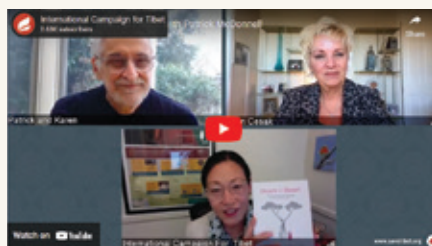
PATRICK MCDONNELL, “MUTTS” CARTOONIST, GOES HEART TO HEART WITH THE DALAI LAMA IN NEW BOOK

The award-winning illustrator behind the comic strip “Mutts” has published a “little jewel of a book” he created with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Titled *Heart to Heart: A Conversation on Love and Hope for Our Precious Planet*, the book features illustrations by Patrick McDonnell alongside simple yet profound words from His Holiness.

The book delivers a powerful message about solving the Earth’s environmental challenges and practicing compassion toward all living beings. Its main character is a Giant Panda who decides to make a pilgrimage to Dharamsala, India, the exile home of the Dalai Lama, to “get some answers about what is going on in his world,” McDonnell said. His Holiness greets the bear with a bow and a scratch under his snout.

“I welcome everyone as a friend,” the Dalai Lama tells the creature. “In truth, we share the same basic goals: we all seek happiness and do not want suffering.”

Then His Holiness and the panda go on a little walk in the nearby forest and have a heart to heart conversation on the ways of the world.



TIBET TALK

A January 26 Tibet Talk featured McDonnell in conversation with his close friend and ICT Board Member Pam Cesak and President Tencho Gyatso, who were both involved in the creation of the book.

McDonnell shared over a dozen slides from the book’s beginning, with images of climate destruction around the globe and a panda surrounded by the stumps of chopped-down trees in a Tibetan forest. He said he was inspired by a trip to Africa with Cesak and her husband, where they witnessed both the beauty and the fragility of the planet.

Although *Heart to Heart* pulls no punches about the devastation humankind has caused the planet, the book offers a message of hope. With his arm wrapped around the panda’s shoulder, His Holiness talks about how real change in the world can only come about through a change of heart.

“What I propose is a compassionate revolution,” he says. “Everything we do has some effect—even a simple act. Although it might seem insignificant, when we multiply it by billions of others who might do the same thing, we can have an enormous impact.”

Of the book, His Holiness said, “It is my hope that this book will open the eyes, minds, and hearts of all people.”

Heart to Heart, published by HarperOne and released Jan. 24, 2023, is available now at major bookstores and online retailers. Proceeds benefit the International Campaign for Tibet. Our Tibet Talk with Patrick McDonnell can be viewed at savetibet.org/live.

“A Gift to the World”



RICHARD GERE

“This delightful book will help us reorient our priorities, and wake us up to our higher purpose. Our bountiful planet Earth can become the Garden, and we can live with each other without fear. Love is not zero sum, it expands to the size of the universe. May this wonderful little book become one of the seeds that grows and flourishes to make that Garden our living experience.”



JANE GOODALL

“It is quite the most original, entertaining and enlightening book I have ever seen – I don’t believe there is another like it. With the words of His Holiness and your enchanting illustrations it leaves a lasting impression. After reading it once, I was compelled to turn the pages again and again. It is a blueprint for how we should live, with love, compassion – and humour. Congratulations. It will surely become a best seller, and a book everyone will want to give to their friends for birthdays or other special occasions.”

TENCHO GYATSO ANNOUNCED AS NEW PRESIDENT OF ICT

On March 29, ICT's three Boards of Directors announced that longstanding ICT staff member Tencho Gyatso will be the new President of the organization. The announcement was made following a two-year process of mapping out a path forward for the organization with a cohesive approach across our international offices.

Tencho brings a wealth of experience, commitment and heart to her work with ICT in support of Tibet. Our entire staff is enthusiastic about Tencho's appointment and her unifying approach and looks forward to this new phase in ICT's proud history of working for a just and peaceful future for Tibet.

Chairman Richard Gere said: "I've known Tencho for decades. Her commitment to Tibet and to the Tibetan people's struggle is profound. She is a skillful navigator whose values truly represent the core of ICT."

With deep connections within the Tibet movement and strong bonds to a large community of activists, Tencho steps into this role at an important moment.

"ICT was created with the mission of rallying the international community to take action for Tibet, and today, that work is more critical than ever," Tencho said. She said that her first priority is to listen to existing friends and supporters and then to broaden and deepen the organization's circle to become stronger, smarter, and more effective.

ICT is also pleased to announce the establishment of a critical new research network, which will be headed by Bhuchung Tsering, who served

as Interim President and has been a stalwart leader of ICT since 1995. Our team is deeply grateful to Bhuchung for stepping up to lead ICT with such skill, compassion and grace over the past two years of this transition, and we know he is eager to focus his energy on expanding research and reporting across our offices.

Prior to assuming the role of ICT President, Tencho served as Interim Vice President and Director for Outreach. Born in Dharamsala, India, Tencho spent her young life at the Tibetan Children's Village school.

She served as an elected member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile, during which time she traveled ex-



tensively throughout Tibetan communities in India to broaden understanding of the exile government's democratic system and to educate governmental and NGO groups in Europe and the US about Tibet.

After moving to the US in 1998, she continued her activism as a private individual, serving as a community leader and event organizer to raise awareness about Tibet.

Tencho joined ICT in 2008 as Special Assistant for Advocacy and expanded her activism overseeing Tibet Lobby Day on Capitol Hill, the Tibetan Youth Leadership Program, and the Lodi Gyari Washington Internship Program. Tencho has led several ICT member and Congressional staffer trips to Dharamsala. She plays an active role on ICT's Advocacy Team to advance the organization's legislative agenda and continues to educate the public about Tibet at community conferences and universities.

Tencho lives in Virginia with her artist/writer husband Losang Gyatso and her son Tashi Gyatso. Tencho has a popular blog on Tibetan food culture called *Simply Tibetan*, and she played the role of the Mother, her own grandmother, in Martin Scorsese's film on the early life of the Dalai Lama 'Kundun'.



Tencho meets with Nancy Pelosi during Tibet Lobby Day, on March 28. Photo: Leader Nancy Pelosi's office.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS: URGE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO COSPONSOR 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**.

This legislation comes at a critical juncture in the Tibet-China 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 Tibetan civilization.

The Resolve Tibet Act represents an important next step by making clear the US government is committed to supporting Tibet and expects the Chinese to return to the negotiating table. It empowers the Special Coordinator 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.

PLEASE CLIP HERE & MAIL YOUR PETITION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE



DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS,

I write to express my concern regarding the CCP’s continued assault on the Tibetan people and to urge you to support the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act (**H.R.533/S.138**), introduced by Representatives Jim McGovern and Michael McCaul in the House and Senators Jeff Merkley and Todd Young in the Senate.

Today the situation in Tibet is dire and the very future of Tibetan identity is in peril. However, H.R.533/S.138 promises to build on America’s existing Tibet policy to make clear to Beijing that US support for negotiations will never waiver, no matter how long identifying a peaceful, stable resolution takes. The bill also empowers the Administration to refute the intense disinformation campaign the CCP wages against the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people.

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 human rights crisis 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 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 cosponsor the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act and help make it 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.

Signature _____

Name _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



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Stay Informed, Stay Connected

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His Holiness the Dalai Lama has always had a special relationship with animals—an affinity that is captured movingly in a new book called “Heart to Heart” by Patrick McDonnell (learn more on page 9). In this January 2023 photo, a security dog bows to His Holiness as he departs to attend a Long Life Prayer Offering in Bodhgaya, Bihar, India.



Photo: Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL



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