



INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
FOR TIBET

35th ANNIVERSARY



TIBET WATCH

SUMMER 2023

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Tibetan Youth Leaders
in Washington

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UNITED FOR TIBET
WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS

THEIR FUTURE IS OUR FUTURE

YOUR LEGACY SUPPORT MATTERS

Photo: Olivier Adam

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Dear Friend,

As I write to you, we have just concluded our Tibetan Youth Leadership Program (TYLP), a week-long training for young Tibetan Americans that we host annually.

The young people we meet through this program always bring new energy to our work, and this year's group of 9 was truly exceptional—especially since we were able to welcome them to Washington, DC and hold the training in person for the time since 2019!

I hope you'll enjoy reading about their experience in our feature story on pages 4-5. As we work towards a resolution to the Tibet-China conflict, it is vital that we give the next generation of Tibetan leaders the tools to carry on this peaceful struggle.

We have had a busy spring at ICT, with a member trip to Dharamsala in April, including an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and meetings with leadership of the Central Tibetan Administration and numerous Tibetan NGOs and institutions; our ongoing work to advocate for the Resolve Tibet Act; and most recently with Secretary of State Blinken's visit to Beijing in June.

In these pages, we are honored to share a well-deserved award granted to my long-time friend and colleague Bhuchung K. Tsering by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (page 8). I hope you'll also take a look at a new report we recently completed on 10 years of rule by Xi Jinping (page 10) as well as recent blog posts and Tibet Talks we are sharing on a diversity of topics (page 9).

Don't miss a special Member Spotlight (page 10) with Patrick McDonnell, co-author of the recent book *Heart to Heart: A Conversation on Love and Hope for Our Precious Planet*. Featuring words by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and beautiful illustrations by Patrick, this very moving book conveys a much-needed message of joy, hope and change for our world, and I encourage you to read it. Patrick has generously donated proceeds to ICT.

Finally, in the spirit of summer, please enjoy the recipe I share on page 7, and a fun "get to know Tencho" list on page 6 that includes some lesser known facts about my life and background—and hopefully will help you get to know me as ICT's new president.

I am so grateful to have your collaboration and support as I move forward in this role. In that spirit, I encourage you to lend your voice to the petition on page 11, which presses Secretary Blinken to publicly raise the issue of Tibet in his talks with China, including the urgent need to resume dialogue.

Thank you in advance for lending your support to this appeal, and for all you do to help advance ICT's efforts to Save Tibet.



In solidarity,

Tencho Gyatso

Tencho Gyatso
President

AN “AMAZING EXPERIENCE”

THE TIBETAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM BRINGS 9 TIBETAN AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS TO WASHINGTON, DC

From meeting high-ranking members of Congress to visiting DC’s top attractions, a group of Tibetan American college students had a full, fun schedule in June at ICT’s Tibetan Youth Leadership Program.

TYLP—which took place in person this year for the first time since the pandemic—gave nine students from across the country unique exposure to the US political system, the foreign policy discourse, and the role of activists, lobbyists, think tanks and journalists in the US capital. This week of training is part of ICT’s Lodi Gyari Tibetan Empowerment Programs.

“My experience at TYLP has honestly been amazing,” said one of the students, Dekyi Sharchitsang. “I think having the opportunity to come here to Washington, DC and meet other young Tibetans like myself who are interested in our broader Tibetan movement has been



Namgyal Choedup, the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration to North America, speaks to students at ICT’s Tibetan Youth Leadership Program.

very enriching. In addition to that, getting to meet other people who work in DC in similar fields, whether that’s nonprofits or on the Hill, overall, the program has been very enriching for me.”

As ICT President Tencho Gyatso said, “While we urgently work to resolve [the Tibetan] conflict through dialogue, it is crucial that we train the next generation of Tibetan leaders to carry on our peaceful struggle.”

CONNECTING WITH US LEADERS



Tibet Youth Leaders met with Representative McGovern, who, along with Senator Todd Young, is one of the sponsors of the Resolve Tibet Act.

In addition to interacting with staff from ICT and other NGO’s, the students met with elected leaders including Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., and the office of Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., two of the main sponsors of the Resolve Tibet Act, a bipartisan bill that is currently in Congress.

“My favorite part of TYLP was definitely going to the Hill and lobbying for the Resolve Tibet Act to Congressmen and Senators on the Hill,” said Tenzin Menrinetsang, a student from New York. “I thought that this was very, very educational for me personally because that really gave me firsthand experience with the

US political atmosphere and how I can use that and my leverage as a Tibetan American to the advantage of the Tibetan movement.”

Outside of Congress, the students visited Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya, who serves as Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, and Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain. In addition, the students met with the US Agency for International Development. They also had lunch with Sophie Richardson, China Director of Human Rights Watch.



TYLP participants met with Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya, pictured far left.

MEETING TIBETAN LEADERS

TYLP also helped the participants become more familiar with the Central Tibetan Administration, Tibet’s government in exile.

The students visited the Office of Tibet in Washington, DC, where they spoke with Namgyal Choedup, the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration to North America.

During TYLP, the students visited Radio Free Asia’s and Voice of America’s Tibetan services, which act as vital sources of news about Tibet and for the Tibetan community. The students also met with Josh Rogin, a columnist for The Washington Post and political analyst with CNN.

On the last full day of the program, they attended the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation’s 16th annual Roll Call of Nations, where ICT’s Bhuchung K. Tsering received the Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom.

FORMING FRIENDSHIPS

The nine students participating in TYLP came from across the country. Their week included sightseeing trips; karaoke; and much more.

“The favorite part is definitely getting to know your fellow peers, including the staff,” said Tenzin Chaksam. “I feel like I made really meaningful connections.”

Tenzin Menrinetsang said, “As a Tibetan-American, I am constantly motivated by the strength of my community and am heavily dedicated to advocating for our Tibetan rights and values.”

We thank the phenomenal Tibetan youths who took part in TYLP, and we can’t wait to see the incredible things they accomplish in the future.

TIBETAN YOUTH LEADERS

Tenzin Samten Ukyab, California

I am currently a Computer Science PhD student at the University of California Berkeley. I am originally from Queens, New York, and I completed my undergraduate degree at MIT. In my free time, I love to read, visit art museums, and travel.

Dechen Atsatsang, Illinois

Tashi Delek! I am a second-year Distinguished Trustee Scholar at William Rainey Harper College. After completing my Associate in Arts degree, I plan

to transfer to a 4-year university in Washington, DC to continue my studies in political science and international relations. I am an active member of the Tibetan Alliance of Chicago and serve as a leader for our Tibetan Youth Council.

Tenzin Menrinetsang, New York

I am a rising second-year student at the University of Michigan from Long Island, NY. Extracurriculars such as Model UN and Amnesty International have exposed me to my enthusiasm for policy and advocacy. I am studying Political Science on a pre-law track.

Tenzin Chaksam, Minnesota

I am a senior at the University of Minnesota completing a Computer Science degree with a specialization in web development. I was born in Dharamsala, India and lived there for half my life, and I am grateful for that experience, which gave me a different perspective on life.

Tenzin Passang, Minnesota

I am a junior at the University of Minnesota, pursuing a major in Sociology with a focus on Law, Crime, and Justice. Alongside my academic pursuits, I am passionate about economics, politics, and physical fitness.

Dekyi Sharchitsang, Oregon

I am a rising senior at Emory University pursuing a major in Political Science and a minor in Chinese. I am passionate about human rights and social justice, hoping to pursue a career in foreign affairs or non-profit advocacy.



Tenzin Tsega, Virginia

I am currently studying Geopolitics at the University of Virginia. I was raised in Mundgod, India. I enjoy taking part in community service and helping others.

Tenzin Choesang, Minnesota

I’m from Minnesota and am currently pursuing my Masters in Public Policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. I also serve as the president of Minnesota’s local Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (RTYC) branch. I teach Tibetan music and dance at our local Saturday Tibetan school.

Kunga Shidhe-Chokra, Minnesota

I am a student at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. I just finished up my first year and am excited to start my second year in the fall. I enjoy traveling, sightseeing, and being active.

WEI JINGSHENG FOUNDATION HONORS SPEAKER EMERITA NANCY PELOSI

One of the clear highlights of the week for TYLP participants was meeting Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., a longtime champion of Tibet and the Dalai Lama. The students attended the presentation of the Wei Jingsheng Lifetime Democracy and Human Rights Award to Pelosi on June 7. ICT President Tencho Gyatso was a speaker at the event. Speaker Emerita Pelosi said that she accepted the award with humility and thanked everyone for their courage, love of freedom, and commitment to the cause.





Welcoming our new president, Tencho Gyatso

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT TENCHO

1 Tencho was born and grew up in Dharamsala India to parents who served the Tibetan exile community. Her father, Lhundup Gyalpo Gyanatsang, hailed from a prominent business family in Kham, eastern Tibet and he served in a number of capacities for the Tibetan government in exile. **Her mother, Jetsun Pema, is the younger sister of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.** She served 42 years as President of the Tibetan Children's Village (TCV), the largest school system for Tibetan refugees in India.

2 Tencho attended the TCV school in Dharamsala, from kindergarten through high school. She keeps in close touch with many of her childhood friends and teachers. In recollecting her school years, she says "At TCV, we grew up with few luxuries, but one thing we had in abundance was love and support. We learned to take care of each other under the warm dedication of our teachers and staff and the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. **We looked to Tibet as our homeland, India as our refuge and exile home, and the West as the friends and supporters who've been there since 1959.**"

3 Tencho graduated from **St. Bede's College, Shimla with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and psychology and St. Joseph's College, Bangalore with a post-graduate degree in Business.** While in college, she also played on the college basketball team, winning the state trophy and traveling to various Indian cities for college tournaments.

4 Tencho was elected as one of the youngest members of the newly expanded 11th Tibetan Parliament in exile in 1991. In a historic move, the Dalai Lama had empowered the Tibetan populace to directly elect their representatives in the Parliament. The Parliament was expanded from 12 members appointed by the Dalai Lama to 46 members directly elected by the Tibetan diaspora community.

5 Tencho served as **General Secretary for Tibet House, New Delhi (1997-98)**, managing the day-to-day operations, helping organize the World Sacred Music Festival in Delhi, and starting an archival process for many of the art artifacts at the museum. **She also served on the board of Tibet Fund in New York City (2001-05)**, an organization that works to strengthen and support Tibetan cultural heritage and Tibetan self-resilience through education, health and other programs.

6 Tencho is an avid cook, having owned and operated restaurants in New York City and in Bangalore, India. **She also has a cooking blog called Simply Tibetan** which she started as a way of sharing Tibetan cuisine with the younger generation of Tibetans who may not have had the opportunity to learn about Tibetan food and cooking. *See page 7 for one of Tencho's recipes.*

7 Tencho had the privilege of acting in Martin Scorsese's biopic *Kundun*, on the early life of the Dalai Lama. She plays the role of the Mother, her own grandmother. **Tencho de-**

scribes the experience as one that was daunting but it was Scorsese's courage and genius to use Tibetans to play the roles of Tibetans in the film, and this gives authenticity and true emotion to the movie. It remains to date one of the best Tibet films ever produced.

8 While living in Boulder, Colorado, Tencho worked as a community bank manager and **also served a tenure as President of the Tibetan Association of Colorado.** She started a weekend Tibetan language school for Tibetan children and organized the Tibetan community audience and performances ahead of His Holiness' public talk at the Pepsi Center to an audience of almost 15,000 in 2006.

9 Tencho started working at **ICT in 2008**, in the days leading up to the Beijing Olympic Games just as unprecedented widespread protests broke out across the Tibetan plateau. Working closely with the advocacy team, Tencho helped organize the first Tibet Lobby Day in 2009, re-established ICT's Tibetan Youth Leadership Program in 2013, and arranged ICT's member delegation to Dharamsala in 2016 and US congressional staffer delegation in 2018.

10 Tencho lives in Falls Church, Virginia with her artist/writer husband, Losang Gyatso and son, Tashi. **She loves reading, writing, hiking, growing vegetables and currently she's learning to swim** as growing up in the mountains of Dharamsala there was no opportunity to learn to swim.

TIBETAN CUISINE

SHOGOG KHATSA / SPICY POTATOES

A perennial favorite at Tibetan picnics, potluck parties, and gatherings in any season, “Shogog Khatsa” is a well-loved dish. There are so many variations; it can be served as a warm or cold dish, a main or side, spicy or mild, with gravy or without...the possibilities are endless!

The Tibetan word for potato is “shogog” or “shay-shog” (honorific). *Shay-shog Khatsa Nye-po Nang-go!* Please enjoy this spicy potato dish!



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs potatoes
- 1 large onion (diced)
- 4-6 garlic cloves (minced)
- ½ teaspoon ginger (minced)
- Whole red chillies
- 1 medium tomato (chopped)
- Soybean Oil

SPICES:

- Ground red chilli
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon coriander powder
- ½ teaspoon cumin powder
- Salt, pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1. Wash and scrub the potatoes well, place in a deep pot, cover with cold water, add 1 teaspoon salt and let boil until potatoes are cooked (30-40 minutes from cold depending on the size of the potatoes). Drain and set aside.
2. In a pan, heat a little oil. Break the chillies up with your fingers and drop them in the oil – I use 5-6 or more as I like it spicy. Be careful not to burn. Then add the onion, garlic, ginger and sauté until golden. Add the chopped tomatoes and cook on low heat until the tomatoes have broken down and become nice and soft (you can add a little water if you think it's needed).
3. (This step can be skipped if you don't have a food processor.) Add your onion mixture to the food processor and puree.
4. Next step – prepare your potatoes. Peel them, cut them into manageable pieces, and put them into a nice big bowl with enough room for mixing.
5. Again heat a little cooking oil in a pan. Once the oil is hot, lower the heat and add your spices. This process is called tempering, and it brings out the aroma and taste of the spices. Be careful not to let this burn. Then add your onion puree, salt and pepper to taste, and sauté a little, letting the flavor develop.
6. Pour this mixture over your potatoes and use a spatula to gently combine. Season with more salt if needed. Garnish with cilantro and serve.

This recipe comes from Simply Tibetan, Simply Delicious (simplytibetan.com) and was written by ICT President Tencho Gyatso.



NEW STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION IN TIBET & MASS DNA COLLECTION

A new US State Department report chronicles China’s oppression of Tibetan Buddhist practitioners and efforts to keep two of the religion’s most prominent leaders out of sight inside Tibet.

The State Department’s 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom released May 15, 2023, documents allegations of “forced disappearances, arrests, physical abuse, and prolonged detentions without trial of monks, nuns, and other persons due to their religious practices” in Chinese-occupied Tibet last year.

The report arrived just days before the 28th anniversary of China’s abduction of the Panchen Lama, a high-ranking Tibetan Buddhist figure who has not been seen in public since his forced disappearance at age 6.

The report also addresses China’s ongoing refusal to negotiate with the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Secretary of State Antony J.

Blinken and Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Rashad Hussain released the report at an event at the State Department attended by ICT President Tencho Gyatso.

“I was grateful to join other civil society leaders and religious freedom advocates at the release of the 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom, and I’m grateful to the State Department for shining a spotlight on China’s oppression of religious worshippers in Tibet,” Gyatso said.

“As the report shows, Tibetans face horrific abuse from China’s government for attempting to practice their faith freely, speak up for their religious rights or venerate their spiritual leaders like the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama. The best way to bring this oppression to an end is to push for renewed dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama’s envoys by passing the bipartisan Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act currently in Congress.”

The report also cites a study from Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto finding that Chinese authorities systematically collected DNA from one-quarter to one-third of the Tibet Autonomous Region’s population. Blinken addressed the reported mass DNA collection at a Freedom House event on May 9, saying: “We’re also concerned by reports of the spread of mass DNA collection to Tibet as an additional form of control and surveillance over the Tibetan population.”



ICT’S BHUCHUNG K. TSERING RECEIVES THE TRUMAN-REAGAN MEDAL OF FREEDOM

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation presented the 2023 Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom to Bhuchung K. Tsering, the head of ICT’s Research and Monitoring Unit and a long-time ICT leader and advocate for Tibet. The award recognizes Bhuchung’s tireless work for the Tibetan people and his role as an ambassador for Tibetan culture and a beacon of light against CCP oppression.

As the head of ICT’s Research and Monitoring Unit, Bhuchung works to bring awareness to China’s ongoing oppression of the Tibetan people, and monitors Beijing’s racial discrimination, environmental destruction, and nuclear activities on the Tibetan plateau. Another past recipient, US Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, bestowed the award on Bhuchung at VOC’s annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony in front of the Goddess of Democracy statue at the VOC Memorial in Washington, DC. This annual event convenes embassy staff, representatives of captive nations, and human rights organizations to honor the memory of more than 100 million victims killed by communism.



ICT’S LEADERSHIP TEAM GATHERS IN NEW YORK

Members of ICT’s international leadership team gathered in New York in May to discuss the collective work of ICT’s offices in Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels and the US. Pictured from left to right: Mollie Rodriguez, Executive Director of The Gere Foundation, Kai Müller, Executive Director of ICT-Germany, Tencho Gyatso, President of ICT, Richard Gere, Chair of the ICT Board of Directors, Tempa Tsering, ICT Board of Directors, Bhuchung K. Tsering, Head, Monitoring & Research, and Wangpo Tethong, Executive Director of ICT-Europe.

ICT BLOG: IDEAS, ADVOCACY AND DIALOGUE ON TIBET

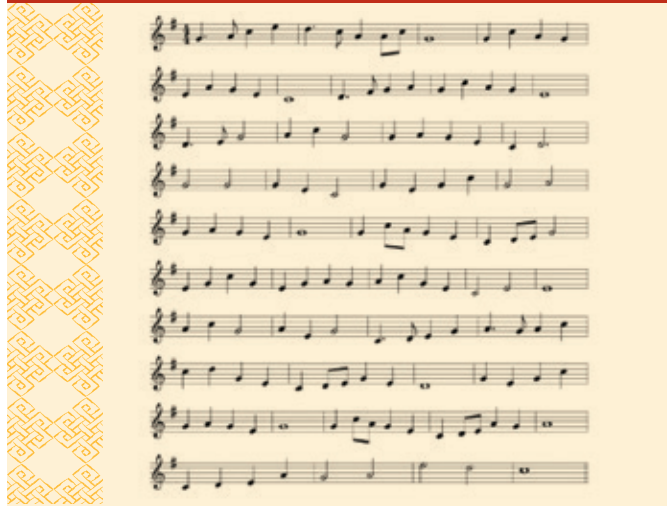
AT WEBLOG.SAVETIBET.ORG

MUSING ON THE TIBETAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

By Bhuchung K. Tsering

The origins of the Tibetan national anthem are mysterious, with the little information that is available conjectural and incomplete. Given the importance of a national anthem in a nation's history, this is fertile ground for research and discussion.

Tibetan National Anthem



AS KUNDUN TURNS 25, DALAI LAMA'S WISDOM MUST BE PRESERVED

By Ashwin Verghese



We should seek out and preserve great art like Martin Scorsese's film "Kundun" (1997). However, Disney has deliberately tried to keep the film out of public view for the past quarter century.

HOW HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN TIBET

By Palmo Tenzin

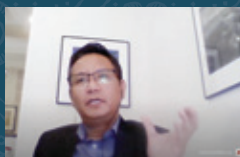


The health of the environment on the Tibetan Plateau is inseparably linked to the survival of Tibetan culture. Tibetan cosmology, culture and Buddhism offer a powerful framework for environmental protection. But safeguarding human rights is the essential prerequisite.

TIBET TALKS: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT TIBET WITH ENGAGING THINKERS, LEADERS, ACTIVISTS AND ARTISTS AT SAVETIBET.ORG/LIVE

10 YEARS OF XI JINPING

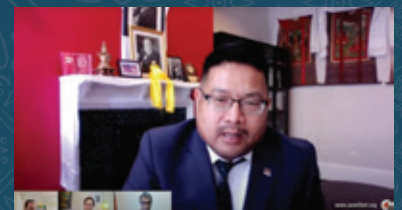
When Xi Jinping took over as China's top leader in 2012, there were hopes that his reputation as a moderate and his father's relationship with the Dalai Lama would lead to a softening of policies. Instead, Xi has proven to be a hardliner whose rule will be indefinite.



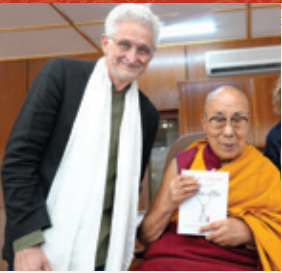
To mark Xi's decade in charge, ICT is publishing a new report, "As if the Sky and Earth Changed Places: 10 Years of Xi Jinping's Sinification and Securitization of Tibetans" We spoke to the report's author, ICT Research Analyst Tenzin Norgay, about Xi's impact on Tibet and what the future holds.

AN UPDATE ON THE RESOLVE TIBET ACT

ICT President Tencho Gyatso is joined by Director of Government Relations Franz Matzner and Dr. Namgyal Choedup, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Office of Tibet in Washington, DC, to discuss the Resolve Tibet Act. They speak about the bill's implications on the global stage as well as its current status in light of Tibet Lobby Day and remarks by government leaders.



 Listen to Tibet Talks as a podcast: savetibet.org/pod.



Member Spotlight

Patrick McDonnell, illustrator and collaborator with His Holiness on the book *Heart to Heart: A Conversation on Love and Hope for Our Precious Planet*

Cartoonist and award-winning author Patrick McDonnell first learned about the Tibet situation from the news. But it wasn't until a fortuitous conversation during a trip to Africa that he considered using his art to raise consciousness about the environment in a creative collaboration with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

During the trip, Patrick and his wife Karen spent time with ICT Board of Directors member Pam Cesak. He remembers, "In the fragile beauty of Africa, we discussed His Holiness' concern for the environmental peril that our precious planet is in. Karen suggested that perhaps a book with His Holiness's words and my artwork could help get his important message out to a new audience." Pam liked the idea and took it back to the ICT board. Thus, *Heart to Heart* was born.

The book's development was a unique creative process: "Working on a book with His Holiness was hum-

bling, an honor and a joy. I tried my best to capture the power, honesty, wisdom and beauty of his words in my art. Every one of his sentences is so important and carries so much weight. Isolating them to one or two per page, and accompanying them with a sparse illustration, would invite the reader to slow down and spend time absorbing their intensity."

McDonnell says he did his best to capture the feelings of the characters to help tell the story with emotion and heart: "I wanted His Holiness and the panda to feel alive on the page and for the reader to connect to their timely story. In my long career this project is the one I'm most proud of. Hopefully it will shed some light in this world."

With regard to the future of Tibet and the future of our planet, he feels that cultivating compassion for all sentient beings is an important step in the right direction. McDonnell says he would

like to see a "compassionate revolution," like the Dalai Lama calls for, so that people can let go of ego and open their hearts and minds to becoming better versions of themselves.

This spring, McDonnell joined an ICT member trip to Dharamsala, India. He says he was most impressed by the resilience of the Tibetan people he met there: "Despite all their hardships, Tibetans are so kind, good-natured and have the most generous smiles. I was most moved by the deep spirituality of it all and, after being in the presence of His Holiness, I experienced a state of pure stillness and bliss. I didn't have a thought in my head and couldn't stop smiling. It was a feeling I will never forget."

Heart to Heart (HarperOne 2023) is available wherever books are sold. ICT is deeply grateful to Patrick for donating proceeds from the book to support the work of the International Campaign for Tibet.

ICT VISITS DHARAMSALA

A delegation of ICT members, staff, and ICT Board of Directors member Pam Cesak led by President Tencho Gyatso, visited Dharamsala, India in April. The delegation had an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, met with Sikyong Penpa Tsering and also visited the Tibetan Parliament in exile and met with Deputy Speaker Dolma Tsering Teykhang. She applauded ICT's work and expressed her appreciation to the organization and its members for their dedication to the cause. During the trip, the delegation had a special visit to the Tibetan Children's Village School, joined a hike in the foothills of Dharamsala, watched a



performance by the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts and engaged with many Tibetan non-governmental organizations and institutions working to safeguard Tibetan culture and identity in exile. Earlier in the month, ICT also led a bipartisan US senate staffer delegation to Dharamsala to meet with His Holiness and leadership of the Central Tibet Administration to deepen their knowledge of the Tibetan issue from a closer perspective.

NEW ICT REPORT

AS IF THE SKY AND EARTH CHANGED PLACES:

10 Years of Xi Jinping's Sinification and Securization of Tibetans

When Xi Jinping took over as the top leader of the People's Republic of China, the international community was hopeful of his "reform" of China.

Ten years later, he has shown himself to be a ruthless leader who has consolidated his power, making himself leader for life.

This detailed report reveals the challenges that Xi Jinping's China has placed on the Tibetan movement and the people of Tibet.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS: URGE SECRETARY BLINKEN TO TAKE A STAND ON TIBET

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited China over June 18-19 for closed-door talks with PRC President Xi Jinping and other senior officials. This was the first visit to Beijing by a Secretary of State since 2018 under deteriorating conditions between China and the US.

Secretary Blinken commented publicly that the purpose of his trip was to “strengthen high-level challenges of communication, to make clear our positions and intentions in areas of disagreement, and to explore areas where we might work together when our interests align on shared transnational challenges.”

Though we urged Secretary Blinken to raise Tibet as a priority concern in his discussions with Chinese leadership, it is unclear whether that happened. No public statements were made, and the official report was vague and extremely brief regarding Tibet.

In the face of Beijing’s oppression, the Tibetan people cannot rely solely on veiled signals and back-room conversations. The US must unite with like-minded countries to pursue all avenues to hold the PRC accountable for the atrocities being committed and its refusal to seek a humane path forward.

TELL SECRETARY BLINKEN:

The Tibetan people deserve a firm, public stance on Tibet in discussions with Xi Jinping.

PLEASE CLIP HERE & MAIL YOUR PETITION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.



TO: SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN
FROM: A CONCERNED CITIZEN

Dear Secretary Blinken,

As a supporter of the Tibetan people’s quest for peace, dignity, and cultural preservation, I was pleased to learn of your diplomatic visit to China, especially with the backdrop of your repeated statements that US policy is guided by human rights and the principle of self-determination.

However, I was disappointed to see that your emphasis on Tibet in public and private statements failed to match the gravity of the situation on the ground there.

The People’s Republic of China has brutally oppressed the Tibetan people for decades, perpetrating a litany of human rights violations which have been escalating under the last 10 years of the Xi Jinping regime.

These brutal violations must stop. It is not enough to raise these human rights violations in closed-door meetings or brief, non-specific remarks. The US must expose the PRC’s intention to eradicate Tibetan civilization.

I ask that you now issue clear public statements regarding the nature of the discussions held with Xi Jinping on Tibet, and their results, and reiterate that the US expects Beijing to return to the negotiating table with Tibetan leadership.

With the greatest respect for your commitment to human rights, democracy, and peace, we urge you to utilize your official visit and powerful voice to carry this message to the PRC and the globe.

I look forward to hearing from you on the above.

Signature _____

Name _____ State _____ Zip Code _____





INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

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Photo: Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Celebrants presented His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the traditional “chema changpu” offering as he arrived for his 88th birthday celebration at the Main Tibetan Temple courtyard in Dharamsala on July 6, 2023.



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