



INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

Self-Immolations

<https://savetibet.org/tibetan-self-immolations/>

159 Tibetans have self-immolated in Tibet and China since 2009

131 men, **28** women

127 of the 159 are known to have died following their protest

26 of the Tibetans who self-immolated were 18 or under

25 were monks, or former monks, at Kirti monastery in Ngaba

2 were nuns from Mame Dechen Chokorling nunnery in Ngaba

158 of the self-immolations have occurred since March 16, 2011

10 self-immolations by Tibetans have occurred in exile

Self-immolation is a profound cry for help by those who feel they have no other way to tell the world about their suffering. The wave of self-immolations in Tibet began after the Chinese government cracked down on [human rights](#) following mostly peaceful widespread protests by Tibetans in 2008.

Tibetans are driven to self-immolate because China denies their most basic freedoms. Tibetans can't freely study and [practice their religion](#), take part in cultural activities or simply assert their Tibetan identity.

The self-immolators include Tibetans monks, nuns and laypeople who chose to harm themselves rather than harm their oppressors. The vast majority of them are known to have died following their protests. No foreign journalist has ever been allowed to independently investigate cases of self-immolations because [China blocks outside access to Tibet](#).

The Chinese government has responded to the outbreak of self-immolations by punishing friends and families of the self-immolators. They've implemented collective punishment by making it a crime to help someone light himself or herself on fire or even to witness someone self-immolating.

But the only way to prevent these tragic acts is for China to address Tibetan grievances and put a stop to its brutal oppression of the Tibetan people.