



INTERNATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR TIBET

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# TIBET WATCH

SPRING 2025  
INSIDE:

Dingri Earthquake Update

New Report:  
Chinese Hydropower

Remembering  
Kasur Gyalo Thondup

Petition to Congress:  
Safeguard Funding for Tibet



*The Dalai Lama:*  
**PRAYERS FOR DINGRI EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**



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Dear Friend,

I hope this issue of Tibet Watch finds you well.

At the time of writing this letter, we are nearly three months into the new Trump Administration. In the midst of the major overhaul that is happening, we are encouraged by the State Department's reiteration of continued support on issues relating to Tibet through a Losar (New Year) message from Secretary Rubio, as well as the remarks made by Senior Official Albert Gombis at the State Department's Losar gathering (see page 5). Currently, many programs for Tibetans have been cut or are facing cuts in the broader blanket implementation of the Trump Administration's decisions. ICT is deeply concerned by this and has been coordinating closely with the Office of Tibet, to work with the Administration and Congressional offices to navigate the possibility of continuing these programs.

Given these recent events, it's more important than ever that you make a point to complete and return the page 11 petition to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as soon as possible. As you know, it's crucial that the new Administration makes Tibet a priority, and your voice can encourage them to do so. All petitions signed by ICT members will be delivered together for maximum impact. On page 4 of this edition, we are pleased to include news of ICT's Light of Truth award honoring Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi last December.

Unfortunately, the following month Tibet suffered a devastating earthquake in Dingri. Please read more about this tragedy, the detailed report we released in its aftermath, and our response to the Chinese government on page 8.

Elsewhere in these pages, you can read about our reporting on China's expansion of hydropower dams in Tibet, threatening the environment as well as the water supply for millions of people downstream (page 6). We also have some good news about the reauthorization of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act (also page 6).

On page 7 we honor the memory of Kasur Gyalo Thondup, one of the prime figures in modern Tibetan history and the second eldest brother of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Don't miss an interesting story on page 9 about the 223-volume Tibetan dictionary entered into the Library of Congress, and a special welcome for a new ICT staff member on page 10, as well as this year's Rowell Fund grants on page 8.

Meanwhile, we are planning for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's milestone 90th birthday, including a whole year of celebrations ... more details coming soon at [compassionrising.com](http://compassionrising.com).

We are deeply grateful for your partnership as we work towards furthering our efforts to support our Tibetan brothers and sisters in the quest for peace and justice.



In solidarity,

*Tencho Gyatso*

Tencho Gyatso  
President

# ICT'S LIGHT OF TRUTH AWARD & WISDOM OF HAPPINESS FILM SCREENING



On December 9, 2024, the International Campaign for Tibet presented the Light of Truth Award to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi for her career-long commitment to the people of Tibet. The award, a traditional Tibetan butter lamp, was presented to her by Jetsun Pema, the younger sister of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

## A Career-Long Commitment to Tibet

Speaker Emerita Pelosi's support of Tibet began just a few months after her first election to the House of Representatives in June 1987, when she met the Dalai Lama at the invitation of Congressman Tom Lantos. That first meeting made an indelible impression. Since then, she has worked to alleviate the plight of the Tibetan people, contributing greatly to the institutionalization of American support for Tibet through bipartisan initiatives in Congress. She has led delegations to Tibet and to Dharamsala, India, the headquarters of the Tibetan leadership in exile, to get a deeper understanding of the Tibetan issue.

In all her initiatives on Tibet, Speaker Emerita Pelosi has taken a firm stand on the morality of the issue. In 2007, when speaking at the event to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal to the Dalai Lama, Pelosi said that he brought "a challenge to the conscience of the world." When the pan-Tibet demonstrations in Tibet in 2008 were being violently suppressed by Chinese security forces, she spoke in Congress in support of a resolution on the issue. At the December award

ceremony on Capitol Hill, Speaker Emerita Pelosi said, "It is our moral duty to stand up for Tibet and speak out against Beijing's abuses. If we do not speak out for human rights in China because of commercial interests, we lose all moral authority to speak out for human rights anywhere. I am very honored to receive this award but there is much work to do as we move ahead."

Richard Gere, ICT Chairman, remarked, "So many wonderful people have been touched by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, I can't think of anyone who cares more and works harder to make people safer everyday than Nancy Pelosi." Sikyong Penpa Tsering, president of the Tibetan government in exile, thanked Pelosi on behalf of all Tibetans. ICT President Tencho Gyatso said that Pelosi was "a fierce defender and caring friend." Attendees included Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Representative Dr. Namgyal Choedup of the Office of Tibet North America, former Special Coordinators Greg Craig and Paula Dobriansky, and Tenzin Jigme, Member of Tibetan Parliament.

## Film Screening (Wisdom of Happiness)

In addition to the Light of Truth presentation, the evening included a screening of *Wisdom of Happiness: A Heart to Heart with the Dalai Lama*, a deeply intimate and highly cinematic documentary. The film captures the Dalai Lama speaking directly to viewers, and shares his timeless wisdom on achieving inner peace and

happiness for everyone. The film was co-directed by the Swiss duo Barbara Miller and Philip Delaquis. Executive producers are Richard Gere and Oren Moverman. The cinematographer is Manuel Bauer. Learn more at [www.woh.movie](http://www.woh.movie).

## Dialogue with Richard Gere

The day following the award ceremony, Speaker Emerita Pelosi took the stage with ICT Board Chair Richard Gere for a public discussion on the path forward for the Tibet issue under the new Administration. The two began by reflecting on the history of the Tibet movement and two pivotal moments—when His Holiness the Dalai Lama was awarded first the Nobel Peace Prize and later the Congressional Gold Medal. She says it was His Holiness' humble nature along with the shared values and vision Pelosi felt from him that inspired her to become so involved in the Tibetan cause. Gere spoke to the uniquely bipartisan and bicameral nature of the support America has committed to Tibet for the survival of Tibetan culture and people. He mentioned pivotal legislation beginning with the Tibet Policy Act of 2002, which was a huge turning point in the US government's stance toward Tibet, and leading all the way up to the Resolve Tibet Act that just passed at the end of 2024. They discussed the power of public opinion, with Pelosi remarking that public awareness of how important the Tibet issue is for US security and economy makes it much more likely that the cause will be able to accomplish its objectives.

## ENCOURAGING REMARKS FROM SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AT LOSAR EVENT

The observance of Losar, the Tibetan New Year, was more somber this year as Tibetans reflected on the recent earthquake inside Tibet and the death of Kasur Gyalo Thondup, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's brother. On March 4, representatives of the Tibetan community and invited guests joined together at the US State Department's annual gathering to observe Losar.



At the Reception, Senior Official Albert Gombis, performing the duties of the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, spoke to the close relationship between America and all Tibetans: "We recognize that the safety of the United States is inextricably bound to the battle of ideas and influence with the Chinese Communist Party... their struggle constitutes one of the front lines in the global effort for freedom from the Chinese Communist Party's repression.

He continued, "We must challenge the CCP's brazen efforts to undermine the ideals that are a key source of our strength and identity as a nation. We must also empower Tibetans to negotiate an enduring solution for Tibet – one that guarantees meaningful autonomy and allows them to express their religious and cultural identity without fear of repression. He concluded, "US advocacy for Tibet contributes to America's own strength, prosperity, and stability and is important if we believe that religious freedom is indeed a universal, fundamental, and inalienable right, then standing up for the Tibetan community and supporting you all here today is simply the right thing to do."

These remarks represent the newly inaugurated Trump Administration's first statement regarding Tibet, continuing decades-long bipartisan support.

**Secretary of State Marco Rubio released a statement for Losar saying, "I extend my warmest wishes to all those celebrating Losar, the Tibetan New Year. On this first day of the Year of the Wood Snake, we celebrate the strength and perseverance of the Tibetan community worldwide. The United States remains committed to protecting the universal, fundamental, and inalienable human rights of Tibetans and promoting their distinct cultural, linguistic, and religious heritage.**

*I wish Tibetans celebrating all across the world peace and prosperity in the new year. Losar Tashi Delek and Happy New Year!"*

## ICT STATEMENT ON US ASSISTANCE TO TIBETAN PROGRAMS

As we go to print, the Trump Administration has just issued Executive Orders (EO) that reduce foreign assistance and freeze other international support programs. The broad implementation of this decision is severely affecting programs supporting Tibet and the Tibetan people. In response, the International Campaign for Tibet has been working in coordination with the Office of Tibet in Washington, DC to meet with Congressional and Administration officials, reminding them about the importance of Tibet and the statutory requirement to help the Tibetan people.

For decades, the United States has been one of the Tibetan people's staunchest friends. There is bipartisan agreement that the Tibetan

people deserve self-determination, democracy, and the right to religious freedom. Our laws, including the Tibet Policy Act of 2002, the Tibet Policy and Support Act of 2020, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, the Resolve Tibet Act, and numerous Congressional appropriations reflect that.

Tibet programs bolster the capacity of the Central Tibetan Administration, which provides democratic governance for Tibetans in exile, serves as a powerful counterpoint to Chinese Communist Party repression, preserves Tibetan religion and culture, and provides basic services to Tibetan refugee communities in India and Nepal. The Tibetan programming on Voice of America and Radio

Free Asia provides factual information to Tibetans living under Chinese occupation, enabling them to hear the truth about the US and the world.

The International Campaign for Tibet is committed to utilizing every tool in its toolbox to ensure the continuation of programs benefiting Tibet and the Tibetan people. On behalf of our 50,000 members, we look forward to working with Congress and the Administration in support of US policy and law on Tibet.

**Please visit [savetibet.org](http://savetibet.org) for our full statements on recent events and add your name to the petition on page 11.**

## ICT HAILS REAUTHORIZATION OF RECIPROCAL ACCESS TO TIBET ACT

Three important provisions defending the rights of Tibetans were approved by Congress with the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on December 18, 2024. The success of these provisions despite the obstacles posed by a divided Congress is a testament to America's ongoing support of the Tibetan people during their continued oppression by the People's Republic of China.

The first provision reauthorizes the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, which provides a mechanism for the US to

rebuff China's restrictions on American government officials, journalists, independent observers, Tibetan Americans, and tourists seeking access to Tibet. The bill, originally passed in 2018, has been renewed for another five years.

The second provision provides for continued monitoring of the Tibetan Plateau in Department of Defense Annual reports. The third provision requires reporting on the impact of the closure of the American consulate in Chengdu, which was tasked with monitoring developments in Tibet. This work has been shifted to the embassy in Beijing, which is far removed from Tibet.

## ICT TESTIFIES AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HEARING ON EU-CHINA HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE

ICT briefed Members of the European Parliament on the dire human rights situation in Tibet during a meeting of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights on December 4, 2024. The meeting focused on the state of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue and was preceded by a side-visit to the Tibet Autonomous Region.

In his testimony, ICT's EU Policy Director Vincent Metten stressed

that the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue process has not provided meaningful results and that China's human rights abuses have on the contrary intensified in recent years. He called on the EU to consider reviewing the dialogue and exploring more assertive ways to press China on its human rights record.

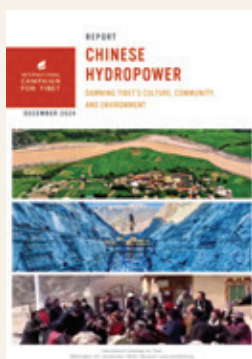


## UN FORUM: ICT HIGHLIGHTS ERASURE OF TIBETAN IDENTITY THROUGH PRC'S EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

In a statement delivered at the 17th UN Forum on Minority Issues in Geneva, ICT expressed its deep concern over the Chinese government's systematic erasure of the Tibetan people's identity through its education policies.

The two-day Forum, held on November 28-29, 2024, focused this year on the topic of "Minority representation and self-representation in public spaces and discourses." By portraying Tibetans as backward and in need of being modernized, China perpetuates harmful stereotypes that undermine Tibetan identity while fueling resentment among Tibetans, who see these narratives as demeaning and dismissive of their rich cultural heritage.

Speaking at the forum, ICT's Policy and Advocacy Officer Mélanie Blondelle detailed how schools in Tibet have increasingly been used as a tool to assimilate Tibetan children – molding them to the dominant Han Chinese culture. This is exacerbated by the coercive boarding school system and the closure of private-run Tibetan schools.



## NEW ICT REPORT: CHINESE HYDROPOWER *Damning Tibet's Culture, Community & Environment*

A new ICT report finds China's rapid hydropower dam scheme is causing irreparable damage to Tibetan civilization, the environment, downstream nations, and the climate. Its agenda disregards the human impact, the science, and the worsening climate change hydropower brings.

"The scale and scope of the PRC's hydropower dam spree is both unbelievable and unconscionable," said ICT President Tencho Gyatso, adding, "Beijing's disrespect for the Tibetan people's rights, its neighbors' fate, and the urgent moral and scientific demand to combat climate change could not be clearer. China must be stopped in its tracks

and called to use its money, manpower, and innovation to advance solutions—not its political maneuvering."

Tibet's glacial peaks are the headwaters of the region's 8 major rivers. The report's rigorous research and advanced GIS mapping detail the Chinese Communist Party's rampant construction of 100s of hydropower dams. This first-of-its-kind interactive map allows users to see the impact each dam will have on local populations, religious sites, and surrounding land cover. The report also presents alternatives focused on developing truly sustainable and renewable energy sources.

***The full text of the report as well as the interactive map can be found at [savetibet.org/chinese-hydropower](https://savetibet.org/chinese-hydropower).***

## IN MEMORIAM

## KASUR GYALO THONDUP, 1928-2025



Kasur Gyalo Thondup, a foremost figure in modern Tibetan history and the second eldest brother of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, passed away on February 8 at his home in Kalimpong, India. He was 97 years old.

Born in Taktser, eastern Tibet, in the same village where His Holiness the Dalai Lama was also born, Thondup spent several years studying in Nanjing, China. In the wake of the Communist takeover of China in 1949 and eventually of Tibet, he became the point person to take up the Tibetan issue internationally. He was involved in many different initiatives over the next several decades in support of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people. These are detailed in his memoir *The Noodle Maker of Kalimpong*.

In the 1950s, Thondup's outreach led to the CIA undertaking its covert program to assist the Tibetan resistance against Chinese occupation. He also coordinated with the Tibetan government in Lhasa to take up the Tibetan issue at the United Nations, which eventually led to the passing of the three resolutions by the General Assembly in 1959, 1961 and 1965.



He also had a direct role in the Tibetan government in exile, handling foreign affairs in the 1960s and becoming the chairman of the Kashag (Cabinet) in the early 1990s. In the late 1970s, he was contacted by the Chinese govern-

ment to convey a message to His Holiness the Dalai Lama of their desire to talk. His subsequent meeting with Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1979 began a series of contacts between Tibetans and the Chinese leadership. This led to several rounds of talks between envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese leadership, with Thondup becoming His Holiness' personal emissary.

Presiding over a memorial prayer at the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Bylakuppe, India, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said:

**“It is with deep sorrow that I share the passing of my elder brother, Gyalo Thondup. The primary purpose of the offerings made to the monks gathered here today for his memorial service is to honour his life and legacy. My brother worked with immense dedication and courage, and his determination was truly remarkable. Through these memorial offerings, we pray for his auspicious rebirth, specifically as a Tibetan, where he may continue to serve the cause of Tibet, as he so deeply desired. I too make this prayer on his behalf. His lifelong aspiration was to remain by His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s side, serving him for many lifetimes. I kindly request everyone’s support in fulfilling this profound prayer.”**



Kasur Gyalo Thondup will be remembered as a pivotal figure in Tibetan history who dedicated his life to pursuing a better future for his people.



## UPDATE ON THE DINGRI EARTHQUAKE: TIBETAN RESILIENCE & FUTURE RISKS

The new year opened with a devastating 7.1 magnitude (6.8 according to the Chinese government) earthquake in western Tibet amid the freezing winter. Unfortunately, not a single international media outlet has been able to directly report from the earthquake-affected area. Even the death toll has been uncertain due to lack of meaningful transparency by the Chinese government; an unofficial death toll through independent research ranges between 134-400 lives lost.

In the absence of independent reporting from the ground, the Chinese government has shaped the discourse on the Dingri earthquake to project the efficiency of their response through state media. These communications consistently refer to Tibet as “Xizang,” reinforcing China’s policy of altering Tibet’s name.

ICT rejects the Chinese government’s propaganda regarding the Tibet

earthquake response and deplors its repression of organic and spontaneous Tibetan grassroots efforts to deliver relief aid to the earthquake-affected area. Tibetans from all walks of life, including monks who offered prayers and last rites, quickly coordinated efforts through Chinese social media and brought relief aid, cash, and food to the site. But these efforts were swiftly shut down as the government officially suspended relief from Tibetans and set up checkpoints to access the site.

The CCP’s lack of transparency on the full extent of destruction and death toll and censoring Tibetans from speaking out is despicable. We regret that not a single international rescue team was allowed to save lives in the critical first days post-earthquake.

Additionally, the Dingri earthquake reminds us of the power of nature

over the chase for economic growth. China’s rampant dam-building spree in Tibet is dangerous to Tibetans and downstream countries. China acknowledged that the earthquake has cracked at least five reservoirs in the epicenter zone, and at least 1,500 people have been evacuated from the course of the river.

This is a wake-up call to the international community of the potential scale of destruction with China’s plan to build the world’s largest dam on Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) in Tibet. The plan, which was approved by the Chinese government last month, must be withdrawn to ensure safety for the Tibetans and the millions living in India and Bangladesh.

We stand in solidarity with the Tibetan people during this difficult time and continue to advocate for their rights to receive the support and aid they so desperately need.

The full text of this report along with many first-hand accounts and videos from Tibet are available at [savetibet.org/tibet-earthquake](https://savetibet.org/tibet-earthquake).

## ROWELL FUND FOR TIBET ANNOUNCES 2025 GRANTS

The Rowell Fund for Tibet’s Advisory Board has awarded \$26,000 in grants to support eight distinctive projects for 2025. These projects aim to preserve Tibetan culture and heritage in the face of contemporary challenges. These include efforts to protect Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in Zaskar from climate change through climate-resilient preservation strategies; document the contributions of Tibetan women to democracy through a bilingual book and documentary; empower Tibetan

nomadic women in exile through sustainable entrepreneurship; and promote Tibetan language and culture through educational programs.

Each project, supported by the Rowell Fund, plays a vital role in safeguarding Tibetan cultural and spiritual heritage, empowering future generations, and ensuring the longevity of these invaluable traditions. The grants, ranging from \$3-3,500, were selected from a pool of competitive applications.

The Rowell Fund, managed by ICT, honors the legacy of Galen and Barbara Rowell, lifelong supporters of Tibet who tragically passed away in a plane crash in 2002. Since its founding, the fund has distributed over \$700K to Tibetan projects. Congrats to this year’s grant recipients!



Visit us online at [savetibet.org/latest-news](https://savetibet.org/latest-news) to read more about the individual grants.

## GRAND TIBETAN DICTIONARY NOW HOUSED AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In December 2024, Geshe Lobsang Monlam, founder of Monlam Tibetan IT Research Center, donated his 223-volume Grand Tibetan Dictionary to the Library of Congress. Joined by Sikyong Penpa Tsering and Congressman Jim McGovern, Geshe Monlam presented the dictionary, which is the most extensive Tibetan lexicon to date, and spoke about the role of AI in preserving Tibetan language and culture.

Geshe Lobsang Monlam also delivered remarks at a hearing of the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China entitled, “The Preservation of Memory: Combating the CCP’s Historical Revisionism and Erasure of Culture.” In his testimony, he spoke about the serious challenges facing Tibetan language and culture, especially with regard to the PRC-run education system and policies of cultural assimilation.

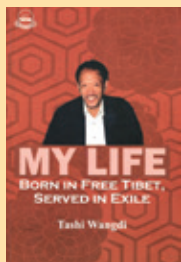
Dr. Monlam called for modern and strategic technologies to help preserve Tibetan culture and highlighted the work of his Research Center, which compiled the Grand Tibetan Dictionary.

“These ground-breaking technologies have achieved remarkable success, garnering over millions of usages and effectively bridging linguistic and techno-



logical barriers within Tibet and the global diaspora,” Dr. Monlam said. “Looking ahead, the Monlam organization has an ambitious vision for the future. We are actively developing a foundational Tibetan/Culture-focused Large Language Model (LLM). As part of our commitment to education and ethical AI development, we are exploring the creation of an AI model based on His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama. This model could be used to develop educational resources, promote conflict resolution, and foster ethical decision-making in AI systems.”

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



### MY LIFE: BORN IN FREE TIBET, SERVED IN EXILE

*By Kasur Tashi Wangdi*

*Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamsala, 2024*

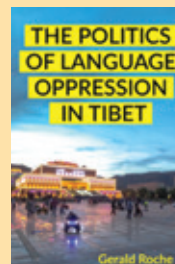
There are certain individuals who were not only there during pivotal periods in history but were also prominent figures and more importantly wrote about their experience. Kasur Tashi Wangdi is one such individual in modern Tibetan history, as recounted in his recent memoir. This book is in all senses a handbook on contemporary Tibetan history, particularly for those wanting to understand Tibetan politics in exile.

Through description of his own involvement, the author touches on three main themes: Tibetan society in the second half of the 20th century, both in Tibet and in exile; the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama; and the inner workings of the decision-making process by the Tibetan leadership in exile. He also includes interesting descriptions of social life before the arrival of the Chinese, which is not well known to the public.

Kasur Tashi Wangdi’s process of arriving in India in the wake of the Chinese invasion of Tibet is slightly different from

other refugees in that his family had the advantage of being close to the Indian border and being able to make some preparations beforehand. The early life of Tibetan refugees in India as experienced by the author and his family gives us an understanding of the state of Tibetan society in exile at that time.

For policy wonks, this book is a virtual treasure trove of the inner workings of Tibetan government in exile about politics, security, religion and culture, education, health, and resettlement.



### THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE OPPRESSION IN TIBET

*By Gerald Roche*

We know that Tibet’s languages are threatened by Chinese rule in Tibet, but what does this language oppression look like? How has it changed over time? What are the impacts on minority languages in

Tibet, the ones spoken by smaller communities? This new book by Gerald Roche, a language rights activist and recent Tibet Talks guest, gives us another perspective on the issue.



## ICT WELCOMES NEW COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER CHAD CHITWOOD

Chad brings his experience working for governments or elected officials at all levels—city, county, state, tribal and federal—to his new role at ICT. He hails from Grain Valley, Missouri, and has a background in the transportation sector. Chad has also worked on major films in addition to being an elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2004.

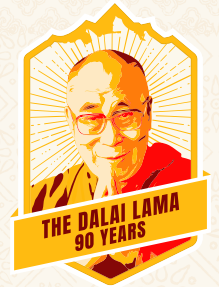
Asked what inspired him to join ICT’s team, Chad said he wanted to help

make the world a more just place and protect the right to self-determination for all people. He added, “I’m excited to help the team work with the media, to join the festivities for His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s birthday, and to help bring more light to the Tibetan cause.”

In his free time, he follows Kansas City sports teams, stays engaged in politics, and enjoys movies, Jeopardy, and trivia.

### HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA’S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

# A LIFETIME OF COMPASSION, WISDOM & PEACE



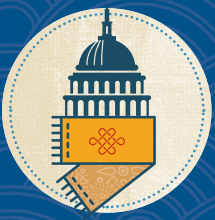
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# CALL ON CONGRESS TO PROTECT AMERICAN FUNDING FOR TIBET!

Amid the recent uncertainty in Washington, we want to make sure that vital funding to aid Tibetans remains a priority for the United States. We're calling on all ICT members to amplify our call: The United States stands with Tibet, no matter what!

**Join ICT in urging the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to safeguard America's support for Tibet by adding your name to our petition.**

**Please lend your support to our member petition to the leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees by signing the form below and returning it in the enclosed envelope.**



PHOTO: OLIVIER ADAM

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



**TO: CHAIRS AND RANKING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES**  
**FROM: A CONCERNED CITIZEN**

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees,

I write to emphasize the imperative of expanding the United States' decades of bipartisan support for Tibet and the Tibetan people. The Chinese Communist Party is relentlessly inflicting brutal oppression on the Tibetan people, and China seeks to use Tibet's strategic location to advance its global goals of domination.

The Tibetan people's 60 years of struggle for autonomy and human rights places them on the front line in the global effort for freedom and countering the malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party. The United States has invested successfully in aiding their struggle for freedom for many years.

The stability of Tibet directly impacts the United States at home and abroad, ranging from China's harassment and intimidation of Tibetan communities in the United States to the stability of our alliances in Asia. Left unchallenged, the CCP's accelerated construction of hydropower dams on Tibetan rivers threatens broad swaths of South and Southeast Asia, the livelihoods of communities there, and by extension, US economic and trade relationships in the Indo-Pacific.

The funding the United States provides for the Tibetan cause is a small price to pay for showing China the power of democracy. Please preserve and enhance it; to do otherwise would undo progress on America's most important strategic goals.

I urge you to use your position to make sure the United States—as the leader of the free world—sustain our commitment to Tibet—or risk the loss of a unique civilization and cede strategic ground to the CCP.

Sincerely,

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



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# INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

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Share us with your contacts and join in the Tibet conversation. The more people who care about Tibet, the bigger the impact we can have!



## JOIN THE MANDALA SOCIETY

Invest in the future of the Tibetan people through your estate plans.

Contact Jackie Hernandez at 202.580.6763 or scan here to learn more.



Richard Gere, Chairman of the ICT Board of Directors, along with Tibetan supporters and members of the Capital Area Tibetan Association, attended ICT's Light of Truth Award Ceremony on December 9, 2024.



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