



TIBETAN BULLETIN

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MARCH - APRIL 2013

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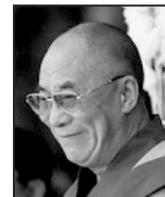
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His Holiness the Dalai Lama Bestowed Minority Award in South Tyrol



His Holiness the Dalai Lama was presented with the Minority Award by South Tyrol province of Italy on 10 April 2013. Speaking on the occasion, President Luis Durnwalder of South Tyrol called His Holiness an international ambassador for non-violence and supporter of minorities. He declared that South Tyrol is like a laboratory conducting an experiment to ensure the survival of minority populations, and the Minority Award was set up to shed light on the problems minorities face.

His Holiness expressed his great honour, and accepted the award on behalf of Tibetans who are still struggling for freedom. His Holiness also expressed his appreciation as the award was being given by a group of people who have been staunch friends and who have blazed the trail to autonomy before Tibet.

Tibetans arrested on National Uprising Day

A day before the 54th Tibetan national uprising day against China's invasion and occupation of Tibet, Tsepak, 29, a Tibetan monk of Kirti Monastery in Tibet's Ngaba county was arrested by the police during a night raid. The relatives still don't know the reasons behind his arrest and current whereabouts. He was earlier arrested and incarcerated for several months on 25 March 2011 for allegedly contacting the outside world.

Three Tibetan monks of Mang-Gye monastery, namely: Sonam Namgyal, Thubten Gelek and Lobsang Samten were also arrested after they raised slo-

gans calling for freedom and democracy, carrying a photo of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in Sershul county in Tibet's Kham province on 10 March.

The police also arrested two lay men, Lobsang Kalsang & Ngawang Gyatso, when they tried to prevent them from arresting the three monks.

On 11 March, another Tibetan, Dagyal, 40, was arrested in Sog Dzong in Nagchu for allegedly contacting the outside world. His whereabouts and well-being remain unknown.

Self-immolation continues in Tibet, death toll touches 100

Self-immolation continues in Tibet as eight more Tibetans self-immolated in March-April 2013. Reports also confirmed the self-immolation of Tulku Athup alias Thubten Nyandak Rinpoche, 47, and his niece, Atse, 25, at the former's residence in Dzogchen monastery in Kham in eastern Tibet, on 6 April 2012.

Fearing closure of the monastery, the monastery officials earlier told the police that Tulku Athup and his niece died due to accidental fire in the house rather than self-immolation.

These incidents have pushed the total number of self-immolations to 117, out of which 100 have died.

The universal calls of self-immolators are the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet and freedom for Tibetans.

The Central Tibetan Administration has consistently appealed to Tibetans not to resort to drastic actions, including self-immolation.

Panchen Lama turns 24, clamour grows for his release

Tibetans in exile have strengthened their calls for the release of the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, whose whereabouts remain unknown after the Chinese government installed its own choice in 1995.

The 11th Panchen Lama turned 24 on 25 April. The human rights organisations have described the missing Panchen Lama as the world's youngest political prisoner.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the six-year-old boy identified by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama, disappeared on 17 May 1995. The Chinese government later admitted to holding the boy and his family in "protective custody".

Despite repeated appeals to gain access to the boy, no international agency or human rights organisation has been granted contact with the young Panchen Lama or his family. To date, their well-being and whereabouts remain unconfirmed.

China Releases Tibetan Political Prisoner after 17 Years



File photo

The Chinese government has released Jigme Gyatso, 52, a Tibetan political prisoner after serving 17 years in prison for allegedly endangering national security and separatism.

Jigme was ordered to return to his native village in Labrang after his release from Chushul prison in Tibet's capital Lhasa on 30 March. His overall health condition is reportedly very poor.

Jigme along with a group of Tibetans was first arrested on 30 March 1996 for their alleged involvement in forming an alliance for Tibet's independence at Gaden monastery in Lhasa in 1992. On 23 November 1996, the Intermediate People's Court in Lhasa sentenced Jigme to 15 years in prison and stripped of his political rights for five years. He was then sent to Drapchi prison in Lhasa where he was severely tortured by security officials, leaving his right foot permanently disabled. He also suffered severe beating in the crackdown during a protest inside the prison in early May 1998.

Jigme's prison term was extended by another two years for raising slogans

for long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in March 2004. In 2005, he was shifted to Chushul prison along with other prisoners. He was subjected to severe interrogation and torture when he was kept in solitary confinement in late 2010.

French Town adopts Tsethang and Yumbu Lagang



On 8 April 2013, Vitrolles, a town in South France's Aix en Provence region became the sixtieth French municipality to officially adopt a Tibetan town.

Vitrolles adopted Tsethang and Yumbu Lagang with an official ceremony marking the inauguration of "Plaque", participated by the Mayor of Vitrolles Mr. Loic Gachon and the entire members of the municipality council.

The Secretary of Bureau du Tibet, Mr. Tsering Dhondup, attended the ceremony as a guest of honour.

The mayor underlined the objective behind the town municipality's unanimous decision to join the campaign as to support the Tibetan people's quest for freedom and human rights, and particularly to safeguard the unique cultural heritage of Tibet.

The campaign was launched in April 2010 by the French Tibet Support Group, France Tibet and locally initiated by Provence Himalaya, a humanitarian organisation based in Vitrolles.

Four Tibetans sentenced to varying prison terms

Four Tibetans have been sentenced to varying prison terms by the Intermediate People's court in Rebkong and Tsekhog in Malho in Qinghai Province in eastern Tibet.

Yangkyab Gyal, Chakthar, Namkha

Jam and Gonpo were sentenced for allegedly committing separatist activities and sending news and photos of Tibetan self-immolators abroad.

Yangkyab Gyal was sentenced to 6 years in prison and stripped of his political rights for 3 years, Chakthar was sentenced to 4 years imprisonment and deprived of political rights for 2 years, Namkha Jam was sentenced to 6 years and stripped of his political rights for 3 years, and Gonpo was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment and deprived of political rights for 2 years.

21 Tibetans Arrested in Protest against Rampant Land Grabbing in Kyegudo

More than 21 Tibetans are arrested after hundreds of local Tibetans in Kyegudo region of Kham protested against the local Chinese authorities on 9 April.

The Tibetans were protesting against rampant land grabbing and forceful eviction of Tibetan families from their ancestral homes in the Kyegudo region. Six Tibetans are reported to be seriously injured during confrontation with the Chinese security forces.

The local Chinese authorities have announced further plans to destroy 200 more homes to create more land for industries and private ownership.

Marginalized and Unemployed, Youth in Machu Area of Tibet Stage Protest Against Chinese Government Policies

A large number of youth in Machu area of Tibet staged a protest on 10 April, outside the local administrative building demanding immediate stop to policies that have marginalized local Tibetan youth in education and job opportunities in the area.

The protesters held banners and distributed pamphlets stating that the graduates are unemployed and marginalized in the area, and that officials lure outsiders which threaten their job opportunities. It also stated that locals are restricted to limited number of enrolment in schools and entrance examinations for employment are not in Tibetan language despite being in Tibetan areas.

Many such protests are witnessed in Ti-

betan areas for the last few years. These protests are largely directed against the Chinese government's clampdown on use of Tibetan language as a medium of instruction in Tibetan-speaking areas.

Tibetan students sentenced over protest

Eight Tibetan students have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 3 to 4 years by a Chinese court for their role in a peaceful demonstration last year.

The People's Court in Chabcha (Ch: Gonghe) in Tsolho, northeastern Tibet, sentenced Sangay Bum, Kunsang Bum, Taten, Jampa Tsering, Wangdue Tsering, Choekyong Gyal, Tsering Tashi and Dolar on 10 April.

Thousands of Tibetan students from Tsolho vocational and handicraft school held a massive demonstration in November 2012, demanding freedom, equality of nationalities and leadership change.

Tibetan writer activist Wins International Woman of Courage Award

Tsering Woesser, a Tibetan author, poet, and blogger living in Beijing, was honoured with the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award in the USA. Woesser was awarded in absentia.

The Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award annually recognises women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for women's rights and empowerment, often at great personal risk.

"Born in Lhasa, Tsering Woesser's website, Invisible Tibet, together with her poetry and non-fiction and her embrace of social media platforms like Twitter, have given voice to millions of ethnic Tibetans who are prevented from expressing themselves to the outside world due to government efforts to curtail the flow of information," said the State Department press release.

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay congratulated her for getting this honour in recognition of her courage and dedication to the cause of Tibet.

The Statement of Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay on the 54th Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day



On this day in 1959, thousands of Tibetans from all walks of life and all three regions of Tibet (U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo) converged in Lhasa to resist and protest the Chinese invasion and occupation of Tibet. We are the children of this tragic yet historic moment in Tibet's rich, unique, 2,000-plus year history. Today, we are gathered here to re-dedicate ourselves to the brave struggle started by the selfless elder generation. We pay tribute to all those who have sacrificed their lives for Tibet. The yearning for freedom that moved our elders to undertake the epochal events of 10 March 1959 is a beacon that guides our present-day struggle to secure our basic freedom, dignity and identity.

The continuing vicious cycle of repression and resentment in Tibet is manifested in the devastating number of Tibetans setting themselves on fire. Since 2009, 107 Tibetans have self-immolated including 28 in November 2012 just before and during the 18th Party Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. Sadly, 90 of them have died. Such a high toll is perhaps unprecedented in recent world history. Though most of the self-immolators are monks, their ranks include the full spectrum of Tibetans – nomads, farmers and students – from

all three Tibetan regions of U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo including the capital city of Lhasa. We dedicate this day to all the self-immolators and those who have died for Tibet.

The occupation and repression in Tibet by the government of the People's Republic of China are the primary conditions driving Tibetans to self-immolation. Tibetans witness and experience China's constant assault on Tibetan Buddhist civilization, their very identity and dignity. They deeply resent China's demonization of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. They look on with alarm as Chinese settlers stream into Tibet, taking away Tibetan jobs, land and their very future – and in the process, transforming Tibetan towns and cities into Chinatowns. They oppose the forced removal of hundreds of thousands of nomads from the grasslands to permanent ghettos, reducing formerly self-sufficient families to impoverishment. They see colonial-like development activities cart away billions of dollars worth of Tibetan natural resources to a resource-hungry China. These policies could easily lead one to suspect that China wants Tibet but not the Tibetan people.

Yet when Tibetans respond to these violations with even the slightest show of

dissent, they risk prolonged imprisonment, torture, public humiliation and disappearance at the hands of security forces. The prohibition of peaceful protest and harsh punishments compel Tibetans to resort to self-immolation. They choose death rather than silence and submission to the Chinese authorities. Recent attempts by the authorities to criminalize self-immolators, and persecute their family members and friends through sham trials are likely to prolong the cycle of self-immolation, persecution, and more immolation.

Through various media, the Kashag has consistently appealed and categorically discouraged Tibetans in Tibet from self-immolating as a form of protest. Life is precious and as human beings we do not want anyone to die in such a manner. As Buddhists, we pray for the soul of the deceased. As Tibetans, it is our sacred duty to support the aspirations of Tibetans in Tibet: the return of His Holiness the great Fourteenth Dalai Lama to Tibet, freedom for the Tibetan people, and unity among Tibetans.

The only way to end this brutal and grave situation is for China to change its current hard line Tibet policy by respecting the aspirations of the Tibetan people.

The Kashag is fully committed to the Middle Way Approach, which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibetans, to solve the issue of Tibet. His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama has shown this to be the most viable and enduring approach. After careful deliberations, the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile unanimously adopted the Middle Way Approach. It is supported by Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, and has garnered the support of key foreign governments, world leaders, and Nobel laureates. It has, in particular, resonated and supported by a growing number of Chinese intellectuals, scholars and writers.

At this time, the Kashag hopes that the new Chinese leadership will view this pragmatic political approach, which

bridges both Tibetan and Chinese interests, as a win-win solution. In 2002, the resumption of dialogue gave hope to Tibetans for a peaceful resolution of the issue of Tibet. Unfortunately, this hope has been shaken by the present stalemate in the dialogue process.

Tibet is not a constitutional or an institutional problem for the government of the People's Republic of China. As per Article 31 of the PRC Constitution, China has created a separate institutional mechanism of one country, two systems for Hong Kong and Macau. The Chinese leadership has also displayed the political will by forming a cabinet level committee to deal with Taiwan (Republic of China). However, when it comes to Tibet, the Chinese leadership has neither employed the available constitutional mechanism at its disposal, nor has it shown the political will to resolve the issue peacefully. From our side, we consider substance primary and process secondary, and are ready to engage in meaningful dialogue anywhere, at any time.

Finding a just and lasting solution to the issue of Tibet is also in the interest of the world at large. Tibet, one of the oldest civilizations is viewed as the Third Pole as its glaciers feed the 10 river systems of Asia. It will contribute to the peace and prosperity of over a billion people in Asia who live downstream and depend on Tibet's water for sustenance. A speedy resolution will send

the right message and serve as a model for other freedom struggles as the Tibetan struggle is one firmly anchored in non-violence and democracy. Last, but not the least, solving the issue of Tibet could be a catalyst for moderation of China.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the great people and government of India. We are also immensely grateful to all governments, international organizations, Tibet Support Groups and individual supporters across the globe for their supportive resolutions, statements, and for their unflinching and generous support. At the same time, we believe that the moment has come for governments and the international community to take concrete actions to press the Chinese government to enter into meaningful dialogue with the Tibetan leadership.

We call on the international community to press the Chinese government to allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights entry into Tibet, and also to give access to diplomats and the international media. Only in this way can the truth about the grave situation in Tibet be unveiled and the self-immolations abated.

The Kashag has announced 2013 as a year of Solidarity With Tibet Campaign. Each of our numerous events are organized peacefully, legally and with dignity. Thousands of Tibetans and Indian friends gathered in New Delhi on

30 January for a 4-day mass campaign organized by the Central Tibetan Administration. Many prominent Indian leaders representing various parties attended and pledged action for Tibet. Tibetans and friends in Europe today are holding The European Solidarity Rally for Tibet in Brussels. This month Tibetans in North America, Europe and elsewhere are organizing Tibet Lobby Days. The core message we request everyone to communicate are the three Ds: Devolution, Democracy and Dialogue.

The character of our people is being shaped by our endurance of the darkest period in Tibet's history. Under the enlightened leadership of His Holiness the great Fourteenth Dalai Lama, we continue to meet adversity with exceptional unity, resilience, and dignity. I fervently pray for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The Kashag is uplifted and deeply gratified by the support and solidarity it has received from Tibetans inside and outside Tibet. With unity, self-reliance and innovation as the guiding principles, we are determined to fulfill the aspirations of all Tibetans to enjoy the freedom and dignity, which we deserve and is our right.

Let me conclude by again paying homage to our brothers and sisters in Tibet.

10 March 2013

Dharamshala

The Statement of the Tibetan Parliament in-Exile on the 54th Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day

Today marks the day when 54 years ago the government of the People's Republic of China, pursuing a devious stratagem to seize Tibet, unleashed in the country's capital Lhasa actions that included a vicious threat to the life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. And it also marks the day when the Tibetan people staged an uprising against these designs of the Chinese government in a spontaneous unity of thought and action. From this year onwards, we will be observing this day not only as the Tibetan National Uprising Day but also, simultaneously, as the Tibetan Martyr's

Day to symbolically commemorate the heroic Tibetan men and women who have given up their lives for the Tibetan national cause.

During some 64 years that have gone by since it began its invasion of Tibet, the government of China has brought about the untimely deaths of more than one million Tibetans and obliterated thousands of Tibetan religious places. With actions such as these, it carried out the destruction, plunder, and robbing of Tibet and its internal riches, leaving the land in pitiful ruins. Besides, it was unrelenting in its continuous initiation

of policies of cruelty aimed at the obliteration of the Tibetan religion, culture, language and so on which are the very embodiment of the identity of the Tibetan people. This policy continues to this day and its objective is to transform the historical Tibetan land into a land of Chinese people. As a result, the situation in Tibet today has reached a highly critical juncture. Besides, far from entertaining any thought about resolving the problems concerning the issue of Tibet, the leaders of China resort to unmitigated lying, using it as a tool to deceive and practice subterfuge for the

purpose of concealing from both the people of China and the outside world the real situation in Tibet. This is, however, a fact all too well known to everyone.

Concerning the issue of Tibet, ever since the world of human existence came into being, until its occupation by the People's Republic of China, the politics, administration, and the legal system of the nation were supervised and controlled only by the Tibetan people themselves. No outside power had any kind of say in its affairs, for it was an independent country throughout. And its status as an independent country was fully in conformity with today's universally recognized meaning of a nation and of the citizenry by which it is constituted. Besides, it has a history which dates back much longer than that of many of the independent countries of today. However, in the period after the Second World War, when many countries struggling under imperialist colonization regained their independence, the People's Republic of China, seizing the opportunities provided by the political situation and a multitude of other circumstances prevailing at that time, launched an armed invasion of Tibet. This eventually led to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and more than 80,000 other Tibetans to flee their homeland and to live in exile.

Today, the situation in Tibet has become extremely tragic and critical, with the Chinese government pursuing a policy of colonialism whereby in all the economically profitable cities and towns, Tibetans are continuously being pushed to the fringe of the society, to live a marginalized existence of a neglected minority community. The Tibetan people are not only devoid of any kind of political freedom but are also subjected to very tight restrictions with regard to the exercise of their human rights, freedom of religious practices, freedom of movement, and linguistics freedom. And the natural environment of Tibet has been subjected to such severe ravages that it would be very hard to restore them again. For these reasons the Tibetan people in Tibet have, without any concern for their own lives and with displays of utmost courage and conviction, carried

out numerous kinds of peaceful protest actions on successive occasions. With such courses of actions, they made clear their rejection of the policies of the Chinese government which are repressive and not at all in keeping with the desires and aspirations of the Tibetan people. And the situation in Tibet kept getting serious and worsened considerably after the widespread and large scale demonstrations of the Earth-Mouse Year in 2008.

It is undoubtedly owing to the kindness flowing from His Holiness the Dalai Lama that there are in every part of the world people who show concern for the Tibetan people and lend support to us; and their numbers continue to increase. Motivated solely by his concern for the current and long term interests of the Tibetan people, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, based on his assessment of the reality of the situation today, proposed a middle way approach for resolving the issue of Tibet. Rather than being designed to benefit oneself at the expense of the other side, this is an approach which is mutually beneficial to both China and Tibet. And through a democratic process, this was unanimously adopted as the policy of the Central Tibetan Administration. It is strange that the leaders of China have so far not accepted this proposal with the proper attention it deserves.

Through the commemoration of this anniversary today, we would like to express our heartfelt obeisance and gratitude to our compatriots in Tibet for their patriotic courage and ethnic loyalty.

Everyone knows how seriously the situation in Tibet today keeps going from bad to worse and we, therefore, do not deem it necessary to explain the situation again. Facts reported and authenticated show that so far a total of 107 patriotic Tibetan men and women in Tibet have immolated themselves for the cause of the Tibetan religion, nation, and people. Of them, 89 have died. In exile too, not a small number of Tibetans have given up their lives for the sake of the fundamental cause of Tibet. In Tibet, the Chinese government has been arresting Tibetans for their alleged links with the people who had carried out self-immolations.

And it subjects them to legal punishments and so on as a means to tighten control over them, to persecute them, and to torture them without any kind of limit or restraint. This makes it clear that the Chinese government has absolutely no desire to fulfill the genuine desires and aspirations of the Tibetan people on the basis of their supposed policy of seeking truth from facts. Rather, for the purpose of concealing the true situation in Tibet, it bars foreign journalists as well as delegates from foreign governments and non-governmental organizations from visiting Tibet for the purpose of carrying out unbiased investigations. And with absolutely no sense of shame, Chinese leaders continue to try to deceive the world by invariably hiding the truth and keeping on telling lies. They thereby render the situation highly gloomy, giving no cause for any kind of optimism. Worse, in order to conceal their own mistakes, the leaders of the Chinese government direct their criticism at others, reverse-painting themselves as the good people and others as the bad ones. In the course of doing so, they present distorted explanations of Buddhism on the issue of self-immolation and also fabricate false propaganda information to allege that the self-immolations are being instigated and coerced by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration. In addition, the Chinese government puts out all sorts of numerous new documents, including suggestions of opinions on the ways in which cases concerned with the self-immolations occurring in the Tibetan areas should be dealt with in a legal manner through the judicial process without due processes of law. Such kinds of actions cannot, however, deceive the people of the world. They also cannot deceive the people within China. And by keeping on alleging that the Central Tibetan Administration campaigns for Tibet's independence even while knowing fully well that it does not seek any such solution, and by calling it a separatist group and criticizing it in all sorts of manners, the government of China itself lays the foundation for the country's eventual disintegration.

In Tibet, there is absolutely no opportunity of any kind for the Tibetan people

to stage peaceful demonstrations like in a free country. That is why in an effort to seek a resolution to the just cause of the Tibetan people, in order to invite His Holiness the Dalai Lama back to Tibet, with a hope to see a halt to the repressive policies of the government of China, and so on, the people of Tibet find themselves in a situation of having no other choice but to take recourse to immolating themselves without causing even an iota of harm to others. Nevertheless, the government of China has so far responded only with continuously increased repression, without taking recourse to any kind of approach designed to alleviate the suffering of the Tibetan people. Besides, the international community too has done little beyond expressing concerns and sympathies on these latest developments in Tibet. It is a matter of great sadness to the Tibetan people that none in the international community has been able to make any productive move to address the harrowing, very tragic and critical situation in Tibet today – a situation which is unprecedented in world history.

It is an unavoidable duty of the Tibetan people in exile to give the people in the outside world all the details about every development that is taking place in Tibet. And if that is to be cited as suggestive of a reason showing that the self-immolations in Tibet are being encouraged thereby, why does not the same logic apply to the reporting all the other news throughout the world through the various media channels? Based on the foundation of the duty of all the Tibetan people living in exile, the Tibetan-Parliament-in-Exile led several major campaign actions in the last one year. One of them was the international Flame of Truth relay which continued for more than five months. This was followed by a month-long campaign covering all the states of India, with the objective of creating awareness about the situation in Tibet today and of garnering support for the Tibetan cause. And for four days from the end of January to the beginning of February this year, a Tibetan People's Solidarity Campaign was successfully held in New Delhi jointly organized by the Kashag and the Tibetan-Parliament-in-Exile. Everyone concerned with the

campaign showed solidarity in facilitating and supporting it, contributing to its successful conclusion, and we take this opportunity to express our thanks to them all. The government and the people of India, in particular, provided strong support for the campaign and we take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to them too. In future too, so long as there is no negotiated settlement to the current tragic situation in Tibet, and the Sino-Tibetan dispute remains unresolved, it is inevitable that we will have to carry out numerous more campaign actions. In view of this prospect, we look forward to continuous support from everyone concerned.

Given the fact that this year's 10th March anniversary coincides with the change of leadership in the People's Republic of China, we would like to propose the following mutually beneficial suggestions for consideration by the new leaders of China:

- 1) Accept that the Sino-Tibetan dispute deserves to be, needs to be, and can be solved and begin at once peaceful negotiations on the basis of the mutually beneficial middle way approach.
- 2) Concerning the critical situation in Tibet today in general and, especially, in order to save the Tibetan people whose precious lives are still being lost in self-immolations, the government of China should carry out an investigation on the basis of seeking truth from facts and with impartiality. Besides, people from the international media as well as from governments and non-governmental organizations should be allowed to visit Tibet.
- 3) The government of China should change the hardline, violent, and oppressive policies it is currently pursuing in Tibet, for if it fails to do so, there is no doubt that the hostility between it and the Tibetan people will increase. Hence, China must forthwith end its policies of violence and repression against the Tibetan people.
- 4) On the basis of a clear understanding of the gravity of the highly critical situation in Tibet today, the government of China should protect the Tibetan people's human rights, their

religion and culture, their linguistic heritage, and their natural environment. It should end the ethnic discrimination, violent repression, torture, and other forms of ill-treatment against the Tibetan people. In this milieu, it should also release forthwith all the Tibetan political prisoners, including the young reincarnate Panchen Rinpoche.

The international community also should not maintain a distant view of the ongoing violent repression being carried out against the Tibetan people. Rather, leaders of nations and officials of governments should adopt a clear stand and intervene in whatever fruitful ways they are able to, for the time to act in this way is overdue and we would like to make an emphatic appeal in this regard.

Within the Tibetan people ourselves, efforts should be directed at seeking to achieve a just solution to the Tibet issue, acting with a sense of fraternity and unity. With this end in view, the Tibetan people should pool whatever capabilities they may have for the purpose of achieving the common goal. They should not resort to speaking, writing articles, and propagating information through the various communication channels without any sense of responsibility. Rather, we emphatically appeal that everyone stand together, turn in the same direction, and direct their efforts at achieving the common desires of the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in exile.

Finally, we pray, remembering the gratitude we owe to him for all his enormous sacred deeds of body, speech, and mind, that His Holiness the Dalai Lama live for a hundred eons for the sake of all the sentient beings of this world in general and, especially, for the benefit of the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in exile as the common embodiment of their sacred savior. On that basis, may His Holiness the Dalai Lama be able, in all speediness, to set foot on the Land of Snows, his appointed realm of spiritual teaching, and the Tibetans left behind in Tibet and in exile be reunited. ■

Tibetan Parliament in-Exile
10 March 2013

BUDGET ADDRESS

Central Tibetan Administration (Fiscal Year: 2013-2014)



Finance Kalon Tsering Dhondup

Most Hon'ble Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in-Exile,

Herewith presenting to the Parliament Budget proposal of the Central Tibetan Administration for the fiscal year 2013-2014.

Because presentation of fund incoming and expenditure to the Parliament is absolutely necessary, every effort is made to include detailed information. Pursuant to the status of CTA, the primary objective of the Budget is: to preserve and promote valuable culture representing characteristics of the Tibetan people, to plan activities aimed at benefiting welfare of the people, to arrange requisite fund for those activities, to secure & improve financial position of the Administration, and to plan activities accordingly each fiscal year.

This Budget is the second such Budget by the Fourteenth Kashag. Besides regular functions of the departments, it includes some programs which are truly in consonance to its requirements. Since adequate fund is recommended, it is vital that these programs are implemented efficiently within a timeframe. It is proposed that funds can be arranged based on the estimated expenditures of various programs. Funds arranged for specific programs will be retained for such programs till their completion. Balance

amount, if any, after a program is fully completed, shall be merged with the Budget Fund.

Like last year, this year too, it is a reconciled Budget given the estimated incoming fund and expenditure from the Budget Fund.

1.0 Fund Status

As of 31 January 2012, CTA has a fund totalling INR 705.83 million. To this is added INR 95.36 million of fiscal year 2012/2013, thus taking the total, as of 31 January 2013, to INR 801.19 million. While the details are shown below, this does not include the Local Fund Contribution of the respective departments.

1.1 Fixed Fund

The task of depositing Fixed Fund is being carried out aimed at self-funding annual expenditure of the Central Tibetan Administration. Accordingly, INR 186.89 million was accumulated as of 31 January 2012. In the preceding year, there was a receipt of an additional fund of INR 13.4 million. The total Fund, as of 31 January 2013, is INR 200.37 million. Similarly, Department of Religion & Culture has a Fixed Fund of INR 10.0 million, Department of Home has a fixed fund of INR 55.0 million, Department of Health has a fixed fund of INR 17.59 million, Department of Finance has a fixed fund of INR 57.30 million, and Department of Education has a fixed fund of INR 141.03 million. Hence, the total fixed fund of CTA is INR 481.29 million. This whole amount is secured as a risk-free deposit.

1.2 Budget Fund

Budget Fund as on 31 March 2011 stands at INR 269.06 million. Additionally, after adding receipts and deducting payments from the Budget Fund of 2012/2013, there remains a balance of INR 50.84 million. Hence, the total Budget Fund as of 31 March 2012 is 319.90 million.

1.3 Balance of Local Fund Contribution

In addition to the above mentioned fund, various departments have, as of 31 March 2012, under local fund contribution account a general fund of INR 1068.86 million, and a program fund of INR 439.51 million. Thus bringing the total to INR 1508.37 million. From local fund contribution of fiscal year 2012/2013, there will be a balance of INR 1255.28 million.

Even though the financial status of CTA is satisfactory, the fund status of the individual departments such as home, education and health is not improving as compared to the bygone years. Chief cause of the mismatch of annual expenditure and income is the ever increasing recurring and salary expenses of staffs present in the branch offices. Various Tibetan Settlement Offices too are experiencing similar situation. Consideration is being given as to ways and means to finding an appropriate solution to this situation.

2.0 Receipt & Payment Statement for the fiscal year 2011/2012

2.1 The Revised Budget for 2011/2012 had approved an estimated spending of INR 1119.31 million. While a receipt into the Budget Fund was approved at INR 276.56 million, a payment was approved at INR 253.03 million. The actual receipt stood at INR 254.38 million and the actual payment was INR 203.54 million. There was, therefore, no deficit.

2.2 In the case of Local Fund Contribution, an estimated expenditure of INR 866.29 million was approved for local projects, whereas a receipt amount of INR 864.96 million was approved. The actual receipt stood at INR 782.92 million and the actual expenditure was INR 815.41 million

3.0 Budget status of the fiscal year 2012/2013

3.1 For the ongoing year 2012/2013, the

Parliament had, during the Budget session, approved an estimated expenditure of INR 1041.386 million, INR 1147.65 million during revised Budget, plus INR 26.57 million for local fund contribution and INR 15.56 million for Special accounts during interim approval. Therefore, the final approval given for estimated expenditure was INR 1189.78 million. This then was more than the initial Budget by INR 148.42 million.

Of this estimated expenditure INR 181.37 is for recurring head of accounts, INR 230.52 million for salary, INR 777.89 million for Special and local projects. To realize the above mentioned estimated expenditure, the requested fund totalling INR 313.05 million must be spend from the Budget Fund. An approval for INR 876.73 million was given to be spend from the Local Fund Contribution, details of this is as contained in document # Cha.

3.2 Of the estimated receipts of INR 1196.24 approved during the revised Budget and the subsequent interim approval, INR 291.68 was approved as benefiting the income of the Budget Fund. When comparing both estimated receipts and expenditures of the Budget Fund, it results in over expenditure by INR 21.37 million.

4.0 Budget Proposal: Fiscal Year 2013/2014

4.1 Basis of Recommendation

a. Except few uncertain situations arising due to increase or decrease of recurring expenses of various departments, adequate requisite fund is recommended based on the actual expenditure of year 2011/2012, revised Budget approval of year 2012/2013 and the fact that there will be no revised Budget from fiscal year 2013/2014. Necessary programs as specified under Special and Local Contribution account head as well as those activities that can be achieved in the fiscal year are recommended.

b. Recommendation is made based on the nature and status of various Local Tibetan Assemblies and Tibetan Freedom Movements.

c. The final sanctioned amount which appears in the columns of revised Budget of 2012/2013 fiscal year, its subsequent interim approval, plus re-appropriation approval have all been listed and presented herewith.

d. According to Budget rules, it is required to present the Budget of the central departments, their various sections, branch offices, similarly autonomous bodies functioning under the Administration. Complying to the rule, Budgets of 45 such bodies are presented to the Parliament.

4.2 Estimated Spending

It is proposed to incur an estimated spending of INR 1279.35 million from CTA's 2013/2014 Consolidated Fund. Recommendations are made as follows: INR 258.99 million for salary which is 20.24%, INR 197.12 million for recurring expenses (15.41%) of the various departments, INR 823.24 million for Special activities and local projects (64.35%). Compared to last year, this year's estimated Budget on spending and program requisite fund has increased by INR 56.35 million and INR 181.64 million respectively. Details of this as contained in document # Nga. This year's estimated expenditure is more than last year by INR 237.99 million, which is an increase of 23%. Recommendation made for Tibet's Buddha Dharma, welfare of Tibetan people in-exile, education, health as well and other important issues are given below:

a. Preservation of religion and culture being vital, INR 49.01 million is recommended with following specific activities.

a.1 INR 12.89 million primarily for conducting prayers for health and security of His Holiness, the benefit of Buddha Dharma, convening conference of Abbots, Lama and activities connected to the organization of Jang Gun-Chos.

a.2 INR 2.86 million for renovation of and assistance to temples and monasteries. INR 17.02 million as stipend and scholarship to monks and nuns studying in the monasteries and nunneries, for ed-

ucating general public, especially young boys and girls, about Buddhist religion.

a.3 INR 1.17 million for monk and nun graduates, who will continue teaching Buddhist philosophy in Hindi language and create necessary facilities to outside learning centres and institutions.

a.4 INR 2.50 million for medical assistance to newly arrived sick monks and nuns.

b. INR 282.66 million for activities related to international relations and publication/dissemination of information related to finding solution to Tibet's struggle for freedom

c. Since looking after the welfare of the Tibetan community is one of the important tasks of CTA. INR 231.90 million is recommended for improvement of livelihood, for development purposes and for general maintenance of the Tibetan Settlements. Some of the important activities recommended are as shown below:

1. Agricultural produce being fundamental for survival of Tibetan Settlements, INR 17.06 million is set aside for development of agriculture, including organic farming and activities of co-operative societies.

2. INR 82.30 million for taking care of some of the poor, elderly, and former army personnels faced with problems. This includes INR 45.53 million to be given as stipends. Recognizing the responsibility of helping provide for these poor people, the monthly stipend amount is raised from INR 900 to INR 1500 after carrying out a review. It is hoped this will help resolve some of the existing problems. Likewise, INR 7.0 million and INR 19.79 million are recommended for providing relief during emergency situations.

3. INR 7.41 million for continuation of the ongoing training given to youths, aimed at achieving self-reliance. Similarly, INR 2.50 million for implementing the revolving loan fund project, which is aimed at establishing new source of

livelihood.

4. INR 2.26 million for providing language and vocational training to freshly arrived unemployed young Tibetans, aimed at benefiting their livelihood. Likewise, INR 10.50 million for providing housing facilities to fresh arrivals and former political prisoners who are facing accommodation problem.

5. INR 5.0 million for helping with livelihood problems faced by some Tibetans residing in Dharamshala.

6. INR 3 lakhs for initiating programs of building co-operation between Tibetan Settlements located in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibetan Friendship organizations existing in foreign countries.

d. Improvement of Tibetan pupils education standard being considered extremely vital by the 14th Kashag, INR 253.48 million is recommended for development of Tibetan people's education. Some important activities recommended are as shown below:

1. Regarding primary education to Tibetan pupils, INR 124.09 million for the running of schools, including schools under the banner of Sambhota. INR 34.65 million for providing scholarship to poor students.

2. Scholarship is given every year for higher and professional studies. An award and the number of scholarship based on result have been increased with an aim to encourage students to improve their results. More specially, scholarship will be awarded to students belonging to low income families who have scored above 40% in their examination. Similarly, for conducting workshops, etc, a recommendation is made for INR 44.21 million, which is 100% increase to the previous year. INR 1.11 million for activities related to counselling of students.

3. School's demand for teacher increases every year. Moreover, with imminent transfer of schools administered by CTSA, demand for a good qualified teacher will doubly increase. Therefore,

INR 28.01 million is recommended for improving the facilities of the existing teacher training centre. INR 16.06 million for organizing/conducting workshops on ways/methods of imparting education given the import of Education Policy.

4. INR 1.08 million for organizing a conference of education experts aimed at improving the existing status of education. INR 2.21 million for organizing 6th Education Conference.

e. For activities related to Tibetan Medicare System, INR 118.73 million is recommended. Some of the activities recommended are as shown below:

1. INR 4.09 million to provide care and stipends to leprosy patients and physically handicapped people. Beginning this year, monthly stipend is increased from INR 700 to INR 1500 given the prevailing local condition.

2. INR 8.09 million for solving the problems of water, health and hygiene of the Tibetan settlements and other dwelling places inhabited by Tibetan people.

3. INR 16.10 million for activities such as giving advice, besides general health, mainly on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, creating awareness about TB and other preventable diseases, medical treatment, etc.

4. INR 23.51 million for urgent medical treatment of poor people, dignitaries and staffs of CTA, medical facilities to retired CTA employees, and for activities related to Tibetan Medicare System.

5. INR 4.88 million for general health care of women, particularly mother and child health care and activities related to health advice.

6. INR 15.00 million for activities aimed at reducing the number of employees currently employed by the Department of Health, after scrutinizing work volume, employee strength, and the actual need.

f. In accordance to the policy of Women

Empowerment, INR 1.05 million is recommended for the purpose of organizing related activities.

g. INR 500,000 is set aside for completion of the ongoing research work on setting up a Tibetan Bank, which besides giving loan to those needing it, will provide loan to small traders, entrepreneurs, etc..

h. As the need for professionals doing the tasks for CTA is increasing, INR 3.30 million is recommended to initiate projects creating adequate facilities enabling educated Tibetans and professionals from India, Nepal, Bhutan and foreign countries to serve CTA for a specific period of time.

i. A Tibet Policy Institute has been started to carry out in depth research into all the affairs related to Tibet. INR 5.83 million is set aside for conducting workshops aimed at retaining researchers, expert discussions/debates, and conferences.

j. INR 1.71 million towards convening a conference in Dharamshala, which will discuss problems faced by Tibetans residing in Nepal, and the ways and means to resolve those problems.

k. As CTA employees need work-related training, such training will be organized. Similarly, training will be organized for fresh recruits, which will ensure quality of employees. For this, INR 1.80 is recommended.

l. To expand the existing Tibet television program of CTA, it involves showing/broadcasting nationally for 30 minutes per week in collaboration with other media organization. For creation of necessary facilities, INR 2.80 million is recommended.

m. Department of Finance is working on Business Development & Support program which involves, in general, solving unemployment problem among the youth and making resources available to people in the community who are interested in running small business. For this to commence, INR 5.00 million is recommended.

n. Dignitaries and staffs of CTA have not become employees merely aiming for salary. However, considering the importance of providing adequate salary in accordance with the prevailing local/market condition, a Salary Review Committee has already been appointed. To make reasonable increase in salary, a total amount of INR 40.0 million is recommended. Similarly, as five departments are paying salary, INR 12.60 million is recommended for purpose of paying difference amount.

o. INR 19.14 million towards reception and maintenance of Tibetans arriving India for pilgrimage, looking for relatives and study purposes. INR 26.29 million for expenses to be incurred by Sherab Gatsal-ling for changing school subjects and school term for eight years. This is an increase by INR 5.27 million. Supporting and taking care of the former political prisoners and those involved in politics being important, an increase is made to the monthly stipend from INR 3500 to INR 6000 after reviewing the prevailing local conditions. For this and other expenses, INR 6.80 million is recommended.

4.3 Estimated Receipt

A. An estimated receipt of CTA's Consolidated fund for the fiscal year 2013/2014 is INR 1,208.71 million. Of this INR 752.04 million is for local fund contribution of various departments, and INR 456.66 million is for Budget Fund. Detail of this is contained in document # Ka & Kha. This year's estimated budgetary spending is more than last year. Therefore, the fund to be raised by Kashag has increased by INR 173.30 million. As is proposed, Kashag will strive to raise the amount.

B. One of the vital sources of receipt for the Budget is the voluntary Green Book Contribution. In order to enhance the collection, both the community and people entrusted with responsibilities have and are taking great responsibility. As of 31 January 2013, a total number of 1,41,453 green books were made and distributed. Looking at the unending number of requests for new green books, an estimated receipt from vol-

untary contribution and other contribution is calculated at INR 103.63 million, which is INR 5.04 million more than last year.

C. Pursuant to general practice, most elderly people have no particular income. It is specially necessary to respect them. As a symbol of respect, elders aged beyond 85 will not be required to pay this voluntary contribution. They must, however, have fully paid voluntary contribution till the age of 85. In the same manner, those above the age of 70 can pay the accumulated contribution whenever they wish to till the age of 85. A Bill/resolution to this effect is going to be presented during this session of the Parliament. This act will hopefully help elderly people from having to come every year for paying the contribution.

D. Paying voluntary contribution without interruption is an important duty of a Tibetan nationality. A concession was considered in 2008 for the purpose of depositing outstanding amount so that all the people can clear their contribution. At the time several Tibetans were unable to avail the opportunity. Now, there are suggestions for a repeat opportunity, which will be in the interest of both the Administration and individual contributor. Due consideration is being given to these suggestions.

E. All the departments, settlements and autonomous institutions have been implementing the resolution (document # 54) adopted by the Parliament on 26 March 2005, which prescribes depositing 4% & 1% respectively to Finance department from whatever fund they might receive from both internal and external sources. However, after giving due consideration to CTA's yearly receipt/payment status as well as other factors, a resolution proposing an end to this percentage payment to Finance Department starting 2014/2015 is going to be tabled during this session of the Parliament. However, as per general practice, a decision will be made in due course, enabling departments and settlements/branches to receive a reasonable percentage of the total fund received from donors for implementation of pro-

grams.

F. In addition to the above mentioned estimated receipt, there is an estimated fund balance of INR 1536.20 million & INR 298.53 million from the local fund contribution & Budget Fund of the fiscal year 2012/2013. Therefore, taking into account the expenditure, a situation of fund shortage will not occur.

4.4. Receiving & Spending money from Budget Fund

In the estimated expenditure of the Fiscal Year 2013/2014, the total money to spend from Budget Fund is INR 456.66 million, which is more than the previous year by INR 189.23 million - an increase of 70%. Against this expenditure, a receipt of INR 456.66 million is estimated, thereby not foreseeing any deficit or balance.

4.5 Final Recommendation

A. CTA's fiscal year 2013/2014: the consolidated expenditure estimated by the departments and branches is INR 1,279.35 million. This total amount excludes the following for which recommendation is made: Six Tibetan Settlements which does not have Local Tibetan Assembly, South Zone Representative Office Budget of INR 39.78 million, and INR 12.30 million being the Budget of Ngon-ga School and two hospitals under health department.

B. From the estimated expenditure as stated above, INR 822.69 million will be spend from the Local Fund Contribution of the respective departments. INR 456.66 million, as per the proposal, will be spend from the Budget Fund.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile is therefore requested to grant approval, in accordance with Article 52 of *The Charter of the Tibetans in-exile*, and article 8 of Budget Rules of CTA, for receiving and spending fund.

5.0 Conclusion

A. The Administration's consolidated expenditure is increasing every year, and the source of receipt continues to be hugely dependent on foreign assistance. Our situation being a refugee, it is essential to minimise on every spending.

All are strongly advised to give due consideration.

B. In conclusion, sincere prayers for the long life of Tibetan people's leader

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, may all his wishes be fulfilled, may the prevailing urgent situation inside Tibet subside, and may Tibetan people's truth be achieved swiftly. ■

*Presented on 19 March 2013
By Kashag
Central Tibetan Administration.*

CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TIBET

Introduction

Since the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1949, human rights have become a major issue. Political repression, cultural assimilation, economic marginalization and environmental destruction are ongoing. Arbitrary detention and sentencing, disappearances, interrogation, and torture of Tibetans who dare speak up for their rights have become common.

Today, Tibetans inside Tibet are not free to practice their religion as per their wish. Furthermore, due to strict measures to annihilate the maintenance of their distinct cultural identity, Tibetan language is gradually being phased out as a language of instruction.

Although the Chinese Constitution provides for freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, demonstration (Article 35) and religious belief (Article 36), the Chinese authorities have been denying these rights to the Tibetan people. The current situation in Tibet is grim with a pervasive atmosphere of undeclared Martial Law.

As of April 2013, about 600 Tibetans are known to have been sentenced & imprisoned, and more than 70 Tibetans intellectuals jailed since 2008, according to the records of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and Kirti monastery based in Dharamshala (India).

Spate of Self-Immolation Protests

In the absence of space for conventional forms of protest, Tibetans have begun resorting to self-immolation in the last few years. Since 2009, 117 Tibetans have self-immolated. 100 of them have died on the scene or shortly thereafter. The whereabouts and condition of 15 of the surviving self-immolators are unknown. All self-immolators called for "freedom in Tibet" and "return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet." The Chinese authorities have responded to these self-

immolations with further repressive policies and dismissing them as "acts of terrorism incited by the 'Dalai clique'".

In her first ever statement on Tibetans Self immolation protests released on 2 November 2012, Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urged the Chinese authorities to promptly address the longstanding grievances that have led Tibetans to take desperate form of self-immolation protest. She said she was disturbed by "continuing allegations of violence against Tibetans seeking to exercise their fundamental human rights of freedom of expression, association and religion," and emphasized the "reports of detentions and disappearances, of excessive use of forces against peaceful demonstration, and curbs on cultural rights of Tibetans." She also urged China to consider 12 outstanding requests by various UN Special Rapporteurs and, to allow independent and impartial monitors to visit and assess the actual situations in Tibet.

In a recently released 2012 annual report on Human Rights, the U.S. State Department deplored the worsening human rights situation inside Tibet. The report documented that 'under the banner of maintaining social stability' the Chinese authorities have employed various policies which repressed and violated fundamental human rights of Tibetans and particularly noted the huge increase in the number of self-immolations in 2012. The report also highlighted the denial of 10 official requests for diplomatic access to the Tibetans Autonomous Region between May 2011 and December 2012.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have called upon the Chinese authorities to address the underlying grievances of Tibetans by carrying out a comprehensive review of the human rights situation across the Tibetan plateau. Such an initiative would be un-

dertaken with the aim to end legal and policy restrictions that breach human rights in the region.

For further information about the self immolations in Tibet, see the documentary "The Burning Question: Why Are Tibetans Turning to Self Immolation?" available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HhKF4_-9g8

Harsh sentences for Tibetans over self immolations

The Chinese authorities have heightened restrictions in Tibetan inhabited areas, detained and sentenced Tibetans to imprisonment over self immolations.

On 29 August 2011, Ngaba Court sentenced 46-year old Lobsang Tsundue, uncle and teacher of Phuntsok who immolated on 16 March 2011, to 11 years. He was sentenced for alleged "intentional homicide", reported official news agency Xinhua. A day later, the same court sentenced Lobsang Tenzin to 13 years and another Lobsang Tenzin to 10 years in jail. They were sentenced under charges of their role in "plotting, instigating and assisting" the self immolation of Phuntsok.

Dorjee, a 16 -year-old nephew of Phuntsok, was sentenced to imprisonment for three years on 5 September 2011. He was sentenced for "assisting" the immolation of Phuntsok.

On 31 January 2013 the Intermediate People's Court of Ngaba (Ch: Aba) sentenced a 40 year old Lobsang Kunchok, a monk of Kirti monastery to death with two years' reprieve and his nephew Lobsang Tsering to 10 years in prison "over the case of eight people incited to self-immolate", said Chinese government-owned news agency Xinhua. In another case the county court in Kanlho (Ch:Gannan) sentenced six Tibetans between three to 12 years in prison on the same day. They were sentenced to

imprisonment for their alleged involvement in the October 2012 self-immolation of Dorje Rinchen, said news agency Xinhua. Pema Dhondup, Kelsang Gyaltzen, Pema Tso and Lhamo Dondup were sentenced to 12, 11, 8 and 7 years respectively. Dhukar Kyap and Yangmo Kyi were sentenced to 4 and 3 years in prison respectively for allegedly “picking up quarrels and provoking trouble”.

On 18 March 2013, Jigme Thabkey, Kalsang Dhondup and Lobsang were sentenced to five, six and four years respectively by the Intermediate People’s Court in Tsoshar (Ch: Haidong) Prefecture. The court invoked provisions of article 103 of the Chinese Criminal Law which deals with those who “organize, plot or carry out the scheme of splitting the State or undermining unity of the country.”

Till date 25 Tibetans have been sentenced to varying prison terms and many more were arrested under the alleged charges of ‘inciting self-immolation’.

In a press statement released on 1 February 2013, Human Rights Watch said “The ongoing prosecution of people linked with self-immolation appears to be about stifling dissent and laying blame on others for this tragedy” and urged China to respond to the grievances and human rights violations that bring tragic form of protest. “Sentencing someone to death for allegedly inciting someone else to commit suicide is neither just nor respectful of the right to life” said Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch.

Freedom of Religious Belief and Practice

Tibetan Buddhism, practiced by the majority of Tibetans, has for centuries been a core element of Tibetan culture. The Chinese government has consistently instituted repressive policies on the practice of Tibetan Buddhism with intense regulation of and control over religious institutions. This has been taking place through “patriotic education”, propaganda and other political campaigns that are fundamentally opposed to basic tenets of Tibetan Buddhism, including rhetorical attacks on Tibetan religious leaders. Monks must pledge their allegiance to

the Chinese government and are forced to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Having an image of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is illegal. Tibetan monasteries and nunneries are required to hang portraits of Chinese Communist leaders and the Chinese national flags under the nine measures or Nine Must-Haves campaign.

Following the spate of self-immolations, Chinese authorities have reinforced their already stringent restrictions on religious freedom by further intensifying “patriotic re-education” sessions and conducting night raids in monasteries.

On 14 May 1995, His Holiness the Dalai Lama announced the six-year old Gedun Choekyi Nyima as the true reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama who is regarded as one of the highest lama within the Gelugpa Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Three days after the announcement, Gedun Choekyi Nyima and his family disappeared and have not been seen in public since then.

The State Administration of Religious Affairs, in 2007, declared Order No.5, entailing a set of “management measures for the reincarnation of Living Buddha’s in Tibetan Buddhism.” Democratic Management Committees (DMCs) were formed in all monasteries. These work teams now exercise complete authority over management of monasteries.

The forceful restrictions imposed on strength of monks and nuns in religious institution, expulsion of hundreds of monks from Kirti monastery in March 2011 reflects Chinese government’s intense campaign to gain firm control over freedom of religious belief. Evidently, it is now extremely difficult or impossible to obtain full and complete religious education in Tibet.

In March 2012, Human Rights Watch reported that in a shift from the policy of monastic self-rule, “every monastery in Tibet [will be] under the direct rule of government officials who will be permanently stationed in each religious institution,” indicating the extent to which the Chinese government aims to control the practice of Tibetan Buddhism.

Freedom of Opinion, Expression and Information

At present, Tibet is virtually closed and foreign journalists are barred from visiting the restive regions. All communication channels, including internet and phone lines are inaccessible or being strictly monitored in regions where protests have occurred. A recent news segment featured on 9 October 2012, by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, demonstrates this when their film crew was expelled from a Tibetan region where self-immolations took place.

Any independent information or expression other than Chinese government viewpoints are restricted and considered “subversive”. Tibetans who speak to foreign reporters, share information regarding protests through mobile phones or e-mail are charged with “leaking state secrets” and are given lengthy prison sentences. An article published on 3 October 2012 in the New York Times confirms this by reporting the sentencing of two Tibetan teenagers to lengthy prison terms. They were charged with leaking news of self-immolation protests to “outside contacts.”

The London-based freedom group Index on Censorship has reported a peculiar instance of online freedom of expression restriction. The authorities in Karze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture were reported to have disabled text messaging and internet access for two days, beginning on 6 July 2012, the birthday of Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Tibetan writers, bloggers, singers, teachers, documentary filmmakers and environmentalists are especially targeted since the 2008 Beijing Olympics Games, a year during which over 342 protests took place across the Tibetan plateau.

Websites of exile Tibetan media organizations cannot be accessed from Tibet. Discussion forums and blogs in the Tibetan language, such as Sangdhor.com and Rangdrol.net, are blocked since 3 February 2012.

Besides official state media, information received from outside sources in Tibet is considered offensive and subjected to imprisonment. In a move to clamp-down on access to information through various foreign radios and television, the

Fact Sheet on Self-Immolation (27 February 2009)

	Name	Date of Self Immolation	Current Status
1	Tapey	27/02/2009	Unknown
2	Phuntsok	16/3/2011	Died on 17/3/2011
3	Tsewang Norbu/Norko	15/8/2011	Died on 17/3/2011
4	Lobsang Kelsang	26/9/2011	Legs amputated, Unknown
5	Lobsang Kunchok	26/9/2011	Serious condition after legs amputation
6	Kelsang Wangchuk	3/10/2011	Permanently paralysed after spinal injury
7	Choephel	7/10/2011	Died on 11/10/2011
8	Khaying/Lhungyang	7/10/2011	Died on 8/10/2011
9	Norbu Dramdul	15/10/2011	Died on 5/01/2012
10	Tenzin Wangmo	17/10/2011	Died on 17/10/2011
11	Dawa Tsering	25/10/2011	Recovering at home after burn injuries
12	Palden Choetso/Choesang	3/11/2011	Died on 3/11/2011
13	Tenzin Phuntsok	1/12/2011	Died on 6/12/2011
14	Tsultrim	6/01/2012	Died on 7/01/2012
15	Tennyi	6/01/2012	Died on 6/01/2012
16	Sonam Wangyal	8/01/2012	Died on 8/01/2012
17	Lobsang Jamyang	14/01/2012	Died on 16/01/2012
18	Rigzin Dorjee	8/02/2012	Died on 21/02/2012
19	Sonam Rabyang	8/02/2012	Unknown
20	Tenzin Choedron	8/02/2012	Died on 8/02/2012
21	Lobsang Gyatso	13/02/2012	Unknown
22	Dhamchoe Sangpo	17/02/2012	Died on 17/02/2012
23	Nangdrol	19/02/2012	Died on 19/02/2012
24	Tsering Kyi	3/3/2012	Died on 3/3/2012
25	Rinchen	4/3/2012	Died on 4/3/2012
26	Dorjee	5/3/2012	Died on 5/3/2012
27	Gepey	10/3/2012	Died on 10/3/2012
28	Jamyang Palden	14/3/2012	Died on 29/9/2012
29	Lobsang Tsultrim	16/3/2012	Died on 19/3/2012
30	Sonam Dhargyal	17/3/2012	Died on 17/3/2012
31	Lobsang Sherab	28/3/2012	Died on 28/3/2012
32	Tempa Dargey	30/3/2012	Died on 7/4/2012
33	Chimey Palden	30/3/2012	Died on 30/3/2012
34	Sonam	19/4/2012	Died on 19/4/2012
35	Choepak Kyab	19/4/2012	Died on 19/4/2012
36	Doejee Tseten	27/5/2012	Died on 27/5/2012
37	Dhargye	27/5/2012	Unknown
38	Rikyo	30/5/2012	Died on 30/5/2012
39	Tamding Thar	15/6/2012	Died on 15/6/2012
40	Ngawang Norphel	20/6/2012	Died on 30/7/2012
41	Tenzin Khedup	20/6/2012	Died on 20/6/2012

42	Dekyi Choezom	27/6/2012	Unknown
43	Tsewang Dorjee	7/7/2012	Died on 10/7/2012
44	Lobsang Lozin	17/7/2012	Died on 17/7/2012
45	Lobsang Tsultrim	6/8/2012	Died on 6/8/2012
46	Dolkar Tso	7/8/2012	Died on 7/8/2012
47	Choepa`	10/8/2012	Died 10/8/2012
48	Lungtok	13/8/2012	Died
49	Tashi	13/8/2012	Died on 14/8/2012
50	Lobsang Kalsang	27/8/2012	Died on 27/8/2012
51	Dhamchoe	27/8/2012	Died on 27/8/2012
52	Yungdrung	29/9/2012	Unknown
53	Gudrup	4/10/2012	Died on 4/10/2012
54	Sangay Gyatso	6/10/2012	Died on 6/10/2012
55	Tamdin Dorjee	13/10/2012	Died on 13/10/2012
56	Lhamo Kyab	20/10/2012	Died on 20/10/2012
57	Dhondup	22/10/2012	Died on 22/10/2012
58	Dorjee Rinchen	23/10/2012	Died on 23/10/2012
59	Lhamo Tseten	26/10/2012	Died on 26/10/2012
60	Thubwang Kyab	26/10/2012	Died on 26/10/2012
61	Tsepo	25/10/2012	Died on 25/10/2012
62	Tenzin	25/10/2012	Unknown
63	Dorjee Lhundup (M)	4/11/2012	Died on 4/11/2012
64	Dorjee (M)	7/11/2012	Died on 7/11/2012
65	Samdub (M)	7/11/2012	Unknown
66	Dorjee Kyab (M)	7/11/2012	Unknown
67	Tamdin Tso (F)	7/11/2012	Died on 7/11/2012
68	Tsegyal (M)	7/11/2012	Died on 18/11/2012
69	Kalsang Jinpa (M)	8/11/2012	Died on 8/11/2012
70	Gonpo Tsering (M)	10/11/2012	Died on 10/11/2012
71	Nyingkar Tashi (M)	12/11/2012	Died on 12/11/2012
72	Nyinchak Bum (M)	12/11/2012	Died on 12/11/2012
73	Khabum Gyal (M)	15/11/2012	Died on 15/11/2012
74	Tenzin Dolma (F)	15/11/2012	Died on 15/11/2012
75	Chagmo Kyi (F)	17/11/2012	Died on 17/11/2012
76	Sangdhak Tsering (M)	17/11/2012	Died on 17/11/2012
77	Wangchen Norbu (M)	19/11/2012	Died on 19/11/2012
78	Tsering Dhondup (M)	20/11/2012	Died on 20/11/2012
79	Lubum Tsering (M)	22/11/2012	Died on 22/11/2012
80	Tadin Kyab (M)	22/11/2012	Died on 22/11/2012
81	Tadin Dorjee (M)	23/11/2012	Died on 23/11/2012
82	Wangyal (M)	26/11/2012	Unknown
83	Sangay Dolma (F)	25/11/2012	Died on 25/11/2012
84	Kunchok Tsering (M)	26/11/2012	Died on 26/11/2012
85	Gonpo Tsering (M)	26/11/2012	Died on 26/11/2012
86	Kalsang Kyab (M)	27/11/2012	Died on 27/11/2012
87	Sangay Tashi (M)	27/11/2012	Died on 27/11/2012
88	Bendey Khar (M)	28/11/2012	Died on 28/11/2012

Immolation Incidents in Tibet (2009 to 30 April 2013)

89	Tsering Namgyal (M)	29/11/2012	Died on 29/11/2012
90	Kunchok Kyab (M)	30/11/2012	Died on 1/12/2012
91	Sungdue Kyab (M)	2/12/2012	Unknown
92	Lobsang Gedun (M)	3/12/2012	Died on 3/12/2012
93	Kunchok Phelgye (M)	8/12/2012	Died on 8/12/2012
94	Pema Dorjee (M)	8/12/2012	Died on 8/12/2012
95	Bhenchen Kyi (F)	9/12/2012	Died on 9/12/2012
96	Tsering Tashi aka Tsebey (M)	12/01/2013	Died on 12/01/2013
97	Passang Lhamo (F)	13/09/2012	Unknown
98	Dupchok (M)	18/01/2013	Died on 18/01/2013

99	Kunchok Kyab (M)	22/01/2013	Died on 22/01/2013
100	Lobsang Namgyal (M)	3/02/2013	Died on 03/02/2013
101	Drukpa Khar (M)	13/02/2013	Died on 13/02/2013
102	Namlha Tsering (M)	17/02/2013	Died
103	Rinchen (M)	19/02/2013	Died on 19/02/2013
104	Sonam Dhargyal (M)	19/02/2013	Died on 19/02/2013
105	Sangdak (M)	25/02/2013	Unknown
106	Tsesung Kyab (M)	25/02/2013	Died on 25/02/2013
107	Phagmo Dhondup (M)	24/02/2013	Died

	Name (Gender)	Affiliation	Location of incidents	Age	Name of Father	Name of Mother	Date of Self-immolation	Current Status
108	Kunchok Wangmo (F)	Taktsa village, Dozge, Ngaba in Amdo Province	Outside Kirti Monastery	30		Depo	13/3/2013	Died on 13/3/2013
109	Lobsang Thogmey (M)	Monk of Kirti Monastery, Ngaba in Amdo Province	Outside Kirti Monastery	28	Rogtrug	Depo	16/3/2013	Died on 16/3/2013
110	Kalkyi (F)	Barba village, Zamthang, Ngaba in Amdo Province	Jonang Monastery, Dzamthang, Ngaba	30	Choden	Pari	24/3/2013	Died on 24/3/2013
111	Lhamo Kyab (M)	Kyitsang Meshul, Sangchu county, Kanlho (Labrang)	near the forest, Sangchu county, Kanlho.	43			25/3/2013	Died on 25/3/2013
112	Tulku Athup alias Thubten Nyandak Rinpoche (M)	Dzogchen monastery in eastern Tibet	Dzogchen monastery in eastern Tibet	47			6/4/2012	Died on 6/4/2012
113	Atse (F)	Dzogchen monastery in eastern Tibet	Dzogchen monastery in eastern Tibet	25			6/4/2012	Died on 6/4/2012
114	Kunchok Tenzin (M)	Mokhri Monastery, Luchu county, Kanlho	Mokhri Monastery, Luchu county, Kanlho	28	Lhakho	Lhamo Tso	26/3/2013	Died on 26/3/2013
115	Jugtso (F)	Barma Yultso, Zamthang, Ngaba Prefecture	Near Jonang monastery in Zamthang.	20	Tenkho	Donkyi	16/4/2013	Died on 16/4/2013
116	Lobsang Dawa (M)	Kiri Monastery, Zoege, Ngaba, Amdo Province	Kiri Monastery, Zoege, Ngaba, Amdo Province	20	Dorjee Khando		24/4/2013	Died on 24/4/2013
117	Kunchok Woesser (M)	Kiri Monastery, Zoege, Ngaba, Amdo Province	Kiri Monastery, Zoege, Ngaba, Amdo Province	23	Tsering Norbu	Samdup Dolma	24/4/2013	Died on 24/4/2013

Total no. of Self-immolations: 117 (99 Male and 18 Female), (2009: 1; 2011:12; 2012: 85; and 2013: 19)

No of Tibetans died: 100

Chinese authorities launched a massive crackdown by eradicating satellite dishes and other equipments used by Tibetans in Malho (Ch: Huangnan), Kanlho (Ch: Gannan) Karze (Ch: Ganzi) and other Tibetan inhabited areas in eastern Tibet.

As reported by Radio Free Asia the Chinese authorities in Malho (Ch: Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures have seized and burned hundreds of satellite equipments used by Tibetans to listen Radio Free Asia and Voice of America programs.

A 22 year- old monk Lobsang Tashi from Kirti monastery, and 25 year old layman Thubdor, who disappeared for over nine months were sentenced to seven years imprisonment by the Intermediate People's Court in Barkham (Ch: Ma'erkang) on 18 September 2012 for allegedly "leaking news from inside Tibet to outside contacts". Both of them are serving their sentences in a prison in Mianyang city, Sichuan.

Reporters Without Borders has urged China to respect the rights of the Tibetan people as guaranteed in China's Constitution including religious freedom, freedom of expression and assembly; to allow unfettered access to international media, foreign diplomats and UN independent experts to all Tibetan restive regions; to provide detailed information on those Tibetan protesters and intellectuals who have been sentenced to imprisonment.

Freedom to Use and Develop Tibetan Language

Tibetan language plays a crucial role in the preservation of Tibetan culture and distinct cultural identity. Tibetan-run schools, aiming to teach and develop young Tibetans with Tibetan culture and language, face severe restrictions.

The Chinese authorities often present their concept of bilingual education as a progressive education policy that confirms their commitment to 'protect' minority culture and languages. However, in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), bilingual education has generated 'subtractive' bilingualism, where Tibetan children are taught Chinese language while neglecting Tibetan language.

As reported by Human Rights in China,

an international Chinese non-governmental organization, minority children have limited opportunity to become fluent in their own language. Tibetan language is increasingly restricted to homes, reducing scope in public sphere (schools, universities and job market) to master one's own (Tibetan) language.

Former Special Rapporteur on Education, Ms Katarina Tomasevski in a mission report on China urged that "an education that would affirm minority rights necessitates full recognition by the majority of the worth of minority languages and religions in all facets of life. Otherwise, education is seen as assimilationist".

Violation of Tibetan Nomads Rights

For centuries, Tibetan nomads and herders have lived successfully with their herds using only their centuries-old local knowledge and by keeping a mobile lifestyle. However, the current forced 'villagization' policy in the name of development undermines the inherent skills of nomads, restricts their mobility, and raises serious concerns about the long-term socio-economic impact of removing nomads from their traditional form of livelihood without adequate planning.

The grassland rehabilitation policy referred to as the 'Restore Grassland Policy', implemented throughout Tibet nomadic areas, has affected the lives of the nomads. China's measures of resettlement of nomadic herders under different name tags – 'ecological migrants' or 'comfortable housing projects' – are in violation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the 1992 Convention on Biodiversity, documents ratified by People's Republic of China.

Professor Olivier De Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, had visited China in December 2010. He raised strong concern about the resettlement policy after physically witnessing the condition of newly settled 'drogpas' and herders in concrete camps. On 6 March 2012, he reiterated deep concern about displaced nomads living in the "new socialist villages" at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Mr. Schutter said that "the resettlement

policies were failing because since March 2011, 25 Tibetans self-immolated in protest against the policies that are implemented in this region. He said 18 of the 25 who burned themselves were actually herders forcibly resettled in the new socialist villages. This I have to say is not compatible with the idea that these would be I quote 'very popular policies'".

Tibetan people have no say in or a voice against the hydropower projects that are displacing them from their ancestral lands. Worse affected Tibetans are mostly illiterate, especially in Chinese language, and live under a "climate of fear". They hesitate to raise their voice against government projects. The few brave local leaders who raise their voice, even on environmental grounds, are often convicted of "political motivation".

Conclusion

Tibet's human rights situation is deteriorating and requires urgent international intervention. The cycle of self-immolation in Tibet sends an unequivocal message about the need for China to reassess its Tibet policy and heed Tibetan people's aspirations and calls for greater freedom.

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) based in Dharamshala (India) calls upon the international community to urge the People's Republic of China to immediately stop the ongoing "patriotic re-education" and "strike hard" campaigns in monasteries and nunneries; allow free and unrestricted access to Tibet by international media, journalists, observers, UN mandate holders and respect the rights of Tibetans to live in dignity, and address their underlying grievances through dialogue – the only viable path towards a long-term sustainable solution to the current situation. ■

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April 2013

ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE RECENT LANDSLIDE EVENT IN THE GYAMA VALLEY: Its Possible Cause and Impacts

1. Introduction

On Friday, 29 March 2013, Chinese state media reported that 83 miners including two Tibetans have been buried after a major landslide hit part of the Gyama (Ch: Jiamia) Copper Polymetallic Mine at 6.00 AM local time. As of 4 April, 66 miners have been confirmed dead and 17 are reported missing, believed dead. The workers were reportedly asleep in their tents when they were buried by a mass of mud, rocks and debris, three ki-

of Beijing's "Four Pillar" industries, Tibet's holy landscapes, lakes and the pristine rivers will face more destruction, pollution and most of all the local residents will have no option but to silently witness the ecocide of the Tibetan Plateau.

In a show of concern, President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli have instructed officials to "spare no efforts" to rescue workers. This is indeed a very sad and

unfortunate incident. However, Chinese government must also "spare no efforts" to figure out the real cause of this tragedy, through sincere and transparent investigation by putting aside political and social sensitivity of the issue. The Environment and Development Desk (DIIR) of Central Tibetan Administration suspects that this tragic incident could be a result of the aggressive expansion and large-scale exploitation of mineral in the Gyama Valley - a man-made phenomenon rather than merely a "natural disaster".

2. Location Setting

Gyama mine is in Medrogungkar (Ch: Maizhokunggar) County of the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), located within the Gangdise Porphyry Copper Metallogeny Belt in central Tibet, about 68 km from Lhasa (Figures 1a & 1b). It is currently owned and operated by Tibet Huatailong Mining Development Company Limited, a subsidiary of China National Gold Group. It is a large scale polymetallic deposit consisting of copper, molybdenum, gold, silver, lead and zinc with the potential to become China's biggest copper producer in 10 years.

Gyama valley (Ch.: Jiamia gou) situated south of the Lhasa River, is the historical

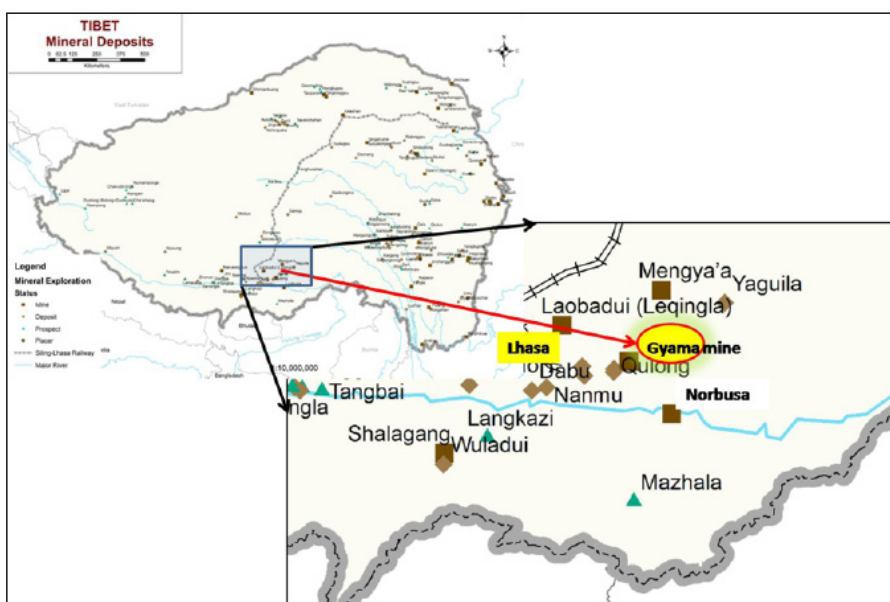


Fig1a. Gyama mine location (DIIR 2013)

lometres wide and 30 metres deep. The landslide occurred in the Pulang Valley in Siphug Village of Tashi Gang Town of Central Tibet.

Tibet's rich mineral deposits have become a resource curse for the local residents and ecosystem. Since the late '60s, these mineral deposits have been exploited in various scales, mostly under poor environmental norms and regulations. As for the minerals extracted, copper, chromium, gold, lead, iron and zinc are the minerals of greatest interest to Chinese and other foreign miners operating in Tibet. These are being mined to different extents at various locations throughout the Tibetan Plateau. Now with a strong policy backing from Beijing designating mining in Tibet as one



Fig1b. Gyama mine

birth place of Songtsen Gampo, one of the greatest Dharma king of Tibet. The valley is also home to many sacred historical temples like Gyelpo Khangkar, containing image of Songtsen Gampo and his two foreign queens, Dumburi (a 12century monastery), Rinchen Gong monastery which was built in year 1181. Thousands of Tibetans throng to the valley every year for pilgrimage.

The valley is a semi-agriculture area with nomadic animal husbandry. The upper part of the valley is dominated by pastures while the lower reaches of valley are covered by farmland. Major crops are barley, wheat, rapeseeds, peas and potatoes, along with husbandry of yak, sheep, cow and horses. The valley has three villages: Lungda, Trikhang and Tserong with a population of around 3500.¹

in 2004)

b) Lhasa Mining Company (began operation in 1995)

c) Brigade 6 (began operation in 2003) and

d) Tibet Huatailong Mining Development (began operation in 2005).²

However, in April 2007, mining activities by the previous operators in the four mining license areas were stopped by the “TAR” government. In accordance with an agreement between the “TAR” government and China National Gold Group Corporation, the four mining licenses as well as the exploration licenses in the surrounding areas were consolidated under the Chinese government’s consolidation policy for mining properties.³

There has been rapid expansion of the mining operation which now covers a total of 145.50km² including mining area of 76.19km² and exploration covering an area of 66.41km² at an altitude between 4,000 to 5,407m. According to the company’s assessment report, Gyama Copper Polymetallic Mine will have a total of 4 open pit mines and two underground mining areas (Figure 2). Open pit mines includes, Niumatang (Depth: 610m, life: 8 years, Status: operational), Tongqianshan (Depth: 290m, life: 3 years, Status: operational), South Pit (Depth: 539m, life: 8 years, Status: Started in 2013) and Jiaoyan (Depth: 495m, life: 21 years, status: starting in 2020). Production has been carried out since 2010 at a rate of 1.8 Mtpa ROM (run of mine) ore at two open cut pits: Tongqianshan and Niumatang. The two underground mines are North areas (life: 29 yrs) and South areas (life: 21 yrs and starting in 2023).⁵

Mining company is expected to get an average net cash flow of \$120 million every year for the 31 years of LOM (Life of Mine). The key minerals produced are copper (Cu), gold (Au), silver (Ag), molybdenum (Mo), lead (Pb) and zinc (Zn). The contributions of these mineral ores to gross revenues are 75%, 11%, 7% and 6%. The mine is expected to get an annual production of 176 million pounds of copper, 35 thousand ounces of gold, 2.7 million ounces of silver and 2.3 thousand tons of molybdenum.

Last year, a Chinese state magazine carried an article under the title, ‘A Mining Miracle’ which highly commended the efforts of Huatailong mining company to help, “restore a Tibetan region after private sector abuses”. It described the present state of the mining activity as having, “a panorama of lush green trees and grasslands, new roads and infrastructure, and cleaner mining facilities, giving the local people a better life.”⁶ China Daily, reported last year that the Gyama mine had hired 191 locals. It said non-Han employees made up 35% of the mine operator’s staff, “the highest percentage among mining companies in China”.⁷

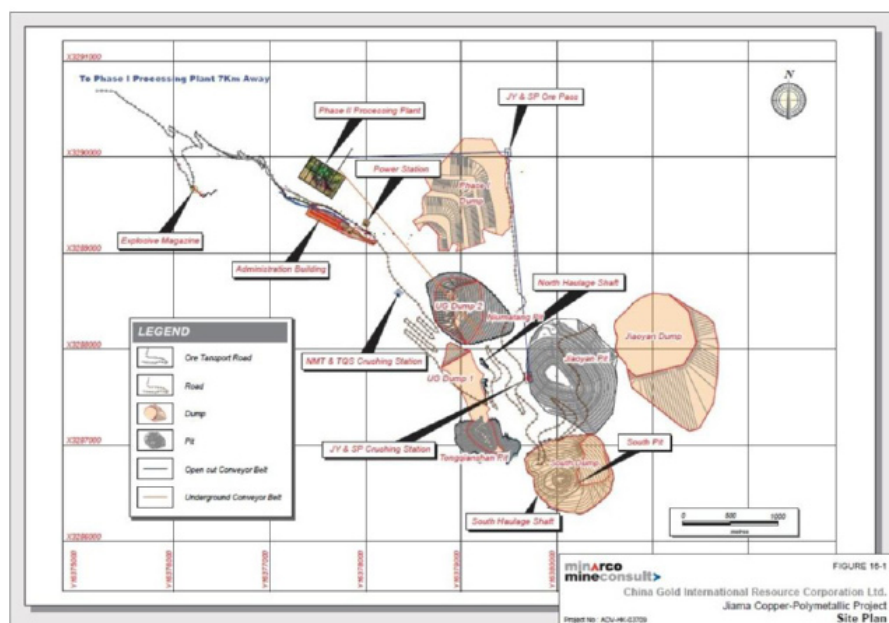


Figure2: Map from the technical report showing location of pits, Source: MMCP Pre-Feasibility Study for the Phase II Expansion of the Jiyama (Gyama) Project

3. Historical development of the mine

As early as 1951, geological work was conducted and before 1991, an area of 3,600m long copper-lead-zinc mineralization zone has been delineated. Between 1991 and 1999, number 6 Geological Brigade (Brigade 6) of Tibet Geology and Mineral Resource Bureau conducted a detailed exploration work. Based on this work, 4 mining licenses were issued to;

a) Gyama Township (began operation

Gyama Copper Polymetallic Mine has been selected as a “pilot of the National Green Mines Project” by Ministry of Land and Resources (PRC) in 2012 and also a “Model enterprises of national unity and progress”. As a requirement, Gyama mine should meet higher standard of technology oriented and corporate responsibility-oriented laws with adherence to policies of “people first” and “safe production” and promote “harmony between the mine and the community and shoulder the responsibility of social welfare”.⁴



Figure 3. Chinese drawings showing the landslide from the mountain. Source: <http://image.baidu.com/>

4. Cause of Landslide: Chinese Government

But all these claims of eco-friendly and mining safety were put to test on 29 March 2013 by a massive landslide. A day after the landslide, Chinese state media and Tibet Regional

Propaganda Office were quick to portray the accident as a "natural disaster", without giving any specifics. On 2 April, more details emerged through Chinese state media. Dorje, an academic with the Chinese Academy of Engineering was quoted to have stated, "The area from which the landslide originated was previously covered by large glaciers. Rocks hidden under the glaciers broke into smaller, loose rocks over a long period of time due to thermal expansion and contraction stress, as well as rainy and snowy weather." He further stressed, "The smaller rocks near the source of the landslide collected together and snowballed into a massive landslide that was incredibly destructive" (Figure 3).⁸

Three days later, a six-member expert team led by Cen Jiafa, a researcher from the Ministry of Land and Resources presented their investigation report which reiterated and corroborated the previous

argument. It was reported that steepness of the slope, disintegrating rock and water from snowmelt combined to cause the landslide.⁹ The report added, "The Mountain where the landslide occurred has a slope of up to 45 degrees and the drop along the 1,980-meter-long landslide is 824 meters high".¹⁰

However, several fundamental questions still remain unanswered.

□ If rocks were disintegrated due to snowmelt and thermal dynamics, one should see similar cases of landslide in other regions covered with snow and glaciers across Tibet. So why did the landslide occur only at the site of mining and not anywhere else? Is this another 'Mining Miracle'?

□ According to the company's website, Gyama mine will "adhere to policies of people first and safe production". Two days before the landslide, China Gold's chief executive Song Xin reportedly told that Gyama mine adhered to high standards of occupational health, safety and environmental protection.¹¹ If so, then why the worker's were camped so close to such a "natural geological haz-

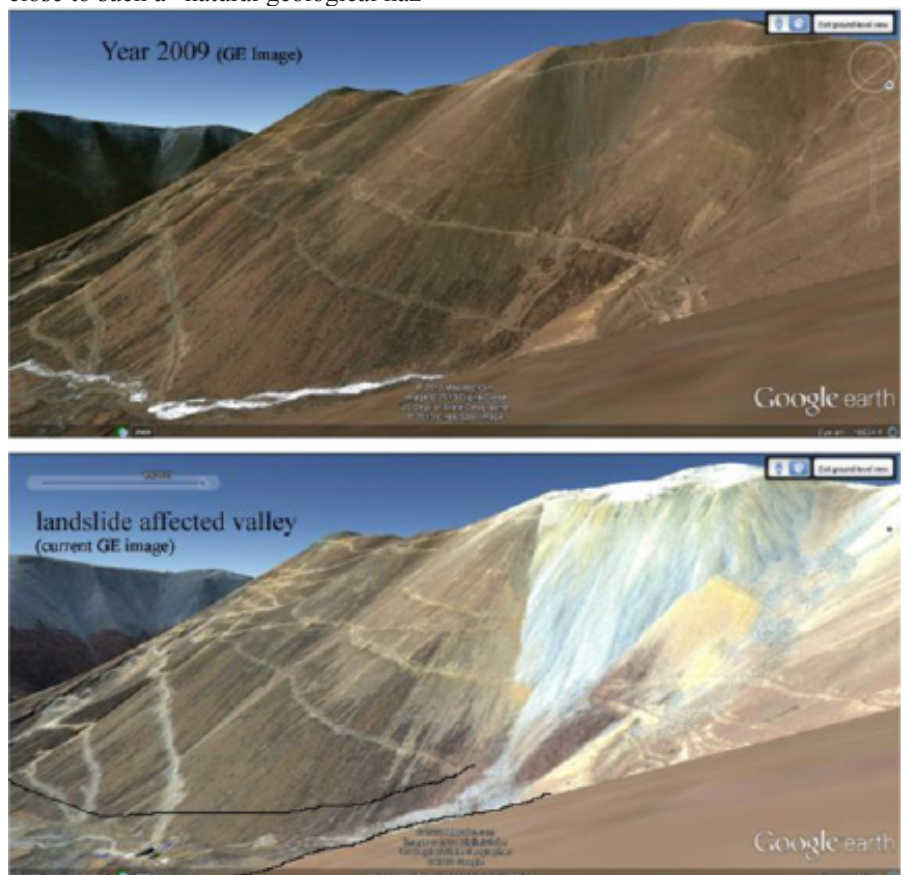
ard" and why was the "risk-emergency plan" launched only after the tragedy has struck?¹²

□ Gyama mine has been hailed by Beijing as a flagship project. Several survey and supervisions have been carried out during the plan process of the mine. Why was the danger of loose rock not identified during the final technical feasibility study by the company as recommended by Minacro Mine Consult (MMC)?¹³ Is it just a coincidence that most of the rocks in the landslide were of similar looking shapes and sizes?

□ Above all, why are officials trying to underreport the event by not allowing Chinese media to report freely let alone giving access to the foreign media? What is government trying to hide? Real cause, rights violation against Tibetans or corruption?

5. Possible cause(s) of Landslide in Gyama Mine

In order to acquire maximum profit in the shortest period possible, mining in Gyama has been pursued aggressively. Whole swaths of land have been exca-



Figures 4a&4b (Comparative GE images of the mining site)

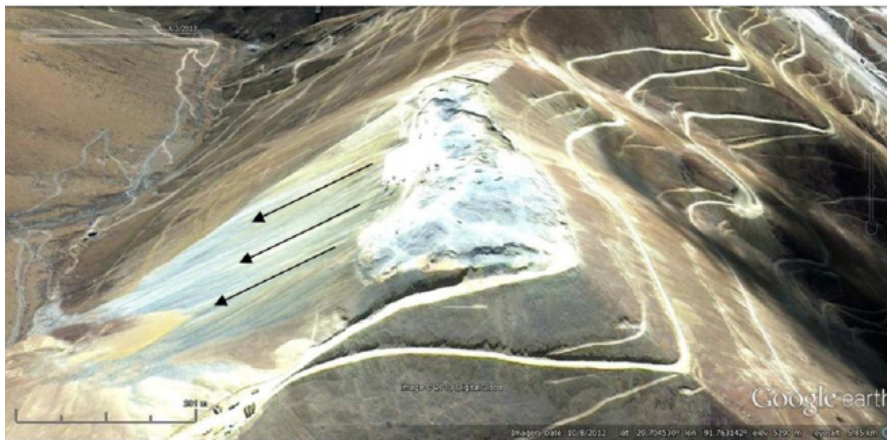
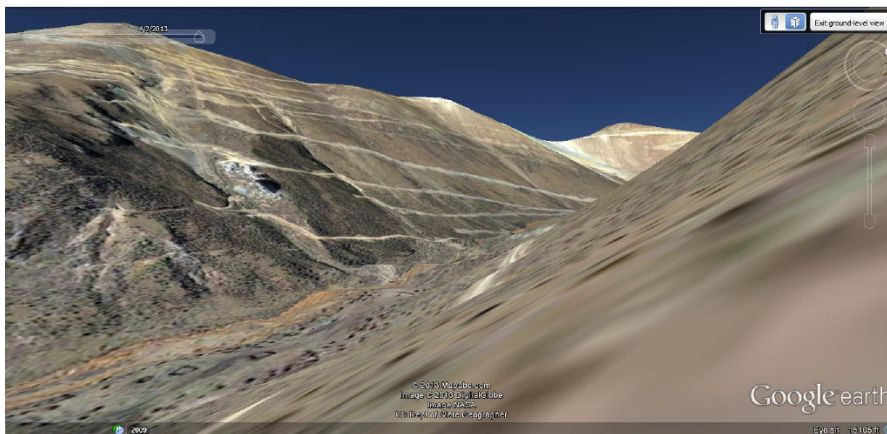


Figure 5: The black lines indicating the debris flow-direction from the excavation has been dumped on its eastern flank down the Tashi Gang valley; Image Source: GE



Figures 6a: Rescue workers in action (Image: Xinhua)



Figures 6b: current GE image confirming the location

vated in several sites and in some cases the whole face of a mountain has been ripped in the process of exploration, water diversion, mining and road construction. It was just a matter of time that such a large scale and aggressive expansion out of the mine was going to cause a big disaster.

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(EDD) of Department of Information and International Relations (Central Tibetan Administration) believes that the landslide in Gyama is a man-made phenomenon rather than a natural disaster. However, we agree with aspects of the process suggested by the Chinese investigation team. The steepness of the slope and disintegration of rock has been the

key players in causing this landslide. However, rock has been disintegrated into smaller pieces as part of the mining process and not due to glacial dynamics that Chinese official are trying to make us believe. EDD has enough evidence to suggest that loose rock that turned into a landslide came from the surface mining at the top of the mountain which has been dumped on the eastern flank from where the landslide occurred (GE Figures 4 and 5).

First, we need to understand the amount of materials being extracted and the resultant amount of debris which was dumped as waste in the process. Phase one of mining began in the second-half of 2010 with an annual mining and processing capacity of 6,000 tons a day.¹⁴ If 6000 tons per day is processed, it would amount to approx. 2.19 million tons per annum, which will add up to approx. 3.5 million tons for the 20 months from mid-2010 till March 2013. Since late 2012 or early 2013, it is evident that surface mining has been carried out at the top of a prominent mountain and an estimated 420 meter long and 250 meters wide area has been flattened. This is clearly evident from the Google Earth (GE) Image which shows some kind of mining activity on top of the mountain (coordinates 29042'13.00"N lat. and 21045'50.21"E long.) within the Gyama Copper Polymetallic Mining area.

One can clearly compare the latest image with the previous ones (using timeline option) to get a sense of the extent of excavation and also calculate the volume of material removed from the mountain.

We also compared various, GE images, landslide images and video clips that were widely circulated in the Chinese media, even invited a local resident who virtually took us to the ground zero with the help of Google Earth software. After painstakingly comparing various images and ruling out the maximum possibility, we came to this conclusion that the area of landslide that we have supposed from GE images matches exactly with the images circulated in the Chinese media. Even though, those Chinese images only captured the tongue of the landslide (Figures 6a) but one could



Figures 7a& 7b Screen captured images confirming the location Source: www.voanews.com/english

clearly make out from its background that those GE images shown in figures 6b, 4 and 5 speaks of the same location. In addition to the above images, we captured some more screen shots from a recent Chinese clip (Figures 7a&7b) on the landslide incident and they too in a way confirms the geographical location of our argument (Figure 8).

Our rough calculation yielded an estimated 1.89 million cubic meters of material obliterated from the mountaintop after it was reduced to a flat ridge-like structure. The explosives used in mining could surely cause instability in the debris pile. The debris from the excavation has been dumped on its eastern flank down the valley (newly formed light patch on the slope seen in all the images). According to the Chinese State media, the amount of material in the landslide is approximately 2 million cubic meters and it sort of perfectly matches with our calculation of the missing material from the mountaintop. The steepness of the mountain is around 45 degrees as is suggested by Chinese investigators. In the valley, GE image shows blue-roofed camps possibly camps for worker which may be the one's swept and buried by the landslide.

The debris of the landslide are of similar size and shape suggesting that they are not fragmented by any geological processes like thermal dynamics of glaciers but rather crushed into particular sizes for processing. According to the technical report of the company, exca-

vated rocks will be crushed into sizes smaller than 300 mm. A natural landslide will cause rocks to disintegrate in varying size while a mechanized crushing could only yield rocks of defined sizes.

EDD believes that due to excessive dumping of these rock waste and tailings in the steep slopes of the mountain, the stability of the slope is disturbed and increased its vulnerability to fail.

process of 'debris avalanche' or 'waste avalanche', which is a type of landslide characterized by the chaotic movement of rocks soil and debris mixed with water or ice. Debris avalanches can also travel well past the foot of the slope due to their tremendous speed. Due to its swift slide, the miners in the camp possibly did not get any chance. The picture of the landslide looks similar to a debris avalanche.



Figure 8: EDD's theory about the landslide

- 1) Possibly a surface excavation on top of the mountain
- 2) The waste ore/minetailing from the excavation is dumped on the eastern flank of the mountain (indicated by the blue arrow)
- 3) The brown shade indicates the valley that has been hit by the landslide; caused by the increase weight of the stockpile and possibly aided by use of explosive for exploration and drilling in the adjoining areas. (Image Source: GE)

This factor is aided by high explosives and blasting agents used during the exploration carried out in the adjoining areas. At a point, when the slope could no longer hold the weight of several million tons of debris, the whole pile which has low cohesion plummeted down the valley and the ensuing force pushed it 3 km's away. This situation resembles the

6. Media Restrictions and Reaction of Netizens in China

From the outset, all reports about the landslide has been reported and supplied by Chinese state media. Foreign media has already been barred in Tibet since 2008 and the Chinese media personnel were given strict instructions not

to diverge from the official position and cautioned from divulging any independent findings. An instruction, thought to be leaked from the Chinese Central Propaganda Department, ordered media outlets to “use Xinhua wire copy and information issued by authorities departments as the standard.” It specified: “No journalist to be sent to the region for reporting or interviewing.”¹⁶

The disaster has drawn angry reactions against the authority and strong sympathy for the Tibetans among the netizens in China. Many Internet users in China suggested that the landslide was likely caused by the devastation of the area's environment by uncontrolled and widespread mining activity. Beijing based writer Tsering Woesser, who has written about environmental problems in Tibet expressed, “This was not a natural but a man-made disaster”. She further stressed, “For locals, it says loud and clear how crazy the mining has become there.”¹⁷ Another blogger wrote that travelling along the Sichuan-Tibet freeway, there were countless mines, large and small. The road had been badly damaged by the hundreds of huge 80-tonne trucks carrying mineral ore out of the region each day.

Television director Zhang Ronggui said he was “strongly opposed to the development of heavy industry and mineral resources in Tibet” in a widely forwarded post on Sina Weibo (Chinese Twitter equivalent). “It is the world's highest and purest holy land, and I hope the government can leave a blue sky, clean water and white clouds for the next generation,” he wrote. Well-known author Zhang Yihe, in a message to her 339,000 fans, said: “I don't understand why we have to dig up gold in areas that are above 4,000 metres. Why must we also build dams on rivers, including the Yarlung Zangbo? Why don't we leave something for the next generation?”¹⁸

7. Recommendations of the Technical Report

Several Technical reports have been produced for the mining company in Gyama including update report¹⁹ prepared by Behre Dolbear Asia, Inc. Denver, Colorado in March 2012 and pre-feasibility study technical report

for the phase II expansion of the Jiama project²⁰ prepared by Minacro Mine Consult (MMC), Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, in November 2012.

MMC has noted five additional detailed mine planning studies that are required to conduct prior to operation from which those mentioned below we thought the client must have ignored:

1. Confirm, optimize and improve pit designs, scheduling and equipment selection for South Pit and Jiaoyan (this will require further geotechnical work but this work has potential to improve project economics);
2. Confirm final design parameters for South Pit and Jiaoyan, particularly those relating to the overall pit slope angle of 43 degrees, which are considered conservative;
3. Confirm final design parameters used for the underground mine (this will require further geotechnical work);

MMC have mentioned in their technical report that further geotechnical studies should be undertaken to better understand the rock mechanics related to the Jiaoyan Pit, South Pit and the underground mine, as to date only qualitative descriptions regarding the stress distribution characteristics of rock mass in the rock mechanics and general estimations regarding the ground surface caving have been able to be completed to date. MMC further recommends the following additional geotechnical work such as rock stress testing, research on rock mass strain properties and ground pressure observation and analysis.

8. Corruption: Interplay of politics and wealth

In accordance with an agreement between the ‘TAR’ government and China National Gold Group Corporation, the four mining licenses in the Gyama valley as well as the exploration licenses in the surrounding areas were consolidated by the reorganized Huatailong in late 2007, with China Gold Group (Honk Kong) as the primary shareholder.²¹ However, the process of transferring ownership was not so simple. Several holding companies got involved in the deal including PRC based ‘Jia Er-tong’, Cayman Island Company ‘Sky-

land Mining’ and British Virgin Island Company ‘Rapid Results Investment’. The present owner, China Gold International Resources Corp. Ltd. (CGIR) came into picture after it signed purchase agreement on 30 August 2010 and agreed to pay over \$700,000,000 worth of shares and about \$50,000,000 in cash for the Gyama mine. As 49% owner, Rapid Result Investment (RRI) received about USD 375,000,000 in addition to USD 216,000,000 that it already received from PRC State Owned Enterprise China National Gold Group from the sale of its 51% share in the mine. Thus RRI received a total of about USD 590,000,000 in this whole transaction.

Rapid Result Investment is an investment holding company incorporated in British Virgin Islands (BVI) on September 22, 2006. BVI along with other offshore areas such as Cayman Islands, Samoa Islands etc. are used by many Chinese business owners and officials to conceal illegal conduct such as tax evasion and fraud by establishing offshore holding companies. Recently, on 4 April 2013, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) began leaking the details of 2 million emails and other documents and Journalists investigating British Virgin Islands data found that those setting up offshore entities were mostly from Chinese mainland, HK and Taiwan.²² It could be possible that RRI owned by various individuals and family trust most likely connected with the CCP in TAR and Beijing, who amassed huge wealth through the transfer of ownership of Gyama mine could also be exposed.

9. Socio-economic and Environmental Impacts

In the past decade, Gyama mine has been a major failure in terms of the social harmony and environmental protection in the area. Before it was consolidated under a one umbrella in 2007, the Gyama Mine consisted of four small mines which has been causing pollution, land degradation, harm to livestock etc. After the consolidation, large-scale and heavy mechanized operations accelerated the ongoing environmental and

social problems.

Gyama valley has been considered sacred and many Tibetans visit the valley for pilgrimage every year. But due to the rapid expansion, many monasteries, hermitage and centuries-old paintings have been affected. The lack of empathy by Chinese government towards Tibetan Culture and sentiment is expressed by Tsering Woesser who wrote, "It is true that I mention Songtsen Gampo often, always in the hope that those greedy cadres and companies would show some mercy. In Han Chinese culture, the birthplace of all former dynasties' emperors is considered to be the treasured place of "fengshui", referred to as "dragon's pulse [...] Gyama, with its many sacred and beautiful places, is where the "dragon's pulse" exists in Tibet and it should never have to endure such disemboweling hardship as it does today."²³

Due to the massive influx of Chinese migrants, Tibetans are left with very few employment opportunities and other benefits. The fact that only two of those trapped are Tibetan and the rest are Han Chinese migrant workers from neighboring provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan is a clear indicator. Many Tibetan farmers and nomads have been forced to move away from their ancestral pastures and arable lands which have been expropriated by government to make way for the expansion of mining operations in Gyama.

Reports of environmental pollution leading to water contamination, illness of local Tibetans and loss of animals are common in the Gyama Valley. Huang and her associates (2010) conducted researches on the environmental impact of mining activities on the surface water quality in the Gyama town near Lhasa and found out: "high content of heavy metals in the stream sediments as well as in a number of tailings with gangue and material from the ore processing, poses a great potential threat to the downstream water users".²⁴ The mining, which has been going on in the upper hills of Gyama for nearly two decades have led to toxic wastes being dumped into Gyama Shingchu river resulting in the death of a large number of

cattle. Villagers in the valley depend on Gyama Shingchu for their drinking water supply and irrigation. Tsering Woesser who went to Gyama in 2005, later wrote, "I heard that the elderly man who guards the temple already passed away. Because of the pollution caused by mining activities, many villagers have fallen ill."

The impacts of rampant mining activities have led to social unrest and related issues. In 2008, Chinese mining company carried out a water-diversion project in the upper Gyama region leading to forceful confiscation of agricultural lands. In the same year, local Tibetan residents from Gyama Township reportedly petitioned the local government to put an immediate halt to the mining project in the area. The local government responded by putting the whole region under heavy military surveillance, with imposition of severe restrictions on communication to outside world and people visiting the region.²⁵ A positive response seems unlikely, as it will be at odds with the self-interests of many officials who make quasi-legal financial gains by protecting mining enterprises. On 20 June, 2009, angry villagers took to streets and clashed with Chinese miners and the scuffle between Tibetans and miners were followed by police crackdown leaving 3 Tibetans wounded.²⁶

10. Mining Accidents as a Norm in China

The mining and quarrying industry in China has a dreadful safety record and the list of mining-related accidents is long. On the same day when this massive landslide swept through a part of the Gyama mine, there were reports of explosions in two coal mines located in Jilin and Guizhou resulting in the death of 29 workers. The authorities put Babao coal mine in Jilin "under investigation", but just three days later Babao witnessed another gas explosion, killing six more workers while 11 remain missing.²⁷

According to the data compiled by United States Mine Rescue Association (USMRA), 19 incidents of mining-related accidents have been reported in China since the beginning of 2013, re-

sulting in the death of at least 167 with 95 workers still missing.²⁸ According to the official figures, at least 1,384 people died due to mining-related accidents in China in 2012 only. The figure in 2011 was higher at 1,973 and the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) claims "major progress" in reducing deaths. However, due to widespread practice of concealing or underreporting the full extent of mine disasters, the actual death tolls could be higher.²⁹ The lack of a free press, independent trade unions, citizen watchdog groups and other checks on official power have enabled government officials to have higher success rate in concealing a tragedy than preventing it.³⁰

In a rather similar case as Gyama in the mainland China in Shanxi province, a landslide toppled a waste dump of the mine and buried Sigou Village of Loufan County claiming 45 lives on 1 August 2009. Chinese authorities later confirmed and accepted that poor mining management was the cause of the Sigou Village landslide in China.³¹ However, a landslide in a minority region such as those inhabited by Tibetans, Uyghurs and Mongolians provoke a different response from the authorities as it is viewed as politically and socially sensitive. On 31 July 2012, a landslide occurred in Araltobe, Xinyuan County in Kazak Autonomous Prefecture of Ili, in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and buried a building occupied by 28 people. After an "official investigation", the local land resources authorities found that the disaster was a result of heavy rainfall.³²

11. Conclusion

Millions are suppressed from expressing their voices, limited information flows out of Tibet, heavy internet and media censorship, yet the truth prevails. Resource extraction is prevalent in more than 200 different sites in the whole of Tibet. Since 2009, there have been over 18 different cases of public protest related to mining sector in all the three provinces of Tibet. These mining companies pay little respect to the local culture and the sanctity of the landscapes. They have been known to extract minerals and other resources

from holy lakes and sacred mountains which local Tibetans have revered for generations. Such negligence and disrespect creates strong social tensions, distrust, anger, desperation and fear among the local residence.

Whenever the Tibetan communities attempt to put forward their grievances in petitions to higher authorities against the miners, they are ignored, politicized and harassed or even fired upon by the police. In the frequent protests by Tibetan villagers, their immediate concern has often been the damage done by miners to the local streams, rivers, holy mountains and pasture land. Without any concern or hesitation, miners dump the mine tailing and chemical effluents in the local river with no special attention and action from the local authorities.

Towards this end, we demand a full investigation from an independent party to investigate and report the real cause of this landslide. More importantly, we call on Chinese government to ensure active participation of Tibetan people in all decision making process in Tibet; social, environmental (Environmental Impact Assessment) and cultural impacts are fully investigated; natural resources are not depleted; migration and settlement of non-Tibetans into Tibet are not facilitated; ownership of Tibetan land and resources are not transferred to non-Tibetans; and large-scale, capital-intensive and commercial projects are not facilitated inside Tibet. ■

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9 April 2013

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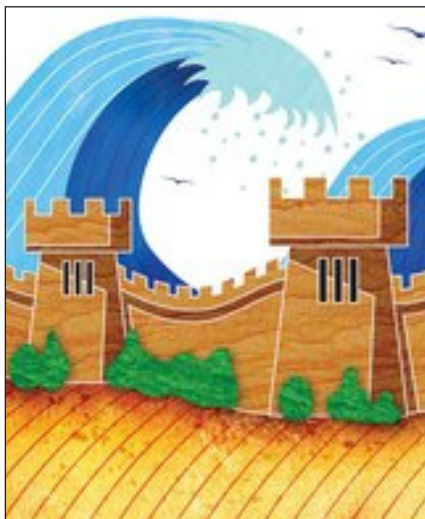
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CHELLANEY: China's great water wall

Damming downstream flow to neighbors could trigger water wars

This article by Brahma Chellaney was published in The Washington Times on 8 April 2013



The Chinese government's recent decision to build an array of new dams on rivers flowing to other countries seems set to roil inter-riparian relations in Asia and make it more difficult to establish rules-based water cooperation and sharing.

Asia, not Africa, is the world's driest continent. China, which already boasts more large dams than the rest of the world combined, has emerged as the key impediment to building institutionalized collaboration on shared water resources. In contrast to the bilateral water treaties between many of its neighbors, China rejects the concept of a water-sharing arrangement or joint, rules-based management of common resources.

The long-term implications of China's dam program for India are particularly stark because several major rivers flow south from the Tibetan plateau. India has water-sharing treaties with both the countries located downstream from it: the Indus pact with Pakistan guarantees the world's largest cross-border flows of any treaty regime, while the Ganges accord has set a new principle in international water law by assuring Bangladesh an equal share of downriver flows in the dry season. China, by contrast,

does not have a single water-sharing treaty with any neighbor.

Yet most of Asia's international rivers originate in territories that China annexed after its 1949 communist "revolution." The sprawling Tibetan plateau, for example, is the world's largest freshwater repository and the source of Asia's greatest rivers, including those that are the lifeblood of mainland China, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Other Chinese-held homelands of ethnic minorities contain the headwaters of rivers such as the Irtysh, Ily and Amur, which flow to Russia and Central Asia.

China's dam program on international rivers is following a well-established pattern: Build modest-size dams on a river's difficult uppermost reaches, and then construct larger dams in the upper-middle sections as the river picks up greater water volume and momentum, then embarking on megadams in the border area facing another country. The cascade of megadams on the Mekong River, for example, is located in the area just before the river enters continental Southeast Asia.

Most of the new dam projects announced recently by China's state council, or Cabinet, are concentrated in the seismically active southwest, covering parts of the Tibetan plateau. The restart of dam building on the Salween River after an eight-year moratorium is in keeping with a precedent set on other river systems: Beijing temporarily suspends a controversial plan after major protests flare so as to buy time — before resurrecting the same plan.

The Salween — Asia's last largely free-flowing river — runs through deep, spectacular gorges, glaciated peaks and karst on its way into Burma and along the Thai border before emptying into the Andaman Sea. Its upstream basin is inhabited by 16 ethnic groups, including some, like the Derung tribe, with tiny populations numbering in the thousands. As one of the world's most biologically diverse regions, the upper

basin boasts more than 5,000 plant species and nearly half of China's animal species.

The decision to formally lift the moratorium and construct five dams — with work to start immediately on the Songta dam, the farthest upriver structure in Tibet — threatens the region's biodiversity and could uproot endangered aboriginal tribes. There is also the risk that the weight of huge, new dam reservoirs could accentuate seismic instability in a region prone to recurrent earthquakes.

No country is more vulnerable to China's re-engineering of transboundary flows than India. The reason is that India alone receives nearly half of the river waters that leave Chinese-held territory. According to United Nations figures, a total of 718 billion cubic meters of surface water flows out of Chinese territory yearly, of which 347 billion cubic meters (or 48.3 percent of the total) runs directly into India.

China already has a dozen dams in the Brahmaputra River basin and one each on the Indus and the Sutlej rivers. On the Brahmaputra, it is currently close to completing one dam and has just cleared work on three others. Two more are planned in this cascade before the dam-building moves to the water-rich border segment as the river makes a U-turn to enter India.

Asia awaits a future made hotter and drier by climate and environmental change, and resource depletion. The continent's water challenges have been exacerbated by consumption growth, unsustainable irrigation practices, rapid industrialization, pollution, environmental degradation and geopolitical shifts.

If Asia is to prevent water wars, it must build institutionalized cooperation in transboundary basins that co-opts all riparian neighbors. If a dominant riparian state refuses to join, such institutional arrangements — as in the Mekong basin — will be ineffective. The arrangements must be centered on transparency,

unhindered information flow, equitable sharing, dispute settlement, pollution control and a commitment to refrain from any projects that could materially diminish transboundary flows. International dispute-settlement mechanisms, as in the Indus treaty, help stem the risk that water wrangles could escalate to

open conflict.

China — with its hold over Asia's transnational water resources and boasting more than half of the world's 50,000 large dams — has made the control and manipulation of river flows a pivot of its power and economic progress. Unless it is willing to play a leadership role

in developing a rules-based system, the economic and security risks arising from the Asian water competition can scarcely be mitigated. ■

Brahma Chellaney is the author of "Water, Peace, and War: Confronting the Global Water Crisis" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2013).

Fatal Landslide Draws Attention to the Toll of Mining on Tibet



This article by Edward Wong was published in The New York Times on 2 April 2013

BEIJING — One after another, the bodies have kept coming. By Wednesday, rescuers had pulled 66 dead miners from the snow-covered rubble. They expect to find more.

The miners had traveled to a valley on the roof of the world to work in what a state news agency described last year as "a mining miracle." Now, the project in central Tibet has brought about one of the nation's worst recent mining disasters. On Friday, an avalanche of rock and mud tumbled down the walls of the Gyama Valley and wiped out a mining camp, burying 83 people.

The deaths have thrown a spotlight on the Gyama mine, one of the largest and most contentious in Tibet. Hailed by the central government in Beijing as a flagship project, the copper, gold and molybdenum mining operation is hated by many Tibetans, who are furious at the environmental degradation it and other mines have caused on the Tibetan plateau.

"This was not a natural but a man-made disaster," said Woesser, a Tibetan social critic who has written about the Gyama mine. "For locals, it says loud and clear how crazy the mining has become there."

Official news reports have not explained the immediate cause of the avalanche. The Tibet regional propaganda

office said in a statement on Wednesday that weather conditions were behind the landslide. The debris covered nearly two miles and totaled two million cubic meters, the news reports said.

Mining on the Tibetan plateau is crucial to the Communist Party's plans for maintaining economic growth across China. Metals and minerals — including copper and gold, and the lithium used in batteries of electronic devices — are abundant across the region, and mining there has greatly expanded in recent years. The surge in mining, aided in part by the opening in 2006 of the train across Qinghai Province to Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, has drawn investment even from Western companies.

As a result, protests have flared across

the plateau. One rally against a project in Markham County by about 1,000 Tibetans in August ended with the fatal shooting of a man by security forces, according to a Human Rights Watch researcher and Radio Free Asia.

For Chinese leaders, discussion of mining in Tibet is politically delicate. When word first emerged of the disaster at Gyama, 40 miles northeast of Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, propaganda officials ordered Chinese news organizations not to send journalists and to publish reports only from Xinhua, the state news agency, or government sources, according to China Digital Times, a group in Berkeley, Calif., that tracks the Chinese news media. Foreign journalists have long been barred from traveling independently to central Tibet.

Nicholas Bequelin, an Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch, said mining is “one of the trigger points in Sino-Tibetan relations these days” because it violates “the place that mountains and sacred mountains have in the Tibetan worldview.”

The Gyama Valley is a revered site. It was the birthplace in the seventh century of Songtsen Gampo, the first king of the Tibetan empire. Prominent monks have come from Gyama, and pilgrims have traditionally flocked to the area to see its holy mountains, caves, shrines and rock paintings. Now, much of that is cut off because of the mining.

“Tibetans are hurt; it’s a huge blow to their souls,” Woesser said. “Their spiritual hopes have been taken away.”

Ethnic discrimination plays a role in the outrage. The mines in Tibet generally belong to large state-owned enterprises based in eastern China, and they mostly bring in ethnic Han managers and workers, shutting Tibetans out. Of the 83 miners buried by the Gyama avalanche last week, only two were Tibetan, according to news reports.

But it is environmental destruction that most worries Tibetans. Scientists have documented significant problems brought by the ravages of the Gyama mine, which belongs to China Gold International Resources Corporation, a company based in Vancouver, British

Columbia, that is a unit of the state-owned China National Gold Group.

A paper published in 2010 by Science of the Total Environment, a journal, discussed the impact of mining activities on the surface water in the valley, including on streams that feed the Lhasa River. The researchers found elevated concentrations of six metals in the surface water and streambeds in the middle and upper reaches of the valley. These “pose a considerably high risk to the local environment,” according to a summary; meanwhile, pools of heavy metals were “a great potential threat to downstream water users.”

Establishing the mine at Gyama resulted in the relocation of nomads who had roamed the valley and grazed their animals there. The forced settlement of nomads is a policy that Communist Party officials have been pushing for years in many parts of Tibet, despite the widespread resentment it causes.

Woesser wrote in 2010 that 100 nomad families had had to relocate because of the Gyama mine. Some locals have been herded into a government-built village.

“They’re unhappy,” Mr. Bequelin said. “It’s been presented to them as a legal obligation.”

The Tibet propaganda office said Wednesday in response to earlier faxed questions from this newspaper that Tibet’s “ecological environment is fragile,” and so the regional government pays “great attention to environmental protection work during the exploitation of mineral resources.” That includes conducting environmental impact reviews, doing safety assessments and enforcing environmental laws, it said. The Beijing headquarters of China National Gold Group had no comment for this article.

For decades, the Gyama Valley had been the site of small mines that on occasion set off protests by locals concerned about the environment. About 2006, officials banned private mining and moved in state-owned companies to establish large-scale operations. China Gold International Resources got the rights to mine in Gyama; a subsidiary,

Tibet Huatailong Mining Development, began construction in 2008 and operations in 2010.

Last August, Xinhua ran a story under the headline “A Mining Miracle” that said “the scene has been transformed, replaced with a panorama of lush green trees and grasslands, new roads and infrastructure, and cleaner mining facilities, giving the local people a better life.”

The report said that over three years, Huatailong had discovered five million tons of copper, 530,000 tons of molybdenum and 135 tons of gold. Xinhua reported last Saturday that the total initial investment in the mine was nearly \$560 million.

Local people have been protesting the new mine for at least four years. “There have been a number of incidents where people have taken a quite radical stance,” Mr. Bequelin said.

In 2009, the mining company used villagers water because of a drought, which led to protests by the locals and the detentions of many villagers by the police, according to Woesser. The next year, there were rallies by Tibetans and supporters of Tibet outside the company headquarters in Vancouver.

One Tibetan environmental scholar in Canada, Tashi Tsering, has been tracking the changes to the landscape of Gyama by using Google Earth. Images posted on his blog, Tibetan Plateau, show huge open-pit mines, a processing plant at the confluence of two major rivers, and mountainsides marred by webs of dirt roads. “China now wants to voraciously exploit the mineral resources of Tibet and other areas such as Xinjiang to meet its skyrocketing domestic demands,” he wrote. “China needs to create an independent resource base, and Tibet is key in achieving that goal.” ■

Patrick Zuo and Amy Qin contributed research.

A version of this article appeared in print on April 3, 2013, on page A6 of the New York edition with the headline: Fatal Landslide Draws Attention to the Toll of Mining on Tibet.

Tibetans Turn to Alternative Protest as Self-Immolations Prove Futile



Students pray during morning assembly at Tibetan Transit School in Dharamsala, India

This article by Nilanjana Bhownick was published in TIME MAGAZINE on 17 April 2013

Last year, Norbu Jorden ran away to New Delhi to set himself on fire. Driven by accounts of other self-immolations by Tibetans — there have been 112 deaths since 2009 — the 20-year-old student concluded that this was the only way he could contribute to Tibet's struggle for freedom from China. Jorden did not succeed: before he could engulf himself in flames, police in the capital intervened and eventually sent him back to Dharamsala in northern India, the sanctuary for Tibetans fleeing Beijing's hard-line rule of their homeland. Now Jorden is expressing his dissent differently. On a Wednesday in late March, he was one of hundreds of young Tibetans kitted out in traditional robes and singing boisterously at a school in Dharamsala. The event was part of a weekly peaceful protest called Lhakar — "White Wednesday" in Tibetan — which takes place in the city where the Dalai Lama set up his exiled administration in 1959. "I wanted to do something to be a part of our freedom struggle, and [self-immolation] was the only way I knew," says Jorden. "When I came back to school and was introduced to Lhakar, I realized this was a better way."

In recent years, young Tibetans-in-exile have found in Lhakar an alternative to the gruesome and desperate act of self-

immolation. Lhakar is a movement inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's principles of nonviolence and noncooperation to rid India of British colonialism. In the 1980s, when Lhasa erupted in violence against Chinese rule and the authorities subsequently clamped down on the region, many in China's Tibetan areas continued to secretly visit temples on Wednesdays, the day the Dalai Lama is believed to have been born, to pray for him. But in 2008, when the Chinese authorities started cracking down on religious activities associated with the Dalai Lama, Tibetans devised the subtler Lhakar. For the past five years, Tibetans, both in China's Tibetan regions and in exile, have reasserted their cultural identity through thinking, talking, eating and buying Tibetan once a week.

On Wednesdays at Jorden's school in Dharamsala, children only speak in Tibetan, unmixed with Mandarin, Hindi or English. They listen to Tibetan music, not Bollywood or Western. Lunch comprises traditional Tibetan food like bhaktsa, a dessert, with pasta, cheese soup and tsamba, or roasted barley flour, a staple dish consumed with butter tea all over China's Tibetan regions. "For any movement to succeed ... it should be one where common people can join in, understand and relate," says Dorjee Tseten, regional director of the India chapter of Students for a Free Tibet.

Lhakar became a political force in 2011 when Lobsang Sangay, the current Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile, exhorted Tibetans worldwide to embrace this form of protest. "I kept hearing about a Lhakar drive going on in some parts of Tibet," Sangay tells TIME. "I felt, as a leader, I had to rally around ideas or events that address the core of the Tibetan struggle and can mobilize people." Since then, the weekly rite has grown exponentially: leaders say participation in India, where more than 110,000 Tibetans live, has doubled in the past 18 months.

Lhakar is unlikely to sway Beijing to ease control over China's Tibetan regions, and has not led to the end of self-immolations. In 2011, 13 Tibetans set themselves on fire; last year, that number rose to 70. As people around the world have begun to associate Tibet's struggle with flames, followers of Lhakar hope that their movement will offer an alternative — and harmless — way for young Tibetans to express their anger. "Self-immolation will reduce our population further, and until now, it has not achieved any significant reaction from the world community," says Rigchen Wangwal, an 18-year-old student at Jorden's school. "[Self-immolations] have not been an effective protest. Lhakar will be. There is no way to put a stop to it."

The Chinese are trying to. Last fall, authorities in Tibet's Shershul district arrested a Tibetan woman for wearing a chuba, a robe-like garment often worn over an ornate Tibetan shirt, on a Wednesday. In the past year, hundreds of people in Tibet have been detained for taking part in language-preservation groups, and others for promoting vegetarianism, which older Tibetans believe will prolong the Dalai Lama's life if they practice it. Adherents of Lhakar say the Chinese state's efforts to stamp out Tibetan culture are futile. "Lhakar is very subtle, and yet very strong," says Sangay. "By following Lhakar, you are not violating any Chinese laws but at the same time you are eliminating or diluting the element of fear." Perhaps that's what scares Beijing most. ■

Department of Education (CTA)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Centre for Teacher Education, an English medium institute, located at Bhuntar in Kullu district, H.P. requires two Assistant Professors on contract basis, one each for English & Economics for the 4-year integrated courses in B. Sc. B.Ed. & B.A. B. Ed. & one year B.Ed. A consolidated monthly salary shall be Rs.27,620/- per month. Those interested may apply with attested copies of degrees and mark-sheets in prescribed form (download from www.sherig.org) latest by 15 June 2013

Minimum required qualifications:

1. Master's degree in the relevant subject or an equivalent degree from a recognised university with fifty-five percent marks.
2. M.Ed. with atleast fifty-five percent marks or its equivalent grade from a recognised university.

Note: Only eligible candidates will be called for interview, tentatively at the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi U.P. or Delhi

Completed Application be sent to:

Secretary
Department of Education
Central Tibetan Administration
Gangchen Kyishong
Dharamshala-176215 H.P.
E-mail: academic@tibet.net

Public Service Commission (CTA)

SPECIAL RECRUITMENT TRAINING

The Public Service Commission, CTA, invites applications for the second batch of Special Recruitment Training-2013. Interested candidates fulfilling following requirements can submit their application before 31 May 2013 at the address shown below.

Special Recruitment Training

1. **Venue:** College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah, Dharamshala(HP)
2. **Duration:** 5-Months
3. **Objective:** Train potential candidates for CTA job positions (Under Secretary to Junior Clerk)
4. **Subjects:** Tibetan language, English language, Basic accountancy, Public administration, Political affairs, History, Computer

Requirements

Educational Qualification: Minimum undergraduates (BA/BSc/BCom) or an equivalent degree from a recognized educational institute.

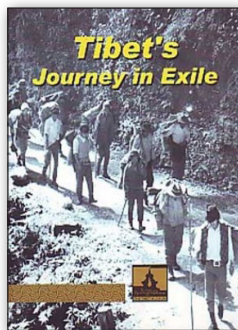
Age limit: Applicant must be 21 to 40 years of age as on 31 December 2013.

For details on eligibility and application procedure, please refer to the Public Service Commission Announcement (dated 6 February 2013 and 3 May 2013) on www.tibet.net or www.bod.asia

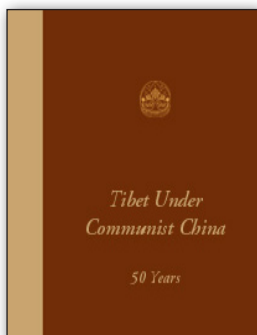
Application forms are available at the Public Service Commission, CTA, Dharamshala and Tibetan Settlement Offices. The forms can also be downloaded from the official CTA website (www.tibet.net).

Secretary
Public Service Commission
Central Tibetan Administration
Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamshala-176215
Distt.Kangra, (H.P)
Tel: 01892-226240, Telefax: 01892-222328, E-mail: psc@tibet.net,

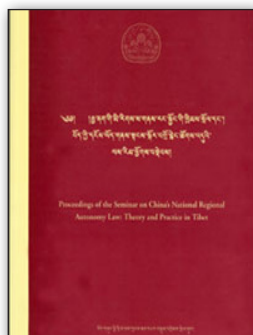
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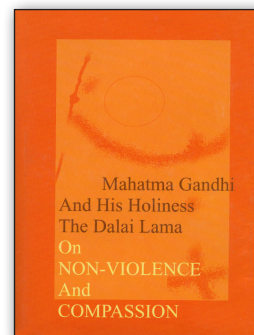
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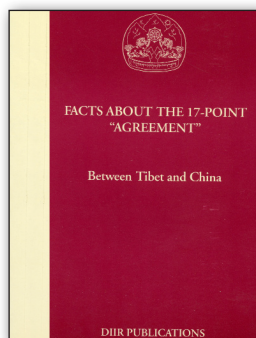
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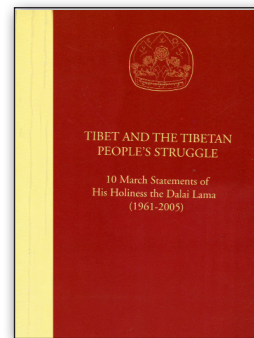
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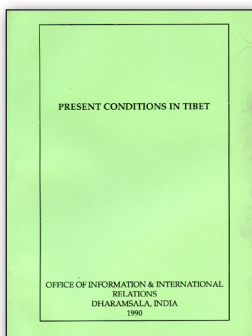
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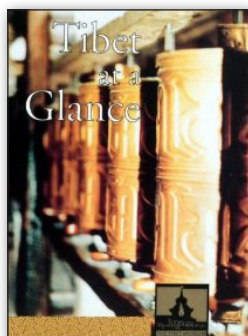
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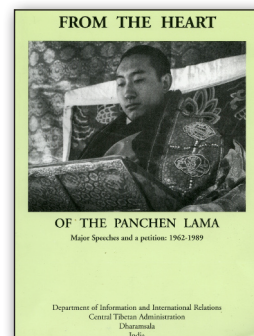
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