



# TIBETAN BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2016

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Canadian House of Commons

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His Holiness the Dalai Lama meeting Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at Rastrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India on December 11, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Taklha/OHHDL

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile addressing the press conference at DIIR Lhakpa Tsering hall, 5 December 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the main presenters at the conclusion of the first day of the Laureates & Leaders Summit at Rastrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India on December 10, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Taklha/OHHDL

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**TIBETAN BULLETIN**

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**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016**

## Representative Tashi Phuntsok Calls on MEP Molly Scott-Cato

Representative Tashi Phuntsok called on Ms Molly Scott-Cato, a Green MEP from the UK and one of the four Vice-Chairs of the Tibet Interest Group in the European Parliament. Ms Rigzin Choedon Genkhang, EU Advocacy Officer accompanied the Representative on 8 November.



(From left) Ms Harriet Clayton, Ms Hannah Conway, Member of European Parliament (MEP) Molly Scott-Cato and Representative Tashi Phuntsok.

Ms Harriet Clayton, MEP Scott-Cato's assistant and her intern Ms Hannah Conway were also present.

In the hour-long meeting, the Representative expressed his gratitude for the continued support of MEPs for Tibet. He also brought to her attention the vital role of the European Union and the European Parliament on the issue of Tibet. He further informed her on the various visits of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, including the current visit in Japan.

They also discussed a wide range of activities to be carried out in the European Parliament in the near future, including and in particular, the upcoming visit of Ms Nyima Lhamo, the niece of late Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche, to Belgium and France.

Ms Scott-Cato expressed her personal joy on having had an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his recent visit to the country. She was pleased, in fact, was positive about the formation of informal group of the Assistants of MEPs. She promised to

explore additional networking for Tibet amongst her Green group MEPs.

This meeting is in continuation of other previous meetings with members of European Parliament to promote and present Tibet issue more strongly and effectively in the European Parliament.

## First International Conference on Buddhism and Phenomenology held in Moscow

From 5 – 8 November, the Office of Tibet, Moscow (Tibetan Culture and Information Center) together with the Save Tibet Foundation hosted Geshe Thupten Jinpa – prominent Buddhist scholar and principal English translator to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in Moscow for a conference on 'Buddhism and Phenomenology.'

On his first visit to Moscow, Geshe Thupten Jinpa delivered two public talks: "The Power of Meditation" and "Lojong: The Tibetan Teaching of Mind Training".

The Russian audience gave him a warm reception. His public talk drew alot a wide ranging discussion among the public on topics from cultivation of compassion to the global ecological issues.



Representative Telo Tulku Rinpoche inaugurating the public talk by Geshe Thupten Jinpa, Buddhist scholar and principal English translator to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The main purpose of Geshe Thupten Jinpa's visit to Moscow was to attend the First International Conference "Buddhism and Phenomenology" as a key speaker. The conference is organised by the Institute of Philosophy of the

Russia Academy of Science and the Tibetan Culture and Information Center.

In his opening address, the Honorable Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Russia and Mongolia, Telo Tulku Rinpoche expressed his hope that this conference will become an annual or biannual meeting, providing a platform for the exchange of views, dialogue and discussions between the representatives of different philosophical traditions.

The conference brought together famous scholars such as Dan Zahavi world (Denmark), Christian Coseru (USA), Joel Krueger (GB), Pradeep Gokhale (India), Arkady Nedel (France, Russia), Venerable Dhammadjoti (Hong Kong).

## Two Tibetan Women Missing After Staging Peaceful Protest in Ngaba



Two Tibetan women in Ngaba carry photos of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in a public protest, 15 November 2016. Photo/RFA

Two unnamed Tibetan women staged a peaceful demonstration in the streets of Ngaba town in Amdo region of Eastern Tibet on Tuesday, 15 November 2016.

A footage of the demonstration circulating online appears to show the two women clad in traditional Tibetan attire, walking calmly down the street, bearing photographs of His Holiness the Dalai Lama aloft and calling "Long live the Dalai Lama".

However, identification of the two Tibetan women and their whereabouts following the protest remain unknown.

Two monks in exile, who studied at Kirti Monastery in Ngaba, said: "We have not

heard from anyone who saw them being arrested, but we know that the local authorities in Ngaba have never ever spared any peaceful demonstrators in the streets since 2008.“

“Even on the remote chance that they weren’t arrested at the time, armed forces would be deployed to hunt down those protesters.”

“Tensions are still very high in Ngaba,” they said.

Ngaba town, incorporated in China’s Sichuan province, has seen an upsurge of peaceful solo protests and self immolation protests despite being one of the most repressive places in Tibet today. Amongst the protesters are nomads, monks, women and parents of small children. Majority of the protesters are still behind bars, serving prison sentences. Most of the peaceful protesters have called for freedom for Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet, with many holding out portraits of His Holiness the Dalai Lama during protest.

## Sikyong Attends 8th Halifax International Security Forum 2016



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay at the Halifax International Security Forum held from 18-20 November 2016.*

At the invitation of the organisers, Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay attended the Halifax International Security Forum from 18 – 20 November. The Halifax International Security Forum is North America’s leading foreign affairs and defense conference. It was also the first major meeting of top political and military leaders after the 2016 US elections.

At the forum, Sikyong participated in the panel discussion ‘Power Corrupts, Corruption Corrodes’ with Dr Leila Alieva, Academic Visitor, St Antony’s College, University of Oxford, Ambassador Lincoln Bloomfield, Chairman, Stimson Center and Mayor David Smolansky, Mayor, El Hatillo Municipality, Venezuela. The event was hosted by Mr. Dixon Osburn, Executive Director, Center for Justice and Accountability.

Sikyong also spoke on ‘women and the importance of being inclusive’ and ‘Climate Security, Energy Security and the Politics of Slow Moving Threats’. He raised the importance of Tibetan plateau as the water tower of Asia, affecting billions of lives in downstream countries.

The Forum was organised by Canada’s Ministry of National Defense led by the Honourable Harjit Sajjan and attended by a host of international leaders including Sir Michael Fallon, UK Secretary of State for Defense, Jean-Yves Le Drian, France’s Minister of Defence, Ömer Çelik, Turkey’s Minister for European Union Affairs, Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, Estonian Defense Minister Hannes Hanso, and Ms. Rose Gottemoeller, NATO Deputy Secretary General.

A bipartisan US Congressional Delegation led by Senator John McCain also took part in the three-day forum.

The forum deliberated on a wide range of issues and topics from ‘ISIS in Africa’, ‘the Obstacles to Democracy in Ukraine’, ‘Security in the Af-Pak region’, to global terrorism and the Realignment of power structures in the Middle East.

On the sidelines of the forum, Sikyong was also interviewed on Tibet by Ms Jeanne Meserve (formerly CNN). During the interview, Sikyong discussed the issue of Tibet focusing on the political, cultural and the environmental aspects

and called for an immediate resolution of the Tibet issue.

Halifax International Security Forum is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation based in Washington, D.C. It brings together informed leaders and engaged decision-makers from governments, military, business, academia, and the media to consider international security threats and build democracy, creating opportunity and promoting peace.

## Home Kalon Meets Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh



*Home Kalon apprising the chief minister about the issues facing Tibetan refugees in Arunachal Pradesh.*

Home Kalon Mr Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang met with the Honourable Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pema Khandu on 19 November at the Chief Minister’s Secretariat, Itanagar. Home Kalon was accompanied by Miao Tibetan Settlement officer (TSO) Mr Kagyue Choephel, TSO Tenzingang Mr Yangdup and Mr Tenzin Namdol, Secretary of Tezu Cooperatives.

Home Kalon apprised the Chief Minister on the areas of concern related to Tibetan refugees living in Arunachal Pradesh focusing primarily on the implementation of the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy 2014 formulated by the Government of India.

Home Kalon also submitted a memorandum requesting the State Government to support the needy Tibetan refugees living in the remote areas of Tuting, Miao, Tezu and Tenzingang.

With regard to the Resettlement and Rehabilitation of some 96 vulnerable

Tibetan Refugee families living in Tuting, the Chief Minister has assured that the matter will be taken up in the Cabinet meeting and will be addressed accordingly while the rest of the issues pertaining to the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy will be implemented at the earliest, he said. The meeting was very productive and they exchanged souvenirs.

After the meeting, Home Kalon left for Bhalukpong where he met with the members of Tawang Yatra, the Yatra which is organised by the Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch and from Bhalukpong the Yatra proceeded yesterday to Tawang.

Home Kalon will attend a seminar today organised by Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch – a Core Group for Tibetan Cause. The theme of the seminar is “Role of Tawang Yatra in National Unity”, in this regard Home Kalon will deliver a speech. The Chief Guest for the seminar is Shri Rajen Gohain, Honourable Minister of State for Railways and Shri Indresh Kumar, Honourable Member of Central Working Committee, RSS and Chief Patron of Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch and Shri R.K Khrimey, National Convener of Core Group for Tibetan Cause.

On 22 and 23 November, Home Kalon visited Bomdila and Tenzingang Tibetan Settlement and met with Tibetans.

## Tibetan Parliamentarians Meet Indian MPs, Appeal for Discussion on Tibet Issue

Members of Indian Parliament from across the Indian political spectrum consented to raise the issue of Tibet at the ongoing winter session of the parliament. The Indian parliamentarians’ assurance to raise the Tibet issue was a result of a lobbying campaign currently being undertaken by a delegation of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile in New Delhi.

The Tibetan delegation is led by Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok along with Lupon Thubten

Gyaltsen and Mr Kunchok Yangphel, members of the Tibetan Parliament’s Standing Committee, with Ms Tenzin Choedon, Joint Secretary at the Tibetan Parliamentary Secretariat.



*Tibetan parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok and Kalon Choekyong Wangchuk, Department of Health with Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of AYUSH.*

As part of the lobby campaign, the Tibetan Parliamentary Delegation met with various Indian Parliamentarians. The parliamentarians include Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhidsa, member of Rajya Sabha; Shri Bashistha Narian Singh, member of Rajya Sabha; Shri Manoj Tiwari, member of Lok Sabha; Shri Dinesh Kashyap, member of Lok Sabha; Shri Rajen Gohain, Minister of State for Railways and member of Lok Sabha; Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, member of Lok Sabha, Ministry of AYUSH; Shri Marpadi Veerappa Moily, former Chief Minister of Karnataka State and current member of Lok Sabha; Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, member of Lok Sabha; Vincent H Pala, member of Lok Sabha; Ram Prasad Sarmah, member of Lok Sabha; Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, member of Lok Sabha; and Shri Shanta Kumar, former union minister, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and a serving member of Lok Sabha and Convener of APIPFT.

The delegation apprised the Indian leaders on the wave of Tibetan self-immolation protests since 2009 and the deteriorating political situation inside Tibet. The meetings also included extensive discussions on Tibet’s strategic importance to India from a geopolitical as well as environmental perspectives. The delegation emphasised the need for an urgent resolution of the Tibet issue.

In spite of the heated discussions on the government’s recent demonetisation drive, the Indian MPs met with the

visiting delegation and also expressed strong support for Tibet and promised to raise the Tibet issue in the parliamentary session.

## Tenzin Delek Rinpoche’s Niece Testifies before European Parliament

Nyima Lhamo, niece of late Tenzin Delek Rinpoche testified at the Human Rights Subcommittee of the European Parliament yesterday. The Hearing was chaired by Ms Valenciano. Besides Nyima Lhamo and Tenzin Sonam, EU-Human Rights Officer, DIIR, accompanying Lhamo were joined at the dais by the Secretariat of the Subcommittee.

In her 15 minutes testimony, she informed the Committee on the arrest, detention and the suspicious death of Trulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. Despite immense safety and security risks on her and her family she is committed to inform the world on the above matters and to seek support in order to prevail upon the Chinese to institute an independent investigation on the death of Trulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

Her testimony was received with much sympathy and dignity by the audience of almost 50. MEPs of the Subcommittee, EU Officials including Ms Deren Derya from the European External Action Service, Advisors of the Political Groups, Assistants of MEPs and members of NGOs were present.

In a special intervention by Ms Deren Derya, the EU outlined in great detail of its policies in general on human rights, EU-China Summit, various statements on Tibet by EU Officials, self-immolations, respect for Tibetan culture and language and Trulku Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. Her statement outlined that EU’s policy on China was based on “principled, practical and pragmatic staying true to its interest and values in particular adherence to International rules and norms and respect for human rights”.

Nyima Lhamo is on tour of Belgium and France from November 26 to December 15. In Belgium, her main programs are in the EU (political, religion and education directorates), in the EP (Human Rights Subcommittee, film screening hosted by MEPs of four political groups and Tibet Interest Group event), meeting with Belgian Foreign Ministry Officials, four separate meetings with Belgium Parliamentarians, International NGOs, TSGs, Tibetan Community and the Press.

This Advocacy tour is organised jointly by the Office of Tibet, Brussels, and International Campaign for Tibet, Europe.

## Indian MPs Reaffirm Support for Tibet Issue

As part of the lobby campaign initiated by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile from 21 November, the parliamentary delegation visited from 25 – 28 November, held unprecedented meetings with over 40 representatives from 11 political parties across 18 states, and three union ministers, calling for continued support on the Tibet issue.



*Shri Dharambir Singh, member of Lok Sabha with the Tibetan Parliamentary Delegation.*

During the meetings, the delegation explained the grave political and human rights situation prevailing inside Tibet including the wave of self-immolation protests since 2009. They also distributed booklets on the self-immolations and the critical political situation in Tibet.

The visiting delegation was led by Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok along with members of the Tibetan Parliament's Standing Committee; Lopon Thubten Gyaltzen and Mr Kunchok Yangphel, with Ms Tenzin Choedon, Joint Secretary at the Tibetan Parliamentary Secretariat.

The delegation met several Indian MPs including Shri. Adv. Narendra Keshave Sawaikar, member of Lok Sabha; Shri. Dharambir Singh, member of Lok Sabha; Shri. Sumedhadand Saraswati, member of Lok Sabha; Smt. Viplove Thakur, member of Rajya Sabha; Shri. Dr. Abishek Sanghvi, member of Rajya Sabha; Shri. Mahendra Pandey, BJP Office Secretary; Shri. A.K. Anthony, member of Rajya Sabha and former Defence Minister of India; Shri. Dr. Bhola Singh, member of Lok Sabha; Shri. Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, member of Lok Sabha; Shri. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, member of Lok Sabha; Shri. Kunwar Hari Bansh Singh, member of Lok Sabha and Shri. Parvesh Sahib Singh, member of Lok Sabha.

## Sikyong Congratulates Nancy Pelosi for Re-election as House Democratic Leader

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay congratulated former House Speaker Ms Nancy Pelosi for being re-elected as the Democratic Leader in the US House of Representatives.

“I, on behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration heartily congratulate you on being re-elected as the Democratic leader in the US House of Representatives,” Sikyong said.

“Your re-election to the crucial post of democratic leader is a reflection of your leadership, integrity and the sharp relevance of your voice as a champion of American ideals,” he added.

“I am also grateful to you for being a true friend of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people.”

“The Tibetan people remain indebted to you for your consistent efforts to steer the conscience of the world by raising your voice and lending your pivotal support to the cause of Tibet.”

“We hope that the bond of our friendship grows deeper and stronger,” Sikyong said, expressing his fervent greetings on her new term as the Democratic leader.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay with Ms Nancy Pelosi in 2015.*

Ms Nancy Pelosi, a staunch supporter of the Tibet cause and a fierce advocate of peace and non-violence, was re-elected as the leader of the Democratic Party in the US House of representatives on 1 December with 134 votes.

With this re-election, she continues her 14-year leadership of the Democrats in the lower chamber of the US Congress.

## Central Tibetan Administration Calls on UNHCHR to Take Urgent Action to Save Larung Gar

The 15th Kashag led by Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, held a joint press conference to urge UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for an immediate intervention to save Larung Gar, one of the world's largest centres of Buddhist learning in Tibet and to raise critical human rights situation in Tibet in its opening statement at the forthcoming 34th UN Human Rights Council Session in Geneva in March next year.

Sikyong and Speaker also released a 7-minute film entitled ‘We stand in solidarity with Larung Gar’. The film highlights the large-scale demolitions at Larung Gar and the forced eviction of monks and nuns from the institute. With the film, CTA expresses its solidarity with the residents at Larung Gar and hopes to draw international attention to the dire situation in Larung Gar and, most importantly urges for an immediate UN intervention to save Larung Gar. In the light of the massive demolitions

at Larung Gar, one of the world's largest Buddhist learning centres, the Sikyong and the Speaker, on behalf of Central Tibetan Administration called on the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for its immediate intervention into the case.



Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile addressing the press conference today at DIIR Lhakpa Tsering hall, 5 December 2016. Photo/ Tenzin Phende

In July 2016, the demolition of Larung Gar by Chinese authorities began as a part of a multi-year plan aiming to downsize the academy by 50 percent and evict at least half of its more than 10,000 residents. A local government order to Larung Gar leaders instructed them to reduce the number of monks and nuns to a total of 5,000 by September 2017. According to latest reports, around 4600 residents have been evicted and around 1,500 dwellings destroyed. Saddened by the Chinese government's destructive action, three nuns of the centre – Rigzin Dolma, Tsering Dolma and Semgha committed suicide and left notes referring to the demolitions and Government "harassment."

Video footages received despite the communications crackdown have caused deep distress in Tibetans around the world. Nuns are seen wailing helplessly watching the send-off of their fellow nuns who were being shoved into buses and sent back to their hometown. The evictees are forced to undergo patriotic education exercise. Video shows Tibetan nuns dressed in military uniform, singing the song "Chinese and Tibetans are Children of One Mother." Another video show Tibetan nuns believed to be evictees of Larung Gar performing on stage to pop songs. This is not only a violation of their monastic vows but the worse form of humiliation a nun can face.

Although this year marks the 40th anniversary since the end of the Cultural Revolution, China is still implementing similar repressive policies in Tibet.

"What we see happening in the case of Larung Gar and Yachen Gar is reminiscent of the bitter experiences of Cultural Revolution. The three great monasteries of Tibet-Sera, Drepung and Gaden were destroyed and downsized from several thousand monks to few hundreds now. The current destruction of Larung Gar indicate that the other major monasteries in Tibet could face the same tragic fate. We fear that the Cultural Revolution is reviving in Tibet," said Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay.

The New York Times article on Larung Gar rightly referred to the demolition as 'China taking a chain saw in the center of Tibetan Buddhism.'

"Larung Gar as a highly respected and iconic center of Tibetan Buddhism and significant heritage centre is of great importance in terms of Tibetan language, culture and religion and must be treasured and protected. China's disregard for fundamental freedoms is currently demonstrated in the destruction of large swathe of Larung Gar where the very religious and learning center is reduced to rubbles," said Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, Speaker, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile.

The two leaders also called on the Chinese leadership to cease the demolitions and accord religious freedom for Tibetans inside Tibet. "While we applaud the statement UN Secretary-General designate Antonio Guterres made in Beijing that "UN needs to make effective combination of human, civil and economic rights in a world where many rights are not respected," we urge him to make Tibet his number one priority after he takes office in January next year," they concluded.

The two key asks of the press conference were:

To urge the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid to take immediate action in this case and push for a visit to Tibet to assess and address

the pressing situation in Larung Gar.

To request the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to raise the critical human rights situation in Tibet in the opening statement at the forthcoming 34th UN Human Rights Council Session in Geneva, in March next year.

CTA also appealed Tibetans and supporters to sign the petition 'Stand with Larung Gar Now' initiated by 'Safeguarding Buddhism' that now has over 1,47,000 supporters. The petition will be delivered to UN Human Rights Council on World Human Rights day. Sign the petition here.

## Local Residents of Dharamshala Hold Two-day Himalayan Festival

The Indo-Tibetan Friendship Association, which is comprised of both Tibetan and Indian residents of Dharamshala, held its 21st Himalayan Festival at Hotel Bhagsu, Mcleod Ganj from 10- 11 December.

The festival, which is an annual event, was dedicated to His Holiness the Dalai Lama to commemorate the 27th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.



Guests and participants of the two-day festival observing a minute's silence in memory of self-immolator Tashi Rabten.

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay inaugurated the two-day festival on 10 December. In his remarks, he spoke about the importance of maintaining cordial relations and helping each other in preserving the rich traditions and culture. "Let's live together as one family, helping each other in our times of need and forging a closer and stronger bond as we move forward," Sikyong said, as

the cheering crowd of Indians, Tibetans and local Nepali residents applauded in agreement.

Sikyong lauded the joint efforts of the two communities to make this festival a success for the last so many years and added that the affinity that the two communities have for each other with the blessings of His Holiness, is what makes Dharamshala a harmonious place attractive to both domestic and international tourists.

Sikyong also spoke about the Central Tibetan Administration's efforts to boost tourism in Dharamshala, which will contribute towards local economy as well as help raise awareness about the Tibetan movement.

The chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the festival was Shri Sudhir Sharma, Housing, Urban Development and Town & Country Planning minister in the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

The two-day festival featured cultural performances of Nepali, Tibetan and local Gaddi folk songs and dances. The festival attracted at least a few thousand spectators, which also include foreign and domestic tourists.

## US Congressman Urges Trump to Meet His Holiness

Top Republican Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner wrote a letter to President-elect Donald Trump, urging him to meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

"As you meet with various world leaders in preparation for assuming your role as President, I would like to take the opportunity to suggest that you meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama," he wrote in the letter.

"Over the years, the Tibetan people have undergone a constant struggle to free themselves from the Chinese government and to preserve these basic freedoms. However, the People's Republic of China continues to refuse to acknowledge the autonomy of the Tibetan people, and have cracked down on protests and demonstrations by Tibetans."

## Gyalwang Karmapa Rinpoche Inaugurates 'Grassland – A Photo Exhibition'



*Gyalwang Karmapa Rinpoche accompanied by DIIR secretaries Mr Sonam Norbu Dagpo and Ms Tenzin Dhardon Sharling at the inauguration of Grassland, a photo exhibit by photographer Kunchok Gyaltsen at Tibet Museum. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

Gyalwang Karmapa Ogen Trinley Dorjee Rinpoche paid a visit to The Tibet Museum to grace the inauguration of a new photo exhibition titled 'Grasslands'. The exhibition features compilation of images of Tibetan grasslands and pastoral nomads captured by ace photographer Kunchok Gyaltsen.

The two Secretaries of the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) attended the inauguration along with Mr Tashi Phuntsok, Director of Tibet Museum and its staff.

In his inaugural remarks, Gyalwang Karmapa Rinpoche recalled his childhood in a nomadic family and lauded the photographer for his earnest efforts to capture the essence of Tibet through photography. He also emphasised the importance of safeguarding Tibet's fragile ecology for the benefit of all sentient beings. "As a child in a nomad family in Tibet, I remember the lush green pastures and grasslands that I used to play on. In those days, pollution was at a minimum and the plastic bags and bottles that have become a common sight now were a rarity," Rinpoche said.

"However, according to reports, these grasslands and pastures have become a victim to environmental pollution

caused both as a result of changing lifestyles and irresponsibility on the part of individuals. Therefore, it's important to exert every effort that we can to protect the environment. We may feel that a single person's actions and efforts may not have a significant impact but remember that our collective effort will be crucial to retain the purity of Tibet's environment in its natural state," Rinpoche added.

Secretary Sonam Norbu Dagpo, spoke about the deteriorating environmental situation of the Tibetan plateau including the desertification of the rich and verdant grasslands of Tibet.

Photographer Kunchok Gyaltsen said that the idea behind the photo exhibition was to effectively portray the lives and the unique lifestyles of the people who are still inside Tibet so that others may be touched and get inspired to go and see the situation themselves.

'Grassland' is an initiative by the photographer to portray the endangered situation of Tibetan religion, language, environment and customs through the agency of photography. The exhibition will be open to visitors for the next three months.

## Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay Receives Standing Ovation in the Canadian House of Commons

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay was given a standing ovation by members of the Canadian House of Commons following his visit to the parliament and meeting with members of the Canadian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet (CPFT).

Sikyong was on a three-day visit to Ottawa, capital city of Canada, also met with leaders of the opposition party and other dignitaries. This is Sikyong's first visit to Ottawa since the Liberal party came to power last year.

During the meetings, Sikyong held frank discussions on the grim political and human rights situation inside Tibet and expressed the Central Tibetan Administration's commitment to resolve the Tibet issue through the mutually beneficial Middle Way Approach.

Sikyong expressed concern over the destruction of Larung Gar monastery, one of the biggest institutions of Buddhist learning in Tibet and the anti-mining protests that took place in Dechen County (incorporated into China's Yunnan Province).

As a result of Sikyong's lobbying efforts, Canadian Parliamentarian Arif Virani, chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Tibet, delivered an enthusiastic statement on the floor of the Canadian parliament expressing his support for the just cause of Tibet. (watch video) Virani also praised Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Mr Penpa Tsering, the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in North America, for their consistent advocacy of the Middle Way Approach to secure a peaceful resolution of the Tibet issue.

Sikyong also met Ms Rona Ambrose, leader of the opposition party in the Canadian Parliament. She expressed her deep respect for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and her support for the Tibetan people. Sikyong further met a host of other important Canadian leaders including Charlie Angus, chair



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Representative Penpa Tsering with Mr Arif Virani, chair of CPFT and other members of Canadian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet (CPFT).*

of the new Democratic Party and J Greg Peters, Usher of the Black Rod of the Senate of Canada.

The Canadian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet (CPFT) hosted a reception for Sikyong in the evening to honour his visit. More than two-dozen members of the Canadian Parliament representing diverse political parties attended the reception. The gathering expressed their unanimous support for human rights and

environmental protection in Tibet.

On the sidelines of the visit, Sikyong also spoke to members of the Canadian press including an interview with the Globe and Mail, the largest newspaper in Canada. An article was subsequently published in the paper the next day. Reuters also published a piece on Sikyong's visit titled 'Canada should be ready to press China over Tibet, says exiled PM' on 23 November (IST).

### **Transcript of Arif Virani, Canadian MP and chair of CPFT's statement on Sikyong on the floor of the Canadian Parliament**

*Mr Speaker, I rise today to speak about Tibetan leader Dr Lobsang Sangay. His Holiness the Dalai Lama relinquished political leadership of the Tibetan community in 2011 and Dr Sangay was the first person elected to the post of Sikyong or government leader that same year.*

*Born in a Tibetan refugee settlement in India, Dr Sangay is a Fulbright scholar and the first Tibetan to ever receive an SJD degree from Harvard. Thousands of Tibetans in my riding of Parkdale, High Park and around the world see Dr Sangay as a strong advocate for the middle way approach. The middle way seeks nothing more than a greater autonomy for Tibet within China. It is an approach that would peacefully resolve the issue of Tibet and bring about stability and coexistence based on the concepts of equality and mutual cooperation.*

*I salute Dr Sangay, as well as Mr Penpa Tsering, the official representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for their important work in promoting awareness for the middle way approach. For their vital efforts, I say Tashi Delek*

## Tibetans Pay Tribute to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 27th Nobel Peace Prize Day

Tibetans, friends and devotees of His Holiness the Dalai Lama gathered in large numbers at Tsuglagkhang courtyard to celebrate the principles of peace and non-violence on the 27th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama by the Nobel Committee in 1989.

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel attended the official function along with members of the Kashag, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission. Officials of the Central Tibetan Administration, representatives of Tibetan non-governmental organisations and members of the local Tibetan public joined the dignitaries in the celebration.

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay in his statement extolled the values espoused by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in his efforts to make the world a better and more peaceful place. At the same time, Sikyong drew attention towards the critical human rights situation prevailing inside Tibet particularly the ongoing destruction of Larung Gar monastery in eastern Tibet.

“Along with the 27th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama, today is also the 68th year since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the serious human rights violation in Tibet doesn’t leave much for the Tibetan people to celebrate,” Sikyong said.

“China’s total disregard for human rights is currently demonstrated by the ongoing massive demolition at Larung Gar, the largest Tibetan Buddhist Institute in the world founded by Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, is home to thousands of Tibetans and Chinese devotees from Mainland China. It is estimated that the institute housed more than 10,000 devotees and, after the demolition, the number will be reduced to 5000 monks



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay, Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel and other dignitaries at the official function to celebrate 27th anniversary of Nobel Peace Prize day. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

and nuns. Saddened by the Chinese government’s destructive action, three nuns of the institute – Rigzin Dolma, Tsering Dolma and Semgha – committed suicide.”

“Similar evictions were also imposed on Yachen Gar, another major monastic institute in Tibet. Human Rights Watch has reported that since about April 2016, up to 1,000 nuns at Yachen Gar, another major monastery in Tibet, have been compelled to leave the institution and return to their homes. The families of nuns were threatened with punishment, including withdrawal of government aid, if they failed to bring home any of their relatives from the monastery. They are also barred from attending nunneries in their home areas in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).”

“Although this year is the 40th year since the end of the Cultural Revolution but the disturbing developments in Larung Gar and Yachen Gar are reminiscent of the bitter experiences of the Cultural Revolution,” he remarked and called on the peace loving Chinese citizens to raise their voice against the injustices inflicted on Tibetans inside Tibet.

At the same time, Sikyong expressed optimism in the Middle Way Policy of

the Central Tibetan Administration to resolve the Tibet issue. “The Chinese leadership will realize that their policies in Tibet are flawed and have failed in winning the hearts and minds of the Tibetan people. Given Tibet’s past status as a historically independent nation and the current repression under Chinese occupation, the resolution to the Tibet issue is possible only through constructive dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the representatives of the Chinese leadership,” he said.

Referring to His Holiness the Dalai Lama as a great champion of Peace, Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, in his statement, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has travelled to all parts of the globe and directed his efforts at ensuring the well being of all sentient beings through his message of non-violence and peace.

He also recalled His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s recent visits to Japan and Mongolia and lauded the emphasis that His Holiness placed on logic rather than just engaging in rituals.

The Tibetan Parliament also condemned China for over reacting to His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s spiritual visit to Mongolia. “There was no way anyone



Artistes from the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts on the occasion. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

could agree with the contentions of the government of China and heed its demands. Tibet and Mongolia have a unique and close historical fraternal relationship based on ties of teacher and disciple and this cannot be destroyed by anyone. Therefore, irrespective of warnings and protests from the government of China, the government of Mongolia has this time allowed His Holiness the Dalai Lama to be invited to the country, thereby enabling him to give religious teachings there. This was not only the appropriate thing to do but also became a source of great benefits for both the immediate and long term good of the government and people of Mongolia," he said.

The Speaker also emphasised its commitment to the Middle Way Policy to resolve the Tibet issue and called on China to resolve the Tibet issue through dialogue. "The government of China knows that this is not a separatist demand and that we are only seeking to remain under the jurisdiction of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. Nevertheless, it makes use of every available opportunity to keep referring to us as separatists. We demand that the government of China change by giving up this futile and hardline policy and instead immediately take up for consideration a peaceful settlement that will be mutually beneficial both immediately and on long-term basis to both the sides."

He further expressed the Tibetan Parliament's concern at the ongoing violation of Tibetan people's fundamental rights in the name of progress and development.

"The government of China is spending many billions of yuan to build and multiply railway tracks from cities in China to various destinations in Tibet. However, its real purpose is to speed up the policy to make Tibet a colony of China within the shortest possible time," he said.

"The situation concerning the natural environment in Tibet has been deteriorating and becoming ever more serious day by day. Even today, the Chinese government continues to persecute many innocent Tibetans in all manners of atrocities including through arrest, torture and imprisonment. According to a most recent information received from Tibet on 6 December 2016, the Intermediate People's Court of Barkham, the seat of the so-called Ngaba Autonomous Prefecture (incorporated into China's Sichuan Province) has sentenced some ten Tibetans – from both the lay and monastic community to prison terms of 5 to 14 years," he added.

The celebration also featured cultural performances by artistes from the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) and presentation of medals and certificates to retired and long-serving civil servants.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Congratulates President-elect Trump

In a congratulatory letter sent yesterday to U.S. President-elect Donald J. Trump, His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed his long-time admiration for the U.S. as the champion of democracy, freedom and the rule of law. He stated that the world places great hope in the democratic vision and leadership of the U.S.

He also added that he and the Tibetan people have been honored to have received the support of respective U.S. Presidents, as well as the American people, in their endeavors to protect and preserve their ancient Buddhist culture—a culture of peace, non-violence and compassion that has great potential to benefit humanity as a whole.

He offered prayers and good wishes that the President-elect may be successful in meeting the many challenges that lie ahead.

## Kashag and Tibetan Parliament Holds Joint Solidarity Prayer for Larung Gar and Self-immolator Tashi Rabten

The Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile held a joint prayer service on 10 December to express solidarity with the monks and nuns of Larung Gar and condole the death of latest Tibetan self-immolator Tashi Rabten.

The prayer service was held following the official function to mark the 27th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Tsuglagkhang.

In his address at the prayer service, Sikyong first conveyed his deep condolences at the reported death of self-immolator Tashi Rabten who set himself on fire on 8 December.

“To pray for all those Tibetans who sacrificed their lives for the cause of Tibet especially the 145 self-immolators including Tashi Rabten, is our sacred spiritual duty. I hope his aspirations are fulfilled,” Sikyong said.

Sikyong also expressed his concern over the deteriorating situation of religious freedom presently prevailing inside Tibet at the moment.

“What we see happening inside Tibet particularly in the case of Larung Gar and Yachen Gar is reminiscent of the bitter experiences of the Cultural Revolution. The three great monasteries of Tibet-Sera, Drepung and Gaden were destroyed and downsized from several thousand monks to few hundreds now. The current destruction of Larung Gar indicates that the other major monasteries in Tibet could face the same tragic fate. We fear that the Cultural Revolution is reviving in Tibet,” Sikyong said.

“Video footage have also emerged of nuns dressed in military uniform, singing songs in praise of the Chinese Communist party. In another video, nuns were seen wailing helplessly watching the send-off of their fellow nuns who were being shoved into buses and sent



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel lighting butter lamps in memory of the Tibetan self-immolators at Tsuglagkhang on 10 December 2016. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

back to their hometown. These are an insult to the sacred vows these nuns have taken to renounce the samsaric world,” he said, and called on the Chinese citizens to unite their efforts with the Tibetans to condemn the Chinese government for violating these fundamental rights.

Sikyong also called on Prince Zeid, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to take immediate action in this case and push for a visit to Tibet to assess and address the pressing situation in Larung Gar. He further called on the new Secretary-General elect of the UN Mr Antonio Guterres to make Tibet a priority once he takes charge and address the issue of Tibet in his inaugural remarks.

Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel of the Tibetan parliament expressed his solidarity and concern over the destruction of Larung and Yachen Gar monasteries in eastern Tibet. He also condoled the death of latest Tibetan self-immolator Tashi Rabten.

“We must never forget the immense sacrifices that these Tibetans have made with their lives to raise the issue of Tibet. Most of these self-immolators have died while the status of the rest remains unknown or critical. I pray for their well being and the fulfillment of their

aspirations,” he said.

Expressing his concern over the destruction of Larung Gar monastery in eastern Tibet’s Serthar region, he said that “Larung Gar is a highly respected and iconic center of Tibetan Buddhism and a significant heritage center. It is of great importance in terms of Tibetan language, culture and religion and must be treasured and protected. China’s disregard for fundamental freedoms is currently demonstrated in the destruction of large swathe of Larung Gar where the very religious and learning center is reduced to rubble.”

He added that sometimes our prayers and efforts may feel inconsequential in front of China’s might but by the purity of our motivations and through the sheer power of our prayers and efforts, the situation inside Tibet will one day get better and His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be able to return to Tibet soon. Therefore, the most important thing is to never give up our efforts, he noted.

The joint solidarity prayer service was led by monks from the Institute of Tibetan Buddhist Dialectics and attended by at least five hundred local Tibetans and Indians. The service concluded with a soulful rendition of Dentsig Monlam, the prayer of truth.

## Speech of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the Commemoration of the 27th Anniversary of the Conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Today is 10th December 2016, an auspicious day which marks the 27th anniversary of the acceptance by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama – the incomparable one in being the saviour and the guiding light of all Tibetans, the master of the entire corpus of the teachings of the Buddha on this earth; a great champion of peace in this world – the world’s most famous award for peace, the Nobel Peace Prize. On behalf of all Tibetans, therefore, I, with happiness, faith and elation, and with remembrance of his kindness, offer my greetings.

In its announcement to present the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Nobel Peace Prize Committee said: “His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the leader of the Tibetan people, is a person whose priority is to strive for harmonious coexistence in this world by relying solely on the approach of mutual respect, tolerance, and non-violence. It is on this basis that he has accomplished the admirable results of the preservation of the unique historical and cultural heritage of his people with all their noble qualities. His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a person who strives to protect in an effective way the rights and interests of the entire humanity as well as of the world’s natural environment. In addition, he has consistently offered constructive suggestions for the resolution of all types of international conflicts in a peaceful manner.” And in one of his responses during the award ceremony, His Holiness the Dalai Lama explained that he had at all times adhered to the ideals of compassion, kindness, tolerance, and altruism with a sense of affection towards all other beings. He said that to treat everyone in this world with a sense of respect was the best approach towards ensuring the happiness and well-being of both oneself and others. Besides, His Holiness the Dalai Lama also said that he was since childhood inspired by Mahatma Gandhi of India who had renounced all kinds of violence and who had committed himself to relying solely



*Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel delivering the Speech of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

on the method of non-violence and that he had always admired and praised him for it. I am reiterating these today only for the purpose of stirring the memory of the occasion.

Over the past many decades, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has, driven by a sense of responsibility and without being daunted by hardship, travelled to all parts of the globe and directed his efforts at ensuring the well-being of all sentient beings through his message of non-violence and peace. In particular, he has made efforts to ensure harmony between the followers of the different religious faiths in the world. He has also explained and propagated the concept of secular ethics, worked to establish exchanges between Buddhism and modern science, directed his efforts at solving the just cause of Tibet, and especially focused his attention on Tibet’s religion and culture, language and script, as well as Tibet’s natural environment. He still remains committed to these numerous efforts and he was conferred with an enormous number of honours & awards, including the Noble Peace Prize and he still continues to do so.

Most recently, His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Japan and Mongolia and his programs in both the countries have been most extensive. During the visit to Japan, His Holiness emphasized that more than just engaging in practicing the rituals, a follower should strive to become a 21st century Buddhist. He further said that in order to discern the Three Supremely Precious Jewels, one should have an understanding of the Truth of the End of Suffering and the Truth of the Path that Leads to the End of Suffering which is possible only if one had studied them. With teachings like these, His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave profound yet lucid explanations of the very essence of the subject under discussion. His Holiness has in the past repeatedly spoken about the meaninglessness for people to change their religious faith from the one that had been followed for generations by their families to a new one. He repeated this during his recent visit to Japan too while emphasizing that one should, while remaining true to one’s own religious faith, show respect for all other faith systems and thereby strive to maintain harmonious interreligious coexistence. He thus employed skill to attain the noble goals.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama also recently visited the European countries of Latvia, Switzerland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Belgium and France. In Belgium's capital Brussels, His Holiness attended the Seventh Tibet Support Groups Conference and later took part in a Mind and Life Conference of experts in the city's BOZAR – Centre for Fine Arts. He had truly extensive engagements during his visit to those countries, meeting and interacting with members of Tibet Support Groups and meeting with the head of the European Parliament, the President of Slovakia, the Culture Minister of the Czech Republic, members of parliamentary Tibet Support groups in each of these countries and so many other prominent public figures.

Likewise, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, on being invited, visited the Ganden Thekchenling Buddhist monastery in Mongolia. A Spokesperson of the Chinese government reacted by falsely accusing His Holiness of using the pretext of religion to try to split Tibet from China. In addition, the Chinese government expressed all out opposition to the Mongolian government for facilitating the visit of His Holiness. But there was no way anyone could agree with the contentions of the government of China and heed its demands. Besides, Tibet and Mongolia have a unique and close historical fraternal relationship based on ties of teacher and disciple and this cannot be destroyed by anyone. Therefore, irrespective of warnings and protests from the government of China, the government of Mongolia has this time allowed His Holiness the Dalai Lama to be invited to the country, thereby enabling him to give religious teachings there. This was not only the appropriate thing to do but also became a source of great benefits for both the immediate and long term good of the government and people of Mongolia. Many prominent figures have been profuse in complimenting the government of Mongolia for its courageous act of standing up to China's bullying tactics and thereby enabling the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama while a number of commentaries have also been written on this development. In this connection, the International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet

issued a statement, saying it was indeed encouraging to see that Mongolia was able to stand up for its values and that this was certainly something that "many of our own countries with Buddhist practitioners can and should emulate." The Chinese government's reactions to the visit were thereby shown to be improper and uncalled for.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has remained resolutely selfless and sincere in his efforts to reach an amicable settlement between Tibet and China. The democratically elected parliament in exile of the Central Tibetan Administration has adopted the middle way policy. It is only within the framework of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law of the People's Republic of China that under this policy we demand genuine autonomy for all Tibetan inhabited territories. The government of China clearly knows that this is not a separatist demand and that we are only seeking to remain under the jurisdiction of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. Nevertheless, it makes use of every available opportunity to keep referring to us as separatists. We demand that the government of China change by giving up this futile and hardline policy and instead immediately take up for consideration a peaceful settlement that will be mutually beneficial both immediately and on long term basis to both the sides. And with a view to bring this about we call for efforts to establish immediate contacts between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the government of China.

This year's Nobel Peace Prize was presented to Mr Juan Manuel Santos, the 32nd President of Colombia, in recognition of his resolute efforts to bring the country's 52-year-long civil war to an end. We too offer our compliments to the President in admiration for his noble efforts.

The works of His Holiness the Dalai Lama continue to expand like the ever rising volume of a summer stream. And it is obvious that he is greatly respected by all the high and mighty of

this world. Nevertheless, within our own community, stray individual Tibetans make baseless denigrations and distorted claims against him in social streams. This is nothing but a show of ingratitude which only saddens one's kith and kin but heartens one's enemies. We must take care without fail to be appreciative of our objects of gratitude and on that basis be clear about the results of our acts of omissions and commissions. Besides, we call for resolute opposition by the whole community against such types of conduct.

Today is not only the anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama; it is also another important day marking the World Human Rights Day. However, in our homeland of Tibet, accounts about the extremely tragic human rights situation since its annexation by communist China remain too numerous to be compiled. In recent times too, violations of human rights, especially the Tibetan people's religion and culture, and, likewise, the destruction of our land's natural environment have continued unabated.

To cite just a couple of examples, there is the current tragic situation at the Larung Gar Buddhist Learning Centre and the restrictions being introduced to prevent people in both China and Tibet from travelling to India to receive the Kalachakra teaching from His Holiness the Dalai Lama who is a global Buddhist leader with no political role whatsoever. They clearly reveal that there is no meaningful freedom of religious belief and practice both in China and Tibet.

The government of China is spending many billions of yuan to build and multiply railway tracks from cities in China to various destinations in Tibet. Its purpose is to speed up the policy to make Tibet a colony of China within the shortest possible time.

The situation concerning the natural environment in Tibet has been deteriorating and becoming ever more serious day by day. For example, at a sacred mountain in a town called Jol in the so-called Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (incorporated

into China's Yunnan Province), the mining department of the government of China arrived to extract copper ore. The local Tibetans petitioned for an end to the mining work on their sacred mountain. But far from giving any consideration to their request, the Chinese authorities intimidated the Tibetans and warned them that they had been empowered by higher level authorities to use violence to crack down on them, make arrests, and even shoot to kill them. It only exacerbated the already tense situation.

Again, in a township called Ju Dechen in the so-called Dechen Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province, Chinese authorities issued a coercive order, requiring the entire people of the Tibetan township to move out to make way for the blockage of the Dri Chu river (Chinese: Yangze River) to build a hydro-electric power station dam. And when the local Tibetans gathered to present a petition to express their grievances resulting from enforcement of the order and sought remedial help, the Chinese authorities not only totally ignored them but also subjected them to brutal beating, detention and arrest. Speaking in general terms, China has built numerous dams and continues to build ever more throughout Tibet. These have resulted in serious damages to the natural environment and inflicted

enormous hardship on the living conditions of the local Tibetan people, especially in the nomadic areas.

Even today, the Chinese government continues to persecute many innocent Tibetans in all manners of atrocities including through arrest, torture and imprisonment. According to a most recent information received from Tibet on 6 December 2016, the Intermediate People's Court of Barkham, the seat of the so-called Ngaba Autonomous Prefecture (incorporated into China's Sichuan Province) has sentenced some ten Tibetans – from both the lay and monastic community to prison terms of 5 to 14 years.

Along with celebrating the anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama today, a Himalayan Festival is being held here at Dharamshala for two days, beginning this afternoon. The festival is meant to express the admiration of the people of the local host community to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's works and to symbolize the unassailable bond of fraternity between the Indian and Tibetan peoples. I therefore offer my appreciation to all the organizers of the Himalayan Festival. The gratitude we owe to the central and state governments and the people of India for their help can

never be forgotten and on this day I again offer my thanks and gratitude to them. I also appeal everyone to come together and cooperate to ensure the sustenance of the existing high level of fraternal relationship between the Indian and Tibetan peoples.

On behalf of all Tibetans in Tibet and in exile, I take this opportunity to express gratitude to all the governments and parliaments, organizations and private individuals, and others on this vast globe who out of their love and respect for freedom, democracy, and justice have provided all manners of facilitative help and support for the Tibetan cause. I also appeal to them to continue their strong support for our cause.

Finally, we pray that His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a champion of world peace, and all the other great religious leaders of Tibet live a long life, that all their noble wishes be spontaneously fulfilled, that peace and well-being be ensured for all the sentient beings of this world, and that the just cause of the Tibetan people may be accomplished in all speediness.

By the Tibetan Parliament in Exile

10 December 2016

Tashi Rabten, a father of three from Machu county in Tibet's Amdo Province self-immolates at around 5 pm local time (8 December) on the streets.

According to a video received, a body is seen engulfed in flames. A woman standing nearby is heard reciting prayers in the name of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The video also shows police arriving at the scene and taking away the charred body.

He died on the spot according to the reports

This was the 145th self-immolation in Tibet since February 2009.

## A Tibetan Self-Immolates in Tibet



## Statement of the Kashag on the 27th Anniversary of Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama

On this auspicious occasion of the 27th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, the Kashag, on behalf of Tibetans across the world pay obeisance and bow down in gratitude to our most revered leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We joyously extend our heartfelt greetings to the Tibetan people, friends and well-wishers around the world.

In 1989, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, His Holiness said: “I feel honoured, humbled and deeply moved that you should give this important prize to a simple monk from Tibet. I am no one special. But, I believe the prize is a recognition of the true values of altruism, love, compassion and nonviolence which I try to practice, in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha and the great sages of India and Tibet. I accept it on behalf of the six million Tibetan people, my brave countrymen and women inside Tibet, who have suffered and continue to suffer so much.”

On the celebration of this momentous occasion, we take the opportunity to congratulate all the Nobel laureates, and especially the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize winner Mr. Juan Manuel Santos, the president of Colombia, for his resolute efforts to bring peace to his country.

Today marks the 68th year since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the serious human rights violation in Tibet doesn't leave much for the Tibetan people to celebrate.

China's total disregard for human rights is currently demonstrated by the on-going massive demolition at Larung Gar, the largest Tibetan Buddhist Institute in the world founded by Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, is home to thousands of Tibetans and Chinese devotees from Mainland China. It is estimated that the institute housed more than 10,000 devotees



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay delivering the statement on the 27th anniversary of conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the great 14th Dalai Lama. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

and, after the demolition, the number will be reduced to 5000 monks and nuns. Saddened by the Chinese government's destructive action, three nuns of the institute – Rigzin Dolma, Tsering Dolma and Semgha – committed suicide.

Similar evictions were also imposed on Yachen Gar, another major monastic institute in Tibet. Human Rights Watch has reported that since about April 2016, up to 1,000 nuns at Yachen Gar, another major monastery in Tibet, have been compelled to leave the institution and return to their homes. The families of nuns were threatened with punishment, including withdrawal of government aid, if they failed to bring home any of their relatives from the monastery. They are also barred from attending nunneries in their home areas in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

Video footages received despite the communications crackdown have caused deep distress in Tibetans and friends around the world. Nuns in Larung Gar are seen wailing helplessly watching the send-off of their fellow nuns who were being shoved into buses and sent back to their hometown. Another video shows Tibetan nuns dressed in military uniform, forced to sing a song praising the communist regime...”Chinese and Tibetans

are Children of One Mother.” There are some reports that they are believed to be nuns undergoing patriotic education exercise after facing forced eviction from Larung Gar. Another disturbing video shows the nuns performing on stage to songs of Cultural Revolution. This is not only a violation of their monastic vows but the highest level of humiliation a nun can face.

Although this year is the 40th year since the end of the Cultural Revolution but the disturbing developments in Larung Gar and Yachen Gar are reminiscent of the bitter experiences of the Cultural Revolution. In 1960s, the three great monastic universities of Tibet – Sera, Drepung and Gaden – were destroyed and downsized from several thousand monks to a few hundreds now. The current destruction of Larung Gar indicates that the other major monasteries in Tibet could face the same tragic fate. We fear that the Cultural Revolution is reviving in Tibet.

The recent China's Religious Affairs Regulations Draft Revision issued a new directive for religious affairs stating that religion should serve national interests. This regulation which restricts religious schools, subdues monasteries, controls number of monks and nuns and represses Tibetans practicing their religion points

to the sheer trampling of religious freedom in Tibet.

The 2016 annual report of the US Congressional Executive Commission re-designated China among the Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). The report also mentions about China's strict inspection over Buddhist institutions and how this amounts to major manipulation of monasteries in Tibet with communist doctrines.

Stringent measures are being taken to restrict Tibetans from moving freely within Tibet. Pilgrims travelling to Lhasa from eastern Tibet are kept under strict surveillance. Pilgrims travelling to India and Nepal are facing numerous obstacles and are summoned back to Tibet. Compared to other nationalities in China, Tibetans face severe restrictions in availing travel documents. As recent as last month the

Chinese government has been confiscating passports of Tibetans in Eastern and North-Eastern Tibet in a bid to block their travel.

Since 2009, 145 brave Tibetans have committed self-immolation of which sadly 125 have died. Recent reports emanating out of Tibet suggest that the Chinese police have detained and tortured Tibetans protesting against mining activities in Dechen district in Kham. The whereabouts of the two young women who staged a protest in Ngaba town, carrying photos of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and raising slogan such as "Long Live His Holiness the Dalai Lama" and the young boy in a solo protest in Kardze remain unknown. Tashi Wangchuk, a Tibetan man was labelled a splittist after a video by the New York Times that documented his journey to Beijing in 2015 in which he filed a lawsuit against Yushu officials for not properly implementing the bi-lingual education policy of the Chinese government. Also, according to a recent report from Tibet, 10 Tibetans, both monks and lay people in Barkham, Ngaba prefecture has been sentenced to varying terms of five to 14 years in prison. They were arrested for, among other

reasons, taking part in the 80th birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Ngaba.

Given the Cultural Revolution situation in Tibet with the destruction of Larung Gar and forced eviction of monks and nuns, we urge our Chinese brothers and sisters to raise their voice against the injustices inflicted on Tibetans inside Tibet and call on your government to respect religious freedom in Tibet.

Today, we remember the imprisoned Nobel Peace Laureate Liu Xiaobo, who along with 350 Chinese intellectuals and activists signed and issued Charter 08, a manifesto in favor of democratic reforms in China and a federation for Tibet. We call for the immediate release of the first Chinese Noble Peace Laureate.

The Central Tibetan Administration hope that the Chinese leadership will realize that their policies in Tibet are flawed and have failed in winning the hearts and minds of the Tibetan people. Chinese people needs to realize that Tibet remains one of the biggest challenges that becomes the litmus test for China's rise as the global power. Given Tibet's past status as a historically independent nation and the current repression under Chinese occupation, the resolution to the Tibet issue is possible only through constructive dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the representatives of the Chinese leadership. Therefore, the Middle Way Policy is the way forward.

We express our gratitude to the outgoing UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon for his leadership in improving the human rights situation in the world and towards the protection of the global environment.

We congratulate Mr. Antonio Guterres for being elected as the Secretary-General of the UN. We trust that Mr. Antonio Guterres will champion the cause of freedom and pay heed to all those who are deprived of their basic human rights. We laud Mr. Antonio Guterres for making the recent statement in Beijing that "UN needs to make effective combination of human, civil and economic rights in a world where many rights are not re-

spected," and urge him to make Tibet a top priority after taking office in January 2017.

We urge the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid, as announced, to visit Tibet to assess the human rights situation and particularly the pressing situation in Larung Gar and Yachen Gar. We also request him to raise the critical human rights situation in Tibet in the opening statement at the forthcoming 34th UN Human Rights Council Session in Geneva in March next year.

Despite strong pressure from the Chinese government, Mongolia extended a warm welcome to His Holiness the Dalai Lama enabling him to bless millions of followers in Mongolia. The Indian government has announced that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a revered spiritual figure and an honored guest and is free to visit any place in India.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the citizens and Government of India for their continued hospitality and unflinching support for the Tibetan people. We also thank the governments, parliamentarians, friends of Tibet and freedom-loving people across the globe who support the just cause of Tibet.

At the recent long-life prayer offering made to His Holiness the Dalai Lama by the Phenpo and Pema-koe Tibetan communities, His Holiness has re-assured us that he will live for more than a hundred years. This has brought much joy and hope not only among Tibetans but also among his admirers around the world.

With immense respect, we pray for his long life. The Kashag once again express deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet for his benevolent presence amongst us. We reaffirm our unwavering loyalty and devotion to him. May all his wishes be fulfilled. May the non-violent cause of Tibet prevail. May freedom be restored in Tibet.

KASHAG

December 10, 2016

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Teaches of Shantideva's 'Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life'

dalailama.com

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was greeted by a full house of 1000 people when he arrived at the newly inaugurated auditorium of Seifu High School. The Chairman of the organizing committee, followed by Hiraoko Hidenobu, Director of Seifu High School, made a few brief remarks to welcome him.

His Holiness began by explaining what he would be teaching for the next three days:

"Earlier I had planned to confer the Guhyasamaja Empowerment, however, in September I visited Europe for two weeks. On returning to Dharamsala I gave several days of ordinations and teachings for a large group of Taiwanese Buddhists. Then I made another visit to Europe, which made me quite tired. So, since the preparatory rituals for the empowerment are quite long and tiring, I thought it might be too much for me to do. After I return from Japan, I have to go to South India for an extended visit in December, following which I'll be giving the Kalachakra Empowerment in Bodhgaya. Since I thought it might make me too tired, I decided not to give the Guhyasamaja Empowerment this time.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking during the second day of his three day teaching in Osaka, Japan on 12 November 2016. Photo/Jigme Choephel*

"My decision has provided an opportunity for the Abbot and some monks of Gyumey Tantric College to have a brief holiday in Japan. I will now confer the Common and Uncommon Permission of the Wish-fulfilling White Tara, which is also very good. I had already decided to teach Shantideva's 'Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life'. Since there will



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the first day of his three day teaching at Seifu High School auditorium in Osaka, Japan on 11 November 2016. Photo/Jigme Choephel*

be only two sessions, I will not read the entire text but will summarize the essence of each chapter. So although you will not receive the entire oral transmission of the text, you will hear the actual teaching.

"Whenever possible I like to begin teachings like this with a Pali recitation of the Mangala Sutta, but suitable monks are not with us today, so we will recite 'The Heart Sutra' in Japanese today and day after tomorrow; and tomorrow we'll recite it in Chinese."

His Holiness then began to explain Shantideva's text and brought the session to an end in time for lunch.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama continued his explanation of Shantideva's 'Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life'.

In his summary of the essence of the text he stressed that the most important parts to study if you do not have the time to go through the entire text are chapter six on patience and chapter eight on cultivating the awakening mind of bodhichitta through equalizing and exchanging self and others. He also recommended that in order to understand chapter nine, which deals with wisdom, it is important to study the Middle Way (Madhyamika) texts of Nagarjuna, Aryadeva, Chandrakirti and Buddhapalita, as well as Bhavaviveka's 'Blaze of Reasoning', which deals with the diverse philosophical systems, Buddhist and non-Buddhist, that prevailed in India. Studying this enables you to acquire a comprehensive under-

standing of the meaning and context of Madhyamika philosophy.

In connection with the Common and Uncommon Permission of Wish-fulfilling Green Tara that he said he would be giving the next morning, His Holiness spent some time talking about tantric practice. He takes the view that it is better to explain and clarify even those this secret practices that are not supposed to be spoken of openly in order to prevent misinterpretations of tantra. He suggested that if anyone is to be blamed for revealing what is supposed to be secret in tantra, it would be those past masters in Tibet who taught tantra so widely.

This morning, a few people were already sitting in the hall when His Holiness arrived to begin preparatory rituals for the Common and Uncommon Permission of Wish-fulfilling Green Tara. While he did that, the audience recited Tara mantras. Among the thousand people in the hall were a significant number of senior Abbots and monks from a number of monasteries from across Japan.

When the Permission Ceremony came to an end, Ven. Suga Chijun, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, thanked His Holiness on behalf of all those present for the teachings he had given them. Mr. Hiraoko Hidenobu, Chairman of Seifu High School, also thanked His Holiness for teaching at the school.

His Holiness had lunch with members of the organizing committee before posing for photographs with the Seifu High School teachers and staff, as well as monk volunteers.

His Holiness left for Koyasan Monastery, the headquarters of the Shingon tradition one of the Japanese Buddhist sects that maintain a tantric tradition next day.

For detailed news visit:  
[www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net)

## The Potential of Today, The Potential of Tomorrow

dalailama.com

Long lines of junior high-school boys, immaculate in their formal, dark-blue uniforms, and visibly excited, had formed to greet His Holiness as he arrived at the Setagaya Junior High School in Tokyo on a cool, grey morning. The Tibetan flag was flying on every side, and a banner in English above the school's entrance read, "We are Honored to Welcome H.H. Dalai Lama the 14th to Setagaya Gakuen." Teachers watched the arrival from a third-floor walkway, under the school's more than apt motto, "Think and Share."

His Holiness took pains to greet almost every boy in the lines, tickling some, pulling the earlobes of others, leaning down to hold a small boy on crutches and to ask him what was wrong. Later he would say, "Your young, fresh, bright faces make me feel young again!"

After meeting some of the school's officials—with three little boys in monks' robes bringing him tea and cookies—His Holiness stepped into a jampacked wooden gymnasium in which—as on his previous trip to the school, some years before—every last seat in thirty long rows was occupied by silent, attentive young boys. "My English is very poor," he began, "but I'm often suggesting that Japanese students should try to learn English. That way you can make an even greater contribution for the benefit of other people. And you can get more self-confidence. Traveling, you can realize that your own country's conditions are really very good."

Then he said simply, "You are the basis of our hope. Past is past; no one can change what happened. But in the future there is still hope, possibility." Recalling the wars that had broken out throughout his life—since the rise of Nazi Germany and the Sino-Japanese Conflict in his earliest years—His Holiness explained how we can work for peace in an active, concrete way, instead of perpetuating the cycle of violence. "Many of my elder brothers and sisters here and I," he said, "may not see a more peaceful and happier world. It's not easily achieved. But in the next thirty



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama greeting students on his arrival at Setagaya Junior High School in Tokyo, Japan on 16 November 2016. Photo/Jigme Choephel*

or forty years, yours is the generation that can make a significant contribution to a more harmonious world."

As his answers were translated, His Holiness peered intently into the crowd, making eye contact with some students, smiling at others, observing responses in every corner. "Violence always destroys lives," he says. "The people who indulge in violence may get some temporary satisfaction; but deep inside they won't be happy. Perhaps at the end of their lives, they will feel uncomfortable. Nobody wants problems, but we create many problems. Why? Because we can be short-sighted and narrow-minded." Even trouble-makers, after all, are born to mothers and "raised with the seed of compassion." Schools should therefore attend not just to material values but to inner values. "Not through religion, but through common sense, common experience and scientific findings."

When His Holiness opened the session up to questions, the students were shy for a second, and then, almost instantly, lines of forty or more clamorously formed on each side of the gymnasium, reaching almost to the back of the large space. The boys' questions cut to the heart of things: how can one cure aggression and anger? Must religion involve strictness? What is the meaning of life? His Holiness gave crisp direct answers, handling many questions from both sides of the hall. He stressed motivation—the difference between aspiring to succeed and hoping that others fail. He pointed out, in answer to a question about "destiny," that "Kar-

ma means action. So, till yesterday, you had a certain destiny due to prior karma. Today you're creating new karma, more forcibly, that can change your destiny."

And in answer to a question about how a young student can hope to change the world, he said that it was more than possible. "The first thing is to develop peace of mind. And then spread it among your friends and family. And then, slowly and steadily as you grow in your profession, whatever that might be, it will help. Even in politics!"

Having spoken for more than two hours, His Holiness came down off the stage, taking care to greet many of the



*Students lined up to ask His Holiness the Dalai Lama questions during his talk at Setagaya Junior High School in Tokyo, Japan on 16 November 2016. Photo/Jigme Choephel*

students in the front rows individually before taking lunch with the leaders of the school. Then he went straight to the Japanese parliament, to deal with real-life politicians. It was as if, having worked to bring meaning and wisdom to the leaders of tomorrow, he was now bringing his vision to the power-brokers of today.

As soon as he got out of his car at the gleaming, glassy, nine-story Front Office Building for the Japanese House of Representatives, in the heart of skyscraper Tokyo, His Holiness was greeted by loud applause from a large group of formally dressed politicians. Members of five different parties had gathered to welcome him, and when he stepped into a meeting hall, it was to be greeted again by spontaneous clapping, and a thronged audience of more than 200 policy-makers, part of the Japan-

Tibet Parliament Group. It was the third time His Holiness had addressed Japan's parliamentarians officially, and, according to a speech from one, each time saw more and more people in attendance.

A few Japanese politicians opened the event by speaking about how the Tibetan leader had touched their hearts, about visiting him in Dharamshala, about how Japan as a whole can and should work to help bring peace to the world and to think about religion and humanity, especially given the many age-old ties between the cultures.

Then His Holiness, speaking from a podium, spoke more about those ties and about his lifelong commitment to democracy. As a human being, he was fully committed to his 7 billion fellow humans. As a Buddhist monk, he was

committed to a universal message of love, of tolerance, of forgiveness. And as a Tibetan, though he had retired from political life, he was committed to trying to preserve one of the world's ancient cultures, a rich heritage of knowledge and the environment.

"Politically," he stressed, "we are not



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing Parliamentarians at the Japanese House of Representatives' Congress Hall in Tokyo, Japan on 16 November 2016. Photo/Jigme Choephel*

looking for independence. For economic and other reasons, we want to stay within China." But the Tibetan issue was not just political. It was about the preservation of Tibetan culture, language and the environment. In answer to a series of questions, he emphasized, as ever, "The Chinese people we really admire, we really respect. They have a 5000 year-old culture, they are a very cultured people, hard-working, realistic." The fact of so many people attending a Japan-Tibet Parliamentary Group, His Holiness concluded, was part of an almost universal commitment not just to Tibet, but to justice and truth.

As he left the hall, one formal-looking politician after another pushed forwards to say hello, to shake his hand, to thank him for his presence in the world and in the room.

## Cashless Donation Made Available For Kalachakra

In light of the cash crunch caused by the recent demonetization drive by the Indian Government, the organising committee of the 34th Kalachakra has announced options to make direct or online donations as offerings towards the Kalachakra.

Following much discussion, the committee has made available a series of options including bank transfers, cheque payments, credit/debit card transactions as well as direct cash payments to ease the difficulty of procuring hard cash.

The committee urges everyone to strictly abide by the legal compliance regulation of the host country while making the donations.

For FC Account, donations should be addressed to the following account:

Bank: State Bank of India  
 Account name: HH Dalai Lama Religious and Cultural Society  
 Account no: 10551095388  
 Swift code: SBININBB277  
 IFSC Code: SBIN0000634  
 Bank Address: State Bank of India, Kotwali Bazaar, Dharamshala, Distt: Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

For donations from local bank:

Bank: State Bank of India  
 Account name: HH Dalai Lama Religious and Cultural Society  
 Account number: 30043565117  
 IFSC code: SBIN0000634  
 Bank address: State Bank of India, Kotwali Bazaar, Dharamshala, Distt Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

For more information, contact:  
 Department of Religion and Culture  
 Central Tibetan Administration,  
 Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh  
 India – 176215

Tel: +91-1892-222685, 226737  
 Fax: +91-1892-228037  
 E-mail: religion@tibet.net

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Visit to Mongolia and Gandan Tegchenling Monastery

dalailama.com

His Holiness the Dalai Lama left Japan for Mongolia. As the plane descended through the clouds over Ulaanbaatar, a white blanket of snow covered the land as far as the eye could see.

His Holiness was greeted at the door of the plane by Khambo Lama Choi Gyamtso with other senior Mongolian lamas, a representative of the Indian Embassy, and Representative Telo Tulku from Moscow.

A large number of monks awaited His Holiness in the arrival hall and he spent a few minutes talking to dignitaries who had come to receive him. He gave a brief interview to Mongolian National Television. Expressing happiness at being able to visit Mongolia once again, he said he was looking forward to giving Buddhist teachings, visiting Gandan Tegchenling Monastery and interacting with members of the younger generation over the next four days.

Morning, a short drive through Ulaanbaatar brought His Holiness to Gandan Tegchenling Monastery. After first paying his respects in the Vajradhara Temple, he took his seat in the Gandan Assembly Hall. Khambo Lama Choi Gyamtso offered the mandala and three representations of the body, speech and mind of enlightenment on behalf of the entire congregation. Following prayers and a tsok offering, His Holiness gave the oral transmission of his 'Praise to the Seventeen Masters of Nalanda'.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking at Yiga Choeling Dratsang in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 19 November 2016. Photo/Tenzin Taklha/OHHDL*



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama walking to Gandan Assembly Hall at Gandan Tegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 19 November 2016. Photo/Tenzin Taklha/OHHDL*

Lunch, offered in His Holiness's honour by Gandan Tegchenling Monastery, was served in a traditional Mongolian yurt.

In the afternoon, several thousand people braved extremely cold weather to greet His Holiness in front of the Avalokiteshvara Temple. He briefly told them too how happy he was to be in Mongolia again. He urged the crowd not only to perform rituals and prayers, but also to study what Buddhist teachings mean. He promised to explain how to do this during teachings he is scheduled to give.

More than 1000 monks packed into the Yiga Choeling Dratsang to listen to His Holiness. He explained to them how he has been holding discussions with modern scientists for more than 30 years, focussing primarily on four fields—cosmology, neurobiology, physics, especially quantum physics, and psychology. Since both sides have learned a great deal from each other, their dialogue has been richly and mutually beneficial.

"I first started talking to scientists out of simple curiosity. But as our conversations developed, I realized that there were some things they knew about that we could usefully learn about in

our monastic institutions. Consequently, we have introduced the study of some aspects of science into the curriculums of several of our major monastic universities in India."

His Holiness also stressed the importance of studying the classic texts composed by Nalanda masters.

"It is not enough just to have simple faith, as many people in the past have done. It is essential that our faith is based on knowledge and reason. This is why these days I advise Tibetans to be 21st century Buddhists, which means following Buddhist teachings on the basis of sound understanding. It's also important to be able to sustain faith and religious tradition in the light of modern knowledge. So, I advise you Mongolians to be 21st century Buddhists too."

His Holiness answered several questions from the audience before returning to the Guest House where he is staying. On the next day, he told audience to begin teaching on Je Tsongkhapa's 'In Praise of Dependent Arising' and 'Three Principal Aspects of the Path' and give a permission of Je Rinpoche in conjunction with the Deities of the Three Families.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Ambedkar University Convocation Tibet House and Men-tsee-khang Anniversaries

dalailama.com

His Holiness the Dalai Lama flew from Dharamsala to Delhi yesterday afternoon. This morning his public engagements began with an interview for CBS and a conversation on Facebook live with Kailash Satyarthi, founder of the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation and co-winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

Asked about Satyarthi's work to protect children's rights, His Holiness declared it wonderful, adding that children are the basis of our hope for a better future.

"In today's world, we see violence, corruption, poverty and innocent children dying of starvation. In the 20th century we paid too little attention to our inner values, choosing to try to solve problems by use of force. If the 21st century is to be different, those who are children today must make the effort to create a more peaceful, compassionate world." Speaking to Satyarthi, he said, "I really appreciate your efforts."

His Holiness went on say that a major source of problems is that since contemporary education has materialistic goals, there is a need to restore a sense of inner values. He mentioned that he considers scientific evidence that basic human nature is compassionate to be a real source of hope. That would be absent if it were anger. He looked askance when Satyarthi suggested a positive role for anger, but agreed when he clarified that he meant anger as a 'passion for justice', which His Holiness conceded was motivated by compassion. He further agreed with Satyarthi's assertion:

"We must oppose the slavery of children. Every child should be free to be a child; free to grow."

Beginning their Facebook live conversation, Kailash Satyarthi recalled the sense of inspiration he had when he first met His Holiness in Berlin in 1990. When he asked if His Holiness recalled any similar source inspiration, his reply was that the Buddha said: "You are your

own master; train your own mind; tackle your own emotions; don't rely on the blessings of others.



*Nobel Peace Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and His Holiness the Dalai Lama during an interview for CBS in New Delhi, India on 9 December 2016. Photo/Jeremy Russell/OHHDL*

Satyarthi reported that as a small child going to school, he noticed another boy his own age outside with his father who was a cobbler. He asked why that boy couldn't go to school too and the father replied, "We were born to work." In return, His Holiness told him of meeting a black African family in Soweto and congratulating them on the new opportunities they had won with the end of apartheid. He was shocked when one member of the family told him, "We can't compete with whites because our brains are inferior." His Holiness remonstrated that this was simply not true, that no expert would support such a view, but that confidently making an effort was what really counted.

His Holiness's final remarks concerned the role of NGOs in bringing about change and the need for individuals to act on their well-meaning wishes as Kailash Satyarthi has done.

His Holiness was Chief Guest at the 5th Annual Convocation of Ambedkar University. He was welcomed by the Vice-chancellor Shyam Menon to the campus in Old Delhi, where he joined the convocation procession.

In his introduction to the event the Vice-chancellor mentioned that the University had been functioning for 8 years and that at this 5th convocation 549 students

would graduate, including the first PhD. He also noted that 66% of this year's graduates were women. Diplomas and degrees were awarded to their respective recipients.

Chancellor Najeeb Jung, who is also Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi, praised the steady progress the University has made. Welcoming His Holiness as Chief Guest, he recalled what he had said in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech when he acknowledged Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the movement for non-violent change, as a mentor. His Holiness had also noted that ignorance is the source of suffering, while happiness is to be found in appreciating our brotherhood and sister-hood with each other. Jung noted that this sense of universal responsibility had been a strong influence at Ambedkar University.

In his address, His Holiness congratulated all the graduates, teasing them that if they were anything like him, they would have had to work really hard at the end of their studies to get through their exams. He referred to the special amenability of the human brain to education. However, noting that simple warm-heartedness is a clear source of happiness, he recommended more attention being given to understanding the workings of the mind and emotions.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama waving to the crowd on his arrival at Thyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi, India on 9 December 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

"Ancient Indian knowledge has much to say about this. Modern Indians tend to neglect this aspect of their heritage, but we Tibetans have kept it alive for more than 1000 years. If it doesn't interest

you, forget it, but if it does, think about how you can put it into effect.

“If you are honest, truthful and transparent, you’ll be a good human being able to contribute positively to society. These are good grounds to be optimistic---thank you.”

After lunch, as the sun shimmered through the murky air, His Holiness was invited to the Thyagaraj Stadium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Tibet House, New Delhi and the 100th year of the founding of the Men-tsee-khang. Monks from Gyumey Tantric College chanted auspicious verses to open proceedings. Gifts of images of the Buddha were presented to His Holiness and his fellow guests, Lt. Governor of Delhi, Najeeb Jung, Minister of State for Home, Kiren Rijuju, Kalon for Religion and Culture, Karma Gelek Yuthok and former director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Kapila Vatsyayan.

After members of the Assamese Barua community had sung about taking refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, members of the Men-tsee-khang performed dances derived from the three major regions of Tibet.

In his introductory remarks, Tibet House Director, Geshe Dorji Damdul paid tribute to the erstwhile Nalanda tradition that informs Tibetan Buddhism. He expressed the wish that His Holiness live long and that his vision shall be brought to reality. Director of the Men-tsee-khang, Tashi Tsering Phuri spoke of the institution’s slogan ‘healthy body, healthy mind’. Dr Lalit Kumar commended Tibet House’s launch of a Master’s course in Nalanda

Jose Ramos Horta, former President of Timor-Leste stated that child labour and slavery are indictment of us all. But, he added, some countries are too poor to change the pattern.

Finally, a child delegate to the conference, 16 year old Imtiaz Ali, a former child worker rescued by Bachpan Bachao Andolan, said,

“We need to find ways for every child

Buddhist Philosophy, an opportunity to study the Nalanda tradition in English at your own pace. Geshe Dorji Damdul presented His Holiness with a summary of the course material.

Dr Najeeb Jung spoke of India as a moral force in the world and recommended all present to listen to His Holiness’s message of love, compassion and inclusiveness. Kiren Rijuju too anticipated that His Holiness’s advice would be appropriate guidance for future generations. Antonella Mathur then invited His Holiness to speak.

“Respected brothers and sisters and younger brothers and sisters,” His Holiness began, “I appreciate your enthusiasm and energy, which is what we need if we are to change the world. I want to thank Tibet House and the Men-tsee-khang for organizing this occasion.”

He alluded to the prominent role education had had in Tibetans’ lives since they came into exile. He told his listeners that he regarded the Buddha as an ancient Indian scientist and that he regards himself as half Buddhist monk, half scientist.

“Sensory gratification alone does not put the mind at ease. To do that it is necessary to engage directly with the mind. This is why it is so important to understand the workings of the mind and emotions, as described in ancient Indian thought. Just as we need physical hygiene, we also need emotional hygiene if we are really to be well.”

His Holiness spoke of a reassessment of the contents of the 300 volumes of the Kangyur and Tengyur in terms of

to be free and able to go to school. We the children have questions. I bring them to you. How much longer do we have to wait?”

Those assembled broke into groups for round-table discussions. The conversation His Holiness took part in focussed on compassion in business. He suggested that many businesses begin with a good motivation, but that gradually breaks down. He reiterated that

science, philosophy and religion. He stated that it was not necessary to be either Buddhist or religious minded to study the science and philosophy from an academic point of view. He cited nuclear physicist Raja Ramana’s lauding Nagarjuna’s thought as having pre-empted views now expressed in quantum physics. Likewise, he said, cognitive therapist Aaron Beck’s assessment that feelings of anger and attachment are 90% mental projection correspond to what Nagarjuna advised. He insisted that much of what the ‘Nalanda professors’ had to say continues to be of relevance to us.

In answering questions from the audience His Holiness clarified the demarcation



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking at the Fifth Annual Convocation at Ambedkar University in New Delhi, India on 9 December 2016.  
Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

between violent and non-violent action as being in the motivation. He also touched on the important role of giving and taking, exchanging self and others in training the mind and achieving lasting happiness.

Following a vote of thanks, presentation of ‘katags’ to his fellow guests and posing for a photograph with members of Tibet House’s new Master’s Course, His Holiness returned to his hotel.

simple warm-heartedness is a basis for serving humanity. “If you have a warm heart, you’ll be able to use your human intelligence in a proper, positive way.”

The session broke for a sumptuous lunch served on the lawns behind the building. Many delegates from different parts of the world took the opportunity to introduce themselves to His Holiness and take selfies with him. When the meal was over, he returned to his hotel.

## His Holiness Attends Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit

dalailama.com

At daybreak Delhi was shrouded in thick fog, which gradually lifted as the sun rose. By the time His Holiness the Dalai Lama drove to the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, within the residential complex of the President of India, the day was looking bright. He had been invited to participate in the opening session of the inaugural Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit organized by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation. Once the Honourable Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, arrived, the summit began with the purpose of globalizing compassion for children.

In his opening remarks, Kailash Satyarthi, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for his work to free and uplift children, said he was humbled and privileged to welcome everyone who had come to attend this first such summit in India.

"Never before has the world been more conflicted," he said. "Millions of children are enslaved, trafficked and deprived of education—this is unacceptable. We need resolutions that are innovative and inclusive. When I told stories of child slavery in Oslo, many found them hard to believe.

"By gathering laureates and leaders in this summit we will together turn the tide in favour of the most marginalised children. Sisters and brothers, children are the voice of change, we must listen to them."

Invited to give the keynote address, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, alluded to the diversity that flourishes in this country. He also noted that a convention has arisen that the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded on 10th December, which, since 1948 has been Human Rights day.

"Children have to take centre stage," he declared. "We have to overcome the inequality that leaves children underprivileged. We have to make a commitment to their development and

security. We should correct disadvantage and equalize opportunity through education. Let us make this planet a better habitat for our children."



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking at the Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit in New Delhi, India on December 10, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

When it came to his turn to speak, His Holiness acknowledged the President and his fellow honoured guests, but addressed those assembled as brothers and sisters as he usually does, saying:

"I really believe we are all the same as human beings, irrespective of our nation, belief or rank. We are all born the same way, we all depart the same way. Many of the problems we face are of our own creation. But because we have given rise to them, it is within our power and responsibility to solve them too. To come together to do that we need compassion rooted in a sense of concern for others' well-being on the basis of our all belonging to one human family.

"Since the 20th century was a period of violence, we should ensure that the 21st century is an era of peace. But how can we bring this about? Through prayer? I'm a Buddhist monk, I pray. But when it comes to changing the world, I'm sceptical about whether we'll do it by prayer alone. Peace in the world derives from individuals having achieved inner peace. Anger may be part of our lives, but if we analyse what value it has, we'll find that it disturbs our inner peace and almost always leads to negative consequences."

"Scientists say that constant anger, fear and hatred consume our immune systems, so if we're looking for good health, we need to cultivate peace of mind. Education is a contributory

factor, but our existing education system tends only towards materialistic goals. Those who have been through it have a materialistic outlook and a materialistic culture, with little regard for inner values. The source of trouble is within ourselves—our disturbing emotions. We have to learn how to tackle them.

"The President here and Kailash Satyarthi like me belong to the 20th century, a time that is gone. Those of you who belong to the 21st century, who are now 30, 20 or 15 years old, are our source of hope. If you make the effort, later in the century the world may be a happier, more peaceful place."

His Holiness continued on the theme of peace of mind, the source of which he said was warm-heartedness. If our hearts are warm, he went on, then everyone we meet will be like a sister or brother. This is how children are: natural, accepting and inclusive of each other. It's only as they grow up that they begin to see others in terms of 'us' and 'them'.

Princess Charlene of Monaco, a former Olympic swimmer, has campaigned to prevent drowning, which otherwise takes many children's lives. Having been born in Rhodesia, but grown up in South Africa, she quoted Nelson Mandela who said, "We owe our children a life free from violence and fear."

Prince Ali bin Al Hussein of Jordan congratulated Kailash Satyarthi on convening the summit. He asked why today we see so many child refugees being turned away and advised,

"We owe it to our children to do more, better and faster."

Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands said it is our duty to protect children in any way we can. She mentioned that according to existing treaties children specifically have 54 rights.

"I'm sorry," she said, "that the wealthy and powerful are so comfortable they feel no sense of urgency to act."

*continued on page 24*

## Exiled Tibetan Prime Minister Urges Canada to Support Human Rights

The Globe and Mail

The prime minister of Tibet's exiled administration says Canada could be a strong supporter of his people's pursuit of human rights amid a global rise in nationalism, such as the election of Donald Trump.

Lobsang Sangay says Tibet sees Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government as an obvious partner in the "struggle" for freedom in the region. Tibet has been under Chinese control since the 1950s, when its spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, was driven out by invading forces.

"Globally, you can see there is a decline of internationalism and liberalism compared to the 1990s, and there is an increase of nationalism and extremism around the world. So you can clearly see from Brexit, not just Trump, actually – the President of Philippines, and [Japanese Prime Minister] Shinzo Abe, even Israel – it's a global trend," Mr. Sangay said in an interview with The Globe and Mail on Monday.

"As for human rights and basic freedom, we [Tibetans] are more on the internationalism and liberal side."

Mr. Sangay is in Ottawa this week meeting with parliamentarians for the first time since the Liberals came to power last year. He is seeking Canada's support for Tibet's pursuit of autonomy within the framework of the Chinese constitution, known as the "middle-way approach." The meetings come as Ottawa seeks closer ties with China, including exploratory talks on a free-trade deal.

"The U.S. government has come out in support of the middle-way approach," said Mr. Sangay, who has been the Tibetan political leader since 2011. "It would be nice and very appreciated if the Canadian government also supported the middle-way approach."

While Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion's office did not clearly say whether



Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration

Canada would publicly support the idea, press secretary Chantal Gagnon said the minister raised the issue of Tibet in his meetings with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, on June 1 and Sept. 23.

"Our government will continue to have frank discussions with China, including on the respect for the rule of law and human rights of all Chinese citizens, including Tibetans. We have consistently advocated substantive and meaningful dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama or his representatives to work toward a resolution that is acceptable to both sides," Ms. Gagnon said.

Mr. Sangay suggested Canada share with China its experience dealing with its own minority issues, such as the Quebec referendum of 1995, as a way to start a conversation on Tibet.

"I think Canada can proudly share its experience on how to solve minority issues," Mr. Sangay said. "Quebec could be a good reference as far as the Canadian government is concerned."

He said he would also welcome a commitment from the federal government to resettle additional Tibetan refugees

from India. More than 900 Tibetans have arrived in Canada since 2013 as part of the previous government's commitment to resettle 1,000 members of the minority group. The remaining refugees are set to arrive by the end of January. A senior official in Immigration Minister John McCallum's office did not say whether the government would announce another Tibetan resettlement initiative, but reiterated Canada's commitment to uphold its "humanitarian tradition to resettle refugees and offer protection to those in need from all parts of the world."

Mr. Sangay will meet with members of the all-party Parliamentary Friends of Tibet in Ottawa on Tuesday. As of Monday, he didn't have any meetings scheduled with cabinet ministers. It is his administration's policy not to make such formal meeting requests.



For detailed news visit:  
[www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net)

## Tibetan Spiritual Leader Visits Tawang

Times of India

More than 20,000 people from across Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh gathered at the High Altitude stadium on Tuesday to catch a glimpse of Tibetan spiritual leader Ogyen Trinley Dorje, one of the three claimants to the title of the 17th Karmapa.

Seated among religious scholars, monks, nuns and high-profile dignitaries at the Yid-Gha-Choezin Gompa, which faces the stadium, Dorje bestowed 'lifelong empowerment of Buddha Amityas to all sentient beings' on Tuesday, an official release said here. The Karmapa urged his audience to practise compassion and also spoke on the relationship between earlier Karmapas and the Monpas of Tawang.

Dorje, who is revered by a large section of Tibetan Buddhists as the head of the Karma Kagyu sect of Buddhism, visited Tawang for the first time on Monday. The spiritual leader, whose identification as the 17th Karmapa and escape from Tibet to India have both been subject of controversy, was accompanied by adviser to the Union home minister, Amitabh Mathur.

The visit of Dorje is significant as Arunachal is claimed by China as part of

its territory. Tawang, home to a sizeable Tibetan Buddhist community, was one of the flashpoints of the India-China war of 1962. The presence of US ambassador to India Richard Verma at the recently concluded Tawang Festival had also provoked a sharp response from China.

The visit also assumes significance as the Centre had previously imposed several restrictions on Dorje's movements, especially proposed trips to areas of strategic importance like Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh.

On Monday, however, the spiritual leader was welcomed by Arunachal chief minister Pema Khandu at the Guwahati airport. They then flew to the Tawang monastery where Dorje advised people to have faith in the teachings of The Buddha and The Dalai Lama. He also urged the Sanghas to be united to prevent 'outside forces' from hampering the progress of Buddhism in the region.

Dorje, who serves as spiritual guide to millions of Buddhists around the world, interacted with locals who lined up along the road to the monastery with 'khada', incense sticks and flowers to welcome him.



*Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu with His Eminence 17th Gyalwa Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje. Photo/TOI*

Upon his arrival at Tawang, Dorje visited the Sera-Jae-Jamyang Choekorling monastery and attended certain rituals there. He then went to the Sangyeling monastery from where he made his way to the Tawang Monastery. He took part in rituals there too and watched monks performing the Lhamu Tsokhar and Durda dances.

The Karmapa expressed gratitude for the welcome accorded to him and said he was fortunate to have visited Tawang. He thanked Khandu and Union MoS for home affairs, Kiren Rijiju, for planning his visit.

Khandu, too, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Rajnath Singh for allowing the Karmapa to visit Arunachal. He also thanked Rijiju for clearing the necessary formalities.

## Trump Says U.S. Not Necessarily Bound by 'One China' Policy

Reuters

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said the United States did not necessarily have to stick to its long-standing position that Taiwan is part of "one China," questioning nearly four decades of policy in a move likely to antagonize Beijing.

Trump's comments on "Fox News Sunday" came after he prompted a diplomatic protest from China over his decision to accept a telephone call from Taiwan's president on Dec. 2.

"I fully understand the 'one China' policy, but I don't know why we have to be bound by a 'one China' policy unless we make a deal with China having to

do with other things, including trade," Trump told Fox.

Trump's call with President Tsai Ing-wen was the first such contact with Taiwan by a U.S. president-elect or president since President Jimmy Carter switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in 1979, acknowledging Taiwan as part of "one China."

Beijing considers Taiwan a renegade province and the subject is a sensitive one for China.

Chinese officials had no immediate reaction to Trump's remarks.

After Trump's phone conversation with Taiwan's president, the Obama administration said senior White House aides had spoken with Chinese officials to insist that Washington's "one China" policy remained intact. The administration also warned that progress made in the U.S. relationship with China could be undermined by a "flaring up" of the Taiwan issue.

Following Trump's latest comments, a White House aide said the Obama administration had no reaction beyond its previously stated policy positions.

In the Fox interview, Trump criticized

China over its currency policies, its activities in the South China Sea and its stance toward North Korea. He said it was not up to Beijing to decide whether he should take a call from Taiwan's leader.

"I don't want China dictating to me and this was a call put in to me," Trump said. "It was a very nice call. Short. And why should some other nation be able to say I can't take a call?"

"I think it actually would've been very disrespectful, to be honest with you, not taking it," Trump added.

Trump plans to nominate a long-standing friend of Beijing, Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, as the next U.S. ambassador to China.

But Trump is considering John Bolton, a former Bush administration official who has urged a tougher line on Beijing, for the No. 2 job at the U.S. State Department, according to a source familiar with the matter.

In a Wall Street Journal article last January, Bolton said the next U.S. president should take bolder steps to halt China's military aggressiveness in the South and East China seas.

Bolton said Washington should consider using a "diplomatic ladder of escalation" that could start with receiving Taiwanese diplomats officially at the State Department and lead to restoring full diplomatic recognition.

In the Fox interview, Trump brought up a litany of complaints about China that he emphasized during his presidential campaign.

"We're being hurt very badly by China

with devaluation, with taxing us heavy at the borders when we don't tax them, with building a massive fortress in the middle of the South China Sea, which they shouldn't be doing, and frankly with not helping us at all with North Korea," Trump said. "You have North Korea. You have nuclear weapons and China could solve that problem and they're not helping us at all."

Economists, including those at the International Monetary Fund, have widely viewed China's efforts to prop up the yuan's value over the past year as evidence that Beijing is no longer keeping its currency artificially low to make Chinese exports cheap.

**RAISING 'LIKELIHOOD OF MISUNDERSTANDING'**

The Global Times, an influential tabloid published by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, said in an editorial that Trump was "naive like a child on diplomacy" and that the 'one China' policy "could not be bought or sold".

When the time comes, the Chinese mainland will launch a series of "decisive new policies toward Taiwan", the paper said.

"We will prove that all along the United States has been unable to dominate the Taiwan Strait and Trump's desire to sell the 'one China' policy for commercial interests is a childish urge," it said.

Some U.S. analysts warned that Trump could provoke a military confrontation if he presses the Taiwan issue too far.

"China is more likely to let the whole relationship with the United States deteriorate in order to show its resolve

on the Taiwan issue," said Jessica Chen Weiss, an associate professor of government at Cornell University and an expert in Chinese nationalism.

"When the decision to end a decades-long practice is made with so little warning and clear communication, it raises the likelihood of misunderstanding and miscalculation and sets the stage for a crisis between the United States and China over Taiwan," Chen Weiss said.

Mike Green, a former top adviser on Asia to former President George W. Bush, said ending the "one China" policy would be a mistake because it would throw the U.S.-China relationship into turmoil and jeopardize Beijing's cooperation on issues such as North Korea.

But Green, who is now with the CSIS think tank, said he did not believe that Trump intended to go that far and there was "logic to serving Beijing notice that he will not be dictated to on issues like Taiwan."

"President Obama was too accommodating to Beijing early on and it reduced his leverage as China asserted itself on issues like the East and South China Seas later," Green said.

On Sunday, China's top diplomat, State Councilor Yang Jiechi was traveling to U.S. neighbor Mexico, according to the official news agency Xinhua, but Mexican officials could not offer details.

Mexico has been deepening ties with China, which is partly funding a multi-billion dollar wholesale mobile network while China Offshore Oil Corporation took two of the eight blocks of deep water oil fields offered in a historic auction this month.



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## The Mongolian Sky Will Not Collapse Because of the Dalai Lama's Visit

by Weiping Qin

The spiritual leader of Tibet, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, was invited to open a four-day religious visit to Mongolia. This visit attracted much attention from the protests of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is worried that Mongolia may be subject to penalties or even sanctions from China, even Mongolia declared it was only religious visit, not involve any political issues. But the author believes that the Mongolian sky will never collapse due to the Dalai Lama's visit.

According to the Associated Press report, China cut off aviation, rail passenger and cargo transport with Mongolia in 2002 just in retaliation for the Dalai Lama's visit to Mongolia, leading to five hundred people stranded in border. China and Mongolia have undergone tremendous changes. In particular, China is already the second largest economic country after the United States, while 90 percent of Mongolia's exports are destined for China. The economic of Mongolia has suffered huge dilemma, and even close to the brink of collapse as commented by outside world. Mongolia embarrassly survives between as Russia and China. Last year, because of pressure from China, Mongolia declined the visit of his Holiness. But we have seen this year, the Dalai Lama visited Mongolia successfully. President Zaiyah Erbegdor Ji Ji must have beared enormous pressure, but I believe that he made a right and courageous decision.

As a president elected directly, it is impossible that Mr. Zaiyah does not respect and listen to the wishes of the people. The historical origins of Mongolia and Tibet have been as long as hundreds of years. Even in the last century, when Stalin carried out a thorough cleansing of Mongolian Buddhists under his control, killing over 17,000 lamas, more than half of Mongolian nationals are now devout Tibetan Buddhists. In the difficult times of the real economic difficulties, the Mongolian people will need to seek religious comfort more intensely. It is easy to see from the pictures of

the Dalai Lama's visit to Mongolia that His Holiness is greatly welcomed by the Buddhists in Mongolia. Whether in Ulaanbaatar Airport, in Mongolia's largest Ganden Mahayana Temple, or at the University of Buddhism and Science Symposium, the people of Mongolia listen to the voice of the Dalai Lama with devout humility. It is no exaggeration to say that the Dalai Lama is not only the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people but also the spiritual leader of the Mongolian Buddhists. Compassion and altruistic spirit advocated by His Holiness must have a positive effect on Mongolia's country and society.

For the Chinese government, Tibet and Mongolia are all sensitive issues. Historically, Mongolia has built the world's most powerful empire, it was incorporated into the territory of the Qing Dynasty after decline. After the outbreak of the Revolution of 1911, Mongolia was independent under the control of the Soviet Union. After years of suffering, the government of the Republic of China, who sojourned in Taiwan, for a long time, did not recognize Mongolia's independence. Even today, the Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Committee in name only has not been revoked. The mainland Chinese government recognizes Mongol independence, but it is the pain of many Chinese people. A Mongolia, is divided into Mongolia and Chinese Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Put aside ideology, independent or autonomy is a question most clearly in every Mongolian mind, who take a long-term living in the Sino-Russia gap. Because of Mongolia's warning, the Chinese government is particularly sensitive to the Tibet issue.

For the future and destiny of Tibet, His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the most important historical parties, he has his own deliberation. Now there is no real conditions for Independence, and not everyone can understand the embarrassment and suffering between the two big countries of China and India. The middle-road-solution advocated by the Dalai Lama and supported by the

majority of the Tibetan people is highly maneuverable. Although the specific details can be communicated, but this idea is absolutely worthy of the world in the game of power. The life-and-death struggle has long been outdated. His Holiness the Dalai Lama publicly renounced abandoning the pursuit of Tibetan independence in the early 1970s, and announced a full political retirement in 2011. As a religious leader, His Holiness visits a number of countries every year to promote the universal value of humanity, to strengthen the harmony between the religions, wherever he goes, people are warmly supported. But The Chinese government has always called His Holiness the leader of the separatist forces in Tibet, vilify the image of His Holiness. In my opinion, this behavior not only makes hundreds of millions of Buddhist believers around the world heart resentment, but also detrimental to the diplomatic image of a great power, and makes Tibetan issue internationalization. Like the diplomatic pressure to Mongolia this time is really more harm than good. In today's world, the highly respected religious leaders like the Dalai Lama can benefit the living and the world. Mongolian Buddhist leader, Khan Lama of Ganden Temple, who met his Holiness at the airport, stressed that this was a religious visit and not related to politics.

As one of the representatives of Chinese Youth Students and Scholars Association, I have the honor to visit the Dalai Lama in northern Indian Dharamsala on October 28, 2016. Although 81 years old, but he is still hale and hearty, amiable. On the same day, His Holiness the Dalai Lama accepted the author's nearly one-hour interview, from the historical past to the future, from the world's plight to the solution, His Holiness unreserved dedication of his life wisdom. Every year, his Holiness gives tens of thousands of public speaking around the world or promote the Dharma, this noble dedication and unparalleled influence in human history is extremely rare. The author suggests that the Chinese

government should adjust the Tibet policy, seize the favorable opportunity of His Holiness alive, and actively engage in dialogue to solve the Tibetan problem at an early date. So that his Holiness and nearly 200,000 Tibetan exiles can return to their homeland as soon as possible.

As a religious leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama successfully visited Mongolia, so that tens of thousands of long-awaited Mongolian believers can finally see his Holiness. This is a victory for the Mongolian people. Mongolia is a multi-party democratic state, the

Mongolian people have the ballot to elect members of Congress and the President. This time the Mongolian government, despite strong diplomatic pressure, conformed to public opinion. I highly appreciate the President of Mongolia, Mr. Zaiyah, a good democratically elected leader as long as listen to public opinion, really for the benefit of the public, not only can get the support of the voters, will certainly be able to lead the people to overcome difficulties out of the woods. This visit to Mongolia, not only the Mongolian sky will not collapse, the Mongolian people will be

more united and more positive in the face of the future. It is hoped that Mongolia and other countries will achieve sound development as well.

Note: The author is a Chinese economist in the United States, chair of Youth Council of China Democracy Party, President of Chinese Youth Students and Scholars Association, wrote in Washington DC on November 23, 2016, The above article has been published in several Chinese news portals and it was translated into English by Rui Gong.

## Sikyong Congratulates US President-elect Donald Trump

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay today congratulated the US President-elect Donald Trump on his election victory.

“On behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan people, I would like to congratulate you and your party’s victory in the US presidential election and wish you the best for your new responsibility as the president of the great nation of United States of America,” Sikyong wrote in his congratulatory letter.

“I am grateful for the people and Government of USA for hosting the Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama, at the White House on many occasions,” he added.

“Tibetan people are immensely grateful to the US for applauding and supporting Middle-way approach and encouraging dialogue between the Dalai Lama and Chinese authorities to lower tensions and resolve our differences.”

“As you have promised in your victory speech, “to deal fairly with everyone” in the world community while keeping the national interest at front, we appeal to you and your Administration to use your good offices to continue your support for the peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue through dialogue,” Sikyong wrote.

Donald J Trump, the 70-year-old Republican nominee, was elected the 45th president of the United States after securing 288 electoral votes over Clinton’s 218.

## Speaker of Tibetan Parliament Congratulates Donald Trump for US Presidential Victory

Speaker of Tibetan Parliament in Exile, Khenpo Sonam Tenphel today congratulated Donald Trump on his US presidential election victory.

“On behalf of Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile heartily congratulate you and your party for your great victory in the race to the White House,” Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel wrote in his congratulatory letter.

“Your Excellency, Tibetans living under the Chinese rule and Tibetans across the free world are eternally grateful to the people and the government of the United States of America, irrespective of their party affiliations, who have consistently rendered deep interest and support for the Tibetan issue and have maintained cordial relationship with Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We hope it will be continued under your leadership as well,” he added.

He concludes, “I hope and pray that your courage and wisdom will guide the United States to peace and prosperity.”

Donald John Trump, 70, was on Wednesday elected the new US President, defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton.

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## QUOTES

*“The people who indulge in violence may get some temporary satisfaction; but deep inside they won't be happy. Perhaps at the end of their lives, they will feel uncomfortable. Nobody wants problems, but we create many problems. Why? Because we can be short-sighted and narrow-minded.” Even trouble-makers, after all, are born to mothers and “raised with the seed of compassion.” Schools should therefore attend not just to material values but to inner values. “Not through religion, but through common sense, common experience and scientific findings,” His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Setagaya Junior High School in Tokyo on*

*16 November 2016.*

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*“Along with the 27th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama, today is also the 68th year since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the serious human rights violation in Tibet doesn't leave much for the Tibetan people to celebrate, China's total disregard for human rights is currently demonstrated by the on-going massive demolition at Larung Gar, the largest Tibetan Buddhist Institute in the world founded by Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, is home to thousands of Tibetans and Chinese devotees from Mainland China. It is estimated that the institute housed more than 10,000 devotees and, after the demolition, the number will be reduced to 5000 monks and nuns. Saddened by the Chinese government's destructive action, three nuns of the institute – Rigzin Dolma, Tsering Dolma and Semgha – committed suicide,” Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay in the Kashag's Statement on 27th anniversary of conferment of Noble Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 10 December 2016*

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*“The government of China knows that this is not a separatist demand and that we are only seeking to remain under the jurisdiction of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. Nevertheless, it makes use of every available opportunity to keep referring to us as separatists. We demand that the government of China change by giving up this futile and hardline policy and instead immediately take up for consideration a peaceful settlement that will be mutually beneficial both immediately and on long-term basis to both the sides,” Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the Occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the conferment of Noble Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 10 December 2016.*

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*“Since the 20th century was a period of violence, we should ensure that the 21st century is an era of peace. But how can we bring this about? Through prayer? I'm a Buddhist monk, I pray. But when it comes to changing the world, I'm sceptical about whether we'll do it by prayer alone. Peace in the world derives from individuals having achieved inner peace. Anger may be part of our lives, but if we analyse what value it has, we'll find that it disturbs our inner peace and almost always leads to negative consequences,” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit on 10 December 2016.*

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