



TIBETAN BULLETIN

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

Focus

14th Tibetan Religious Conference affirms the Dalai Lama's sole authority in his reincarnation, illegitimizes China's meddling in religious affairs

Feature

Urge your members of Congress and Senate to co-sponsor the Tibetan Policy Act 2019: Sikyong appeals Tibetans in US

World Press

Interview: Beijing should respect human rights of Tibetans and democracy in Hong Kong, says exiled leader Lobsang Sangay

Focus

- 17 As the 1990s era of people's resistance returns, Tibet will be at forefront once again: Sikyong at the 8th International TSG conference
- 20 His Holiness the Dalai Lama graces the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference
- 22 14th Tibetan Religious Conference affirms the Dalai Lama's sole authority in his reincarnation, illegitimizes China's meddling in religious affairs
- 23 US hits back at China for protesting US Envoy's meeting with the Dalai Lama; Praises India's "Extraordinary Generosity"
- 24 34 Chinese scholars, democratic leaders issue joint statement rejecting Chinese government's claims in the Dalai Lama's reincarnation

FEATURE

- 25 Urge your members of Congress and Senate to co-sponsor the Tibetan Policy Act 2019: Sikyong appeals Tibetans in US
- 26 Tibetan Policy and Support Act passes through US House Foreign Affairs Committee with strong bipartisan support
- 27 Sikyong garners support for Tibet Policy Act 2019 at both Congress and Senate
- 28 Canadian MPP urges the Parliament to support the restoration of peace and human rights in Tibet

WORLD PRESS

- 29 Interview: Beijing should respect human rights of Tibetans and democracy in Hong Kong, says exiled leader Lobsang Sangay

By Shri Ram Shaw, Hong Kong Free Press

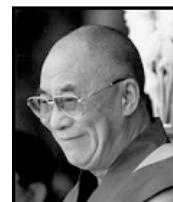
REGULARS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| News From Tibet & Exile4 | Quotes32 |
| Contact31 | |



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Editor
Tenzin Saldon
Email: tneditor@tibet.net

Asst. Editor
Tenzin Phende

Layout & Design
Tenzin Phende

Circulation Manager
Norbu Wangdue
Email: circulation@tibet.net
Tibetan Bulletin is published by:
Department of Information and
International Relations,
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A Tibetan youth in Ngaba dies after setting himself on fire to protest against Chinese rule



File photo of Yonten/Courtesy of Kanyag Tsiring and Lobsang Yeshi

A young Tibetan nomad from the nearby nomadic township of Meruma in Ngaba (Ch: Aba) county in Tibet's traditional province of Amdo died on 26 November after setting himself on fire to protest Chinese rule of Tibet and its hardline policies against the Tibetans.

Yonten, aged around 24, set himself ablaze in the center of town nearby Meruma at around 4 pm local time on 26 November 2019. He is identified as son of Sodhon (father) and Tsekho Kyi (mother), residents of Meruma's Unit 2.

According to a reliable source, Yonten became a monk and joined Ngaba Kirti Monastery at a young age but he later disrobed for reasons unidentified. In recent years, several reports were received of Chinese authorities in Tibet forcing young Tibetan monks out of their monasteries, at times ordering them to join Communist schools. After leaving his monastery, Yonten then led a life of a nomad in the area.

Ngaba is a heavily-monitored Tibetan region with intense surveillance measures implemented regularly where police can reach a protest site within a few steps or minutes, stated our source. Currently, details on whether Yonten's body was returned to his parents and the extent of restrictions following the self-immolation protest in the area is not known at the moment due to clampdown

on communication over the phone and internet.

Over the years, the Chinese government has implemented a total crackdown on Tibetan self-immolation protests, labelling the protests as an "act of terrorism" and criminalizing family members of the self-immolators who were reprimanded with arrests and heavy sentences. Yonten's self-immolation protest is the first one recorded this year.

China crackdowns on Tibetans in Sershul, Karze after Independence protests

A large number of Chinese forces have arrived in Dza Wonpo town, Sershul county in Tibet's Karze (Ch: Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture) in the aftermath of the recent protests last week. Scores of security forces from Sershul county arrived in a large convoy and have swarmed the streets of the township of Dza Mey (lower Dzachukha area). The armed security forces are patrolling the area that is now under constant and heightened surveillance.

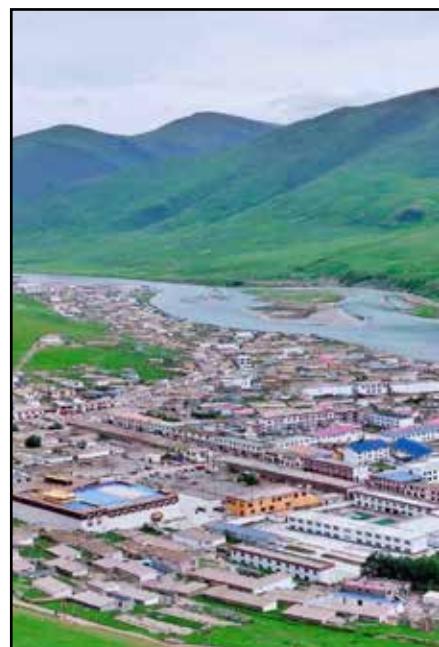
Last week, on 21 November, two Tibetan youngsters, Choegyal and Yonten staged a protest in Dza Wonpo town calling for independence, human rights and freedom while they scattered hundreds of leaflets with message of Tibet's independence in front of the local government office and police station in the area. "The two were immediately arrested and detained during which they were severely beaten by police for two days before they were taken to Sershul county on 23 November," said our source citing contacts in the region.

Following the recent pro-independence demonstrations in Karze's Dza Wonpo, which resulted in the arbitrary arrests of eight Tibetans, the Chinese authorities have put the Dza Mey area, including Dza Wonpo town, under severe restrictions and surveillance to keep a close watch on the activities of the local residents, shared our source. In addition to the multiple CC cameras and other

surveillance technologies monitoring the residents, the Chinese police, "disguised as businessmen, beggars and ordinary people," are making rounds to spy on the local Tibetans.

Due to the proximity of Dza Wonpo Monastery and the town-level authorities' location, the intensified security measures in the area have affected the daily routines and livelihood of the Tibetans in the region. There are several towns under Dza Mey township namely: Wonpo, Trom-Dza, Arig-Dza, Washul, Troshul Upper (Tib: Gongma) and Troshul Lower (Tib: Ghapma).

Chinese Policy and the Degrading Nomadic Lives of Local Tibetans.



An undated image of Dza Wonpo town, Sershul county in Tibet's Karze (Ch: Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture).

The Tibetans in Dzachukha's Wonpo town has traditionally led a nomadic livelihood. Each of its 1500-2000 households owned and reared large number of livestock, including yak, sheep, horses, etc. for their daily needs. However, the Chinese government's policy of "resettling" or "relocating" the Tibetan nomads which continue to date have had a massive adverse impact on their livelihood. "In the last decade, almost complete disappearance of sheep is seen while the number of other livestock has decreased dramatically," stated the source.

The Chinese authorities claim of investments and development in the region and that they gave houses and subsidies to the “resettled” nomads but in reality, most of these benefits don’t even reach down to the local Tibetans. According to our source, local Chinese authorities order the Tibetans to appear in “good dresses” and borrow things from others that they don’t have as a show. The local authorities will then take photos and videos of these Tibetans to prove how well-off and happy the residents are living because of the Chinese government. The houses allocated to the “relocated” nomads come with their own restrictive conditions such as banning the display of His Holiness the Dalai Lamas portraits and instead forced the display of pictures of Chinese leaders. The local authorities would warn the Tibetans of subsidy benefits cut and even detention if they don’t comply. These kinds of practices and policies implemented against the Tibetans are the main reasons for the tension, discontentment and disappointment in the community, leading to these protests against Chinese authority.

Prior to the 21 November arrest, two other incidents of Tibetans monks arrested by Chinese authorities were reported: a teenage monk from Dza Wonpo Gaden Shedrup Monastery called Nyimey, the younger brother of Choegyal, on 18 November, and Kunsal (20), Tamey, Soetra and Tsultrim (all three around 18) along with their religious teacher Shergyam on 7 November after pro-independence leaflets were found in the courtyard of the Chinese government office.

TIBET WAS NEVER A PART OF CHINA

but

The Middle Way - Opposes Reunification or Violence - Solutions



Six Tibetan Monks and Two Youth Arrested for Pro-independence Leaflets in Dza Wonpo, Sershul, Tibet



(From L-R) Nyimey, Yonten and Choegyal

Chinese authorities arrested six Tibetan monks and two youth from Dza Wonpo town in Sershul county, Karze (Ch: Ganzi) Prefecture in Tibet’s traditional Kham province after leaflets calling for Tibet’s independence appeared in the premises of the local Chinese government office. The arrests were made during three different incidents in November.

Earlier this month, on 7 November, hundreds of hand-written leaflets calling for Tibet’s independence were found in the courtyard of the county’s government office. On the same day at night, local authorities came to Dza Wonpo Gaden Shedrup Monastery and arrested the four monks Kunsal (20), Tamey, Soetra and Tsultrim (all-around 18) and their religious teacher Shergyam, said a source in exile with contacts in the region.

Four of the monks are still arbitrarily detained in Sershul county while the fifth monk, their teacher was held for 11 days before he was released on 18 November.

In a separate incident, on 18 November at around midnight, a sixth monk from the same monastery, identified as Nyimey in his mid-teen was arrested by local police. It is believed that Nyimey’s arrest was linked to his expression of support to the protest on 7 November and criticizing the Chinese policies against the Tibetans on the internet. Three days later, Sershul authorities arrested two more Tibetans

youth from the town totaling the known arrests of Tibetans in Sershul, Karze to eight so far.

Himachal Pradesh Governor Bandaru Dattatreya calls on His Holiness the Dalai Lama

H. E. Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Bandaru Dattatreya called on His Holiness the Dalai Lama for an audience at His Holiness’ residence in Dharamshala.

A messenger of India and student of Nalanda tradition, as he often refers to himself, His Holiness the Dalai Lama warmly greeted the Honourable Governor and the two engaged in a productive discussion mainly over the relevance of ancient Indian tradition in promotion of peace of mind and the potential contributions of Tibetan Buddhist masters and institutions in the revival of the tradition.

His Holiness expressed the tremendous gratitude and respect Tibetans hold for India as the source of their spiritual culture and their second home.

It is due to India’s consistent generosity and kindness that the Tibetan people have been able to preserve their ancient cultural heritage in exile. He

further noted the positive cultural and civilisational influence the traditions of Nalanda University brought to Tibet from the eighth century.

"The age-old Indian traditions of non-violent conduct 'ahimsa', compassionate motivation 'karuna', along with a thorough understanding of the workings of minds and emotions, are not only relevant but are also necessary in today's world," His Holiness told the Governor.

His Holiness observed that the ancient tradition would not only benefit the people of India but would contribute to the development of the world as a whole.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama and H. E. Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Bandaru Dattatreya in conversation during the audience at His Holiness' residence, Dharamshala. Photo/OHHDL

These relevant ideas derived from Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, which in turn have originated from the Nalanda tradition, combined with modern education could serve the wider benefit of humanity.

Moreover, His Holiness alluded to the growing interest in the Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and logic from the West, particularly scientists and educationists as signs of positive hope that "India can make a significant contribution regarding peace of mind for the whole humanity."

His Holiness also extended his profound gratitude to the government and people of India for hosting the Tibetan people with warmth and generous hospitality.

UMAYLAM 中間道路
ମୁଁଯାଲମ୍ ମଧ୍ୟରୀତିମାରୀ
Middle Way Approach

Peaceful conflict resolution for the 21st century

"My best wishes to all Tibetans", HP Governor assures full support for Tibetan welfare and education

The Kashag [Eng: Cabinet] of Central Tibetan Administration led by officiating President Kalon Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok, received the Honourable Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya here at the Kashag Secretariat.

Officiating President Kalon Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok, Kalon Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang, Department of Home, Kalon Karma Yeshe, Department of Finance, Kalon Phagpa Tsering Labrang, Department of Security, Kalon Choekyong Wangchuk, Department of Health, Kashag Secretary Tsegayal Chukya Dranyi, Chief Representative of Tibetans in Shimla Tenzin Norbu and Dharamshala Settlement Officer greeted the Hon Governor as he arrived at the CTA headquarters.

At the occasion, Kalon Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok, Department of Religion and Culture honoured and felicitated the honourable Governor and his delegates



Honourable Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya in conversation with the Kalons during the official felicitation by the Kashag at the Kashag Secretariat, 18 November 2019. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

comprising of Shri Raju, HPS, ADC to Governor, Sri Sarath Babu, relative of Hon Governor, Shri Des Raj Bhatia, Comptroller to Governor, Sri Jayant Sharma, Press Secretary to Governor, Shri Dalip Kumar, PSO and few others from the Shimla government.



Members of the Kashag present a traditional Tibetan Thangka painting to the Hon Governor at the felicitation ceremony, 18 November 2019. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

The council of Kalons thoroughly apprised the Honourable Governor on the CTA's robust administration and governance of more than a lakh Tibetans across India, Nepal and Bhutan and the unparalleled support extended by the Government of India and the Himachal Pradesh government towards the Central Tibetan Administration and Tibetan people.

The Hon Governor spoke about the enriching conversations he had with His Holiness the Dalai Lama earlier in the morning.

The Governor also made keen enquiries on the welfare and development of Tibetan communities across India, particularly on the major institutions of Tibetan Buddhist study in North and South India.

Speaking exclusively to Tibet News Bureau, Honourable Bandaru Dattatreya expressed his best wishes to Tibetans all over India and assured them full support in "improvement of lives, education, and all other necessary support".

"Tibetans are very entrepreneur people. Tibetans are particularly in good numbers in Himachal Pradesh. We will definitely do the best in supporting the improvement, education and all the necessary assistance that is required," the Hon Governor said.

Governor Dattatreya will be visiting the Tibetan Parliamentary Secretariat and meet the Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

Dharamshala celebrates the iconic 1989 Nobel Peace Prize Conferment to His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Heads of three pillars of Tibetan democracy in exile escorting Chief Guest Gyal P Wangyal to the venue. Photo/Tenzin Paljor/TPiE

Thirty years ago in 1989, Tibetans' most beloved spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama whose name today is associated with different epithets like the man of peace and champion of compassion was conferred the Noble Peace Prize for his truth and non-violent approach to China's oppression of Tibet.

Tibetans around the globe broke into a frenzied celebration after learning that their precious leader was named the 1989 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and the day earned a significance in the calendar for the Tibetan people.

10 December marks the 30th anniversary of the iconic 1989 conferment of Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetans in exile celebrated the occasion in full swing.

Amidst the laughter and cheer echoing throughout the courtyard of Tsuglagkhang in Dharamshala where the residence of His Holiness is seated, the heads of three pillars of Tibetan democracy and a host of esteemed guests opened the day-long celebration with key-note speakers resonating His Holiness the Dalai Lama's message of peace and non-violence.

Some of the esteemed guests include the Chief Executive Councillor Shri Gyal P Wangyal of Ladakh Autonomous

Hill-Development Council and his entourage, Shri Ajay Singh, President of Indo Tibetan Friendship Association, Kalons and other dignitaries.

Extolling His Holiness' humanitarian service, Chief Guest Gyal P Wangyal said, "His Holiness the Dalai Lama has not only guided the humanity of this universe to the path of non-violence and peace but has also transformed the nature of the Tibetan freedom movement into a complete non-violent endeavour."

"Mere touch and blessing of His Holiness give us precious inspiration in the hope for a better life. His compassionate smile radiates the warmth that pacifies all fear" noted the Chief Executive Councillor in his address.

The Chief Guest observed that the initiative taken by His Holiness in interacting Buddhism with Science is inspirational in advancing global peace and happiness where the knowledge of both can be combined to reduce conflict and violence borne out of destructive emotions.

In his reverence to His Holiness, Shri Gyal P Wangyal extended the



Chief Guest, Mr. Gyal P Wangyal Chief Executive Councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill-Development Council, Leh presents Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay with Friendship Award. Photo/Tenzin Paljor/TPiE

unwavering friendship and support to the Tibetan people and meanwhile requested the Ladakhis to emulate the teachings of His Holiness into practice.

"We are aware of the gross human rights violations in Tibet to which people of Ladakh have always condemned and will keep on condemning," said Shri Gyal P Wangyal.

"After Ladakh becoming a union territory we assure you that relations between Ladakhis and Tibetans will strengthen further as we have always shared a good relationship with the Tibetans in Ladakh. We hope that Ladakh under the leadership of PM Modi can fulfill the aspiration of Tibetans in the coming years. We assure you that Tibetans in Ladakh are well taken care of" he assured.

Sikyong condoles demise of world-renowned Tibetan medicine expert Dr Yeshi Dhonden



A file photo of Dr Yeshi Dhonden receiving an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

President Dr Lobsang Sangay of Central Tibetan Administration expressed profound grief over the demise of world-renowned Tibetan doctor and former physician to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Dr Yeshi Dhonden, who breathed his last at his residence in Mcleodganj at 2:53 AM.

"Profoundly sad to learn about the demise of globally known Tibetan medicine expert and Padma Shree awardee Dr Yeshi Dhonden," the President said in his condolence message.

"May he be reborn soon and continue to serve humanity. I had the privilege of meeting him on several occasions. Dr Dhonden's contribution to expanding the reach of Tibetan medicine and extending its benefits to thousands will be long remembered."

The Sikyong-led Kashag also expressed condolences on the passing away of Dr Dhonden and paid earnest tribute to

his meaningful service to the Tibetan community and the world at large. The Kashag offered prayers for his swift and noble rebirth.

Dr Yesi Dhonden, 93, was the foremost Tibetan doctor around the world who was widely respected and recognised for his effectual treatment of cancer patients.

Dr Yesi Dhonden was born on 15 May 1927 to a peasants family in the village of Namro in central Tibet's Lhoga District. He entered monastic life when he was six years old and, from the age of 12, studied at Lhasa Men Tsee Khang under, among other teachers, his uncle the famous Tibetan doctor and teacher Khenrab Norbu, passing his exams with distinction at the age of 20.

In 1959, Dr Yesi Dhonden accompanied His Holiness the Dalai Lama when he fled the Chinese invasion of Tibet. In India, Dr Yesi Dhonden was instrumental in the founding of the Tibetan Medical and Astro-science Institute (Men-Tsee Khang) in Dharamsala. From 1960–80, while he served as personal physician to the Dalai Lama, he also held office as both director and principal of Men-Tsee Khang until 1979. He continued to practice medicine from a small private clinic he established in Dharamsala in 1969 until his retirement earlier this year.

On 20 March 2018, the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, conferred the Padma Shri of Medicine to Dr Dhonden at the Rashtrapati Bhavan for his contributions in the field of medicine through Sowa Rigpa, the traditional Tibetan medicine. Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award in India. Dr Dhonden officially retired from medical practise on 1 April 2019 due to advancing age and health reasons.



Team Tibet at COP25 highlights Tibet's Ecological Importance



Tibet Team at COP25, Madrid, Spain.

A strong Team of Tibetan delegates highlights Tibet's Ecological Importance at the COP25 UN Climate Summit, held in Madrid, Spain.

A team of Tibetans and Tibetan supporters have come together at the ongoing COP25 Climate Summit in Madrid. The mega climate conference organised by the United Nations has attracted more than 20,000 experts, climate and environmental activists, government delegates and civil society groups.

The 'Team Tibet' had made a highly visible presence both at the official and civil society venue of the UNFCCC. The two environment researchers from the Tibet Policy Institute, Tempa Gyaltzen Zamlha and Dechen Palmo, leading the 'Team Tibet' has been able to meet official delegates from more than 25 countries so far, to personally apprise them of Tibet's global ecological importance and urged the delegates to make Tibet central to any discussion on global climate change. Also present at the official venue of the conference, Kyingzom Dhongdue of Australia Tibet Council and Kai Muller of ICT Germany have been able to raise Tibet's environmental issues with different delegates.

Another team of Tibetans and Tibetan supporters led by Venerable Thupten Wangchen of Casa del Tibet, Spain with efficient support from Chokhorling and Thupten Dhargyeling made a strong presence at the Green Zone or the civil society venue of the Conference, attracting huge attention and interest from the participants and media groups.

The 'Team Tibet' also took part in the Climate Strike, led by inspirational teenager Greta Thunberg on 6th December. The team had another highly visible presence despite the massive crowd, carrying Tibetan flags and Posters with short messages.

A poster messages from His Holiness the Dalai Lama read "Climate change is not the concern of just one or two nations. It is an issue that affects all humanity and every living being on this earth."

On 7th December, the '2nd Climate Action for Tibet' panel Discussion will be held at the famous Ateneo de Madrid hall to highlight Tibet's ecological importance and current environmental situation. The Panel Discussion is organized by the Tibet Policy Institute and the Casa del Tibet, Spain.

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councilors conclude official visit to CTA headquarters



The delegation of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council led by Chief Executive Councilor Shri Gyal P Wangyal during an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Home Secretary Tsewang Dolma and Chief Representative of Tibetans in Ladakh Tsetan Wangchuk is also seen among them. Photo/OHHDL

Chief Executive Councilor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Shri. Gyal P Wangyal and his entourage of Deputy Chairman Shri. Tsering Samdup and Shri. Phuntsok Stanzin, Executive Councilor, Agriculture, Shri. Konchok Stanzin, Executive Councilor, Education, Shri. Tsering Morup, Councilor from Temisgam, Shri. Tsering Palden, Councilor from Igoo, Shri. Tsering Angchuk, Councilor from Diskit, Shri. Thupstan Wangchuk, Councilor from Nyoma, Shri. Tsering Wangdue, Councilor from Saspal accompanied by Mr Tsetan Wangchuk,



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay and Kashag host a welcome reception for the delegation of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council led by Chief Executive Councilor Shri Gyal P Wangyal.

Chief Representative Officer, Ladakh Sonamling Tibetan Settlement successfully concluded their official visit

to the CTA headquarters in Dharamsala on 12 December.

The visit of the LAHDC members to Dharamshala from 6 to 11 December was organised by the Department of Home, Central Tibetan Administration and facilitated by the Chief Representative Office, Ladakh.

The purpose of their visit was to understand and learn about various programs of the CTA and gain an insight into how the Tibetan community is thriving in exile under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and CTA. The main highlight of their weeklong visit was the audience with His Holiness the great 14th Dalai Lama on 7 December during which His Holiness consented to visit Ladakh in summer next year.

Later that day, the Department of Home (CTA) hosted a welcome dinner in honour of the visiting delegation.

During the course of their visit, the delegation visited the Kashag Secretariat, Tibetan Parliamentary Secretariat, all the other Departments of CTA, Tibetan Children Village, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA), Men-Tse-Khang, Norbulingka Institute, Gyutoe Monastery and also Himachal

Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamshala.

The secretaries and senior officials of the respective CTA departments gave presentations on the organisational structure and programs of the department which was followed by a fruitful discussion.

During their visit to the Department of Home on 9 December, Secretary Mrs Tsewang Dolma Shosur and Additional Secretary Mr Dawa Tsultrim made an urgent appeal to the Chief Executive Councilor Shri Gyal P Wangyal and other councillors in order to reiterate the welfare of Tibetan residents in Ladakh. Hon. Chief Executive Councilor assured to look into the matter.

The following evening, President Dr Lobsang Sangay of Central Tibetan Administration hosted a Gala reception in honour of the visiting delegation of the LAHDC at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA).



The delegation of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council led by Chief Executive Councilor Shri Gyal P Wangyal at CTA headquarters.

The delegates were treated to a wide range of performances by the Tibetan performing arts representing the distinguished cultural, social and spiritual aspects of the Tibetan civilization.

Chief Executive Councilor Shri. Gyal P Wangyal and other LAHDC councillors also attended the official function marking 30th anniversary of the iconic 1989 conferment of Nobel Peace Prize

to His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the Chief Guest on 10 December at Tsuklakhang.

Admiring His Holiness' humanitarian service, Chief Guest Gyal P Wangyal said, "His Holiness the Dalai Lama has not only transformed the nature of the Tibetan freedom movement into a complete non-violent endeavour but also guided the humanity to the path of non-violence and peace." In his reverence to His Holiness, Shri Gyal P Wangyal extended the unwavering friendship and support to the Tibetan people and meanwhile requested the Ladakhis to emulate the teachings of His Holiness into practice.

Home Kalon Mr Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang who reached Dharamshala on the morning of 11 December, from his major tour to the five Tibetan settlements in South India, immediately arranged for a panel discussion with Hon. Chief Executive Councilor of LAHC along with other councillors to discuss the urgent concerns relating to the welfare of the Tibetans in Ladakh and earnestly appealed to the Councillors to address these concerns in priority.

On such productive note, the LAHDC delegations concluded their weeklong official visit to CTA on 12 December.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

His Holiness the Dalai Lama praises the leadership of CTA, consecrates renovated headquarter of CTA



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, flanked by Sakyong Dr Lobsang Sangay performs consecration of the newly built and renovated buildings of CTA headquarters. Photo/Tenzin Jigme/CTA

His Holiness the Dalai Lama presided over the valedictory session of the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference as the key-honoured guest.

On his arrival at Gangchen Kyishong where lies the seat of the Central Tibetan Administration, His Holiness expressed his fascination with the infrastructural developments that had taken place at the CTA headquarters as he was being led by Sakyong Dr Lobsang Sangay who described the arrangements of the newly

built and renovated office buildings and the upcoming well-equipped Tibet Museum among others.

Commending the leadership of the Central Tibetan Administration, His Holiness said, "So many buildings have come up that it is unrecognisable. Very good changes have taken place. Good job!" At Sakyong's request, His Holiness blessed and consecrated the newly built and renovated headquarter of CTA before leaving for his residence.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

**CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION
RESTORING FREEDOM FOR TIBETANS**

His Holiness the Dalai Lama concludes Manjushri Cycle of Teachings

January 7, 2020

Bohgaya: Wrapping up on the final day of the teachings of the Manjushri cycle, His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave the final permissions from the Manjushri Cycle of Teachings and also gave a reading of Jé Rinpoche's 'Three Principal Aspects of the Path'. His Holiness declared his satisfaction that the series of teachings had been successfully completed. More >

Statement of the Kashag on the 30th Anniversary of the Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet

Thirty years ago, today, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of His unwavering commitment to peacefully restore freedom for Tibetans in Tibet. As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize, the 15th Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration bows down in deep reverence and gratitude to our most revered leader His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. On this occasion, the Kashag offers its greetings to the Tibetan people inside and outside Tibet, guests and dignitaries in attendance, and supporters of Tibet around the world.

His Holiness has steadily undertaken the commitment to emphasize the importance of inculcating compassion, tolerance, and kindness to achieve peace and harmony among all human beings. While stressing the importance of religious harmony, He has advocated dialogue as a means to resolve any conflict. Even in the face of persecution, His Holiness has led the world with examples through his undeterred efforts to resolve the issue of Tibet non-violently.

As one of the world's most beloved leader and a Nobel laureate, His Holiness' timeless initiatives for the creation of a more peaceful world has, in turn, highlighted and garnered support for the Tibet cause globally.

Today also marks Human Rights Day and the 71st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, today in Tibet, the fundamental human rights enshrined in this landmark document are trampled upon by the Chinese Communist Party. Tibetans are subjected to harsh treatment for speaking up for their rights, which are also enshrined in the Chinese constitution, such as freedom of religion, language, and preservation of the environment.



President Dr Lobsang Sangay presents Kashag's statement on the 30th Anniversary of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

Tibetans in Tibet continue to protest against the Chinese government's repressive policies. On 26th November, a 24-year-old Tibetan named Yonten self-immolated in Ngaba, eastern Tibet. Since 2009, 154 Tibetans have self-immolated in Tibet calling for freedom for Tibetans and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The Chinese government has further resorted to drastic restriction instead of earnestly addressing the plights of the Tibetan people. In 2018, China's Public Security Bureau issued a circular listing 22 illegal activities making local initiatives for environmental protection, language preservation, and any expression of support for the Middle Way Approach as an organized crime. Since 2008 Tibetans have been facing severe restrictions on their freedom of movement both within and outside of Tibet.

Recently, Lobsang Dorje, a 36-year-old monk from Kirti Monastery, was sentenced to three years imprisonment after being held incommunicado in detention for more than a year on suspicion of communicating with the international community. In another case, Sonam Palden, a 22-year-old

monk, was forcefully arrested from his room at the Kirti monastery for unknown reasons and has not been heard since. Earlier this month, six Tibetan monks from Shedrup Monastery in Sershul, Kham, were arrested for their protest against China's rule over Tibet. Three days later, two Tibetan young men in their early twenties, Yonten and Choegyal, were arrested for their roles in a similar protest.

Such ongoing repression of Tibetan people is highlighted in the reports of the United Nations Human Right Council, and numerous resolutions from the European Union to the United States. For the past consecutive years, the Freedom House report has placed Tibet after Syria as the second- least free country.

During the recently held 119th session of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance, China responded to the experts' question on whereabouts of the 11th Panchen Lama and his family. China responded with the usual practice of unverifiable and insufficient information. China must release the Panchen Lama and his family together with Chadrel Rinpoche and all the other political prisoners.

As far back as 1969, His Holiness has expressed that whether the institution of the Dalai Lama will continue or not must be decided by the Tibetan people. The resolutions of the recently held 3rd Special General Meeting and the 14th Tibetan Religious conference held in October and November consecutively expressed the genuine wish of the Tibetan people for the continuation of the institution of the Dalai Lama. It also strongly stated that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the sole authority concerning the manner of reincarnation.

The aspiration of the Tibetan people made clear in the resolution was voiced by the US Ambassador at large for the International Religious Freedom, Samuel Dale Brownback, during his formal visit to the headquarters of the Central Tibetan Administration in October 2019. The Ambassador expressed that “the United States government supports

the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama and that the role of picking a successor to the Dalai Lama belongs to the Tibetan Buddhist system, the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist leaders. It does not belong to anybody else, not any government or any entity.”

His Holiness's untiring efforts for the past 60 years have come to fruition with the successful establishment of the Tibetan community in exile, introduction of a democratic system of administration, revival of Tibetan language, religion and culture, provision of modern education to Tibetan children and advancement of the Tibet cause in the global arena. In recognition of His Holiness's accomplishments and sacrifices, the year 2020 will be observed as the “Thank You, Dalai Lama” year.

In observation of our gratitude to His Holiness, we must further indulge in

meritorious acts for the accumulation of our collective good karma. We must all remember and work towards the fulfillment of His Holiness' principal commitments and work towards our cause in unity. We will renew our efforts towards the same through various initiatives throughout the gratitude year. Taking this opportunity, we thank the kindness of India and its people and also remember the nations, leaders and supporters of the Tibet cause around the world for their unwavering effort to restore peace and freedom in Tibet.

Finally, we ceaselessly pray for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. May all his holy wishes be fulfilled. May the non-violent cause of Tibet prevail.

The Kashag

December 10, 2019

US wants UN to take up Dalai Lama succession issue: US envoy for International Religious Freedom



The United States wants the United Nations to take up the Dalai Lama's succession in an intensifying bid to stop China from making its meritless claims over the religious succession, the US Ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback told AFP.

“I think it’s really important to have an early global conversation because this is a global figure with a global impact,” he said referring to the Dalai Lama.

Ambassador Brownback had spoken at length about the succession issue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama during their meeting in October.

The Ambassador had told the Dalai Lama that the US would seek to build global support for the principle that the choice of the next Dalai Lama “belongs to the Tibetan Buddhists and not the Chinese government”.

“That’s the big thing that we’re really after now, to stir this before we’re right in the middle of it. If something happens to the Dalai Lama, that there has been this robust discussion globally about it ahead of time.”

“I would hope that the UN would take the issue up,” he told AFP, adding that China with its veto power on the Security Council would block any action, but countries could at least raise their voices at the United Nations.

“So they’ve [Chinese Communist Party] got a plan and I think we have to be equally aggressive with a plan.”

Late October, the US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom visited the headquarters of Central Tibetan Administration [CTA]

at the invitation of the CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay in what was seen as the strongest political gesture of support for the Tibetan people and their religious freedom.

Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asia, had said the Ambassador's meeting with His Holiness in Dharamsala emphasized enduring U.S. support for the Tibetan people.

The Ambassador for Religious Freedom also made clear in his statement here at Dharamshala that the US stance on the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama is in accordance with the resolutions passed at the third Special General meeting of Tibetan people.

Amb Brownback is one of the highest US officials to have led an official visit to the CTA.

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Statement of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile on the occasion of 30th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Speaker Pema Jungney, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile presents the statement of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the 30th Anniversary of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

We are gathered here today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the momentous occasion of the conferment of the globally distinguished Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the master of all the teachings on this earth of the Buddha, the lotus-holding manifestation of the supreme Bodhisattva who is the head ornament of samsara and nirvana including the domain of the gods, the wellspring of affection who bestows mother-like fondness to all sentient beings even without any sort of previous acquaintanceship, a champion of world peace, the destined patron-deity of the Snowland of Tibet and its saviour for all lifetimes, and its unsurpassable leader and guiding light. On this glorious occasion, I, on behalf of all the Tibetan people in Tibet and in exile, offer greetings and express the gratitude of infinite magnitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama with countless joy, devotion and elation.

It was 30 years ago, on the International Human Rights Day of 10th of December in 1989 that His Holiness the Dalai Lama was presented with the world's most distinguished peace award, the

Nobel Peace Prize. To the Tibetan people in general and, in particular, to the people across the world who cherish democracy, freedom, peace, and compassion, it was a perfect moment to exalt the incomparable deeds of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with joy, devotion and elation and to thereby bask in the joyousness of the supremacy of the ten virtues underlying them.

With the nobility of kindness borne of the pristineness of the ideal and mannerism drawn from the incomparable Buddha, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has employed the potential and power of compassion – which is the essence of the condition underlying all sentient beings' desire to live a happy life and their aversion to pain and suffering – to address their concerns. On that basis, His Holiness has sought to enhance the inherent ethical nature of human beings as a means to strive for the protection of the natural environment, harmony among different religious traditions, for the resolution of situations of war and dispute and so on across the world with a sense of universal responsibility for the goal of ensuring global peace. His work of unimaginable depth and expanse

continues unabated. In particular, in these particularly great turbulent days and age of our degenerate era on this vast world, His Holiness has, through efforts at keeping up without decline the fine culture of the religiously immersed Tibet with the aspiration to convert in future this Land of Snows, the roof of the world, into a zone of peace. It is with this profound desire that His Holiness the Dalai Lama has set the course of the Tibetan people on the path of non-violence and peace.

In particular, all people with discerning intellectual faculty have expressed admiration for the nobility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's great, mutually beneficial middle way proposal for the resolution or the issue of Tibet. It has won him nothing less than the Nobel Peace Prize which he delightedly accepted for the sake of the sentient beings' wellbeing. For such and numerous other secret deeds of body, speech and mind of unimaginable magnitude, which he has carried out and continues to do so even today as I speak, I offer His Holiness profound gratitude repeated a hundred times.

Likewise, today is also an important day marking the International Human Rights Day. In connection with this occasion, I wish to point out that on the 1st of October this year, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the so-called People's Republic of China was observed. In the run up to the marking of this anniversary, China, in September, issued what it called a white paper on "Seeking Happiness for People: 70 Years of Progress on Human Rights in China" in the name of the State Council Information Office. The white paper made claims about progress having been introduced in the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China under its successive topmost leaders during the past seventy years. Nevertheless, every year China has so far taken a front row seat among countries across the world

with the worst record of upholding the human rights of its people. This by itself makes it clear that China's claim about its progress in the field of human rights is patently false.

The so-called white paper made claims about China having granted Regional Autonomy for ethnic Minorities. To the people of Tibet, however, these have been nothing but years of horrendous repression marked by 70 years of territorial aggression and 60 years of deprivation of sovereign territory, with nothing good remaining to be said. The truth is that ever since the emergence of human civilizations, Tibet and China had co-existed as neighbouring countries. During the periods of Tibet's Tsenpo rulers and some of China's emperors there were incidents of intermarriage between the two royal families as well as wars and settlements of border disputes which ended with signing of uncle-nephew treaties which were inscribed on pillars of stone and so on. Historical records showing that Tibet and China were two separate countries are too glaring to be possible for anyone to erase it by blacking it out. Nevertheless, immediately after its founding of the People's Republic of China, the army of its communist-ruled government launched an invasion of Tibet and annexed the sovereign territory that had belonged to its original Tibetan inhabitants since the beginning of this world. Not only that, the communist Chinese government continued to launch in Tibet one campaign of mad and brutal repression after another, such as the Cultural Revolution, over the years. And it has been obvious that those campaigns were designed to deny the Tibetan people their freedom to make use of their own language and script, and their culture and traditions. There were even occasions when the Tibetan people were banned from even so much as moving their lips. It has therefore been obvious to everyone everywhere that the past decades were a tragic period of enormous brutality unprecedented in the history of Tibet with an underlying design on the part of communist ruled China to obliterate the Tibetan ethnicity. Given this reality, it was nothing but propaganda rhetoric on the part of

the government of China to talk about having made efforts towards achieving progress in ensuring respect for human rights and its claims were devoid of any basis in substantive reality.

The white paper made claims about regional leaders in Tibet having emerged from the ranks of ordinary masses of people in the region. The reality remains, however, that over the last 60 years, 99 per cent of the top leaders of the counties, higher level offices and of cities in Tibet have been communist party members of Chinese ethnicity. Besides, there have been a total of 14 party general secretaries of the so-called Autonomous Region of Tibet established by China so far and all of them have been ethnic Chinese communist party members. None has been Tibetan, giving the lie to China's claim about regional leaders being from among the ordinary masses of the concerned region. Likewise, the white paper also claimed that the linguistic heritage of the ethnic minorities had been given protection. The reality is that over the last 60 years, the government of China has split up areas inhabited by the Tibetan people to merge them with various Chinese provinces to thereby deny them the opportunity to protect their ethnic language and script. In fact, even within the so-called Autonomous Region of Tibet, Tibetan has been given the status only of second language. Besides, Mandarin Chinese has been made the medium of teaching in the educational institutions, with those having better knowledge of this language being given better marks in examinations and in selection tests, preference in job opportunities, and being given higher salaries and so on. All this is done in the name of implementing a policy of common national language across the People's Republic of China. It has been starkly obvious that under this egregious policy, the ethnicity and culture of the Tibetan people have been sought to be systematically obliterated.

In particular, China strives to explain that there is respect for religious freedom and so on in Tibet under its rule and on that basis sends work team of its cadres to the monasteries where they coercively

install television sets and force the monks and nuns to watch and listen to its propaganda that praise its policies as perfect and excellent. This deliberately obstructive purpose has been designed to divert the attention of the religiously devout Tibetan monks from their steadfast pursuits of spiritual listening, thinking, and meditating and from their three trainings of self-discipline, rapturous awareness, and sharpening of critical acumen through learning as part of their spiritual training and practice. Not only are all aspects of monastic learning and practices thoroughly disrupted but even the daily routines of the monks and nuns, including in terms of traveling, staying and doing things, are subjected to control. Thus, the religious freedom of the Tibetan people has been destroyed and they have even been banned from putting up any picture of their root spiritual master, His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Besides, a coercive precondition has been imposed on Tibetan graduates seeking any government related employment, requiring them to denigrate their root spiritual master, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, before their candidature could be even considered. Examples such as these are numerous. Throughout the period of the past 60 years of occupation rule, the communist Chinese government carried out a continuous succession of numerous campaigns of repression in Tibet in such names as democratic reforms, Cultural Revolution, Socialist Thought Reform Education, Education in Patriotism, and so on. To the Tibetan people in Tibet, therefore, the past 60 years have been nothing but a period which could only be seen as one of absolute deprivation of human rights and of bondage under the brutal repression of the communist Chinese government.

But that is not all. The atheist communist Chinese government, which rejects any sort of belief in past and future lives, issued in 2007 Regulations on Tibetan Buddhism and Rinpoche Reincarnation, a policy document published as the State Bureau of Religious Affairs Order No. 5. This action has only made the communist Chinese government an object of deprecating laughter by everyone. If it is indeed true, as claimed,

that the government of China protects the reincarnation system of Tibetan Buddhism, the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima recognized by His Holiness the Dalai Lama should be seen enthroned on the seat of his predecessor Panchen Lama. But far from doing anything like that, the government of China has rendered him disappeared along with both his parents. And the question remains: Why does the government of China keep failing to provide a clear answer to all queries on his whereabouts made by the United Nations Human Rights Council?

The Communist Chinese government has never ceased to denigrate His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a champion of world peace, targeting him as its rival enemy. However, on the other hand, it seeks to claim that the power to recognize the reincarnation of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama vested in the communist Chinese government. This is an unabashed claim arising out of utter madness and amounts to a stark baring of the true face of the communist Chinese government for its continued unrestrained trampling on the freedom of religious belief of the Tibetan people. From the 3rd to the 5th of October this year, the Third Special General Meeting of the Tibetan People, which had representations from all the sections of the Tibetan people, was held. And all the participants in that meeting spoke with one voice to fervently pray with unshakeable devotion that His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, who is like the eyes on the forehead and the heart in the bosom of every Tibetan subject and their unsurpassable leader, may live for a hundred aeons; that, at the same time, He may, for the sake of the Buddhist faith and sentient beings, continue to appear in successive reincarnations for as long as sentient beings continue to sustain on the Snowland of Tibet. And the meeting reaffirmed that with regard to the reincarnation in future of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the sole responsibility and authority for its determination resided in His Holiness the Dalai Lama himself and in the duly empowered officials of his Gaden Phodrang Trust and no one else. In particular, the meeting expressed resolute opposition to

the so-called State Bureau of Religious Affairs Order No. 5 of 2007 through which China sought to implement a set of Regulations on Tibetan Buddhism and Rinpoche Reincarnation. Similar kinds of other egregious plots hatched by the government of China keeps on being brought out. The meeting also passed a unanimous resolution to make its position on this issue absolutely clear. Besides, from the 27th to the 29th of November recently, during the three-day 14th Tibetan Religious Conference of the Central Tibetan Administration, it was again reaffirmed that the authority of decision concerning the way and the manner in which the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama should appear solely rests with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama himself. That no government or otherwise will have such authority. That if the Government of the People's Republic of China for political ends chooses a candidate for the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan people will not recognize and respect that candidate. A special three-point resolution outlining these commitments was adopted at the meeting. All these moves have been made in efforts to protect the wishes of the Tibetan people in Tibet and in exile to preserve their right to practice their freedom of religious belief in keeping with their established Tibetan Buddhist traditions inherited through generation. I therefore wish to reiterate the point that the communist Chinese government, which regards religion as poison, can have no right whatsoever to interfere in the process for the recognition of the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and will also never be in a position to do so.

All too frequently the Chinese government speaks and propagates about the importance of friendly relations and stability. Nevertheless, in Tibet it has continued to carry out a relentless policy of uninterrupted violent repression. Also, it has continued to keep making distorted claims about the issue of Tibet, attempted to put up every conceivable kind of obstacles by every possible means whenever any group or organizations, but especially the Central Tibetan Administration, carried out any kind of activity related to the issue of

Tibet. This is very obviously inconsistent with its claims about having concern for the importance of friendly relations and stability. Accordingly, it bears pointing out that the government of China should bring an end to these kinds of actions and behaviours which are designed only to cause damage to friendly relations and stability that it talks so much about. Likewise, the government of China says a great deal about being actively engaged in protecting human rights of the citizens of the People's Republic of China. If this is indeed the intention, the communist Chinese government should, without being encumbered by any sort of morbid fear, bring to an end the highly depressing, brutally repressive policy of ethnic genocide that it is still actively implementing in Tibet.

Throughout the past 60 years of occupation rule, the government of China has trampled on the basic human rights of the Tibetan people; moved to exterminate Tibet's religion, culture, language, and subjected the Tibetan people to brutally violent repression of inestimable magnitude. What is more, these have remained uninterrupted to this day. It is therefore of utmost importance that responsible international organizations and groups such especially as the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Council and others should carry out a result-oriented investigation of the current tragic situation in Tibet. The purpose should be to ensure that the communist Chinese government does not get away with its highly reprehensible conduct in Tibet as if there is nothing wrong with it. I accordingly urge the international community to strive in bringing China to the level of other progressive nations of the world in terms of having the highest of regards for the human rights of its people.

As I have already stated above, this is a day of outstanding significance and in places across the world people are commemorating this festive occasion with the remembrance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's deeds. The absolutely best way to repay gratitude to His Holiness would be to carry out his wishes with a sincerity of purpose. All Tibetan

people should therefore unite as one and pool together whatever capabilities they may have as part of their diligent efforts to achieve the common fundamental good. Tibetan people living in free countries across the world should take their democratic duties as fundamental while taking care not to fall into the trap of becoming a tool of the other side to create disturbances on their behalf and I take this opportunity to remind everyone accordingly.

To sum up, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to all the governments – especially the central government as well state governments in India – besides parliaments, prominent personages, private individuals, and the public at large across the world who have displayed attention, concern, solidarity, and support etc. for the just cause of Tibet. At the same time I urge all of them to continue their support for Tibet to an ever greater extent.

Finally, I pray that His Holiness the Dalai Lama may live for a hundred aeons that all his wishes may be seen fulfilled with spontaneity with the result that peace may prevail across the world and the just cause of Tibet may be achieved in all speediness.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile

10 December 2019

42 countries pledge 8 Action Plans on Tibet as 8th International TSG concludes

The high-level meeting of International Tibet Support Groups which convened on 3 November at the CTA headquarters concluded with a clarion call on the Chinese government to resume the dialogue and engage in earnest negotiations with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama or the CTA without delay among other declarations.

The conference called all the affiliated support groups to consolidate efforts on how to steer the Tibet issue on the forefront in light of the political shifts around the world.

The three-day conference demonstrated deep concern by the TSG members over the worsening situation of Tibet under the PRC and the lack of Chinese counterparts in forging a plausible dialogue based on the Middle Way Approach with the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama or the CTA. The members also appealed to the UN and members of the international community to prompt the Chinese government to enter into negotiations with Tibet so as to reap a mutually beneficial solution.

Meanwhile, the members expressed their admiration for Tibetan's solid commitment to seek the path of non-violence as the main weapon and said, "We are deeply moved by the courage of the Tibetan people in Tibet in their non-violent resistance to Chinese repression and in their efforts to protect their national identity."

The issue of reincarnation was discussed in-depth by the members and they unanimously concluded that "all decisions regarding the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama are the exclusive responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his Gaden Phodrang Trust."

"Interference of any form by the PRC will be deemed illegitimate and further be subjected to sanctions by the international community," they said, adding that they fully support the resolutions passed at the 3rd Special General Meeting of the Tibetans on the reincarnation.

The members solemnly expressed their solidarity to the struggle of Tibetan freedom and also those countries who are equally in the struggle for justice, freedom, and truth that are being blatantly violated under the repressive policies of PRC.

The members also called out those nations in condemnation who despite understanding the magnitude of Tibet's deploring situation chooses not to stand up to the PRC simply out of fear.

"We deplore the fear displayed by many governments to stand up to the PRC in the face of decades of its gross and systematic violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Tibet and in East Turkestan (Ch. Xinjiang) as well as in Southern Mongolia (Inner Mongolia), and currently, in the face of sustained protests, also in Hong Kong.

Instead of firmly acting on the side of truth and justice, those governments and a number of corporate actors betray our core values of democracy, rule of law, self-determination and human rights in pursuit of commercial gain. Similarly, they fail to challenge the PRC's attacks on those very values and the institutions that embody them in our own countries. We are determined to expose such betrayal of and attacks on our values and will forge powerful coalitions and alliances to do so," voiced the members.

The three-day conference also outlined 8 priority Action Plans along with series of recommendations to be effectively considered and implemented by governments.

In the view that Tibetan plateau playing a critical role is now facing the danger of climate change which not only poses a threat to the health and sustainability of Tibetans but of the entire world. The members, therefore, jointly proposed to include Tibet into the debate of this most urgent issue of time.

The members also agreed upon the protection and preservation of the Tibetan language as imperative on the ground that the Tibetan Buddhism is the gateway to the understanding of the mind and of human behavior, including the generation of love and compassion and other qualities essential to human happiness.

Declaration of the 8th International Conference of Tibet Support Groups, Dharamshala, 3-5 November 2019

The 8th International Conference of Tibet Support Groups was convened in Dharamshala from 3 to 5 November 2019 by the Core Group for Tibetan Cause at a time of major political changes in the world, just as when the first such conference met in Dharamshala, in March 1990. To meet the opportunities and challenges of such a time of change, the reinvigoration of the Tibet movement is not only called for, but is already evidenced by the participation of 180 delegates from Tibet support groups and other supporters from 42 countries in all regions of the world, as well as by their determination to intensify their efforts for the freedom of Tibet and its people.

The participants met for an extended time with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and were greatly encouraged by his explanation of his four commitments—promotion of human values, promotion of religious harmony; preservation of Tibetan language, culture and Nalanda Buddhist heritage, as well as the protection of Tibet's natural environment; and revival of ancient Indian knowledge—which reflect his altruistic vision for the future.

Participants fully endorse his conviction regarding the profoundly important contribution the Tibetan people and culture can make to human development, and are therefore persuaded that support for the Tibetan cause is support for humanity as a whole.

The conference was addressed by the Sikyong (President) of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile, which is called the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), and the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile. The conference heard speakers from Tibet, Hong Kong, East Turkestan, Southern Mongolia and Taiwan, as well as from India, South Africa, the U.K, Australia, China, and the US, all of whom shared a sense of optimism and actively participated in the proceedings of the conference.

We, the participants in the Conference express deep concern that, whereas the situation in occupied Tibet has gone from bad to worse, there are still no signs that the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is ready to engage in negotiations with representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama or the CTA to resolve the conflict caused by the PRC's illegal invasion of Tibet almost 70 years ago and by its occupation of the country and repression of the Tibetan people ever since. We call on the Chinese government to resume the dialogue, which occurred on the basis of the Middle Way Approach and engage in earnest negotiations without delay, and we urge the UN and members of the international community to persuade the Chinese government to do so. At the same time, we commend His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration for their continued commitment to non-violence and to seeking a mutually beneficial negotiated solution. We are deeply moved by the courage of the Tibetan people in Tibet in their non-violent resistance to Chinese repression and in their efforts to protect their national identity.

We deplore the fear displayed by many governments to stand up to the PRC in the face of decades of its gross and systematic violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Tibet and in East Turkestan (Ch. Xinjiang) as well as in Southern Mongolia (Inner Mongolia), and currently, in the face of sustained protests, also in Hong Kong. Instead of firmly acting on the side of truth and justice, those governments and a number of corporate actors betray our core values of democracy, rule of law, self-determination and human rights in pursuit of commercial gain. Similarly, they fail to challenge the PRC's attacks on those very values and the institutions that embody them in our own countries. We are determined to expose such betrayal of and attacks on our values and will forge powerful coalitions and alliances to do so.

Given the critical role of the Tibetan Plateau, as the Third Pole, in global climate change, we commit to insert Tibet, which is at the frontline of the climate crisis, into the debate of this most urgent issue of our time.

Conscient of the immense contribution of Tibetan Buddhism to the understanding of the mind and of human behavior, including the generation of love and compassion and other qualities essential to human happiness, and therefore the value of the scholarly works in which this vast knowledge is contained, it is imperative to protect the Tibetan language and culture that provides access to it.

Supporting the decision of the 3rd Special General Meeting of the Tibetans in Dharamshala in October, we insist that all decisions regarding the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama are the exclusive responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his Gaden Phodrang Trust. Any interference in this process by the PRC authorities and any attempt at selecting or appointing a Dalai Lama by the Chinese government will have no legitimacy and should be condemned and subjected to sanctions by the international community.

The struggle for Tibetan freedom is a struggle for justice, truth, and freedom. We are committed to continuing the work until the conflict is resolved to the satisfaction of the Tibetan people. As long as the Tibetan people remains under alien occupation, subjugation and exploitation, and is therefore denied the exercise of its right to self-determination, the Tibetan struggle for freedom and justice is everyone's struggle for freedom and justice. And so, just as we call for solidarity with the people of Tibet, so too we express solidarity with all who suffer under the PRC's repressive policies, indeed, all other peoples deprived of their freedom, for no one can be truly free so long as others are oppressed.

As the 1990s era of people's resistance returns, Tibet will be at forefront once again: Sikyong at the 8th International TSG conference

For three days, 180 political leaders, MPs, Tibet Support Groups, policymakers, pro-democracy activists, intellectuals including Chinese scholars across 42 countries will be deliberating on galvanising global Tibet advocacy at the 8th International Conference of Tibet Support Groups being held here in Dharamshala.

The 8th edition of International Tibet Support Groups conference is dedicated to consolidating efforts on how to steer the Tibet issue on the forefront, build a conducive environment for multilateral coalitions on proactive Tibet campaigns and to further the Central Tibetan Administration's Middle Way Policy with the view to renewing the Sino-Tibet dialogue.

The discussions was largely pertain to charting out concrete action plans for the future course of global Tibet advocacy, mainly on optimizing engagement with the Chinese authorities on Tibet issue.

The Conference is being convened by the Core Group for the Tibetan Cause, India under the facilitation of the Department of Information and International Relations, CTA.

The inaugural plenary hosted a keynote address by the President of CTA, Dr Lobsang Sangay, preceded by the Speaker of Tibetan Parliament, Pema Jungney's address and the National Convenor of Core Group for Tibetan Cause, Shri Rinchen Khando Khrimey's welcome address.

Setting the tone for the largest global convention on Tibet, President Dr Lobsang Sangay said the era of the 1990s people's resistance movement is returning in full power, challenging authoritarian and repressive regimes around the world. In such an opportune environment, he said, the international community and stakeholders must step up activism for human rights and



President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration delivers the keynote address at the inaugural ceremony of the 8th International Conference of Tibet Support Groups at Central Tibetan Secretariat, 3 November 2019. Photo/Tenzin Jigme/CTA

religious freedom in Tibet into the highest gear.

"We are on the verge of entering the 1990s era," said President Dr Sangay. "As I read in news recently the Prime Minister of Lebanon resigned because of the consistent people's protest from the grassroots level. PM of Iraq resigned just yesterday because of people's protest in Iraq. People's protest in Istanbul, in Turkey, Venezuela, everywhere! And of course, our dear friends in Hong Kong who have been persistently and consistently leading the people's protest. The 1990s is back and the world is shaking for more Freedom, more human rights and more democracy."

"And our friends in Hongkong, East Turkestan and Taiwan are making it loud and clear that we are here not for a few weeks, not for a few months but for the long haul."

"The 90s was the peak stage of the Tibetan movement. Why? Mass movement around the world shook the earth and brought changes, including democracy and human rights around the world," he added. "In this changing landscape, as Tibet support Groups

we have to tighten our belt and march forward for some more years, into some more activities around the world so that we can march towards Lhasa very soon."

Sikyong drove home the urgency of tackling China's aggressive politicisation of the centuries-old sacred institution of Tibetan reincarnation.

He said, "Recently the US Ambassador at large for International Religious Freedom, Sam Brownback came here to Dharamshala at the invitation of CTA and made the strongest speech in support of Tibetan religious freedom and reincarnation, after what we had recently concluded as the 3rd Special General body meeting of Tibetan representatives.

"And the Ambassador Brownback agreed upon the resolutions passed at the Special Meeting and said that in his speech which was approved by the US State Department and the White House that official stance of the US Government is to support the Tibetan stance on reincarnation."

Early October this year, the largest body of Tibetan people's representatives unanimously passed a four-point



The opening ceremony of the 8th International Tibet Support Groups conference in Dharamshala, India, on 3 November 2019.

resolution in response to the Chinese Communist Party's advancing interference. The resolutions re-affirmed the relationship between the lineage of Dalai Lamas and Tibetan people as inseparable and inevitable; called for the lineage of successive reincarnations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to continue; asserted the sole authority of His Holiness and the duly empowered officials of the Gaden Phodrang Trust with regard to the reincarnation and finally, it outrightly rejected China's interference in process for the discovery and recognition of reincarnations in Tibetan Buddhism in general and especially its coercive Order No. 5.

Further in the context, Sikyong said, "The traditional reincarnation system was invented by Tibetans. The Tulku system is a thousand years old. We invented it so we have complete copyright over it, patent over it. China can manufacture a lot of duplicate things but they can not make duplicates of the reincarnation system. This is originally ours; Tibetan own it."

He categorically stated that there's no room for questions or debates on the ownership of Reincarnation for the Reincarnation tradition was invented by Tibetans a thousand years ago, "in 4000 meters high Tibetan plateau with the blessings of gods and deities of Tibet."

"Some countries propose to mediate and suggest that there can be one Dalai Lama from the Chinese side and one from the Tibetan side. On reincarnation, there is no common ground! We must make our argument loud and clear. This is an issue of religious freedom and no one can interfere."

If any government wishes to find common ground, Sikyong said, "find common ground on the Middle Way Approach on the issue of Tibet." There is no argument whatsoever on the issue of Reincarnation.

Sikyong took a moment to thank the gathering of 180-strong representatives of Tibet Support Groups, saying that "their efforts, big or small, makes the difference." Quoting His Holiness, he said, 'You all are not simply pro-Tibet but you are pro-justice.'

"All of you have been with us, not just for one or two months, not just for one or two years but more than 10, 20 and 30 years... You should take pride that we were the key player in 1990s when the world changed into more democracy, more human rights. We were the key players. Free Tibet movement was very popular and Free Tibet was a slogan."

He also declared that Tibetans worldwide led by the CTA will observe the year 2020 as a year of saying thank you to His Holiness.

In conclusion, Sikyong hailed the 8th International TSG Conference a hugely auspicious event given the auspicious symbolism of the no. 8 in Chinese numerology.

"Today is the 8th International Tibet Support Group conference. In Chinese, no. 8 is Bā [Chin: 八] means prosperity which is why the Chinese Olympic was held on 8 August 2008 at 8.8 pm. So it is Bā, prosperity for Tibet is going to happen through this conference. In 1990, 8 resolutions were passed. From this conference, we have to pass 8 different campaigns. Coincidentally, 88 different groups have come to this conference and in 2011, I took the oath on August 8th, sending a message to China that during my tenure, prosperity after prosperity will happen. And it has! Dharamshala has prospered."

"Bā conference will lead to Bā[prosperity] for Tibet and that's how His Holiness the Dalai Lama will return to Tibet, basic freedom will be restored in Tibet and Tibetans in and outside Tibet will be reunited. And we will have the 9th TSG conference in Tibet. We are the Bā conference moving to the 9th. So it is all good," he concluded.

Sri RK Khrimey, National Convenor for Core Group for Tibetan Cause, while introducing the regional and national level Tibet support group chapters in India, said that over 16 major organisations and 300 local chapters have been voluntarily and actively mobilising efforts for the Tibetan cause since the time His Holiness the Dalai Lama stepped on Indian soil as a refugee.

"These NGOs, voluntary organizations have been working since the day, the year when His Holiness the Dalai Lama has landed in our country India because this was the first voice in our Indian parliament at the time to liberate every inch of Indian land occupied by China, and secondly to liberate Tibet. These were the resolutions."

The former Indian Minister announced that the recently convened 6th All India Tibet Support Group Conference issued a declaration acknowledging

and extending complete support to the Middle Way Approach policy as the official political stand of the Central Tibetan Administration vis-à-vis the outstanding Tibet issue and secondly, to bolster support in initiating constructive negotiations between the envoys of



180 strong participation of Tibet Support Groups from 42 countries at the 8th International Tibet Support Group conference in Dharamshala, 3 November 2019. Photo/Tenzin Jigme/CTA

His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government.

He also made clear that the TSGs accords the complete understanding of the Middle Way Policy as espoused by the Central Tibetan Administration and will accordingly align activities based on the CTA's MWA.

"As concerned with India we have a powerful and popular prime minister who has been established as the most powerful leader in the world in the short span of 5 years. We have full faith in our Prime Minister that he will take the Tibet cause on an appropriate time for the problems to be solved. So therefore with his leadership and confidence, the issue of Tibet will come with a solution and will be solved," he said.

He also heaped admirations for the leadership of President Dr Sangay and spirit and determination of Tibetan people inside Tibet as well as those in exile who have persevered a long hard struggle and continue to do so.

"So, therefore, I heartily welcome you with a commitment towards a mission. We would like to see some solution to come during the lifetime of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama so that he can honourably go to his motherland and re-establish the authority. This is our urgency that we have to work towards," he concluded.

Speaker Puma Jungney, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, presiding over the plenary as the chief guest said, "During our earlier years of exile, Tibetan people and Central Tibetan Administration received minimum support and attention from the International communities. However, in the late 1980s, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Central Tibetan Administration and very few Tibet Support Groups succeeded in gaining attention from international media and public for the issue of Tibet. Thus in 1990, Central Tibetan Administration held the First International Conference on Tibet Support Groups in Dharamsala to bring more awareness about the issue of Tibet on a broader platform and to garner more support from the international communities. Today, we have more than 250 Tibet Support Groups, who are working actively towards resolving the issue of Tibet."

As he thanked the delegates for their enduring and unrelenting support and activism for Tibet, he remained that until 1979, CTA and the Tibetan people adopted a policy of seeking independence for Tibet since Tibet was an independent country before the illegal occupation.



Long-time Tibet supporters from 42 countries gather in Dharamshala for the 8th International Conference of Tibet Support Groups.

"But then, with the changes in the independent status of countries and nationalities in the world, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama came up with the great vision of Middle Way Approach as the most sensible step in solving the conflicts of Tibet and China in the early 1970s."

"There have been seven International Conferences on Tibet Support Groups and in all these conferences, Central

Tibetan Administration has, again and again, requested you to acknowledge this mutually beneficial steps in solving the cause of Tibet and today on this 8th International Conference too, we appeal you once more to follow the Middle Way Approach in working towards Tibetan movement. As you all are aware that this Approach is the political stand of the Central Tibetan Administration."

Among other notable speakers of the two day discussions will be Martin Bursik, former Deputy Prime Minister and former Environment Minister, Czech Republic; Michale Van Walt, Executive President of Kreddha, USA; Surendar Kumar, National Co-Convenor, Core Group for Tibetan Cause; Ben Shuei Kobayashi, Japan Committee for Tibet; Gunther Cologna, International Tibet Network, Co-Chair, South Tyrol; Axel Holger Grafmanns, Executive Director, Tibet Initiative Deutschland, Germany; Marco Antonio Karam, Director, Casa Tibet Mexico; Ajai Singh, President, Indo Tibet Friendship Society; Tenzin Jigdal and Mandie McKeown, International Tibet Network and others.

Meanwhile, a diverse panel of MPs, scholars, democracy activists from South Africa, Hong Kong, East Turkistan, China, Taiwan, Inner Mongolia and Australia will discuss the momentum of political support for Tibet in their respective countries.

Mkhuleko Hlengwa, MP, Inkatha Freedom Party; Joseph Cheng, activist, Hong Kong; Zumretay Airken, World Uyghur Congress; Chong Yi Feng, Professor of University of Technology, Sydney; Fu-Te Ford Liao, Director, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy; Olhunud Daichin, Chairman, South Mongolia Congress and Michael Danby, former MP and former Co-Chair of Australia Parliamentary Support Group for Tibet are the panel speakers.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama graces the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference

Led by the heads of the various traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and native Tibetan Bon tradition, the religious congregation of 115 reincarnate lamas, eminent Buddhist scholars and representatives of all major Tibetan Buddhist institutes in exile including 17 nun scholars and Buddhist masters from the Himalayan region—attending the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference—collectively in earnest prayers beseeched for the continuation of the Dalai Lama institution and pledged their unshakeable trust and devotion in His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the supreme authority over Tibetan Buddhism and the Tibetan people.

Obliging to the impassioned prayers and aspirations of his devout, karmic-bound followers, His Holiness today delivered benevolent words of reassurance that he is in “excellent health and completely joyful”, while also indicating that there is still time before the process of choosing a successor starts.

On hearing the news, the gathering of the Buddhist masters abounded with sentiments of gratitude, blissfulness, and hope. Outside the auditorium at CTA headquarters, Tibetans came in droves to bask in his blessings and celebrate this rare visit of their most revered spiritual leader, the heart and soul of the Tibetan people.

Speaking at the gathering of the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said, “I extend my greetings and thanks to the heads of the various traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and native Tibetan Bon tradition who have come to participate in the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference. I thank everyone, the respective religious heads as well as their representatives.”

His Holiness then began by paying tribute to the ancient Indian tradition, particularly the Nalanda tradition, which he described as the source of the Buddhist tradition practised in Tibet since the 8th century.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the valedictory session of the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference as the key-honoured guest at T-building auditorium, Central Tibetan Secretariat in Gangchen Kyishong, 29 November 2019. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

“The Buddhist tradition followed in Tibet is according to the instructions first laid down by Nalanda master Shantarakshita who Trisong Detsen invited to Tibet in the 8th century. Due to the kindness of such great Indian masters and Tibetan dharma king Trisong Detsen—who despite having special links to China decided to seek Buddhism in India—the Tibetan people have inherited the unique tradition of Buddhism that follows the path of reason and not the authority of scriptures,” His Holiness said.

It was also in Trisong Detsen’s reign that Shantarakshita envisioned the translation of Indian Buddhist literature into Tibetan and established Samye, the first Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Tibet which included a Monastic section and a Translation section where translation of texts of Buddha’s teaching (Tib: Kagyur) and commentaries by Indian masters (Tib: Tengyur) was carried out.

His Holiness spoke about the 7th-century dharma king Songtsen Gampo who invented Tibetan script based on India’s Devanagari script by commissioning Tibetan scholars to devise Tibetan alphabet and grammar from Devanagari script which enabled translations of

several important Buddhist texts from India into Tibetan.

“And later during the reign of Trisong Dhetson, the Tibetan script and language was further enriched as a corpus of Buddhist literature and texts covering vast and profound knowledge of ancient Indian literature were translated into Tibetan.”

In between these reflections, His Holiness frequently remarked that he is eternally indebted to the ancient Nalanda masters and scholars for their contribution to Tibetan Buddhism.

“I would say that Tibetan people are truly blessed to have received and uphold such profound religious tradition which can be considered a pinnacle of culture,” His Holiness said. “In fact, Buddhism which came to Tibet from the Nalanda tradition should not be regarded simply as a religion, it has the potential to serve the academic field, as logic and psychology.”

Dismissing past notions of Tibetan Buddhism as being Lamaism, His Holiness noted the growing interest among Western scientists in engaging

in deeper conversations with Tibetan Buddhist contemplative disciplines.

"These days, an increasing number of scientists and scholars are appreciating the emphasis the Tibetan tradition places on study, reason, and logic and have noted that the logical character of Tibetan Buddhism is comparable to science."

On the other hand, His Holiness also noted that more and more people, especially in mainland China, are coming to realise that Tibetan Buddhism is a complete form of Buddhism.

"These growing interests are an affirmation that the Tibetan Buddhist tradition has the potential to contribute to humanity. Based on over 40 years of discussions with scientists and thorough study of the Buddhist treatises, I have come to identify three parts within the texts of Buddha's teachings and commentaries which are Science, philosophy, and religion."

While the Buddhism as religion will serve the spiritual practitioners, His Holiness said Buddhist science and philosophy, on the other hand, could make pathbreaking contributions to key fields of modern study and towards emotional wellbeing as well.

Hence in retrospect, His Holiness said the loss of Tibet's independence and thereafter the six decades of Tibetan exilehood has been a blessing in disguise, an opportunity to re-invigorate Tibetan identity as the custodian of one of the pinnacles of cultural and religious tradition.

"This is the fruition of the farsighted vision and kindness of the great dharma kings, erudite scholars and masters of Tibet," His Holiness said, imploring that in harnessing the potential teachings of this tradition, Tibetans are in a unique position to serve the humanity.

Commenting on the prevailing situation in Tibet, His Holiness said he greatly admires the courage and spirit of Tibetans inside Tibet that remains undaunted and undefeated even in the face of extreme brutality and violence.

His Holiness recited prayers from "The Words of Truth", an invocation of compassion towards all suffering sentient beings that He composed in 1960, and urged everyone to pray for the brothers and sisters who sacrificed their lives for the Tibetan cause.

"It is an act of courage and practice of non-violence. We must always remember them when we recite the Words of Truth."

Speaking to the gathering, Speaker Pema Jungney of the Tibetan Parliament in exile recapitulated few points based on the advice presented by His Holiness during the series of religious conferences held previously.

Further remarking on the resolutions of the 14th Religious Conference adopted unanimously by the religious heads and representatives, Speaker said that it was only right that the successor of His Holiness must be chosen by himself and



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the heads of the major Tibetan religious traditions and Tibetan native Bon tradition at the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference in Dharamsala, HP, India on November 29, 2019.
Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

"The Tibetans inside Tibet are the source of our strength and inspiration. And likewise, we are theirs. Their indomitable spirit and the community efforts of Tibetans in exile have together contributed to the Tibetan exile success story," He said.

His Holiness concluded by re-affirming the special karmic relation between the six million Tibetan people and Chenresig and assured that the Tibetan people, for eons and eons, will remain spiritually connected and guided by the Buddha of Compassion, Chenresig.

In the afternoon, the valedictory session was held which was attended by the Speaker Pema Jungney of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and Kalon Karma Gelek Yuthok of Department of Religion and Culture.

not anyone else especially not to fulfill a political agenda.

Kalon of Religion and Culture, Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok pledged his department's commitment to do their best in fulfilling the recommendations of the conference.

"Following the advice of His Holiness, we are committed to focusing more on collaborating in dialogue with science to share Buddhist philosophy and its study of logic which continues to be of relevance today," Kalon concluded.

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உமய்லம் Middle Way Approach

Peaceful conflict resolution for the 21st century

14th Tibetan Religious Conference affirms the Dalai Lama's sole authority in his reincarnation, illegitimizes China's meddling in religious affairs

Ever since 1969, when asked about his next reincarnation, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has told the international media that it was a matter to be decided by the Tibetan people. As it stands now, it is important for the Tibetan people to enact a legitimate stand on the Dalai Lama's reincarnation. In that light, a necessary special resolution on reincarnation was passed at the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference which began today at the headquarters of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). The conference is being organised by the Department of Religion and Culture, CTA.

The relationship between successive Dalai Lamas and the Tibetan people has been akin to that between head and neck, or, as it were, between the body and its shadow, and therefore never ever separable. Hence it is only to be expected that the tradition of the continuance of the lineage of the Dalai Lamas through successive reincarnations based on the Tibetan Buddhist tradition should remain for the sake of the Tibetan people.

As such, through this conference, Tibetan religious heads and representatives see it as imperative to adopt a special resolution which thus follows hereunder.

Dharamshala Declaration – Resolutions:

The Karmic bond between the Dalai Lamas and the Tibetan people have been inseparable and the present status of the Tibetan people being extremely critical, all Tibetans genuinely wish for the continuation of the Institution and Reincarnation of the Dalai Lama in the future. We therefore strongly supplicate to His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama for the same.

The authority of decision concerning the way and the manner in which the next reincarnation of the XIV Dalai Lama should appear solely rests with His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama himself. No government or otherwise will have



Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 14th Tibetan Religious Conference convened at the CTA headquarters, 27 November 2019. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

such authority. If the Government of the People's Republic of China for political ends chooses a candidate for the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan people will not recognize and respect that candidate.

Regarding the method of recognizing the future reincarnations of the Dalai Lama, the same unique Tibetan traditional method, which has been continuously used until now, will be followed. This method conforms to be basic philosophy and tenets of the Buddhadharma and originated in Tibet over 800 years ago.

The three-day conference is administered by the heads and important figures of various traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and native Tibetan Bon tradition including H.E Sakya Trizin Rinpoche, H.E Gaden Tri Rinpoche, H.E Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche, H.E Kyabje Menri Trizin Rinpoche, Kyabje Tsurphu Gorshe Gyaltsab Rinpoche (Representative of Gyalwa Karmapa), Rev. Taklung Matrul Rinpoche (Representative of H.E Taklung Shabdrung Rinpoche), Namdroling Tulku Choedhar Rinpoche, Ven. Khenpo Ngedhon Tenzin (Representative of H.E Gyalwang Drukchen), and Jonang Gyaltsab Rinpoche.

Other eminent Tibetan rinpoches and tulkus, representatives and lamas from

the Himalayan region, Khen Rinpoches of major Tibetan Buddhist institutes in exile, heads and members of Tibetan monastic institutes and representatives of Tibetan nunneries were present among the 100-strong participants. Dignitaries of the Tibetan Administration including the heads of three pillars of Democracy, Kalons, and Members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile attended the inaugural ceremony.

The conference will focus on enabling extensive participation of the religious heads and other important figures of Tibetan Buddhism in the discussion and decision making on the overarching significance of Tibetan tradition of recognising the reincarnation of scholars-adepts with a particular emphasis on the discovery and recognition of the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Addressing the inaugural session of the conference, Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay apprised on the resolutions passed in the recently held 3rd Special General Meeting of Tibetans whereby it was declared that the exclusive right and the power regarding the discovery and recognition of reincarnations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama lies in His Holiness himself and the Gaden Phodrang Trust of the Dalai Lama. And

any effort being made by China via its Order no 5 will be outrightly considered as invalid as per the resolution adopted.

Sikyong then notified on the alarming meddling of China in the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama not only through its implementation of Order no 5 but by threatening and putting pressures on India against interfering in the selection of next Dalai Lama.

"China's extreme hostility towards religious freedom in Tibet is totally unacceptable to us and likewise, we vehemently reject any advancement of China's interferences in the process of the reincarnation system. If any, It should be for the Tibetans to decide and defend" said Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay.

"Though China continues to put pressure on India, India's consistent generosity and kindness towards Tibetans have always been the same" added Sikyong.

Remarking on the recent visit of Senator Brownback, US Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Sikyong said that the US fully supports and favours the Tibetan Buddhist system of selecting the successors.

"The US government has officially stated its support for the Tibetan people's religious freedom to select, educate and venerate their religious leaders without state interferences," said the democratically elected leader of the Tibetans in exile.

Kalon for Religion and Culture, Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok, in his opening remarks, explained the recent steps taken to change the title of the conference. He expressed his appreciation and confidence that this conference in its optimum capacity will deliver fruitful results.



US hits back at China for protesting US Envoy's meeting with the Dalai Lama; Praises India's "Extraordinary Generosity"

Hitting back at China for its "meritless" claim that the Dalai Lama's succession must comply with Chinese laws and regulations, the United States reiterated that Tibetan communities, like all faith communities, should be able to select, educate, & venerate their religious leaders without government interference.

Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of South and Central Asia, said in a tweet that "The Chinese Communist Party claim that Dalai Lama's succession "must comply with Chinese laws and regulations" is meritless. Tibetan communities, like all faith communities, should be able to select, educate, & venerate their religious leaders without government interference. AGW".

She also said Ambassador Sam Brownbacks' meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala emphasised the enduring US support for the Tibetan people, and also appreciated India for supporting Tibetan religious freedom.

"@IRF_Ambassador's meeting with His Holiness in Dharamsala emphasizes enduring U.S. support for the Tibetan people. India has greatly supported Tibetan religious freedom, and the U.S. stands in deep admiration of India's extraordinary generosity," she tweeted.

The US Ambassador at large for International Religious Freedom, His Excellency Samuel D. Brownback was in Dharamshala last week at the special invitation of CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay. The Ambassador's presence here at the seat of Central Tibetan Administration gestured the strongest political support for the Tibetan people, particularly for Tibetan religious freedom.

After more than hour-long meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay, he

said the US stance on the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama is in accord with the resolutions passed at the third Special General meeting of Tibetan people.

"Earlier this month at the 3rd Special General meeting in Dharamshala, Tibetans from far and wide underscored the right of the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan leaders to identify and recognise a successor to His Holiness and rejected Chinese authorities to interfere in this process. Let me be clear! The United States shares that view," said Ambassador Brownback while officiating the inauguration of the First International Conference on Tibetan Performing Arts at Dharamshala.

"Tibetan Buddhists and all other faith communities should be able to select, educate and venerate their religious leader without government interference. the selection effects not just Tibetans but for the global Buddhist community. Decision regarding the selection of Tibetan Buddhist leaders rests with the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhist leaders and people of Tibet. Period!"

The US government under the Trump administration has bolstered its moral stance and leadership in advancing religious freedom for Tibetan people, Uyghurs and for people of faith all around the world. Building on the success of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act signed by President Trump, a bipartisan Tibetan Policy and Support Act 2019 was introduced in the US Senate and House of Representatives in September this year. If enacted, the bill would impose sanctions and a visa ban on any Chinese official who interferes in the selection of a successor to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In addition, the bill would require the Secretary of State to seek to establish a consulate in Lhasa.

For detailed news visit:

www.tibet.net

34 Chinese scholars, democratic leaders issue joint statement rejecting Chinese government's claims in the Dalai Lama's reincarnation

Prominent Chinese scholars and leaders, including the former chief editor of Beijing Spring, Mr Hu Ping, Chinese democratic leaders Mr Chen Pokong and many others attended the “New York Sino -Tibet Dialogue- 2019”, Chinese outreach program organised by the Office of Tibet, Washington DC.

At the event, former chief editor of Beijing Spring, Mr Hu Ping read out the joint statement, issued by a number of prominent Chinese scholars and leaders who live in the United States, rejecting the Chinese Government’s interference in the Reincarnation of the next Dalai Lama which it stated is Tibetan People’s right. It further said:

1. The reincarnation of the Dalai Lama is purely a Tibetan religious affair and the Dalai Lama himself has the sole legitimate authority on it, and the CCP has no right to interfere. Throughout the history of Tibetan Buddhism, the tradition of Lamas to choose their successor has existed. The Dalai Lama is fully entitled to designate his own successor. During the Qing dynasty, Manchu emperors interfered in the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama by means of the Golden Urn. The only exception, the 11th Dalai Lama went through the Golden Urn process but subsequent Dalai Lamas were recognized as reincarnations through rituals of Tibetan Buddhism and have not subscribed to the Golden Urn rule. The 14th Dalai Lama was similarly determined without going through the Golden Urn rule. As the Dalai Lama previously stated, “The CCP is an atheist who criticises religions, especially treating Buddhism as a sign of ignorance, backwardness, and has always accused me of being a devil. It is reasonable if they say ‘no’ to allowing the devil to reincarnate, but now the CCP is clamouring to get reincarnation of the devil for themselves.” It’s out of the question, ridiculously illogical. The CCP is attempting to appoint reincarnation by meddling with His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s authority in this matter. This is a brutal violation of the right of Tibetan

Buddhists within Tibet and all around the world. It is illegal and invalid.

2. We strongly support Tibetans’ fight for their basic human rights and freedom, preservation of their cultural heritage, religious freedom, and to safeguard their natural ecosystem.

3. We are resolute in our support of His Holiness’ proposal of “Middle Way Approach”. It is beneficial for both the Tibetan community and the Chinese people.

4. We respect and support the Dalai Lama’s wish to promote Tibet-Chinese friendship. Tibet-China shares a long history, and we are willing to strengthen Tibetan-Chinese friendship.

Prominent Chinese scholars and leaders, including the former chief editor of Beijing Spring, Mr Hu Ping, Chinese democratic leaders Mr Chen Pokong, Wang Dan, Wu Er Kai Xi, Wang Juntao and several organisations, such as Beijing Spring Magazine, China Democratic Solidarity Alliance, China Democracy Party National Committee, National Joint Headquarters of China Democracy Party, International Han-Tibetan Friendship, and the China Association of Political Asylum Seekers signed and support the statement.

Prominent political commentator and Chinese democratic leader Mr Chen Pokong thanked the Representative of Office of Tibet for bringing them together and lauded the CTA’s effort for the smooth passage of the Tibetan Policy and Support bill in the House Foreign Affairs Committee recently.

Mr Chen shared his thoughts on the CCP’s failing economy and foreign diplomacy, social unrest in Hong Kong, and problems in many parts of China.

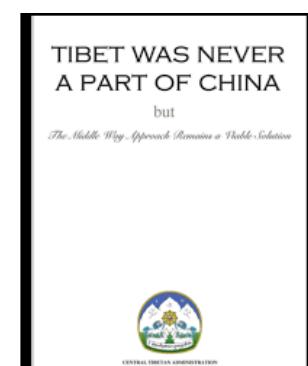
A Representative of Hongkong protesters also spoke on behalf of Hongkongers and shared their vision, determination and goal.

Representative Ngodup Tsering and Chinese Liaison Officer, Tsultrim Gyatso, attended the event along with President and board members of Tibetan Association NY & NJ. President of RTYC and Kunga Tashi, former Chinese Liaison officer were also among those present.

Representative Tsering spoke about the need for all victims of Chinese communist’s atrocities- Tibetans, Uighurs, and Hong Kongers, to fight together and intensify our own struggle in the wake of international outrage at the sinister design of the CCP to control the world. He elaborated on the Middle Way Policy which CTA has been pursuing for more than 4 decades. The CCP has no other interest than their power and authority, citing the case of Fudan University in China, where freedom of thought was replaced by allegiance to Xi’s thought, according to the ABC report. He also urged the attendees to expand the Sino-Tibet friendship circle.

The Chinese Liaison officer, Tsultrim Gyatso, welcomed the guests and introduced the programmes and outreach plans of the Office of Tibet, which is especially geared to building rapport and friendship and awareness in the Chinese diaspora. He thanked the Chinese supporters for their long-standing friendship and support.

The President of the Tibetan Association of New York and New Jersey, Mr. Sonam Gyephel, introduced community development projects including Sunday schools.



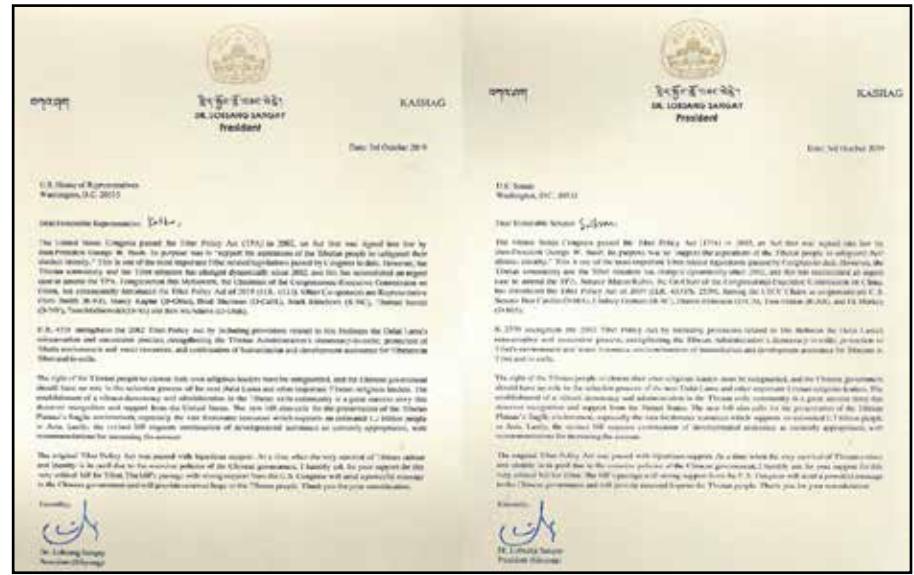
Urge your members of Congress and Senate to co-sponsor the Tibetan Policy Act 2019: Sikyong appeals Tibetans in US

President of the Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay, today called upon the Tibetan people in the U.S. to lobby the Congresspersons and Senators of their respective constituencies by urging them to co-sponsor the Tibetan Policy and Support Act 2019 (H.R. 4331).

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs is set to hold a markup session, a process by which a U.S. congressional committee debates, amends, and rewrites proposed legislation on the Tibetan Policy and Support Act 2019 (H.R. 4331).

Built on the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019 was introduced in the US House on 13 September 2019 by Rep. James McGovern (D-Mass.), chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, and introduced in the Senate on 24 September by the commission's Co-Chair Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.). The bill has already 30 bipartisan co-sponsors.

If passed, the bill would impose sanctions on any Chinese officials who interfere in the process of recognizing the successor or reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama. It would recognize the Central Tibetan Administration as the legitimate representative reflecting the aspirations of Tibetan people around the world and support the democratic governance of the Tibetan community in exile and authorize the ongoing U.S. appropriations to support Tibetans in



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay appealed members of US Congress and Senate to support the passage of the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019 during his visit to Washington DC in September this year.

Tibet and South Asia. The bill further mandates that there should be no new Chinese consulates in the U.S. unless a U.S. consulate in Lhasa is established.

The Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019 also introduces new key provisions aimed at protecting Tibet's environment and rivers and promoting greater cooperation to mitigate the effects of climate change in Tibet.

The CTA President visited Washington DC in September and November this year to lobby the Congress and Senate for the Tibetan Policy Act and Support 2019. He met with 21 Senators and Congresspersons, including Senator Mitt Romney, Senator James Risch, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Tom Cotton,

Senator Josh Hawley, Senator Steve Daines, Senator Thom Tillis, Senator Pat Toomey, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Jim McGovern, Congressman Andy Levin, Congressman Vern Buchanan, Congressman David Price, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congresswoman Terri Sewell, Congressman Ted Yoho, Congressman Gerry Connolly, Congressman Ron Wright and Congressman Tim Burchett.

As the holiday season draws near, the CTA President appealed to every Tibetan in the U.S. to spare a moment to call, e-mail or schedule a meeting with their respective congresspersons and senators and urge them to co-sponsor, support, and vote for the Tibetan Policy and Support Act 2019 (H.R. 4331).

UMAYLAM ລົງຈາກມາວັນ **中間道路**

Peaceful conflict resolution for the 21st century

Tibetan Policy and Support Act passes through US House Foreign Affairs Committee with strong bipartisan support

The Tibetan Policy and Support Act (HR 4331) passed through the US House Foreign Affairs Committee with strong bipartisan support at a markup hearing on Capitol Hill.

The bill is co-sponsored by the House Foreign Affairs's chairman, Rep. Eliot Engel, who spoke in support for the Tibetan Policy and Support Act (TPSA).

After his remarks, Representative Chris Smith, the former Chair of the Congressional China Commission, voiced his support by detailing the long-standing injustices committed by the Chinese government against the Tibetan people.

Representative McGovern, the current Chair, introduced the bill along with Representative Smith as a bipartisan effort. Rep. Smith highlighted the recent self-immolation protest of a young Tibetan, Yonten, and especially promoted religious freedom as a human right.

Representative Steve Chabot and Representative Gerry Connolly remarked on the imperative nature of the Tibet Policy Act, with Rep. Connolly



Tibetan Policy and Support Act passed through the US House Foreign Affairs Committee with strong bipartisan support at a markup hearing on Capitol Hill, 18 December 2019.

retelling his visit to Dharamsala earlier this year.

Representative Ngodup Tsering of Office of Tibet, Washington DC and Kelsang Dolma attended the markup session of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The bill will be voted on by the whole House in due course.

Earlier this year, CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay ordered for the distribution of packages and personalized

letter that enclosed booklets about the Central Tibetan Administration, the Middle Way Policy, and the Tibetan Policy and Support Act. The Tibetan Policy and Support Act was also strongly lobbied by the Tibetan associations and individuals across America.

“The Central Tibetan Administration would like to thank the House Foreign Affairs Committee for their support,” the Office of Tibet commented.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Middle Way Approach acknowledged in the House of Commons of Canada



Arif Virani, MP for Parkdale-High Park in the House of Commons of Canada. Photo: screengrab

MP Arif Virani, Representative of Parkdale -High Park in the House of Commons of Canada issued a statement during the session of

parliament, acknowledging the positive contributions of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to humanity and the 30th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness.

Addressing the House, MP Arif Virani said, “Today is the 30th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. As the MP for Parkdale- High Park, I take great pride in representing the largest Tibetan diaspora in North America”.

Narrating his experience of meeting with His Holiness in Dharmashala in 2018, MP Arif said, “What I will

always recollect from that meeting is his wisdom, his kindness, and most of all his dedication to the Tibetan people and his promotion of the Middle Way Approach. To our honorary Canadian citizen His Holiness the Dalai Lama, I simply say thank you.”

The Canadian MP expressed his gratitude to His Holiness for his unflinching contributions to the global community through his advocacy of peace and non-violence.

For detailed news visit:

www.tibet.net

Sikyong garners support for Tibet Policy Act 2019 at both Congress and Senate

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay met with Congressman Ted Yoho, a longtime Tibet supporting Republican congressmen. The two met to discuss the possibility of a video conference between congress members and His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Sikyong and the Rep expressed concerns about China's influence in Mongolia, and Rep Yoho agreed that there is bicameral & bipartisan support between the House and Senate for Tibet. Rep Yoho praises Tibetans for their resiliency.

In the afternoon, Sikyong met with Senator Toomey, a Republican Representative for Pennsylvania. Dr Sangay explained the history of the Central Tibetan Administration & Chinese surveillance.

After Senator Toomey, Sikyong met with Congressman Tim Burchett. Representative Tsing has met with Rep Burchett before, and Rep Burchett immediately asked what he could do to help Tibet and agreed to cosponsor the Tibet Policy and Support Act (HR 4331). Rep Burchett's father had fought against the Chinese communists during World War 2. Congressman Burchett even tweeted about the meeting.



Later in the afternoon, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator James Risch, met with Sikyong. Sikyong debriefed the Chairman on the reincarnation issue between the Chinese Communist Party and the Tibetan religious community. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is where the Tibet bill will be read and processed most thoroughly during the legislative process.

After the meeting with Chairman Risch, Sikyong met with Senator Josh Hawley, a rising young Republican senator for the state of Missouri. Senator Hawley gladly stated he would cosponsor the

Tibet Act after Sikyong explained to him the mass surveillance of Tibetans in occupied Tibet.

Sikyong's final senate meeting was with Senator Mitt Romney, a former presidential nominee. Romney recounted when he met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama when His Holiness visited Utah, and he expressed concerns about China's uncooperativeness. The Senator said he wished China would respect the sovereignty of Tibet and other regions.

Overall Sikyong and the Office of Tibet entourage went back and forth across Capitol Hill six times in the blustery weather for the meetings.

Internship Opportunity for College Science Students–2020

The Department of Education, CTA is pleased to announce a month-long internship program at two very reputed research institutes in India – National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) Bangalore and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune. The Internships will be held from June 15 to July 15, 2020.

The interested candidates pursuing B.Sc. (Non- Computer, and Non – Engineering) and M.Sc. may apply to avail of this opportunity (preference

will be given to undergrad science students). It is advisable to check the official websites of these two esteemed institutes to know about the fields in which they are researching to see if it aligns with your field of interest.

NOTE:

Applicants are advised to download the application form and send us the filled form along with the required documents by email at academic@tibet.net.

The last date for application submission

is 15 March 2020.

Incomplete applications, false information, and the applications after the last date of submission will not be entertained.

We have a total of 9 seats available. If the number of applicants exceeds the seat available, the selection will be done on the merit basis.

*For detail announcement kindly visit:
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Canadian MPP urges the Parliament to support the restoration of peace and human rights in Tibet



MPP of Etobicoke—Lakeshore, Christine Hogarth on 10 December addressed the Ontario Parliament on the 30th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel peace prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama, urging all the members of parliament to support the cause of restoring peace and human rights in Tibet.

The MPP said, "Today, I rise in recognition of the Tibetan-Canadian

community as they mark a special anniversary. Thirty years ago today, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in advocating for the independence of Tibet from China in a nonviolent manner."

"The Dalai Lama has worked tirelessly for the restoration of peace and human rights in Tibet. When the Nobel prize committee chose the Dalai Lama, it emphasised that He based His Buddhist peace philosophy on reverence for all living things and the idea of a universal responsibility that embraces both man and nature."

The MPP hailed the Tibetan-Canadian community as "a strong and vibrant community" and said she was honoured that her riding of the Etobicoke—Lakeshore is home to the Tibetan cultural

centre, one of the largest in Canada. "I always look forward to attending events at the centre so I can see first hand the work they do with keeping the Tibetan culture alive in Ontario and Canada."

She concluded her address, urging "all members to take the time to meet the Tibetan-Canadian and listen to their suggestions on what we can do to restore peace and human rights in Tibet."

She also congratulated and commended "the member for Parkdale- High Park, one of the first persons of Tibetan descent ever elected to public office in North America for the work she is doing to raise the profile of the Tibetan-Canadian community here in Queen's Park."

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

Canadians must stand in solidarity with Tibetans, Uyghurs and Hong Kongers: Toronto MPP Bhutila Karpoche

Tibetan-Canadian MPP Bhutila Karpoche, who made history in 2018 by becoming the first Tibetan origin to be elected to public office in North America, raised the subject of worsening human rights conditions in Tibet in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on 10 December, the 30th anniversary of the Nobel peace prize award on His Holiness the Dalai Lama and International Human Rights day.

MMP Bhutila Karpoche in her speech said, "I rise in the House today as proud Tibetan-Canadian to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel peace prize on His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. This honour was bestowed on His Holiness on December 10th, International Human Rights Day or 'the struggle for the liberation of Tibet and efforts for a peaceful resolution instead of using violence.'

However she said the situation in Tibet is worsening and there are ongoing

human rights abuses by the Chinese government.

"The arbitrary imprisonment of environmental activist Anya Sengdra and Tenzin Wangchuk for advocating for Tibetans' right to learn their own language and the more than 150 self-immolations that have occurred since 2009 in protest of Chinese illegal occupation of Tibet and their repressive policies."

The MMP said China's human rights violations were not only limited to Tibet, but also in "East Turkistan and Hong Kong- the recent leaked documents which confirmed the mass detention of Uyghurs in camps for indoctrination and forced labour; and the ongoing movement for democracy in Hong Kong which had reached its seventh month despite the Chinese government's attempts to shut it down through mass arrests and violence."

Quoting the Dalai Lama's Nobel Peace



Bhutila Karpoche, Member of Provincial Parliament for Parkdale-High Park addressing Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Prize speech wherein he talked about the right and freedom of individual and peoples to determine one's own destiny, she urged the Canadians to support the Tibetans, Uyghurs and Hong Kongers in their pursuit for freedom and human rights.

"We who enjoy and have the freedom have a responsibility to support the fight for the freedom of others," she concluded.

Interview: Beijing should respect human rights of Tibetans and democracy in Hong Kong, says exiled leader Lobsang Sangay

Shri Ram Shaw, Hong Kong Free Press

For the last 60 years, there have been uninterrupted protests. There has been a clampdown, but the protests have continued for the last six decades. That shows that Tibetans are not happy with the present Chinese Communist system.

In May, US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad urged China to hold talks with the Dalai Lama, criticising Beijing's interference in Tibetan Buddhists' religious freedom. What is your reaction to this proposal?

Yes, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a very revered person. He wants to have a very moderate, win-win solution based on a middle way approach. But the Chinese government is not listening to the US ambassador and other leaders who keep urging the Chinese leadership to solve the issue of Tibet.

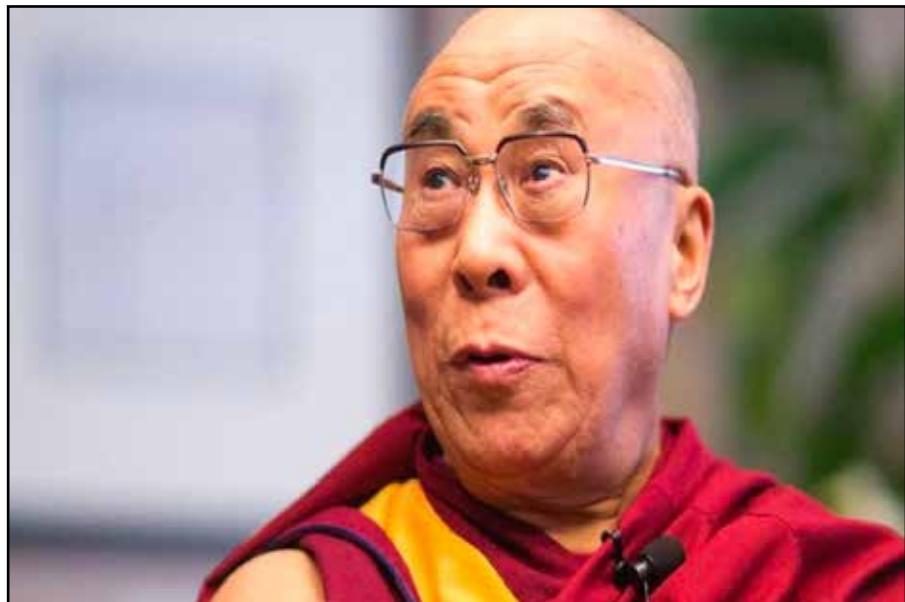
[A]t the moment there is the occupation of Tibet and repression of Tibetans. So what we would say is: end this repression and give genuine autonomy to Tibetans as per the Chinese Constitution. That is the solution.

It has been reported that China wants to control who the next Dalai Lama will be. Are you concerned about Beijing's reach into Buddhist communities?

India is also a land of Buddhism. But, in reality, the Chinese communist government has taken over the lead on the Buddhists long ago. If you look at all the neighbouring Buddhist countries, and Buddhist communities, Buddhist leaders, many of them align more with Communist China than with India.

They have been working for the last two decades to win the soft power of Buddhism. So, they are way ahead of India and they want to change through that the Buddhist leadership and the image of His Holiness Dalai Lama.

They will not succeed in changing his



The Dalai Lama. File photo: Christopher Michel, via Flickr.

image because he is well known around the world. But, on Buddhism – the soft power, they are already at the forefront.

The Dalai Lama himself has made it quite clear that the decision about his reincarnation solely lies on him. Who will decide on a successor to the Dalai Lama after his eventual death?

I think this one we have to clarify. It's not His Holiness. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has said that it is for the Tibetan people to decide. And, just recently we had a special General Body meeting of Tibetan Community leaders from 24 countries, around 315 of them came and passed a unanimous resolution saying that we want that incarnation of Tibetan people.

So it is for the Tibetan people to decide, not the Communist Party of China because when you are communist you are atheist... you believe that religion is poison.

And all the Chinese government has done in Tibet is that they have destroyed 98 per cent of Tibetan monasteries and memorials, and 99 per cent of monks and nuns were disrobed and were not

allowed to practice Buddhism after the occupation of Tibet.

Still, they are destroying and demolishing a lot of monasteries and memorials. This is their track record. They criticise His Holiness Dalai Lama throughout his life. Now, they say, [they'll] decide his incarnation. So, it's illogical. Once you destroy things, once you vilify someone, why do you want incarnation of that person?

If Buddhists won't accept a Chinese Dalai Lama, can there be two Dalai Lamas?

Buddhists won't accept a Chinese Dalai Lama mainly because of this reason. For example, Sitaram Yechury is the general secretary of the Communist Party of India. He is a very respectable person. Nice guy. I met him.

But, if he appoints a Shankaracharya [head of a Hindu monastery] and tells the followers that I have appointed this guy as Shankaracharya, now all the Hindu people should follow him. How many people will follow that Shankaracharya? Even though Sitaram Yechury is a nice guy.

But the Communist Party of China... what they have done is destroyed monasteries, demolished memorials. Monks and nuns have committed suicide, they are burning themselves. So much protest is happening.

How will they follow the Dalai Lama appointed by the Chinese government? No chance. They will try to appoint one. But, it's a fake one, you know... but the fake is the fake.

On September 22, you said in a TV programme that Buddhism came to Tibet from India, but Tibetan democracy is adopted from Indian democracy. What is the road ahead for Tibet in light of Delhi's 'Made in India' economic drive?

India and Tibet are like the head and the body. Literally, we are the head because we are on top of North India and we are also the roof of the world. All the 90-plus highest mountains of the world are in Tibet. Mount Kailash is in Tibet. Mansarovar is in Tibet. Lord Shiva has been taking refuge in Tibet for thousands of years.

So, we are the head and India is the body... physically also. We are the original made in India. Indian people should support the Tibetan cause because we are spiritually connected, geographically connected from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh,

The Tibetan border is connected with India. And, culturally, we are connected – and even scripture wise... our scriptures are also connected. We are connected in so many ways. Several rivers are also coming to India from Tibet.

The Sutlej river comes from Tibet, Indus comes from Tibet. Brahmaputra river comes from Tibet. We are physically, spiritually and historically connected with India. If Made-in-India is to succeed, the original Made-in-India has to succeed first.

What is your take on China's treatment of human rights and democracy in Hong Kong?

All people in Hong Kong are asking for their human rights and their democracy which was promised... We are in solidarity with people in Hong Kong because they deserve their democracy, they deserve their human rights.

What is your take on the Jammu and Kashmir conflict – China appears to be siding with Pakistan.

We don't comment on the internal affairs of India. At the same time, we don't support what China is doing in Hong Kong. We don't support that. It's the double standard for the Chinese government.

What they are doing in Tibet, what they are doing in Hong Kong – and still they are supporting Pakistan. That's the double standard.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama calls himself "a son of India." Indian supporters for a free Tibet have urged the Central government in New Delhi to confer Bharat Ratna – the country's highest civilian honour – on the Dalai Lama for his contributions in creating goodwill for India in the last six decades. Do you support the idea?

His Holiness Dalai Lama has been honoured with all the major awards across the globe – Nobel Peace Prize, the Templeton Prize on religious harmony, the United Nations award on environmental issues and so many reputed universities have also awarded him degrees including Harvard where he studied.

So India has to think whether this Son of India deserves the award or not. I think he is not just a Son of India, he is a great Son of India. Maybe perhaps he is one of the best sons of India who carries the message of Indian Nalanda tradition around the world.

The Dalai Lama singlehandedly makes India look very good, spreading the wisdom of Nalanda University [established to emulate the revered Nalanda Buddhist monastery] around the world. He has been the best messenger on that.

So Indian people should think when the whole world has given him so many awards, why not India? But, it is for the Indian people and the government to decide. And, as an Administration we don't demand [it]. We can only create awareness.

Do you think in our lifetime will we be able to see a free, fearless, autonomous and sovereign Tibet?

Yes, why not? One should always remain hopeful. Life without hope is often useless. One should always remain hopeful. I'm hopeful, and definitely, during my lifetime we will see an autonomous Tibet with basic human rights for Tibetan people.

The Tibetan population is only half a percent of the China population... [and] the Communist Party of China is the largest political party in the world. I think, China has the largest military in the world. But, they are afraid of one man – the Dalai Lama. That's the power of truth.

What is your message to Tibetans?

Be strong. Be proud of what we are. If you look at our history – there have been great kings, great dynasties, great empires. The most ancient and rich tradition of Nalanda University is kept in the Tibetan language and no other language – including in India or any Buddhist country.

If you look at our history, what we have achieved, we are a great civilisation and a great people. We should be proud of ourselves and we shall succeed.

We believe that Chinese President Xi Jinping should often come to India... He should have a good relationship with India. China says that Tibet is one of their core issues. India should also recognise Tibet as one of their core issues, because from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh [we have] the Tibetan border with India.

[T]he Indian government should take the initiative to resolve the issue of Tibet peacefully with the Chinese government.

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Dharamshala 176 215, H.P., India

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INDIA

Department of Information & International Relations, Central Tibetan Administration, Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamshala - 176 215 H.P, India Tel: +91-1892-222510/222457 Fax: +91-1892-224957 Email: diir@tibet.net www.tibet.net

Bureau of H.H. the Dalai Lama, 10-B Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar IV, New Delhi 110 024, India Tel:+91-11-26474798, Fax:+91-11-2646-1914 Email: rep.in@tibet.net www.tibetbureau.in

Chief Representative (South Zone), No. 7, Sampangiramaiah Garden, Srinivagalu Tank, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore-560047 Karnataka, India Tel:+91-080-5506842 / 5506843 Fax:+91-080-5506966 Email: chiefrep@bgl.vsnl.net.in

NEPAL

The Office of Tibet, Tibetan Refugee Welfare Office, Gaden Khangsar, Narayan Gopal Marg-270. Lazimpat, Ward 2, P.O.Box No. 310, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4419903/4420799 Fax: +977-1-4411660 Email: rep.np@tibet.net

UNITED STATES

The Office of Tibet, 1228, 17th Street NW, Washington, DC – 20036, U.S.A. Tel: +1-212-213-5010, Fax: +1-703-349-7444 Email: rep.us@tibet.net www.tibetoffice.org

BRAZIL

Tibet House
Alameda Lorena, 349 Jardim Paulista,
Sau Paulo, SP, 01424-001 Brazil, South America
Tel: +55(11)989635128
Email: latin@tibet.net

SWITZERLAND

The Tibet Bureau, Place de la Navigation 10 1201 Geneva, Switzerland Tel: +41-22-7387-940 Fax: +41-22-7387-941 Email: rep.ch@tibet.net www.tibetoffice.ch

JAPAN

Liaison Office of H.H. the Dalai Lama, Tibet House Nishi Ochiai 3-26-1 Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 161-0031, Japan Tel: +81-03-5988-3576, Fax: +81-03-3565-1360 E-mail: rep.jp@tibet.net www.tibethouse.jp

UNITED KINGDOM

The Office of Tibet, 1 Culworth Street, London, NW8 7AF, U.K. Tel:+44-207-722-5378, Fax:+44-207-722-0362 Email: rep.uk@tibet.net www.tibet.com

FRANCE

Bureau Du Tibet, 84 BD Adolphe Pinard, 75014, Paris, France, Tel:+33-1-46-565-453, Email: tibetoffice@orange.fr

BELGIUM

Bureau du Tibet, 24 Avenue des Arts, 1000 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32-2-280 4922 Email: rep.be@tibet.net

AUSTRALIA

Tibet Information Office, 8/13 Napier Close, Deakin, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia Tel: +61-2-6285-4046 Fax: +61-2-6282-4301 Email: rep.au@tibet.net www.tibetoffice.com.au

RUSSIA

Tibet Culture & Information Centre, Korn # 110, POB # 7, St. Bolshaya Novodmitrovskaya - 14 Moscow 127015, Russia Tel: +7-495-786-4362 Fax: +7-495-685-11-32 Email: rep.ru@tibet.net www.savetibet.ru

SOUTH AFRICA

Office of Tibet, P.O. Box. 16812, Lyttelton 0140, Republic of South Africa. Tel: +27-12-664-1193 Fax: +27-12-664-1194 Email: rep.sa@tibet.net www.officeoftibet.com

TAIWAN

Tibet Religious Foundation of H.H. the Dalai Lama 10th Fl. 4 & 5, No. 189, Sector - 2, Keelung Rd., Taipei, Taiwan (ROC) Tel: +886-2-2736-0366 Fax: +886-2-2377-9163 Email: rep.tw@tibet.net/www.tibet.org.tw



QUOTES

"We are all the same in being human. Acknowledging this helps reduce suspicion. Whoever I meet, I feel is just another human brother or sister. This has been my practice for 70 years. I appeal to you who live in modern India not to neglect your ancient wisdom. Remember that materialistic development by itself will not bring inner peace," His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his visit at Inter-Faith Conclave at Guru Nanak Dev University on 9 November 2019.

"I try to share with other people that the ultimate source of happiness is within us; it's not to be found in money and fame. I promote fundamental human values on the basis of scientific findings and common sense. Evidence that it is basic human nature to be compassionate is a source of hope. This is important, not in terms of the next life or liberation, but here and now," His Holiness the Dalai Lama during Launch of Dalai Lama Chair for Nalanda Studies at Goa University on 11 December 2019.

"Today also marks Human Rights Day and the 71st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, today in Tibet, the fundamental human rights enshrined in this landmark document are trampled upon by the Chinese Communist Party. Tibetans are subjected to harsh treatment for speaking up for their rights, which are also enshrined in the Chinese constitution, such as freedom of religion, language, and preservation of the environment," Kashag's Statement on the 30th Anniversary of the Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet on 10 December 2019.

"As I have already stated above, this is a day of outstanding significance and in places across the world people are commemorating this festive occasion with the remembrance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's deeds. The absolutely best way to repay gratitude to His Holiness would be to carry out his wishes with a sincerity of purpose. All Tibetan people should therefore unite as one and pool together whatever capabilities they may have as part of their diligent efforts to achieve the common fundamental good," Statement of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile on the 30th Anniversary of the Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet on 10 December 2019.
