



TIBETAN BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

VOLUME 24 - ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2020

News from Tibet and Exile

US Ambassador Says China Cannot Pick the Next Dalai Lama

Feature

120 Speakers Participate in DIIR's Pre-recorded Talk Series on
His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Four Commitments

Focus

US President Signs Tibetan Policy and Support Act, CTA is Recognized, and
Funding for Tibet Provided

NEWS FROM TIBET AND EXILE

- 04 US Ambassador Says China Cannot Pick the Next Dalai Lama
- 05 No Trace of Ngaba Tibetan Monk Held Incommunicado for Almost a Year and a Half
- 06 Education Department Publishes 44 Reading Materials for Children in 2019 - 2020
- 07 Home Kalon Inaugurates Norling Community Hall of Tsering Dhonden Tibetan Colony in Raipur
- 08 Tibet Bureau Geneva Testifies on the Deplorable Conditions of Tibetan Political Prisoners under Chinese Rule

DOCUMENTATION

- 09 Kashag's Statement on the 31st Anniversary of the Conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama
- 11 Tibetan Parliament's Statement on the 31st Anniversary of Conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama

FOCUS

- 15 US President Signs Tibetan Policy and Support Act, CTA is Recognized, and Funding for Tibet Provided
- 17 TTV's Interview with CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay on Tibetan Policy and Support Act 2020

FEATURE

- 20 120 Speakers Participate in DIIR's Pre-recorded Talk Series on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Four Commitments

OBITUARY

- 30 Noted Dalit Historian and Staunch Tibet Supporter P G Jyotikar Passes Away



TIBETAN BULLETIN

Tibetan Bulletin is an official bi-monthly journal of the Central Tibetan Administration.



Signed articles or quotations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Contributions are welcome and may be addressed to the editor, Tibetan Bulletin. However the publisher regrets its inability to return unused articles unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with adequate postage.

Tibetan Bulletin is distributed free of charge. To subscribe please email the circulation manager or see back cover.

Editor
Jamphel Shonu
Email: tibbul@tibet.net

Circulation Manager

Norbu Wangdue
Email: circulation@tibet.net
Tibetan Bulletin is published by:
Department of Information and International Relations,
Central Tibetan Administration,
Dharamshala - 176 215 H.P. India
Tel: +91-1892-222510 / 222457

Vol. 24, Issue 6
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2020

REGULARS

News From Tibet & Exile4
Contact31

Quotes32

Golden Urn: Historical Continuity or Politically-Motivated Resurrection?

The signing of the Tibetan Policy and Support Act (TPSA) into law by the US has once again reminded China that spiritual authority over Tibet's Buddhist traditions including the reincarnation system lies solely with the Tibetan people, and not the Chinese government. By signing the TPSA into law, the US has addressed one of the deepest concerns of the Tibetan people i.e. China's attempts to manipulate the Tibetan reincarnation system to appoint the next Dalai Lama. The TPSA has thus, in outright rejection of China's claims, explicitly barred the Chinese government from interfering in the selection or installation of the next reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

This has struck a raw nerve with the Chinese government, and in response, it has condemned the TPSA. It also, once again, reignited the issue of the Golden Urn in the selection of Tibetan reincarnates to claim authority over Tibetan reincarnation system by distorting portions of Tibetan history.

The Golden Urn method was an obscure practice proposed by the Qianlong emperor during the reign of the eighth Dalai Lama. This was introduced on the pretext of making the Tibetan administration more efficient, and was accepted under duress of political compulsions by the Tibetans at the time because it came within the scope of the priest-patron relationship that existed between them. In fact, the Qianlong emperor had just helped the Tibetans drive-off a Gurkha invasion at the time. So, to express gratitude, the 8th Dalai Lama had accepted this proposal. However, the Golden Urn was never a significant component in the selection process of reincarnations and was never accepted in reality by the Tibetans. In most cases, the decision on the reincarnations were unanimously made by Tibetans themselves, and the Ambans (representatives of the Qing emperor) were only informed about it after the decision was made (as a fait accompli). The Golden Urn system was actually used only in the cases of the tenth, eleventh and the twelfth Dalai Lamas. In the case of the 10th, the de-

cision regarding the reincarnation was already made. However, to please the emperor, the ambans were informed as a pro forma that the Golden Urn was used.

For the Chinese government too, the Golden Urn method or for that matter any erstwhile Qing era institutions were never a matter of significance. After the fall of the Qing in the aftermath of the Xinhai revolution, the Republicans followed by the Communists, have denounced the Qing as 'divisive', 'backward', and 'oppressive', using terms like 'Manchu Chauvinism', 'Manchuiism', etc. Moreover, between 1959 and 1990, the Communists have actually caused a stop in the selection of majority of the Tibetan Buddhist reincarnation lineages. It was only in 1990, after the conferment of the Nobel Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 1989, that the Chinese government initiated a revival of religious institutions including reincarnations inside Tibet. This was done to develop a religious counterweight to the monopoly of Tibetan Buddhist soft power vested in His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In such circumstances, going back into history and reviving an obscure practice by the Chinese government is not only curious but also cynical. It can only be interpreted as an attempt by the Chinese government to control the next incarnation of the Dalai Lama by exaggerating historical continuity. The late Elliot Sperling has once noted, "the use of the Golden Urn is only one of the few elements of history that Chinese authorities feel they can call on to reinforce the modern Chinese notion that China's central government enjoyed primacy in Tibetan affairs." There is no other attempts by the Chinese government to revive any other Qing era institutions elsewhere in the PRC. Therefore, this latest call to adhere to historical continuity based on the Golden Urn is only a politically-motivated resurrection hiding behind a veneer of historical continuity.

On the Tibetan side, there is usually an unspoken practice of refraining from discussing the next life of a spiritual teacher while the person is still alive. It

is considered insensitive and discourteous. In fact, in the case of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, it's the Chinese government that has always displayed a sharp and enthusiastic, but unwelcome interest in the issue. Meanwhile, the Tibetans or rather His Holiness the Dalai Lama himself, has remained cautious and treated these speculations with levity. For instance when a journalist asked His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 2019 about his next life, he jokingly brushed off the question by responding: "What is the hurry for my reincarnation? I may be 84, but my health is good."

Yet, it is not to say His Holiness the Dalai Lama remains ignorant of the significance that his reincarnation will have on the future of geopolitical Tibet and on the wider Tibetan Buddhist world. Aware of China's political ambitions, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has negotiated with the Chinese government's Machiavelian intrigues with a range of statements to keep China in check. His Holiness has sometimes suggested that he might not reincarnate at all, and at times, hinted that he might come back as a woman.

However, in 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama made his most explicit promulgation with regard to his reincarnation. In that statement, he squarely rejected China's interference, and emphasised the role of high lamas of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions, the Tibetan public, and other concerned people who follow Tibetan Buddhism in finding his next reincarnation. Moreover, the spiritual heads of Tibetan Buddhism and Bon, all of whom are in exile, have also unanimously rejected China's claims over Tibetan reincarnation system.

In that sense, the US enactment of TPSA into law is a powerful reiteration and support for the position of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the role of the Tibetan people on the reincarnation issue. It has pre-empted China from claiming the Tibetan reincarnation system for its political ambitions.

Jamphel Shonu
Editor, Tibetan Bulletin

US Ambassador Says China Cannot Pick the Next Dalai Lama, only Tibetan Buddhists Can

Sam Brownback, US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, has opposed China's intervention in picking the next Dalai Lama saying, "The United States supports – that religious community has the right to pick their own leadership. That certainly includes the next Dalai Lama".

Ambassador Brownback was addressing the 2020 Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief where he answered some pressing religious freedom issues in the world notably China's persecution of Uyghurs, Tibetan Buddhists, Christians, and Falun Gong, etc.

With respect to the persecution of Uyghurs, Ambassador said it's one of the worst religious persecution situations in the world today and added that China's justification in locking up millions of Uyghurs in order to prevent terrorism is a futile effort.

"The answer to terrorism isn't locking up everybody. The answer to terrorism is religious freedom, allowing people to freely practice their faith, and they won't fight you as much", he said adding that If the Chinese weren't so repressive against the faith they would have a more open society where its citizens will have the freedom to practice their faith in peace.

Ambassador was critical about the use of technology to persecute religious adherence in Tibet which is now being replicated in Xinjiang. He noted that such use of virtual police states to persecute religion must be stopped from spreading to other countries around the world.

On China's repeated claim over the right to pick the reincarnation of the next Dalai Lama, the US Ambassador at large asserts that the matter of reincarnation

of the next Dalai Lama is the concern of Tibetan Buddhists only and China has no 'theological basis' to intervene in that matter.

"The Tibetan Buddhists have successfully picked their leader for hundreds of years, if not longer, and they have the right to do that now" he added and assured that the US will continue to push back China's claim over the issue of reincarnation.

Last year, Ambassador Brownback visited Dharmashala, the exile seat of Central Tibetan Administration where his presence made a powerful impact of hope upon the Tibetans while sending a tough message to China.

The Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom brings together leaders from around the world to discuss the challenges facing religious freedom, identify means to address religious persecution and discrimination worldwide, and promote greater respect and preservation of religious liberty for all. This event focuses on concrete outcomes that reaffirm international commitments to promote religious freedom and produce real, positive change.

Representative Dawa Tsering Speaks at Conference on Tibetan Buddhism

The Mongolian and Tibetan Cultural Centre under the Ministry of Culture of Taiwan organized a one-day conference titled "Tibetan Cultural Development and Innovation Conference" on 14 November.

The three-part panel series saw experts on Tibetan culture and dignitaries delve in-depth on the theme of 'The influence of Buddhism on Tibetan Law by the institutions of 'Compensation payments for death' and 'Ordeal' bringing out eight research presentations focussing on the given themes, and expert commentaries, followed by an interactive question and answer series.

Representative Dawa Tsering, Of-

fice of Tibet, Taiwan presented on the Buddhist-orientations of Tibetan law, Tibetan performing arts and ancient art, sharing historical documents and giving suitable examples. He informed that such expert research presentations which are rare leads to new knowledge and understanding of the Tibetan culture and Buddhism.

The Mongolian Tibetan Cultural Centre has undertaken a host of initiatives introducing Tibetan culture and its foundations among middle school and higher education students. The conference is a part of such initiatives.

Representative Telo Rinpoche Speaks at Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation's Round Table

An online round table conference on 'Dialogue of Religions in Modern World' was co-organized by the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Institute for the Academic Study of Eastern Christianity (INaSEC) at FRT (Faculty of Religion and Theology) of the Vrije University, Amsterdam, and the Russian Christian Orthodox University in the name of Saint John Divine.

Representatives of various religious traditions such as Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant Christians, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhists were invited to participate and give presentations on various topics ranging from this year's Covid-19 pandemic, attitude from Christian perspective toward the Pandemic, Islam's mission & Harmonizing with world religions. The afternoon session was mainly young scholars who presented their research papers that covered a wide range of history, comparing similarity among Buddhism and Christianity and so on.

On behalf of the Buddhists, Honorary Representative Telo Tulku Rinpoche was invited to give a presentation on the topic of "International Harmony & Concord in Modern World". Telo Tulku Rinpoche gave a detailed presentation on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's four

principal commitments particularly Promotion of Human Values, Inter-religious harmony.

“His Holiness the Dalai Lama had contributed tirelessly by traveling the world to promote the importance of religious harmony which is one of the main topics at the gathering. Present here today there are important figures from various religious traditions. Despite our philosophical differences, we all promote and propagate the same message of love, kindness, and compassion. H.H. the Dalai Lama is a Nobel Peace Laureate and whomever he meets whether it is official, personal, or publicly, he shares with everyone the universal message of love”, said Telo Tulku Rinpoche.

“Promotion of Human values is more vital in today's time where we are so overwhelmed with such negative information and the impact of the incidents we hear or read daily can have a negative impact. To overcome or elevate from such sadness and move forward towards development whether its political, economic, or spiritual, only the concept of compassion, Love, kindness, and unity can solve the challenges we face in modern times. I pray for all our brothers and sisters regardless of which tradition we label ourselves and at the same time I seek everyone's prayers for the people of Tibet who continue to struggle under the harsh regime of the People Republic of China.”

President Sangay Meets US Ambassador Kenneth Juster

President Dr Lobsang Sangay met US Ambassador Kenneth Ian Juster on Friday, 13 November, following a series of various other official engagements in the national capital.

“Amb. Juster has been a long time supporter of Tibet. He's a great friend of mine and also a fellow Harvard graduate,” Dr Sangay said after an hour-long meeting at the US Embassy.

This was the ninth meeting between President Sangay and Amb. Juster.

During this two-day stopover in Delhi, Dr Sangay also participated in a closed-door discussion on Tibet organized by the Vivekananda International Foundation.

He also participated in two virtual panel discussions as a keynote speaker of the International Virtual Roundtable organized by the World Uyghur Congress and others, and as the concluding speaker of the Geneva Forum 2020.

US Representative Scott Perry Urges President Trump to Recognize Tibet's Independent Status

United States Representative Scott Perry (Republican – Pennsylvania) sent a letter to President Donald Trump urging the President to have the United States recognize Tibet as an independent country.

In the letter, Representative Perry praises President Trump's initiative to highlight the Chinese Communist Party's “rogue behavior” and highlight's Tibet's occupied status, a status that is supported by past US legislation.

This past spring, Representative Perry introduced a House bill (H.R. 6948) that would “authorize the President to recognize the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China as a separate, independent country, and for other purposes.”

No Trace of Ngaba Tibetan Monk Held Incommunicado for Almost a Year and a Half



Rinchen Tsultrim of Nangshig monastery in Ngaba, Tibet was arbitrarily arrested by the local Chinese authorities almost a year and a half ago.

A Tibetan monk from Ngaba region who was arbitrarily arrested by the local Chinese authorities almost a year and a half ago continues to remain untraceable.

Rinchen Tsultrim, a monk at Nangshig monastery in Ngaba and a strong advocate of Tibetan language preservation was detained on 1 August 2019, according to a reliable source.

Along with Rinchen Tsultrim, two other monks from Kordo, Ngaba county were detained but released after a few days. However, Rinchen Tsultrim was suspected of engaging in political activities and taken away to an undisclosed location by the Ngaba county police. Rinchen Tsultrim's family members have not been able to trace his whereabouts and health condition since then, reported a reliable source.

After eight months since his arbitrary and incommunicado detention, Rinchen Tsultrim's family received official notice in Chinese on 23 March 2020 that alleged Rinchen Tsultrim as a separatist but conveyed no further information on his wellbeing or location. When his family members approached the authorities, they were told about different locations at different times. The police authorities told the family that he is detained in Chengdu or Markham or Ngaba, rendering great concern for the family who is now worried if he is even alive. Reports of deaths due to torture while in Chinese custody is not uncommon. Just over a month ago, the death of Lhamo, a Tibetan mother of three, who died covered in bruises at a police hospital in Driru county, Nagchu, was reported.

The Chinese authorities must reveal and inform Rinchen Tsultrim's family where he is being detained. As per the national and international laws, the Ngaba authorities should ensure his wellbeing and allow the family members to meet him.

Monk Rinchen Tsultrim was earlier detained in 2018 for discussing and debating on Tibet-related issues on messaging app WeChat with Tibetans in exile. He always called upon Tibetans to preserve the language and work for the Tibetan

cause, said the source. His arrest last year was linked with communicating with Tibetans outside Tibet on the birth anniversary of the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. Additionally, he had allegedly sent several religious books from outside Tibet to various regions in Tibet by post. His website on which he posted many personal compositions was shut down for posting Tibet-related essays on it.

Rinchen Tsultrim hails from Nyerwatsang, a humble farming household from Kashul, Ngaba county, in Tibet's traditional Amdo Province, now incorporated into Chinese Sichuan Province. The 29-year-old monk Rinchen Tsultrim is one of the five children of parents Tashi Dhondup (68) and Tsomo (57).

Kelsang Gyaltzen Bawa Appointed New Representative for OOT Taiwan



Kelsang Gyaltzen Bawa, the current Chinese Liaison officer at OOT Canberra will be the new Representative of OOT Taiwan.

Kelsang Gyaltzen Bawa, currently serving as the Chinese Liaison Officer, at the Office of Tibet, Canberra, has been appointed as the new Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Office of Tibet based in Taipei, Taiwan.

As per the circular issued by the Kashag Secretariat, Kelsang Gyaltzen will take charge from 4 January 2021.

Kelsang Gyaltzen Bawa is a former member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. He served in the 14th and 15th parliament respectively.

44 Reading Materials for Children Published in 2019 – 2020: Department of Education

In line with the four guiding principles espoused in the Basic Education Policy for Tibetans in Exile, the Department of Education, CTA, has published 44 reading materials for children from 2019 to 2020.

Under the Tibetan Early Grade Reading (TEGR) Program, DOE has translated and published a total of 20 children's books in 2019 and 2020. In addition, 5 new children's books were published in 2019 end.

Many other works of writers from outside the CTA has been published as well.

All the reading materials and children's storybooks are being distributed in libraries, classrooms and hostels across Tibetan schools in India and Nepal.

With this, the Department of Education marks the completion of its annual children's publication project of 2019 – 2020, despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Starting July 2020, the Department of Education is set to initiate another publications project aimed for benefiting the students of middle school or higher. Over 60 projects will be published as part of this project.

Delegates from US Embassy visit Tibetan Coordinator's Office in Nepal



The delegates from US embassy, Nepal with the Coordinator Tsultrim Gyatso.

Delegates from the US embassy in Nepal including Mark Templer, Acting political and economic counsellor, Ms Vanessa Colon (Political and economic section), and Mr Pema Tenzin visited the Tibetan Coordinator's office on 3 December.

Mr Tsultrim Gyatso, the Coordinator greeted the delegates and gave them a tour of the office.

Mr Stephane Maicon, Counsellor, Head of political, press and Information Section, EU-Nepal officially visited the office in the afternoon. A brief tour of HBLCC cultural gallery which is under the management of this office, was also organized.

Core Group for Tibetan Cause Organises Peace Procession in Tawang



Core Group for Tibetan Cause organises peace procession in Tawang.

Tawang, the birthplace of His Holiness the 6th Dalai Lama Tsayang Gyatso and the cultural capital of Arunachal Pradesh witnessed a Peace Procession that was organised by Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch of Tawang chapter in coordination with Core Group for Tibetan Cause – India. The procession was carried out to protest against the unlawful occupation of Tibet, recent face-off at Indo Tibet border in June through August with the loss of Indian soldiers including Nyima Tenzin and China's claim of Arunachal Pradesh being part of southern Tibet.

The peace procession began with the gathering of senior monks and nuns, local residents and supporters. From Tawang Monastery through Main Market square till Yiga Chozin community hall, a distance of more than 5 kilometres was covered by monks, nuns and laypersons with Buddhist prayer and slogans. The procession was followed

by a meeting arranged at Yiga Choezin community hall, adhering to the instructions of district administration under the given pandemic situation of Covid-19.

Sh. Lhundup Choesang, President, Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch, Tawang pointed out the journey of Core Group Members from plains to Tawang for showing solidarity and standing in one voice against the brutalities of the Chinese Communist government.

In keynote address, the Coordinator for ITCO introduced the apex body of Core Group for Tibetan Cause-India and its objectives. He drew the attention upon proper coordination of programs and events that may generate more voice and energy in bringing more support and protest against the deeds of CCP. From Guwahati Press Conference to Tezpur Press Meet, he outlined the people's uproar against Chinese Communist Government that is becoming bigger and wider day by day.

Sh. Surendra Kumar, National Co-Convenor, Eastern Region; Sh. Soumyadeep Datta, Regional Convener for Assam and Meghalaya; Sh. Pema Wangda Bhutia, Regional Convener for North Bengal and Sikkim and Sh. Lobsang Geychen, Regional Convener for Arunachal Pradesh were present on the dais. In addition to this, Sh. Jambey Wangdi, Chairman, Department of Karmic and Adhyatamic, Government of Arunachal Pradesh was also present in the meeting.

Sh. Soumyadeep Datta, hailing from India's northeastern state of Assam, drew the essence of Tibetan Freedom and its relation with India, particularly with its North Eastern Regions including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. He explained the cultural destruction of Tibetan Buddhism taking place inside Tibet and emphasised His Holiness the Dalai Lama efforts to revive it in India after coming into exile since 1959.

More than 113 participants including senior monks, nuns, laypersons and special invitees of Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh attended the event.

Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama Launches Revamped Tibetan Website

The Office of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has launched their newly re-designed Tibetan website-gyalwarinpoche.com with new features including improved search tools and downloadable publications, on 16 December.

The upgraded website creates a user-friendly browsing experience for everyone in addition to enhanced accessibility of information related to His Holiness' teachings, upcoming teaching schedule, and other relevant information. The improved responsive features enable compatibility across all platforms whether the user is accessing the site on a mobile phone, laptop, tablet or computer.

Home Kalon Inaugurates Norling Community Hall at Tsering Dhonden Tibetan Colony, Raipur



Home Kalon Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang unveils the foundation stone of the Norling Community Hall at Tsering Dhonden Tibetan Colony, Raipur, 19 December 2020.

Kalon Sonam Topgyal Khorlatsang, Department of Home, CTA, inaugurated Norling Community Hall at Tsering Dhonden Tibetan Colony, Raipur, on 19 December. Kalon was received by leaders, representatives and the community members of Tsering Dhonden Colony.

The inauguration ceremony began with introductory remarks by (Retd) Lt Col Norbu, Tibetan Settlement Officer, Dehradun, in which, he spoke about the

inception of Tsering Dhonden Tibetan Colony in 2005 and the progress since. It was followed by a report on the construction of Norling Community Hall.

On behalf of the Tsering Dhonden Colony, Settlement Officer and (Retd) Lt Col Norbu extended sincere gratitude to Honorable Home Kalon and Department of Home for funding the Norling Community Hall project. Tsering Dhonden Tibetan Colony was undertaken by Central Tibetan Relief Committee in February 2017 from Sponsor Shide Khangsar, and series of welfare projects such as; domestic electric meter to each household, drinking water, cemented road, rain water harvesting projects were implemented by the Settlement Office on direction from Department of Home.

Sikyong Congratulates Archbishop Tutu on Human Rights Global Treasure Award



In a letter addressed to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, President Dr. Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration congratulated Honourable Archbishop Tutu on being awarded the Human Rights Global Treasure Award.

Sikyong Dr Sangay writes, "It's truly an honour for me to extend my sincerest congratulations on behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan people on being awarded the Human Rights Global Treasure Award".

He commends Archbishops's stance against the apartheid regime and says that his commitment to non-violence as the path to seek liberation is an inspiration to all and especially the Tibetan people.

“Understanding the value and the work carried by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, of which you were the Chairman, you have since advanced truth and reconciliation as a necessity for enduring peace. Today’s world could greatly benefit by imbibing the spirit and the value the commission represented”, said Sikyong and further added that the Tibetans are exceptionally grateful for his advocacy and support on human rights and equality.

“It is always a great joy to see you with His Holiness, and humbling to witness the friendship between two of the world’s greatest spiritual leaders of our times. Once again, my sincerest congratulations and best wishes”, concluded Sikyong.

Tibet Bureau Geneva Testifies on the Deplorable Conditions of Tibetan Political Prisoners



Thinlay Chukki, Special Appointee for Human Rights at the web conference organized in the Senate Building of the Italian Republic, 23 November 2020.

The Tibet Bureau Geneva staff Thinlay Chukki, Special Appointee for Human Rights testified on the deplorable conditions of the Tibetan political prisoners under the Chinese rule at a web conference organized in the Senate Building of the Italian Republic on 23 November 2020.

The conference was organized by the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational Transparty, and Senator Lucio Malan of Italy with the support of the Global Committee for the Rule of Law “Marco Pannella” (GCRL) and the Italian Federation of Human Rights (FIDU). The conference titled “From #Save-12HKyouths to the Case of Political Prisoners in Hong Kong, China, Ven-

ezuela, Iran and Cambodia” hosted direct testimonies of victims, witnesses and experts on the increase of political persecution as an instrument of censorship and elimination of democratic opposition within authoritarian countries.

Along with Thinlay Chukki, Nathan Law (activist, Hong Kong); Jianli Yang (activist, China); Lorent Salch (Activist, Venezuela); Mona Silawi (Activist, Iran); Mu Sochua (Opposition leader, Cambodia); Theresly Malave (Human Rights Lawyer, Justicia y Processo, Venezuela); and Jared Genser (Human Rights Lawyer, Perseus Strategies LLC, USA) testified at the conference.

Speaking about the deplorable conditions of the Tibetan political prisoners Thinlay Chukki noted that, “As we prepare to celebrate 72nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights next month, every single right enshrined in the Declaration is being violated in Tibet by China. When Tibetans stand up for their rights, China is using vague terminologies and absurd interpretation of laws to frame them with criminal charges. They are arbitrarily detained without any official charges for months during which time they are subjected to inhumane treatments and torture, even leading to custodial deaths. The Tibetan political prisoners are denied of free and fair trial and are sentenced to long prison terms. Many such political prisoners have died upon release due to their frail health resulting from years of torture and starvation.”

She further highlighted the cases of Pan-chen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, Tashi Wangchuk, Anya Sengdra and also spoke about the custodial deaths like Tulku Tenzin Delek as well as the recent case of 36-year-old Lhamo who died in hospital due to torture in custody.

Highlighting the significance of international community’s continued support, Thinlay Chukki noted that “Italy should join forces with other countries to push the UN Human Rights Council to appoint a Special rapporteur on China to monitor and report on the Human Rights Violations that is being carried out by the Chinese government.

Italy should also consider laws similar to Magnitsky Act, Reciprocal Access to Tibet etc. Because this is no longer about Tibetans alone now, it has spread to Xinjiang, Southern Mongolia, Hong Kong and with the Belt and Road Initiative, it will spread to Italy and across the world. It is time to take a strong stand on China otherwise the world will witness many more new Tibets.”

She concluded by stating that “we should continue to amplify the voices of the political prisoners and the freedoms that they fight for. China should be held accountable.”

Virtual Discussion on Li Jianglin’s Book ‘Tibet in Agony – Lhasa 1959’

The Office of Tibet, Washington DC hosted a virtual book talk on “Tibet in Agony – Lhasa 1959” on 19 December. The book written by Li Jianglin and translated into English by Susan Wilf was published by Harvard University Press. It is also translated into Tibetan by Mr. Jampa Tenzin and published by the Library of Tibetan Works and Archive.

Representative Ngodup Tsering gave a short remark on the book and thanked the author and translator for accepting the invitation.

Author Li Jianglin explained in great detail how Tibetans in Amdo and Kham were forced to escape to Lhasa. What happened to Lhasa before and after His Holiness the Dalai Lama escaped from Norbulingka, Tibet to India. Questions were raised on varied contents of the book and each were answered.

Ms Susan Wilf shared her experience and her life changing journey from translating the book and described it as a meticulous scholarship with very vivid writing.

Moderator Tsultrim Gyatso thanked the speakers for their contribution on truth finding research and concluded by recommending everyone and especially, Tibetan youths to read the book.

Statement of the Kashag on the 31st Anniversary of the Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet



Officiating President and Kalon for Department of Religion and Culture, Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok, reads the statement of the Kashag on the 31st Anniversary of the Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, 10 December 2020.

Today marks the 31st anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama. On this auspicious occasion, the Kashag bows down in deep reverence and gratitude to our most revered leader, His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, and joyously extends our greetings to the Tibetan people, friends and supporters around the globe.

His Holiness was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for advocating peaceful solution based upon tolerance and mutual respect while seeking to resolve the issue of Tibet.

For over six decades, His Holiness' commitment to peace and emphasis on inculcating compassion, tolerance and kindness, and efforts to promote religious harmony and ethics based on universal values continue to pave the way for a just society. His Holiness has often referred the ancient Indian knowledge as a 'Science of Mind' encompassing the workings of mind and emotions and thus, has remained steadfast in his commitment to revive it. As one the world's most beloved leader, His Holiness' tireless initiatives to usher in a more peaceful world has, in turn, garnered support for the Tibet cause globally.

Today is also the Human Rights Day. In the case of Tibet, the repressive policies of the Chinese government continue to

trample upon the Tibetan people's fundamental rights enshrined in its constitution and the Law on Regional National Autonomy. Since 2009, 154 Tibetans have self-immolated and they have given up their lives to call for the fundamental freedom in Tibet.

In June this year, Lhundrup Drakpa, a Tibetan singer was sentenced to six years of imprisonment for singing a song. In his song "Black Hat" released in March 2019, he compares the sufferings of the Tibetan people to a "hell on earth" and sings about the oppression of the Tibetan language. Lhundrup Drakpa is yet another Tibetan added to the long list of artists imprisoned for expressing their plight under the occupation.

Lhundrup's song alludes to the stories of Tibetan like, Rinchen Tsultrim, a monk from Nangshig Monastery in Ngaba region, who was arbitrarily arrested over a year ago and has since been detained incommunicado on alleged charges of engaging in political activities. In a similar report, a few days ago, Gendhun Lhundrup, a well-known Tibetan writer and poet from Rebkong was arbitrarily arrested and his current whereabouts are unknown.

In September this year, a report published by the Jamestown Foundation revealed the implementation of coercive military-style labor camps masked

as "vocational training" under the guise of poverty alleviation program in Tibet. The report also found evidence that over half a million Tibetans were sent through such camps in just the first seven months of the year 2020. The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) condemned the widespread system of forced labor in Tibet and called upon the Chinese government to immediately end its atrocities in a statement signed by 63 parliamentarians around the globe.

Despite the Chinese government's blatant attack on the fundamental rights and identity of the Tibetan people, Tibetans in Tibet continue to resist through non-violent protests. The struggle of the Tibetan people, which is a struggle for truth, justice and freedom continue to receive world-wide support.

During the UN Third Committee General Debate held this October at the UN headquarters in New York, 39 countries called on China to respect the human rights in Tibet, East Turkestan and Hong Kong in their joint statement. Recently, the US House of Representative unanimously passed a bill endorsing the Middle Way Approach and recognizing the significance of the commitments and contributions of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to humanity.

This past October, Canada's Ontario Legislature passed a unanimous bill tabled by NDP MMP, Bhutla Karpoche recognizing the month of July as "Tibetan Heritage Month" which is a matter of pride for the Tibetan people.

In the same month, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the appointment of Assistant Secretary of State, Robert A. Destro as the new Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues. Just days after the announcement, the President of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) was formally invited to the US State Department and met with the Special Coordinator.

In November, the President of the CTA

formally visited the White House and met with the officials of Asia related issues and the staff members from both the President and the Vice President's Office. The visit to the State Department and the White House is historic and we thank the US government for its continued support to our just cause.

The Chinese government must realize that it cannot continue casting a blind eye to the sentiments and aspirations of the Tibetan people in Tibet. The genuine solution for Tibet can only be met by dialogue through the Middle Way Approach. In 2008, envoys of His Holiness presented the 'Memorandum of Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People' to the Chinese government during the eighth round of talks held in Beijing. In 2010, notes on the memorandum addressing the concerns raised by the Chinese government was presented. His Holiness and the CTA remain committed to resolving the issue of Tibet as per the memorandum and thus, we stand ready for dialogue and urge China to reciprocate the call for dialogue.

As per the WHO, COVID-19 has already claimed the lives of over 1.5 million and infected over 65 million around the globe. China's employment of old tactics of crackdown on the freedom of speech through repressive censorship during the initial stage of the COVID-19 has contributed to a global pandemic. A

survey carried out by the US-based Pew Research Center indicates that China's initial mishandling of the COVID-19 has intensified distrust and unfavorable views on China. For China to win back the trust of the world, and to re-instate its position as a global leader, it must make timely progression towards democracy, freedom and the international rule of law.

A move towards peace was recently made with Honduras becoming the 50th country to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons allowing the treaty to enter into force on 22nd January 2021. His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a lifelong advocate for Nuclear disarmament, welcomed the news and commended the United Nations and the 50 countries for their concerted effort that would "secure a genuine and long-lasting peace in our world." We welcome and acknowledge the instrumental step towards peace.

The Kashag would like to take this opportunity to thank governments, parliamentarians, leaders, organizations and individuals who continue to champion the cause of Tibet. We also extend our deepest gratitude to the people and government of India for their continued support to the Tibetan people for over 60 years in exile.

This November marks almost a year

since COVID-19 first emerged from the city of Wuhan in China. The world continues to reel under the second wave of COVID-19. We remember in our prayers all the lives lost and also the people who grieve these irreparable losses. The CTA will continue to take on the challenges presented by this pandemic and provide necessary support and assistance. As such, we urge all to do your part and remain committed to following the preventive measures.

In His Holiness's Nobel Prize acceptance speech in 1989, he pointed out that living in harmony with each other and nature is not just a dream but a reality. He stated, "We are dependent on each other in so many ways, that we can no longer live in isolated communities and ignore what is happening outside those communities..." His Holiness' words are not only pertinent to the current challenges the humanity faces but also is a guiding light for a more harmonious and prosperous future.

Finally, we pray for the long and healthy life of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama and for all his noble aspirations to be fulfilled. May peace prevail on earth and may our long-cherished goal of freedom and reunion in the Land of Snows be realized soon.

The Kashag
10 December 2020

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Congratulates Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Re-election Victory

His Holiness the Dalai Lama wrote to Shri Nitish Kumar on 11 November to offer congratulations on his coalition's success in the Bihar state assembly election.

"I deeply appreciate your friendship," His Holiness wrote, "as well as the hospitality you have shown me during my visits to Bihar, especially to Bodh Gaya, which have been quite regular in recent years."

"I would also like to thank you for your support and encouragement of my efforts to promote a revival of interest in ancient Indian thought so vividly expressed in the historic Nalanda Tradition, which is like the sun shining in the East. As you know, India's longstanding philosophy of karuna and the conduct that flows from it, ahimsa, sets an example to the rest of the world.

"I pray you will be successful in meeting whatever challenges lie ahead in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people of Bihar," His Holiness wrote.

Statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the Occasion of the 31st Anniversary of the Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Statement of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile on the occasion of 31st anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama on 10 December 2020.

Today, the 10th of December 2020, is the 31st anniversary of that day of momentous importance when the world's most distinctly outstanding prize for peace, the Nobel Peace Prize, was conferred on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, the apex ornamental adornment over the spheres of both the cyclic existence (samsara) and peace (nirvana) including those of the Gods in the heavens, the spiritual lord of the three realms (of desire, form and formless), a leader of world peace, the master on this earth of the entire corpus of Buddhist teachings, the destined patron-deity of the people of the Snowland of Tibet, the most exalted of Bodhisattva, the lord-protector of the world who has emanated in human form, the protective refuge of all Tibetan people, their incomparable leader. As His Holiness the Dalai Lama continues to carry out beyond all imaginations His oath-bound secret body, speech and mind deeds by not allowing himself to be constrained by any time-bound limits, thereby becoming a source of limitless joy to all sentient beings that are scattered as widely as the expanse of the space. And so on behalf of all Tibetans in Tibet and those living in exile, the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to express greetings borne of limitless

feelings of gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama with joy, faith and gratification on this momentous occasion. This day, which also marks the world human rights day, is observed by the Tibetan people in general as well as, in particular, by all people across the world who cherish democracy, freedom, and peace as the day on which His Holiness the Dalai Lama was presented with the Nobel Peace Prize in order to thereby hold in joy and in highest regard, respect and admiration for His incomparable deeds. It is hence a golden age moment of great nobility. The religiously immersed cultural heritage and traditions of Tibet have emerged and developed from the midst of the unrivalled philosophical ideology and practice of the immaculate teachings of the Buddha. And in order to revive and promote the culture and traditions of the Tibetan people of such outstanding heritage in their diverse aspects in a world plunged into the darkness of an extremely degenerate period, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has envisioned a profound plan to transform Tibet into a zone of peace in this vast world. His Holiness thereby led and committed the Tibetan people to a resolute path of non-violence. And it is a great deed of immensely noble sagacity

that His Holiness has opened a path towards a mutually beneficial middle way approach for solving the Sino-Tibetan dispute. On the basis of the appreciation of the fact of fundamental significance that all sentient beings are alike in desiring to live a happy life while being averse to finding themselves subjected to pain and suffering, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has sought to promote a sense of ethics among people across the world. This in turn is the basis on which His Holiness has immersed himself in efforts of unimaginable significance, inspired by His sense of universal responsibility and directed at such noble causes as protecting the natural environment of the world, promoting harmony among the followers of the different religious traditions, settlement of wars and disputes by peacefully negotiated settlement, and so on, that He has set out to contribute to the development of peace across the world. All people having the intelligence to discern the immensity of His contributions have exalted him for His efforts and it also eventually led to the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to Him. And it was for the sake of being able to contribute further to the wellbeing of all sentient beings that His Holiness very graciously and gladly accepted the award which led to Him being accorded recognition as a leader of world peace. And true to this aim, His Holiness has continued to carry out secret deeds of body, speech and mind that are unimaginable as much in their ambit as in their help to all sentient beings. The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to extend its immense gratitude countless times to His Holiness for the continuing efforts in such noble endeavours.

While presenting the Noble Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its presentation speech that "His Holiness the Dalai Lama had staked all His authority as Dalai Lama to resolutely prevent any use of violence on the part of the Tibetans" in the efforts to resolve the issue of Tibet; that "His aim was to

arrive at a solution of the conflict that would be acceptable to both parties to the dispute, based on mutual respect and tolerance in order to preserve the historical and cultural heritage” of the people of Tibet; and that, moreover, His Holiness had “developed His philosophy of peace from a great reverence for all things living and upon the concept of universal responsibility embracing all mankind as well as nature.”

While accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said: “I believe the prize is a recognition of the true value of altruism, love, compassion and non-violence which I try to practice, in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha and the great sages of India and Tibet. I accept the prize with profound gratitude on behalf of the oppressed everywhere and for all those who struggle for freedom and work for world peace. I accept it as a tribute to the man who founded the modern tradition of non-violent action for change Mahatma Gandhi whose life taught and inspired me. And, of course, I accept it on behalf of the six million Tibetan people, my brave countrymen and women inside Tibet, who have suffered and continue to suffer so much. The prize reaffirms our conviction that with truth, courage and determination as our weapons, Tibet will be liberated.” With the knowledge of what His Holiness had said at that time, all Tibetan people who share the commonality of our tsampa-diet heritage should direct our efforts towards fulfilling the objectives set out by His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the time He accepted the Nobel Peace Prize. While striving at all times to contribute towards the achievement of these goals, we should ensure that the means we adopt for this purpose are scrupulously non-violent, based on the foundation of the principles of altruism, love and compassion. And this is also the basis on which we should also study the four principal oath-bound commitments of His Holiness the Dalai Lama so that we all could contribute towards ensuring the success of their implementation. This is the true and genuine way in which we can repay our debt of gratitude to His Holiness. The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile accordingly appeals to the entirety of the Ti-

betan public to firmly bear this in mind.

This year’s Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the World Food Programme, an organ of the United Nations Organization, and the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to express its congratulations to the winner as well as compliments to the Norwegian Nobel Committee for the announcement of the award to it. It is through the World Food Programme that all problems of hunger inflicted on humanity by natural calamities as well as by human conflicts are sought to be fully solved in efforts directed at the realization of a happy human society. We remain hopeful and also earnestly pray that its efforts will continue with diligence and without interruptions.

In efforts to realize a vision of a human society marked by peace, freedom, and happiness, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has assumed innumerable responsibilities with considerable amounts of efforts. These have led His Holiness travel to numerous countries across the world where He sought to inculcate the spirit of kindness and love, tolerance, altruism, non-violence, and secular ethics. In particular, His Holiness directed His efforts at ensuring a harmonious and fraternal coexistence of peoples with different religious faith systems. The profoundness of His messages delivered with lucid simplicity has afforded ready understanding, appreciation and admiration by those who have flocked to listen to Him and have benefited from hearing Him speak. The number of times His Holiness had delivered such messages and the venues where He delivered them cannot bear counting. Recently, from the beginning of this year, the world was plagued by a novel coronavirus which caused the Covid-19 infection after it broke out from the central Chinese city of Wuhan. The ever worsening global pandemic severely affected the movement of people across the world due to the unavoidable imposition of lockdowns. Given such a situation, His Holiness held online interactions with prominent personalities, students, organizations, private individuals and others located across the world, giving them religious teachings and empowerments, contributing His thoughts as well as giv-

ing public talks. His Holiness spoke to them on ways to cope with physical problems and emotional distress and anxiety caused by the lockdown with a view to inculcate in them a sense of optimism. And also gave online talks and took part in online discussions with people across the world. These have focused on subjects directed at educating the people to enhance their ethical behaviour and to protect the natural environment. In particular, His Holiness interacted in a mind and body conference of experts in the related fields and also on ways to preserve the ancient Indian cultural heritage concerned with the subjects of compassion and non-violence. These remain continuing endeavours of His Holiness which have immensely benefited both the Tibetans and others across the world.

It is thanks to the profound and edifying guidance provided by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the embracing the ideology of non-violence and the policy of Middle Way that is mutually beneficial to both the Tibetan and the Chinese sides that discussions about the issue of Tibet have reached the international forum. Not only that, both the houses of parliament in numerous countries, including, in particular, in the United States of America, Europe, Canada, and the United Kingdom have held discussions on the issue of Tibet from time to time, tabled numerous motions and passed resolutions thereon. For example, recently, Representative Mr. Ted Yoho tabled “A resolution affirming the significance of the advocacy for genuine autonomy for Tibetans in the People’s Republic of China and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding” in the US House of Representatives. This was later unanimously approved by the Lower House of the US legislative body.

Likewise, Senator Josh Hawley introduced a resolution in the US Senate “condemning the Chinese Communist Party’s use of forced labor and other coercive measures to destroy religious freedom in Tibet.”

And on the 14th of October this year, the United States Secretary of State Mr. Mike Pompeo appointed Assistant Secretary

of State Mr. Robert A Destro of the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor as the United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. Especially inviting the honourable Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration to the White House made clear the strong support from the United States government on the issue of Tibet.

Again, on the 17th of November this year, the 2020 Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief was organized by the State Department of the United States at which the country's Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Mr. Sam D. Brownback, expressed strong opposition to the interference of China in matters concerned with the determination of the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Also on the 17th of November this year, in a meeting on Tibet by the Special Committee on Canada-China Relations, Mr. Shawn Steil, Executive Director of Greater China Policy and Coordination, Global Affairs Canada, spoke on the issue of Tibet at length. He also expressed continued support and push for efforts to resume the Sino-Tibetan dialogue.

Former Vice-President Mr. Joe Biden and Senator Ms. Kamala Harris have recently been elected as the President and Vice-President of the United States of America and it is certain that they will assume their responsibilities shortly. We offer our congratulations and at the same time wish to convey the ardent wishes of the Tibetan people for them to continue their support, as promised being leaders of the new US government, until the just cause of the Tibetan people prevails.

With the aim to bring a permanent cessation to the production or use of particularly terrifying weapons of destruction in this world, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a leader of global peace, has delivered edifying talks and messages on a series of numerous occasions. Therefore, on the 24th of October this year, a new chapter for nuclear disarmament began when the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was set on course to come into force on the 22nd of January 2021 after Honduras became

the 50th Member State to ratify it. The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to welcome and praise for the achieving this milestone. We remain ardently hopeful that through this treaty, all nuclear arms will be seen permanently eliminated from this world so that a good aeon will dawn when all the sentient beings in it will be able to live in genuine peace and leisure and with a sense of fraternity.

The path chosen for the efforts to resolve the issue of Tibet and the characteristics imbibed with ethical values and honesty by the Tibetans under the excellent guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama have won appreciation from many countries of the world. This in turn has won widespread support for the protection of the freedom and the cultural identity of the Tibetan people in whatever way we have sought it. Still the government of China has held on to its position on the issue of Tibet that is the very opposite of such appreciations, continuing with a relentless implementation of its hard-line policy. The government of China has failed to show any positive record of having respect for human rights of the peoples under its rule. China remains in continued implementation of a policy of trampling on human rights that is marked by extreme brutality and the absence of any sense of conscience or remorse both within China itself and, in particular, in the ethnic minority populated territories such especially as Tibet. For example, on the 10th of March in 2008, Tibetans in hundreds, thousands, or even tens of thousands carried out peaceful uprising protests that gradually engulfed most of the places across the three traditional provinces of undivided Tibet. And then since 2009, a total of 154 heroic Tibetan men and women in Tibet from both the lay and clergy have sacrificed even their most cherished possessions of their very lives by setting themselves on fire in grim peaceful protests against the brutally violent hard-line policy of the government of China. The story of the developments that have led to this tragic situation is still fresh in our memory and is open for anyone to read. Again, in June this year, the so-called people's Court of Sangchu County in Kanlho Prefecture of Gansu Province tried ten Tibetan people and deprived them of

money in the name of penal fines. Moreover, the court convicted them on false charges of "extortion" and "forced trading" and imposed on them jail terms ranging from 9 to 14 years. Likewise, Tenzin Tharpa, a 39-year-old male and a 36-year-old female, his cousin Lhamo – who were residents of Uelung Village in Chagtse Township of Driru County in Tibet's Nagchu City – were arrested by Chinese authorities on false criminal accusations and put behind bars. More tragically, Lhamo died as a result of interrogation beatings by the Chinese security personnel while in detention. This only makes clear the current situation of human rights in Tibet today. More recently, Adrian Zenz, a research scholar on East Turkestan and Tibet, brought out a report saying that a total of 500,000 Tibetans in Tibet had been put through military-style mass coercive labour camps by the government of China. The report showed how the human rights situation in Tibet had kept deteriorating considerably. Nevertheless, on the 13th of October this year, when alongside the holding of the 75th annual General Assembly session of the United Nations Organization, staggered voting for four seats in the United Nations Human Rights Council was held, it was four countries in the Asia and Pacific Region with the most repressive records on human rights which got elected. And one of them was the People's Republic of China. This has been a source of immense grief to us. We wish to make it known in clear terms to the governments which voted for China in that election that they should know that they too have to bear responsibility for the protection of the human rights of the peoples of Tibet, Inner Mongolia, East Turkestan, Hong Kong and other like regions who are presently continuing to suffer repression under the rule of the government of China. Along with it, we wish to remind the government of China that after having become a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, it has the responsibility to implement the international human rights instruments of the world body. In that way, it also has the responsibility to protect the human rights of the ethnic minorities of the People's Republic of China in the true spirit of the avowed undertaking it has

made as well as in terms of its legal obligations. Not only that, we also wish to appeal to the international community to subject the government of China to strict scrutiny to ensure its adherence to its human rights responsibilities.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to express its appreciation and compliments to the Tibetan people in Tibet for their unwavering courage and the indefatigably immaculate spirit of Tibetan-ness with which they have continued to this day to face the brutal evilness of the Chinese government policies. And it is a matter of great importance that the Tibetan people living in exile should remain true to the calls made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to maintain Tibetan's ethnic unity and on that basis to strive to accomplish results that are for the common good of all Tibetans and the fundamental cause of Tibet by strictly adhering to non-violent means. The wishes and aspirations as well as the issues of general wellbeing and matters pertaining to the tragic situation in the land expressed by the Tibetan people in Tibet in their protests against the gov-

ernment of China could never be forgotten by the Tibetan people living in exile. It is on this basis that the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to make it clear that our avowed determination to continue to strive towards realizing in all speediness the day when our final goal will be reached like the emergence of the sun from behind the clouds into a clear blue sky will never ever diminish.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to the governments across the world, especially India, their general public, parliaments, civil society groups and others for taking keen interest, assuming responsibility, showing solidarity, and extending high level of support in response to our appeals directed at reaching a solution and at garnering ever growing support for the cause of Tibet. At the same time, we ardently request them to continue their support with even greater amount of vigour in future.

The Covid-19 pandemic disease which originated in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year continues to wreak

havoc on lives, livelihoods, and the economic wellbeing of people across the world to this day. The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to express our empathy and solidarity to all of them. In order to ensure an effective prevention of the spread of the disease, everyone must faithfully follow the guidelines issued by the health departments of the governments of their concerned countries. We earnestly pray that the pandemic will come to an end as early as possible.

In conclusion, the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to offer earnest prayers that His Holiness the Dalai Lama may live for a hundred aeons, that all His sacred wishes may be seen fulfilled with utmost spontaneity, and the just case of Tibet may prevail at the earliest possible moment to usher in a day when Tibetans in Tibet and those in exile will be able to reunite so that a new era of utmost joy and wellbeing may dawn on all of us.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile
10 December 2020

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, CTA President, Speaker of Tibetan Parliament Congratulate US President-elect Joe Biden

Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tibetan political leader President Dr Lobsang Sangay, and Speaker of Tibetan Parliament Pema Jungney, wrote to Joe Biden to congratulate him on his victory in the US presidential election.

"I wish you every success in meeting the challenges that lie ahead in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people of the United States and in contributing to a more peaceful and harmonious world. I would like to thank you for your support for the Tibetan people, during your time in Congress and the previous administration, as well as for your statement in September this year. It has been the Tibetan people's good fortune to have received the friendship and encouragement of the American people and their respective Presidents in our endeavor to protect and preserve our ancient Buddhist culture — a culture of peace, non-violence and compassion — that has great potential to benefit humanity as a whole. On their behalf, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude once again," His Holiness the Dalai Lama wrote.

"On behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan people, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the 46th President of the United States of America. For decades now, the US has supported the Tibet cause on various fronts, and we are always grateful to the US and its people. However, today the concern no longer remains only for the Tibetan people; instead, today the concern is for the global democracy and the universal ideals that have come under threat from authoritarian regime such as China," CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay wrote.

"Your Excellency, Tibetans living under the repressive Chinese rule and across the free world are eternally grateful to the people and the government of the United States of America for their consistent support towards the cause of Tibet. The United States has maintained a cordial relationship with Tibetan Supreme leader His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama and as stated in September by your honourable, we hope it will be continued under your leadership as well," Pema Jungney, Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wrote.

US President Trump Signs Tibetan Policy and Support Bill; CTA is Recognized and Funding for Tibet Provided



US President Donald Trump has signed the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 into law, a move that dramatically strengthened US policy on Tibet and reaffirmed the US government's steadfast support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the CTA.

The signing came after days of delay — the US Congress had approved of the omnibus spending bill, which had the TPSA attached, last week. By calling for larger stimulus checks in the COVID relief bill, Trump initially proclaimed he would not sign the omnibus spending bill until larger checks were made available for Americans. However, to avoid a government shutdown, Trump signed the spending bill.

Welcoming the historic legislation on Sunday, CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay said, "This legislation sends a powerful message of hope and justice to the Tibetans inside Tibet and bolsters US support for the protection of Tibetan people's religious freedom, human rights, environmental rights and exile Tibetan democracy like never before."

"On behalf of the CTA and six million Tibetans, I extend deepest gratitude to President Trump for signing the profoundly historic bill. I would also like to thank once again the US Congress for passing the bill, especially House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for her steadfast support in making this historic bill come true. I also thank the bill sponsors Sena-

tors Marco Rubio and Ben Cardin; and Congressmen Jim McGovern and Chris Smith for introducing in the House and Senate. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this a reality."

In a video message this morning to Tibetans around the world, Sikyong attributed the landmark legislation to the tireless efforts of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, courage and resilience of six million Tibetans inside Tibet and the collective efforts of Tibetans and friends around the world.

"As we proudly celebrate this momentous milestone, I express my deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his blessings, the elders for paving the way and the Tibetans inside Tibet for their sacrifice and determination," Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay said.

Built on the historic Tibet Policy Act of 2002, the TPSA makes it official United States policy that decisions regarding the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama are exclusively within the authority of the current Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhist leaders and the Tibetan people. Any interference by Chinese government officials will be met with serious sanctions and be deemed inadmissible into the United States.

The Statement of Policy regarding the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama states:

"It is the policy of the United States to take all appropriate measures to hold accountable senior officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party who directly interfere with the identification and installation of the future 15th Dalai Lama of Tibetan Buddhism, successor to the 14th Dalai Lama".

The newly enacted bill sends out a clear message of deterrence to the Chinese government that has and continues to meddle with the spiritual traditions and practices of Tibetan Buddhism. The Government of the People's Republic of China has interfered in the process of recognizing a successor or reincarnation of Tibetan Buddhist leaders, including in 1995 by arbitrarily detaining Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, a 6-year old boy who was identified as the 11th Panchen Lama, and purporting to install its own candidate as the Panchen Lama.

The bill categorically states that interference of the People's Republic of China in decisions regarding His Holiness the Dalai Lama's reincarnation would amount to violation of the fundamental religious freedoms of Tibetan Buddhists and the Tibetan people.

It explicitly mentions imposing sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and prohibiting admission to the United States under section 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and 20 Nationality Act. The State Department will also have to work at the international level to build support for Tibetan Buddhists' freedom to choose their own leaders without government interference.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama's contribution to Tibetan democracy

The Statement of Policy on Democracy in the exile Tibetan community, states: "The 14th Dalai Lama advocates the Middle Way Approach, which seeks genuine autonomy for the 6,000,000 Tibetans in Tibet" and that "The 14th Dalai Lama has overseen a process of de-

mocratization within the Tibetan polity and devolved his political responsibilities to the elected representatives of the Tibetan people in exile in 2011”.

The bill enumerates the chronology of His Holiness’ step by step devolution of political authority to the democratically elected leader, or Sikyong and commends the efforts of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his decision to devolve political authority to elected leaders in accordance with democratic principles.

“The Dalai Lama should be commended for his decision to devolve political authority to elected leaders in accordance with democratic principles,” the policy states. It further commends the Tibetan exile communities around the world for the adoption of a system of self-governance with democratic institutions to choose their leaders”.

Acknowledgement of Central Tibetan Administration, Sikyong and the Middle Way Approach

Another significant aspect of the TPSA is the formal acknowledgement of the Central Tibetan Administration as the legitimate institution reflecting the aspirations of the Tibetan diaspora around the world and the Sikyong as the President of the CTA. In fact, the Statement of Policy states: “As of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Central Tibetan Administration is the institution that represents and reflects, to the greatest extent, the aspirations of the Tibetan diaspora around the world, and the Sikyong is the President of the Central Tibetan Administration”.

As a matter of policy, the bill also formally acknowledges the Middle Way Approach, advocated by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, that seeks genuine autonomy for the six million Tibetans in Tibet. It reiterates His Holiness statement that “the Central Tibetan Administration will cease to exist once a negotiated settlement has been achieved that allows Tibetans to freely enjoy their culture, religion and language in Tibet.”

Protecting environment and water resources on Tibetan plateau

The bill introduces new key provisions aimed at protecting the environment and water resources on the Tibetan plateau. It recognizes the key role of Tibetan plateau, often called as the third pole, in determining global climate change. The Tibetan Plateau contains glaciers, rivers, grasslands, and other geographical and ecological features that are crucial for supporting vegetation growth and biodiversity, regulating water flow and supply for an estimated 1.8 billion people. Environmental changes threaten the glaciers in Tibet that feed the major rivers of South and East Asia, which supply freshwater to an estimated 1.8 billion people.

But the so-called developmental activities by the Chinese government including the continuous damming of the Tibetan rivers for the Chinese hydro-electric power, the continuous diversion of rivers and the coerced resettlement of Tibetan nomads who often play the role of environmental stewardship have led to environmental degradation of the Tibetan plateau.

The legislation, therefore, calls for greater international efforts to monitor the environment on the Tibetan plateau and also calls for participation of Tibetan nomads and other Tibetan stakeholders in preservation of the Tibetan plateau. Most importantly the bill calls for cooperative agreements among all riparian nations for transparency related to any kind of activities on rivers flowing from Tibetan plateau.

Diplomatic Channels

The bill strengthens diplomatic efforts through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues in the State Department to “promote substantive dialogue without preconditions, between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community, or explore activities to improve prospects for dialogue, that leads to a negotiated agreement on Tibet”.

It mandates the Office to coordinate with other governments in multilateral

efforts towards the goal of a negotiated agreement on Tibet; encourage the Government of the PRC to address the aspirations of the Tibetan people with regard to their distinct historical, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity; promote the human rights of the Tibetan 14 people; promote activities to preserve the environment and water resources of the Tibetan plateau; encourage that any initiatives or activities for Tibetan communities in the Tibet Autonomous Region are conducted in accordance with the principles espoused in section 616(d), and promote access to Tibet in accordance with the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018”.

Towards that end, the TPSA mandates for the establishment of a United States Consulate in Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet. Until such an establishment, the bill calls upon the Secretary of State to not authorize any new Chinese consulate in the United States. American citizens and companies engaged in business activities in Tibet are encouraged to practice corporate social responsibility and to adhere to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Strengthening of funding for Tibetans inside and outside Tibet

The TPSA authorizes a number of appropriations for Tibet and Tibetan related issues including (not less than) \$8 million for Tibetan communities in the Tibet Autonomous Region and in other Tibetan communities in China; \$6 million for Tibetan communities in India and Nepal; \$3 million to strengthen the capacity of Tibetan institutions and governance in exile; over \$3.4 million and \$4 million respectively for Voice of America’s and Radio Free Asia’s reporting on Tibet and Tibetans; \$1 million for Office of the United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, among others.

The bill also recognizes the efforts of exiled Tibetan communities settled in South Asia for the preservation of culture, religion and language and directs for developmental assistance for the sustainability of these settlements.

Tibet TV's Interview with CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay on Tibet Policy and Support Act 2020



President Dr Lobsang Sangay's exclusive interview with TibetTV.

President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay is currently in the US lobbying for the bill. In an exclusive interview with Tibet TV, President Dr Sangay shared some of the important milestones in the passage of Tibetan Support and Policy Act of 2020.

Tibet TV: This is in fact a landmark victory to the Tibetan struggle the fact that today the US Congress passed the Tibet Support and Policy Act of 2020. First of all, tell us the significance of this bill?

President Dr Sangay: This bill is significant, as you have said, it is a landmark bill in the last 20 years that the US Congress is passing a major bill on Tibet. This bill is in solidarity with six million Tibetans who are suffering inside Tibet. Washington DC is saying 'Tibetan brothers and sisters, we are with you. We are with your freedom struggle. We are for your justice and we will pursue and support your cause'. This is also great tribute to the legacy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This is a major boost for the Tibetan freedom struggle. So it is historic.

Tibet TV: Before you left for the US this time, during a press conference in November, you talked about the lobbying efforts that you wanted to undertake in person in order to push this bill into law. The bill was at that time stalled at the Foreign Relations Committee. How did the bill eventually go through and is there any reason in terms of the time it took for the bill to be enacted into law? What lobbying effort you had to undertake in the lead up to the passage of the bill?

President Dr Sangay: It is a long story but I will get to that at an appropriate time down the line. Everybody made efforts. All the Tibetan associations in America including the Tibetan Youth Congress and SFT. All were involved in it. ICT called their members to support the bill.

The House passed with the overwhelming majority but that's been a long time. When I met Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representative Jim McGovern, they told me not to worry about the House. So we had to lobby the senate which is ruled by the Republican Party. I made my effort toward the senate and reached out to many Republican senators like Lindsey Graham, Tom Cotton, and others. Still, the bill got stuck. There was a glimmer of hope in May. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee's business meeting was called and Tibet was on the agenda. But then, after a few items, the business meeting was adjourned and nothing happened from May till now. I came to the US in October and made some efforts but the environment in DC was such that it was impossible as it was just before the election. President Trump was infected with coronavirus and Congressmen and Senators were also infected. It was very chaotic and there was no chance. At the end, I asked our friends at the Foreign Relations Committee whether it is worth coming back and trying again; I was told to come back.

I came back in November and the very next day of my arrival, I met separately with the Democratic staff and Republican staff online where we strategized on how should we go about the bill. I was told that the second week of December,

the business meeting will be called and Tibet will be on the agenda but, the second week on Friday was when the senate was closing so in a 3-4 days time we had to do 3-4 months of work. From the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the bill has to pass in the Senate floor before it goes to the House.

The Senate version has amendments including the acknowledgement of CTA as the official representative of Tibetan diaspora all over the world and Sikyong as the President of CTA. That is the major amendment we wanted but then it requires the vote of the House also. It takes a lot of time but to cut it short, finally, we have found a breakthrough. Tibet bill was taken out of all other bills. Obviously, the staff members and the senators all agreed to attach it to the Appropriation Bill. That is how it got passed.

This is a short version of the story because when I left for the US in November so many of my friends were doubtful whether the bill will be passed. Somehow, we managed to get all things done. Thanks to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and thanks to all the monasteries who prayed for the Tibet cause.

Tibet TV: In terms of the content of the new Bill, what are some of the major differences between the Tibet Policy Act of 2002 and this new Bill?

President Dr Sangay: The Tibet Policy Act Bill 2002 and Tibet Support and Policy Bill of 2020 should be taken as one since the latter is the amendment, improvement and addition to the previous bill. The 2002 bill addresses the situation inside Tibet as an occupied Tibet, human rights violations, and appointment of a special coordinator to help proceed the dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese representatives. The bill also calls for opening an office in Lhasa and provide funding for Tibetans inside Tibet. In addition to it, the Tibet Support and Policy Bill of 2020 strongly calls for the religious freedom of the Tibetan people, zero interference of the Chinese

government in the reincarnation process and if they do interfere, sanctions will be imposed. On the environmental front, Tibet being a water tower of Asia and anyone who invest in Tibet must follow the US guidelines on development etc. The bill specifically says that the US consulate should be allowed to open in Lhasa. If the Chinese government doesn't allow that, they cannot open any consulate in the US. This is conditional, a very strong one. And one great legacy of His Holiness is the democratic system or democratisation of the exile Tibetan community. The bill also acknowledges that CTA reflects and represents the aspirations of the Tibetans in the diaspora and Sikyong as the President of CTA. For the first time, CTA is legally acknowledged by the US Congress and now through this law, by the US government.

This is a major breakthrough and then there is the funding of no less than 9 million USD to be provided to the Tibetans in India and Nepal, 8 million to the Tibetans inside Tibet and various other funding for Tibetan Scholarship Program. The funding is guaranteed for five years. I am glad that the Tibetan Policy and Support Act is a major political statement for Tibet.

Tibet TV: With regard to the points of the succession of Tibetan Buddhist leaders including the succession of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and also the recognition of Central Tibetan Administration and its leader that is Sikyong as the President as the legitimate representative of the Tibetans in the diaspora in the new bill. What possible impacts do you see this bill will have on China?

President Dr Sangay: If you read the Global Times after my visit to the White House and also the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry when I visited the State Department, they clearly said so-called Tibetan government-in-exile is a separatist organisation and no one should support it, no one should meet with their officials. This is their stand and now this bill counters that and says, 'no, what the Chinese government say is not acceptable. The US acknowledges CTA and the Tibetan freedom move-

ment.' Thereby, sending a message all over the world. The fact that Washington DC is acknowledging the Tibetan movement is a huge political statement, particularly, to the Tibetans inside Tibet.

Yes, this bill will be read and heard all over the world particularly by Beijing and I am glad that six million Tibetans inside Tibet will also get to hear the positive development and support for Tibet.

Tibet TV: As you rightly said the passage of the bill is a huge victory for Tibetans and supporters all around the world. In fact, this will surely send a message of hope and courage particularly to the Tibetans inside Tibet. And the fact that you will be completing your second term as the President of CTA in few months to come, how do you view this achievement now that this bill is becoming a reality?

President Dr Sangay: When I started as the President of CTA in 2011, there was a huge debate going on at the special general body meeting in Dharamshala. I was given the charge of the Central Tibetan Administration. At the end of my term, finally, I managed to have CTA legally and formally recognised by the US Congress and the US government. That means I have fulfilled quite a difficult political task. I am glad that the next Sikyong will have an easier path in the sense CTA is legally acknowledged and funding is provided. Now he/she can focus more on political activities. He/she can double the funding or alleviate the legal recognition of CTA by other governments around the world. A lot can be done. I feel that politically I have fulfilled my task.

Having said that, I am grateful to the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the support extended by the Tibetans all over the world. The bill would not have been completed without the blessing of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tibetans all over the world particularly Tibetans in America. When I left for the US in November, I appealed to them to write to the Senators and they did. The Tibetans in NY&NJ had to make calls to a couple of Senators. Even from Washington DC as the bill was get-

ting introduced I was told by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congressman Jim McGovern not to worry about the passage of the bill in the House. Instead, I was asked to put my effort into lobbying the Senate. I took their advice and guidance and met with a few prominent Senators. They all extended their support.

I am very grateful to Speaker Nancy Pelosi who has been a rock-solid supporter of Tibet and good friend of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I also want to acknowledge the majority leaders of the Senate, Senator Mitchell McConnell who agreed to push the bill and Senator Chuck Schumer. I also want to thank Congressman McGovern and Co-Sponsor Chris Smith, Senator Marco Rubio and Co-Sponsor Ben Cardin. All of them did a fantastic job. And also the Senate to the Foreign Relations Committee including Senator James Risch and Bob Menendez who I am grateful to.

Among all the Congress members, the staff members were key so I want to acknowledge Jennifer White and Brian Burack from the House of Foreign Relations Committee, Bethany Paulis from Senator Rubio's office, Michael Schiffer of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who was with me all the way through; Charlotte Oldham-Moore; Lara Crouch from the Senate Republican side; and Chris Socha. They did all the hard work. Especially, Jonathan Stiffler who was key in drafting the bill from the beginning. All the staff members played very important role. I want to thank all the staff for their tremendous hard work and support, especially to Michael.

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Tibetans Celebrate 31st Anniversary of the Conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Celebration of the 31st anniversary of conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Sikyong hall, Gangchen Kyishong. Photo/Tenzin Jigme/CTA

Celebrating the 31st anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Central Tibetan Administration organized a small ceremony in view of Covid restrictions at Sikyong hall, T Building on 10 December.

Heads of the three pillars of Tibetan democracy including the Kashag, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, heads of the Autonomous bodies. Members of the Standing Committee of the parliament, Secretaries and Additional Secretaries of the CTA departments attended the celebration.

In keeping with the statewide Covid guideline, the total strength at gathering was limited to less than 50.

Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok who is officiating as CTA President, Shri Ajit Kumar Nehria, President of Indo-Tibet Friendship Association, Speaker Pema Jungney, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile addressed the occasion.

“I am deeply honoured to be speaking on this auspicious occasion celebrating the 31 years since the conferment of Nobel peace prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama,” said Shri Ajit Kumar Nehria, President of Indo-Tibet Friendship Association, addressing the official ceremony at the Sikyong hall, Gangchen Kyishong.

He noted that this occasion should not only be celebrated by people of Tibet

and India but by the whole world for His Holiness is the greatest apostle of peace the world has ever seen.

The ITFA president also spoke about His Holiness’ contribution to India and thanked him for spreading India’s message of peace and non violence throughout the world.

Shri Nehria mentioned that this year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Himalayan festival organized every year by the ITFA.

Speaker Pema Jungney presenting the statement of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile said: “All people having the intelligence to discern the immensity of His contributions have exalted him for His efforts and it also eventually led to the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to Him. And it was for the sake of being able to contribute further to the wellbeing of all sentient beings that His Holiness very graciously and gladly accepted the award which led to Him being accorded recognition as a leader of world peace.”

“True to this aim, His Holiness has continued to carry out secret deeds of body, speech and mind that are unimaginable as much in their ambit as in their help to all sentient beings. The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile wishes to extend its immense gratitude countless times to His Holiness for the continuing efforts in such noble endeavours.”

He congratulated this year’s Nobel Peace Prize winner the World Food Programme, an organ of the United Nations Organization.

Officiating President read the Kashag’s statement and acknowledged the increasing global support for Tibet as a result of His Holiness’ tireless and decades long initiatives.

“For over six decades, His Holiness’ commitment to peace and emphasis on inculcating compassion, tolerance and kindness, and efforts to promote reli-

gious harmony and ethics based on universal values continue to pave the way for a just society. His Holiness has often referred the ancient Indian knowledge as a ‘Science of Mind’ encompassing the workings of mind and emotions and thus, has remained steadfast in his commitment to revive it. As one the world’s most beloved leader, His Holiness’ tireless initiatives to usher in a more peaceful world has, in turn, garnered support for the Tibet cause globally.”

“Today is also the Human Rights Day. In the case of Tibet, the repressive policies of the Chinese government continue to trample upon the Tibetan people’s fundamental rights enshrined in its constitution and the Law on Regional National Autonomy. Since 2009, 154 Tibetans have self-immolated and they have given up their lives to call for the fundamental freedom in Tibet.”

He also welcomed the significant developments for the Tibetan cause in the last 3 months as inferred from the Sikyong’s historic visit to the White House and the US state department.

“The visit to the State Department and the White House is historic and we thank the US government for its continued support to our just cause.”

The Nobel peace prize day celebration also featured virtual presentation of cultural performances by TIPA artistes and felicitation of six staff of CTA who have served more than 25 years towards community healthcare under the Department of Health, CTA.

As part of CTA’s yearlong celebration of gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Department of Religion and Culture and the Department of Information and International Relations both released combination of books on His Holiness’ speeches at the Tibetan Religious Conferences, on Tibetan unity and the Middle Way Approach. Watch the full ceremony here.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Discusses The Necessity of Compassion for the Survival of Humanity



President of Emory University, Gregory Fenves, thanking His Holiness the Dalai Lama for taking part in the dialogue on The Necessity of Compassion for the Survival of Humanity from his residence in Dharamsala, HP, India on December 9, 2020. Photo by Ven Tenzin Jamphel

Source: dalailama.com

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was invited to take part in a conversation about the Necessity of Compassion for the Survival of Humanity on 9 December 2020. The event was organized by the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics (CCSCBE) at Emory University and was introduced by its director Geshé Lobsang Tenzin Negi. He welcomed His Holiness and everyone listening in to the conversation from around the world.

Negi introduced the new President of Emory University, Gregory Fenves, to His Holiness. He also offered a warm welcome, noting that His Holiness is an active advocate of the benefits of compassion, as well as being a Presidential Distinguished Professor at Emory University. Fenves mentioned that the opportunity to work with His Holiness was a factor that had made his new post attractive.

Geshé Lobsang Tenzin Negi took the opportunity to bring His Holiness up to date on the work of the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics. He told him that Emory-Tibet Science Initiative has fully implemented its program to establish a comprehensive and sustainable science

education for Tibetan monks and nuns in a number of large monasteries and nunneries. The program is at its fourth stage, focussing on training monastic science teachers and researchers, so that monastic science education will be self-sustaining.

Concerning the SEE Learning program to integrate basic human values into education that His Holiness launched a year and a half ago, it has been introduced to more than 58,000 educators in 145 countries. Meanwhile, all SEE Learning materials are made freely available worldwide thanks to His Holiness's support and the generosity of others.

He also mentioned that over the last fifteen years Cognitively-Based Compassion Training has been offered around the world to college and medical students, doctors, nurses, military veterans, and the general public.

Negi introduced the two participants who would be taking part in a conversation with His Holiness. Dr Sanjay Gupta is a practising neurosurgeon and faculty member at Emory University, while also being the chief medical correspondent for CNN. Ms Melani Walton is a leading humanitarian and co-founder of the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation. The Foundation is generously supporting the work of the Center (CCSCBE) at Emory

as it seeks to advance a global culture of compassion.

Melani Walton opened the conversation with the observation that 2020 has shown that compassion is as precious as water. She asked how compassion can stand up to injustice.

"Firstly," His Holiness began, "I would like to say how happy I am to be able to meet all of you with the help of technology. Our connections with Emory University are long-standing. Emory has introduced many programs of benefit to Tibetan scholars.

"In recent years, more and more people have been paying attention to what it means to find peace of mind. Prior to this, there hadn't been much said about the importance of mental peace. However, despite material and technological developments, we still face a lot of problems. If we pay more attention to ways to develop peace of mind our actions will be more conducive to peace. No one wants to face trouble, but we have to consider that many of the problems human beings create for themselves have their source in our agitated and angry minds.

"Ancient Indian tradition is rich in explanations of the workings of the mind and emotions and how disturbing they can be. This knowledge comes from religious sources, but, these days, we can look at them from a secular, objective point of view. We can all learn how to tackle destructive emotions and cultivate positive qualities. Emory University has been involved in research on this for some time, which is very good."

Dr Sanjay Gupta told His Holiness what an honour it was to be with him today. He also mentioned how impressed he always is by how generous His Holiness is with his time. He agreed with what His Holiness had said about having an agitated mind, something that has become especially evident during the covid crisis. Noting that while there are many who have dedicated themselves to helping others during this crisis, there are

others who refuse even to wear a face-mask. How, he wanted to know, can we encourage more people to be more compassionate around the world.

“This pandemic we’re facing,” His Holiness replied, “is very unfortunate. Large numbers of people have died as a result in the US, in India, Europe and China. Scientific experts are working on ways to deal with it who know much more about it than me. I’m just a Buddhist meditator, but it seems to me that being too anxious creates problems for us. It would help if we gave in less to fear and anxiety. What we need is inner strength, which in itself will help us defend ourselves. I believe that if we are subject to fear and anxiety, we are more susceptible to falling ill.

“Physical hygiene has an important role in protecting our health, but we also need a sense of emotional or mental hygiene. An example of the value of this is a monk I knew who spent 18 years in a Chinese jail. He told me that during that time there were several occasions when he felt in danger. I thought he meant there were dangers to his life and asked him to explain. When he clarified that he’d been in danger of losing compassion for his jailers, I realised how important peace of mind was to him and how maintaining a compassionate attitude meant he faced fewer problems.

“Scientists have observed that we are showered with affection from the moment we are born. Our lives depend on the community in which we live, so compassion and consideration for others is a biological necessity.

“Young children naturally respond to other smiling faces. They don’t care about the colour, faith or nationality of their companions. It’s only when they start going to school that they begin to pay more attention to differences of race, faith or place of origin. This tends to lead to suspicion, fear and mistrust. To counter these negative responses, education should pay more attention to the oneness of humanity. We are all the same in being human and we all have to live together.”

Melani Walton thanked His Holiness for his new book with Franz Alt, ‘Our Only Home’. She asked about the importance of educating the heart for a healthy planet.

“Whether we take a spiritual approach or not, we all have to be realistic. We have to think of the entire planet and the whole of humanity, which requires having a more open mind and basing education on scientific findings.”

Sanjay Gupta recalled that when he was with him in the Tibetan settlement of Mundgod in South India, His Holiness had spoken of the importance of a genuine, warm smile. Now that everyone has to wear a mask and can’t touch each other, he asked how we can express feelings of warmth.

His Holiness responded that reacting to others with suspicion creates a distance between you. If you can be open to everyone, you’ll be able to see the whole world as one family. You’ll have much less fear and anxiety. This is where the Indian tradition of ‘ahimsa’, non-violence, not harming others, has a valuable contribution to make today.

“Wherever I go, I try to cultivate a sense of the oneness of humanity. Then I see everyone I meet as being essentially the same. And people respond positively to this. Animals too. I remember once visiting a park in Vienna where birds were

feeding from people’s hands without fear. Fear leads to isolation, so it’s helpful to be open to others. I know that if I only showed a stern face, people would be much less friendly to me.

“Warm-heartedness is a key factor in everyone’s happiness. That’s why all religious traditions convey a message of compassion. If you believe in God, you can believe we’re all children of one compassionate father and, accordingly, should be compassionate towards each other. Followers of non-theistic traditions consider that since we live life after life, it’s better to conduct ourselves with compassion.”

Melani Walton mentioned how moved she had been by His Holiness’s call in ‘Our Only Home’ for a revolution of compassion. She asked how a more determined approach to protecting the planet could be an expression of compassion.

His Holiness replied that modern education is inadequate, because it doesn’t foster a sense of the oneness of humanity. Protecting the planet is something that affects us all. We need to be less focussed on narrow self-interest. He told her that as soon as he wakes up each morning this is a verse he recites to himself.

As long as space endures and
as long as living beings remain,



Geshé Lobsang Tenzin Negi, director of the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics (CCSCBE) at Emory University, organizers of the event, thanking His Holiness the Dalai Lama for joining the dialogue on The Necessity of Compassion for the Survival of Humanity from his residence in Dharamsala, HP, India on December 9, 2020. Photo by Ven Tenzin Jamphel



Dr Sanjay Gupta, a practising neurosurgeon and faculty member at Emory University, and also the chief medical correspondent for CNN, asking His Holiness the Dalai Lama a question during the dialogue on December 9, 2020. Photo: Ven Tenzin Jamphel

until then may I too abide
to dispel the misery of the world.

Then he asks himself, “I woke up, but where is this ‘I’? If I think about the Buddha, the Buddha’s body, speech and energy, none of them is the Buddha — so, where is he? The feeling of having a solid ‘I’ has no basis. It’s merely a designation. Thinking over these things helps reduce our strong sense of self. And it’s supported by the quantum physics’ observation that nothing exists as it appears. At the same time, cultivating a sense of altruism reduces our self-centred attitudes.

“We think of things in positive or negative terms. We view people as friends or adversaries. But it’s worth investigating where is this foe. My own principal practice concerns these two elements, wisdom that nothing exists as it appears and method in the cultivation of altruism.

“As far as wisdom is concerned, I’m a follower of Nagarjuna and Chandrakirti who followed him too. I read Chandrakirti’s ‘Entering into the Middle Way’ and his auto-commentary to it whenever I can. When he criticizes great masters like Vasubandhu and Dignaga for shrinking from embracing Nagarjuna’s view out of fear, I feel I’m fortunate not to belong to their faction.

“Altruism combined with the idea that-

nothing exists as it appears is a profound and powerful practice. And by following it we can reduce our negative emotions.” Ms Walton asked how looking after others contributes to our own welfare and His Holiness reiterated that we are all part of the seven billion human beings alive today. We have to set an example.

“I speak often about the value of compassion, but if I were also to get angry whenever things don’t go well, it would be hypocritical. Setting a good example is a proper way to serve others.”

Dr Gupta asked why compassion seems to fade with time.

“This can happen if we only rely on our instinctive feelings rather than on reason. The Nalanda Tradition takes a reasoned, logical approach and emphasizes analytical meditation. Once I was giving a talk in Japan and I suggested that although cultivating single-pointed meditation is good, analytical meditation is more effective. I advised those listening to me to use the temple as place to discuss and debate what the Buddha taught to achieve a deeper understanding.

“Recognising that things are dependently arisen destroys the basis of ignorance, the misconception that things exist intrinsically from their own side. This is something we Tibetans first learned from Shantarakshita, the great philosopher and logician who came to Tibet in

the 8th century. He encouraged us to investigate what the teacher says. The Buddha too encouraged investigation and analysis. We have been able to work constructively with scientists because of our background in logic and reason.

“At a deeper level, we are concerned with two truths — conventional and ultimate truth. Ultimate truth is directly opposed to ignorance. Altruism, which is a reflection of conventional truth, reduces our self-centred attitudes. My own practice is rooted in these two truths. There are certain things we have learned from scientists and some things they have learned from us. The human capacity for analysis is very precious and the deeper understanding of reality it leads to is precious too.”

Melani Walton acknowledged the importance of compassion and told His Holiness in closing that from tomorrow the Center for Contemplative Science and Compassion-Based Ethics will be conducting online meditations on compassion that anyone can join. From February it will be conducting a 21-day compassion challenge. She told His Holiness that everyone who had taken part prays for his healthy, long life.

Geshé Lobsang Tenzin Negi thanked His Holiness for taking part in the conversation. “As I mentioned earlier,” he replied, “all religious traditions emphasize the importance of loving-kindness. It’s something all sentient beings need. Therefore, warm-heartedness and loving-kindness are what we need to promote. I want to thank all my friends here, my spiritual brothers and sisters, for the work they are doing. I appreciate it. And until my death, I’m determined to make whatever contribution I can to making this a better world. Thank you.”

Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your entire day

- His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay Formally Enters US White House: A Historic Feat



Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay and Representative Tsering inside the White House compound on 21 November 2020.

Sikyong (President of the Central Tibetan Administration) Dr Lobsang Sangay formally entered the United States White House on the afternoon of 21 November. This was the first time in the last six decades that a democratically-elected head of the Central Tibetan Administration has been invited into the White House.

It was also a fruition of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's long term vision and emphasis on democratising the Tibetan polity that the democratically-elected head of the Tibetan administration is now able to formally enter the White House.

Last month, Dr Sangay became the first democratically-elected Tibetan political leader (Sikyong) to be formally invited into the US State Department to meet Assistant Secretary and Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Robert Destro.

In the last six decades, except for His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the head of CTA was denied entry to the US State Department and White House; the logic for both denials was that the US government does not recognize the Tibetan government in exile. However, this visit amounts to an acknowledgement of both the democratic system of the CTA and

its political head, according to the Office of Tibet based in Washington DC.

Dr Sangay met with White House officials. Prior to this meeting, Dr. Sangay had met with White House officials in undisclosed meetings and locations over a dozen times in the past 10 years since he became the CTA's Sikyong in 2011. This unprecedented meeting sets an optimistic tone for CTA participation with US officials and be more formalized in the coming years.

Though he nears the end of his term as the Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration, Dr. Sangay has tirelessly advocated for the Tibetan Policy and Support Act which was formally signed into law by [president Trump in December 2020.

Earlier, Sikyong Dr. Sangay had several virtual meetings with the Congressional-Executive Commission on China Chairman Jim McGovern and senior Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffers.

Representative Ngodup Tsering and Kelsang Dolma accompanied Dr. Sangay during these meetings.

New Edition of Book "Hidden Tibet" Released in Russian

A new edition of the book "Hidden Tibet" was released in Russian, authored by Dr Sergey Kuzmin.

The book traces the history of Tibetan civilization from ancient times to the present day, and tells about the life of Tibetans before and after the "peaceful liberation" – the annexation of Tibet into the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Speaking at the release, the author noted, "Since 2010, many events have taken place within Tibet and in the world that needs to be discussed. In this regard, this publication includes the chapter "Tibet in 2010–2019". This book also includes some new photographs from this period".

Honorary Representative Telo Tulku Rinpoche of Office of Tibet, Moscow, expressed his appreciation to Dr Kuzmin for his dedication and hard work on bringing out this book. "This book is one of the best books compiled in modern times on the issues of Tibet", Telo Rinpoche said.

"It covers a wide range of historical and political issues related to Tibet as well as events that have taken place in the last decade which no one has compiled before," he added.

120 Speakers Participate in DIIR's Pre-recorded Talk Series on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Four Commitments

Pre-Recorded Talk Series on
His Holiness the Great
14th Dalai Lama's Four Commitments
4 - 11 December 2020



As His Holiness the Dalai Lama turned 85 this year, the Central Tibetan Administration dedicated the year 2020-21 as 'Year of Gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama'. The year of gratitude is a celebration of the 85 glorious years that His Holiness the Dalai Lama has spent and continues to devote to the wellbeing of all sentient beings. As part of this yearlong celebration, the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) organized a massive talk series featuring at least 120 speakers on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's four principal commitments in life. The four commitments (namely Promotion of Universal Values, Promotion of Religious Harmony, Preservation of Tibet's Culture and Environment, and Revival of Ancient Indian Wisdom) embody His Holiness the Dalai Lama's lifelong dedication of service to humanity and promotion of a universal language of kindness to foster brotherhood, non-violence, rationalism,

and a more peaceful 21st century for the coming generation.

Although His Holiness the Dalai Lama likes to call himself a simple Buddhist monk, his tireless advocacy of non-violence and peace as the solution to global conflicts has earned him the title 'global beacon and ambassador of love, peace, and compassion'. He is now one of the most beloved and recognized leaders of our time. His presence and impact is known worldwide as a statesman, spiritual teacher, Nobel laureate, ambassador of peace, and theologian. Also known by his given religious name, Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness is the fourteenth person to be recognized as a Dalai Lama.

For the Tibetan people, His Holiness the Dalai Lama shares a special bond and significance: His Holiness is the human manifestation of Chenrezig, the bodhisattva of compassion and the patron

saint of Tibet. Since his enthronement in 1950, His Holiness has dedicated his life to democratic reforms and development of the Tibetan polity. Following the disruption of his reforms by the Chinese invasion of Tibet, His Holiness the Dalai Lama came into exile in India and established the Central Tibetan Administration. From 1950 till 2011, for over six decades, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has led the Tibetan people politically and spiritually, and has successfully put the global spotlight on China's occupation of Tibet through the sheer power of non-violence and compassion. Since then till 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama travelled the world and singlehandedly put the global spotlight on China's occupation of Tibet through the sheer power of non-violence and compassion. In 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama devolved all his political authority to an elected Tibetan leadership to fully democratize the Tibetan polity.

From 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has dedicated his life entirely to spirituality, universal responsibility, religious harmony, culture and environment preservation, and reviving ancient wisdoms. In an era marked by pervasive strife and conflict borne out of religious differences, economic disparities, and other man-made sufferings, His Holiness the Dalai Lama inspired optimism and positivity to millions through his simple yet profound messages of love, compassion and kindness.

In recognition of his contribution towards world peace and particularly towards the Tibetan movement, at least 120 speakers from 19 different countries speaking in 15 different languages, participated in a weeklong talk series to pay homage and promote His Holiness the Dalai Lama's noble efforts to a wider audience. This was done virtually with the speakers contributing pre-recorded videos due to the challenges caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and the imposition of differing lockdown measures in different parts of the world.

The speakers include all the heads of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions including Bon, and also features some of the most well-known Tibetan Buddhist scholars, Tibet supporters, monks, nuns, students, environmentalists, and educationists as well as Kalons of the Central Tibetan Administration.

The talk series began on 4 December with an introductory remark on the four commitments by Yangten Rinpoche, Religious Secretary at the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama followed by a welcome note by CTA President (Sikyong) Dr Lobsang Sangay. From 4 December, it began formally with a panel of keynote speakers in Tibetan, Hindi, and English languages. The keynote speakers include Kalon Karma Gelek Yuthok, a scholar of Tibetan Buddhist dialectics and religious history, currently serving as Kalon of the Department of Religion

and Culture; Professor Geshe Thupten Jinpa, a scholar of Tibetan Buddhism and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's principal English interpreter, Ven Geshe Lhakdor, a Tibetan Buddhist scholar and author, who is a former English translator of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and currently serving as the Director of Library of Tibetan Walks and Archives (LTWA), Ven Geshe Ngawang Samten, Vice-Chancellor of Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies at Sarnath, Ven Geshe Wangchuk Dorji Negi, a renowned Professor of Buddhist studies at Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies; Kalon Choe kyong Wangchuk, a currently serving as Kalon of the Department of Health, and Lopon Lobsang Tsultrim, a Professor at Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, in Ladakh.

Other notable speakers include Professor Robert Thurman, Jetsunma Tenzin

Palmo, Gelongma Thubten Chodron, Geshema Kelsang Wangmo, Kalon Dr Pema Yangchen, Geshema Delek Wangmo, Ven Dr Mathieu Ricard, Dr Deepak Chopra, Ven Tenzin Priyadarshi, Rajiv Mehrotra, Prof John Powers, among others.

The weeklong talk series and the speakers accentuated His Holiness the Dalai Lama's achievements as the former temporal leader of Tibet, and more importantly and significantly, his influence and aura as a spiritual teacher that looms large not just over the Tibetan Buddhist world but also the wider world. The participation by over 120 scholars and devotees of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a reflection of the powerful sentiment that signifies that His Holiness the Dalai Lama's messages of love, compassion, and kindness will endure for generations to come.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Condoles Demise of Tengboche Rinpoche

On receiving news that Tengboché Rinpoché, Ngawang Tenzin Zangpo, had passed away in Namché Bazaar at the age of 86, His Holiness the Dalai Lama wrote to the Tengboché Monastery Sangha on 2 November to express his condolences.

Addressing them as dear Sherpa Brothers and Sisters he told them he remembered Rinpoché coming to see him when he was visiting Sikkim. He noted that Rinpoché's humility and genuine dedication to the service of others was an example of how to live a meaningful life.

“Although he primarily followed the Nyingma Tradition, during the years he studied in Tibet, during his youth, Tengboché Rinpoché received teachings from Lamas belonging to all traditions. After returning to Tengboché in 1957, and taking up the role of abbot, he encouraged the monks in his care not only to study and practice, but to engage with the local community.

“Similarly commendable were Rinpoché's initiatives to plant trees in the Khumbu Valley and his consistent advice to the region's residents to take care of the environment. I understand that more than fifteen years ago he warned that over-exploiting nature's resources put the local water supply at risk. Over the years, several mountaineers who took part in expeditions to Mount Everest have told me how much they valued Tengboché Rinpoché's advice when they visited him on their way to the peak. I am gratified to know that when Tengboché Monastery burned down in 1989, many of them lent their support to his efforts to reconstruct the buildings.”

His Holiness concluded his letter with the advice that although Rinpoché is no longer with us, the best tribute we can pay to him is to cultivate the quiet, steady warm heartedness he so vividly exemplified.

China's Atrocities in Tibet are Growing Too Big to Ignore

By Josh Rogin - 25 December - The Washington Post

The world is finally responding to the Chinese government's mass atrocities against Uighurs and other ethnic minorities in China's northwest province of Xinjiang. But now Beijing is replicating some of its worst practices — including rounding up hundreds of thousands of innocent people in military-style reeducation camps — in other parts of China. This year, Beijing built and filled massive camps in Tibet, which had been the original testing ground for cultural genocide, political indoctrination and forced labor. Tibetan leaders are pleading for the world to pay attention.

“When it comes to human rights violations in China, Tibet was Patient Zero,” Lobsang Sangay, the president of the Tibetan government in exile, known as the Central Tibetan Administration, told me during a visit to Washington last week. “Xi Jinping is now reintroducing labor camps back into Tibet ... what's new is the speed and the scale of it and the military style that they are bringing to it.”

Beijing has forced more than half a million rural Tibetans into these military-style training and indoctrination facilities in just the past six months, Sangay said. Upon their release, thousands of rural laborers are sent to perform factory work or menial jobs in other parts of China, all under the guise of “poverty alleviation,” according to a September report by the Jamestown Foundation. Corroborating documents obtained by Reuters showed that Chinese Communist Party officials were given strict quotas for how many Tibetans to round up.

While Beijing has long operated gulags for political prisoners and dissidents in Tibet, these new facilities represent a huge expansion of China's years-long program to involuntarily mass relocate rural Tibetans, which Human Rights Watch in 2013 called “unprecedented in the post-Mao era.” The goal of these camps is threefold, according to Sangay: Beijing wants to appropriate Tibetan land to commercialize its natural resources; the CCP uses the camps to forc-

ibly assimilate Tibetans by snuffing out their culture, language and religion; and the third goal, using Tibetans as cheap forced labor, serves the first two.

“‘Poverty alleviation’ for us means cultural assimilation,” Sangay said. “In that sense, they want to take away our faith and erase the history of Tibet.”

Sangay came to Washington to support the Tibetan Policy and Support Act, which Congress passed as part of the omnibus spending bill. The legislation is meant to ensure the Biden administration doesn't turn away from yet another Chinese government campaign of cultural genocide through forced assimilation and political indoctrination.

The legislation expresses support for the idea that Tibetan Buddhists, not the CCP, should determine the identity of the 15th incarnation of the Dalai Lama after the current Dalai Lama exits this world. The fact that Beijing plans to foist on Tibetans an imposter Dalai Lama tells you everything you need to know about how it views their right to worship.

Perhaps more importantly, the law updates the original Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to call on Beijing to negotiate directly with the Tibetan government in exile based in Dharamsala, India, toward what the Dalai Lama calls the “Middle Way Approach” — a compromise to give Tibetans limited autonomy within the Chinese system. It also calls on the U.S. government (soon to be the Biden administration) to sanction CCP officials guilty of human rights violations in Tibet and establish a U.S. consulate in Lhasa, the administrative capital of Tibet.

Predictably, the Chinese Foreign Ministry reacted to the legislation by demanding the United States shut up about Tibet, “lest it further harms our further cooperation and bilateral relations.” Beijing is trying to see if the Biden team will fall into the same trap President Barack Obama did in his first year. In 2009, Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett

traveled to Dharamsala and told the Dalai Lama that he would not be invited to the White House in Obama's first year. When he did eventually visit, Obama tried to please Beijing by downgrading the meeting from the Oval Office to the Map Room and ushering His Holiness out the back door, where he was photographed walking past heaps of trash.

But Beijing did not reward Obama's deference. Once Chinese leaders realized the United States was willing to downgrade the Tibet issue, they cut off talks with the Tibetan leadership and ramped up their repression campaign. President Trump never even bothered to meet with the Dalai Lama. Biden must establish early on that he won't trade Tibetans' futures for the false promise of smooth relations.

Some of Biden's advisers will surely tell him Tibet is just one more uncomfortable issue to be avoided in his effort to manage a complex and already rocky U.S.-China relationship. But ignoring Tibet helped embolden Beijing to expand its repression scheme to Xinjiang in the first place. That sickness is still spreading. Biden must not allow it to further metastasize.

We are the same human beings. That is what binds us to each other. That is what makes it possible for us to understand each other and to develop freindship and closeness

-His Holiness the Dalai Lama

US Congress Passes Landmark Bill in Support of Tibet, Dalai Lama

By Vishal Gulati | IANS

In a historic achievement for the Tibetan government-in-exile, the US Senate on Tuesday unanimously passed the Tibetan Policy and Support Act (TPSA) of 2020 that had been stuck at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since May.

Describing as a historic decision, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) President Lobsang Sangay, who is currently in Washington, told IANS over phone that the Tibetan Policy and Support Act makes it official the US policy that decisions regarding the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama are exclusively within the authority of the current Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhist leaders and the Tibetan people.

“Any interference by Chinese government officials will be met with serious sanctions and be deemed inadmissible into the United States,” he said.

The TPSA was part of the appropriation Bill that was debated and passed.

“I have been in DC for the last five days closely overseeing and finally good to see efforts bearing fruit,” Sangay informed in a tweet.

“By passing the TPSA, Congress has sent its message loud and clear that Tibet remains a priority for the United States and that it will continue its steadfast support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the CTA,” said Sangay in a statement.

“It is a momentous landmark for the Tibetan people.”

The bipartisan Bill commends the Dalai Lama for his decision to implement democratic governance and also commends the Tibetan exile community for successfully adopting a system of self-governance with democratic institutions to choose their leaders.

In addition, it formally acknowledges

the CTA as the legitimate institution reflecting the aspirations of the Tibetan diaspora around the world and the Si-kyong as the President of the CTA.

The TPSA also introduces new key provisions aimed at protecting the environment and water resources on the Tibetan plateau. It recognizes the importance of traditional Tibetan grassland stewardship in mitigating the negative effects of climate change in the region as opposed to the Chinese government’s forced resettlement of the Tibetan nomads.

In addition, it calls for greater international cooperation to monitor the environment on the Tibetan plateau.

American citizens and companies engaged in business activities in Tibet are encouraged to practice corporate social responsibility and to adhere to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The TPSA also authorizes a number of appropriations for Tibet and Tibetan related issues including (not less than) \$8 million for Tibetan communities in the Tibet Autonomous Region and in other Tibetan communities in China; \$6 million for Tibetan communities in India and Nepal; \$3 million to strengthen the capacity of Tibetan institutions and governance in exile; over \$3.4 million and \$4 million respectively for Voice of America’s and Radio Free Asia’s reporting on Tibet and Tibetans; \$1 million for Office of the United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, among others.

Finally, in order to promote access to Tibet as enumerated in the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018, the TPSA calls for the establishment of a United States Consulate in Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet.

Until such an establishment, the Bill calls upon the Secretary of State to not authorize any new Chinese consulate in

the US.

Built on the landmark Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, the TPSA was introduced to the Congress by the Chairman of the Congressional China Commission and Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Jim McGovern, and Marco Rubio.

The CTA President expressed his gratitude to the key sponsors, co-sponsors and everyone who supported the bill, particularly Senators Marco Rubio and Ben Cardin; and Congressmen Jim McGovern and Chris Smith for their “extraordinary leadership” in introducing the Bill in the House and Senate.

“I would like to especially thank House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for their steadfast support in making this historic bill come true,” Sangay, who is at the helm for his second consecutive term, added.

The Dalai Lama has lived in India since fleeing his homeland in 1959. The Tibetan exile administration is based in this hill town.

Our planet is blessed with vast natural treasures. If we use them wisely, beginning with the elimination of militarism and war, every human being will be able to live a healthy life.

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama

US Congress Passes Bill in Support of Tibet, Dalai Lama: What This Means as Biden Takes Charge

- Times Now (Digital), 22 December

Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 calls for establishment of a US consulate in Lhasa and emphasises that Tibetans have the absolute right to choose a successor to their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

US lawmakers have approved legislation demanding China grant Washington a US consulate in Tibet and clearing the way for sanctions against Chinese officials who interfere in the Dalai Lama's succession.

The Tibet Policy and Support Act was an amendment to the \$1.4 trillion government spending bill. Such amendments attached to spending bills is common practice in Congress.

The White House has reportedly indicated that President Donald Trump will sign the spending bill, making it the law of the land.

The Senate's approval of the Tibet Act, which was already passed by the House of Representatives, comes amid growing chatter in Washington that the incoming Biden administration may not adopt a very confrontationist approach towards China. According to some experts, Biden is known to be a centrist and his foreign policy choices will be governed by pragmatism, taking allies on board and a more traditional approach towards China.

However, the assumptions about China that informed the policy decisions of the Obama administration, when Biden was vice president, may no longer be valid. Under President Xi Jinping, China has become increasingly aggressive, making territorial claims all around Asia and more dismissive when western countries question its record on human rights in Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

The Bill on Tibet, and what it means
The Tibetan Policy and Support Act of

2020 (TPSA) calls for the establishment of a US consulate in Tibet's capital Lhasa and stresses that Tibetans have the absolute right to choose a successor to the Dalai Lama, their spiritual leader.

"The TPSA makes it official United States policy that decisions regarding the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama are exclusively within the authority of the current Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhist leaders and the Tibetan people," the Tibetan Government-in-exile, which is based in India, said in a statement, welcoming the move by the US.

Beijing has, not surprisingly, urged America to "stop meddling in China's internal affairs".

While the Trump administration pushed against China on a number of issues including coronavirus and trade, Biden might decrease some of the rhetoric while playing a more quietly activist role in Tibet and Hong Kong.

In July, the US State Department announced it was barring Chinese authorities from the US found to be restricting tourists, journalists or diplomats and other US officials from entering Tibetan areas.

Interestingly, earlier in May, US lawmaker Scott Perry had introduced a bill to recognise Tibet as an independent country.

While the Biden administration will not go ahead with something so disruptive, human rights in Tibet and China's attempts to dilute Tibetan culture and engineer massive demographic changes in

the region are going to meet pushback from the new White House.

While Beijing considers Tibet to be part of its historical empire, a majority of Tibetans think it was illegally occupied by an expansionist China in the 1950s. China's Communist Party has crushed dissent and protests in the region for decades. In 2008, the Dalai Lama accused Beijing of waging "cultural genocide" against his people.

The question of the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama, who is based in India, assumes special significance as His Holiness is now 85 years old. China appears determined to push a Beijing-friendly Dalai Lama as the next in line. It's a prospect that alarms millions of Tibetans and Buddhists around the world. Biden may have to act decisively on this front sooner rather than later.

Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions.

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The Tibetan Community has been Persistently Targeted by Digital Espionage Operations for Over a Decade

Cybersecurity researcher Tenzin Dalha, who works with the Tibet Policy Institute (TPI), a think tank under the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), talks about this with Chandrima Banerjee:

What happened at the Geneva Forum?

The CTA (the elected Tibetan parliament-in-exile) has been organising the forum in Geneva since 2018. It has been an important international platform where human rights advocates, activists, diplomats, academics and politicians deliberate on and report human rights violations by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) regime. Because of the pandemic, it had to be held online this year, between November 9 and 13. The central theme was the global impact of China's policy on freedom of religion. The sessions were on how intolerance of religious practices in areas under China's watch has led to persecution of Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims, Christians and Falun Gong practitioners. It was streamed live on social media platforms.

There were 7,000 troll attacks, with more than 50,000 comments through all the five days.

What did they do?

They wrote offensive comments about the forum, its participants and Tibetan human rights activists. They also spoke a lot about CCP's development programmes in Tibet and East Turkestan. Some tried to spin a narrative of capitalism versus communism out of nowhere. Being online meant being more vulnerable to disruptions. It also ended up providing a larger stage for trolls.

Why did you conclude they

were organised trolls?

The first thing you'd notice about the comments was that they didn't engage with what was being said at all. They avoided arguments or direct discussions, which is because they didn't know anything about what was actually being discussed on the forum. Instead, they focussed on repeating what has been the CCP stance with baseless allegations and propaganda. They did this in multiple languages – Tibetan, English and Mandarin. The syntax of the Tibetan language used, interestingly, was that used within China-occupied Tibet. The aim was clearly distraction.

So, you think this is a state-sponsored campaign?

The Chinese government has one of the most comprehensive propaganda networks. The state-sponsored troll machinery, known as the 50 Cent Army, is said to have anywhere between 5 to 20 lakh people at work. Their work is to post comments that appreciate what the CCP does and remove content that is thought to be unfavourable.

The Washington Post had reported that these government employees have been generating about 448 million comments a year since 2012. The latest on them is that the pandemic has increased their workload – everything has moved online – and they have been given a pay bump, from the 50 cents they used to get to 70 cents a word they write or delete. It's the 70 Cent Army now.

Have there been instances of similar disruptions in the past?

This is not new. The trolling and flooding of Tibetan social media with divisive comments has been happening forever. Tenzin Tsultrim, visiting research fellow at the TPI, had analysed this and said that the CCP has been get-

- Times of India, 30 November
ting better at disrupting anything that goes against its state-sponsored narrative, even outside its own territory. **Does this increase concerns about the upcoming Tibetan elections then?**

Yes, the intent will be to spread confusion and disseminate misinformation and false narratives. The existence of the CTA challenges everything China wants to assert about Tibet and its geopolitical position. Distracting voters, trying to influence their decision-making, and seeding hatred and distrust would further the attempt to challenge the legitimacy of the Tibetan elections. As we approach the elections, this is expected to go up. Everything is online – campaigns, discussions, political messages. It may just make their job easier.

How is the CTA preparing to counter this and ensure a fair election?

President of the CTA, Lobsang Sangay, has urged the community to be cautious about the increasing number of fake profiles, trolls and misleading messages on social media. There are a series of video messages about misinformation that will be shared soon. There are also guidelines for being safe online that the Election Commission has issued. But see, we are up against a well-organised, paid army of trolls.

The Tibetan community has been persistently targeted by digital espionage operations for over a decade. The Toronto-based Citizen Lab had uncovered largescale phishing operations aimed at the Tibetan community for 19 months. Malicious emails that install spyware are common. Even the use of WeChat, before India banned it, was something Tibetans here did cautiously when speaking to loved ones back home. It is always assumed that the Chinese government is watching and listening to every form of communication with a recipient across the border.

P G Jyotikar, Noted Dalit Historian and Long-time Tibet Supporter Passes Away (1934 - 2020)



Noted Dalit historian and a scholar on Dr B R Ambedkar, P. G Jyotikar, was a longtime supporter of the Tibetan cause and Tibetan people.

Dr P G Jyotikar, a longtime supporter of the Tibetan cause, and founder of the support for Tibet and Tibetan freedom movement in Gujarat and the National Vice President of India – Tibet Friendship Society (ITFS) passed away on 15 December 2020. He passed away while undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. He was 86.

Dr P. G Jyotikar was a noted Dalit historian, a scholar of Ambedkarite Movements in Gujarat, and the Trustee Chairman of the Buddhist Society of India popularly known as PG in the Buddhist Ambedkarite community.

His sudden demise elicited outpouring of emotions from different sections of society particularly from the Tibetan community who has long admired and respected him for his unwavering support to the Tibet cause.

On hearing the news of DR PG Jyotikar's demise, Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, Pema Jungney, offered his heartfelt condolences.

In a letter addressed to the family of Dr Jyotikar, the Speaker wrote, "I am sad-

dened to learn the demise of Dr P.G. Jyotikar who was a staunch and ardent supporter of our cause. He was the pioneer of Tibetan freedom movement in the state of Gujarat. On behalf of the 16th Tibetan Parliament in Exile, I would like to pay my sincere condolences to you and your family."

"Dr P.G. Jyotikar had tirelessly dedicated his time and energy to our cause for more than 4 decades. We are truly indebted for all the contributions that he has made in strengthening our cause in multiple ways particularly in Gujarat. He played a key role in enabling the Tibetans to start the winter business in the state in every possible way hence we are grateful for all his efforts in helping our community and our cause at large. His passion and dedication in supporting our cause in every possible ways is truly commendable and we are deeply thankful to have a supporter like him."

"Dr P.G. Jyotikar had taken part in every event and program related to the cause of Tibet. His contribution towards our cause will never be forgotten."

"On behalf of the Tibetans in and outside

Tibet, once again I would like to offer my sincerest condolences and prayers to the family to face the irreparable loss."

"The demise of Dr P.G. Jyotikar is a great loss for the Tibetan cause. We pay our sincere homage and pray for the departed soul," the Speaker wrote.

Meanwhile, the Core Group for Tibetan Cause-India expressed condolence on the demise of Dr P. G. Jyotikar. "Today he is obviously not among us but his life will be an inspiration for all working towards the cause of Tibet. He will be always remembered for his contribution to Tibbat Mukti Sadhana", wrote National Convener Shri R. K. Khrimey.

In the condolence message, Shri Khrimey further wrote that Dr. Jyotikar was a follower of Buddhism and had fought for the cause of Tibetan refugees for the last 40 years.

During the first Gujarat State ITFS Conference in Ahmedabad on 10 December 1996, Mr Sonam Norbu Dago, who later became DIIR Secretary, and currently serving as the Tibetan Chief Justice Commissioner, presented a Tibetan national flag to Dr P. G. Jyotikar. He played a key role in helping the Tibetans to start a sweater business in Ahmedabad during the winter season. "It would not have been easy for Tibetan refugees to visit this trader-dominated state and do business among the Gujaratis had it not been for their supporter Dr P. G. Jyotikar," he said.

Shri Khrimey noted that Dr Jyotikar's departure is a big loss for the Tibetan freedom movement.



Sonam N. Dago presenting the Tibetan national flag to Dr P.G.Jyotikar, on 10 December 1996. Photo/ITCO, New Delhi

TIBETAN MEDIA

Sheja (Official Tibetan monthly)
Department of Information & International
Relations, Dharamshala-176215, HP, India
Email: sheja_editor@tibet.net
Web: www.bod.asia

Tibetan Freedom (Official Tibetan weekly)
Department of Information & International
Relations, Dharamshala-176215, HP, India
Email: tibfreedom@tibet.net
Web: www.bod.asia

Tibet Bulletin (Official Chinese bi-monthly)
Department of Information & International
Relations, Dharamshala-176 215, HP, India
Email: chinadesk@tibet.net
Web: www.xizang-zhiye.org

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net



TIBETAN
BULLETIN

Contacts for the Central Tibetan Administration

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: representative@tibetbureau.in
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 Of-
fice, 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, Wash-
ington, 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,
Sao 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, Dea-
kin, 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 Novodmitrovs-
kaya - 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

UMAYLAM 中間道路
ཉེའོ་ལོ་སུ་བློ་བྱོལ་བ་
Middle Way
Approach
Peaceful conflict resolution for the 21st century

www.mwa.tibet.net

NEEDS YOU

AN APPEAL

Tibetan Bulletin promotes awareness and provides facts of the situation in Tibet and Tibetans in exile. Published bi-monthly and distributed free around the world, we are looking to increase our readership and improve the Tibetan Bulletin with your kind help and suggestions.

If you have enjoyed this issue and would like to help achieve our aims of dissemination of news and views about Tibet, we would be most appreciative of your donation.

Help us to publish your favourite journal on Tibet.

Kindly address your donations to:

a) For Cheques and Drafts from within India: Tibetan Administrations Welfare Society (TAWS)

b) For Money Order: Department of Information and International Relations

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ PostCode _____

Country: _____

Email: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS:

Circulation Manager, DIIR,
Central Tibetan Administration,
Dharamshala 176 215, H.P., India

QUOTES

We think of things in positive or negative terms. We view people as friends or adversaries. But it's worth investigating where is this foe. My own principal practice concerns these two elements, wisdom that nothing exists as it appears and method in the cultivation of altruism.

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama, during a discussion on The Necessity of Compassion for the Survival of Humanity.

The Chinese government must realize that it cannot continue casting a blind eye to the sentiments and aspirations of the Tibetan people in Tibet. The genuine solution for Tibet can only be met by dialogue through the Middle Way Approach.

- Kalon Karma Gelek Yuthok, Officiating Sikyong, on the 31st Anniversary of the Conferment of Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The path chosen for the efforts to resolve the issue of Tibet and the characteristics imbued with ethical values and honesty by the Tibetans under the excellent guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama have won appreciation from many countries of the world. This in turn has won widespread support for the protection of the freedom and the cultural identity of the Tibetan people in whatever way we have sought it.

- Pema Jungney, Speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the 31st Anniversary of the Conferment of Nobel Peace prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama