



TIBETAN BULLETIN

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Ethno-federalism to Complete Assimilation: China's Ethnic Policy in Tibet

Since the creation of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the PRC has maintained (at least on paper) a policy of ethno-federalism based on ethnic autonomy. This system of governance was deemed reasonable because the newly-born People's Republic of China contained a variety of previously self-ruled regions with strong national identities and histories that the Communists have invaded on the pretext of liberation and on contested claims of inheritance from the erstwhile Qing empire.

However, this ethno-federalism model of governance began to shift towards a more assimilationist policy since the early 2010s into what scholars have called a second-generation ethnic policy. Although there isn't a specific catalyst for this shift, many scholars and China-watchers attribute the 2008-09 large-scale protests in Tibet and East Turkestan as one of the major factors that pushed the transformation.

Following the 2008 Lhasa protests and the 2009 Urumqi protests, discussions on China's ethnic policy received a lot of impetus with many challenging the then existing policy of differential treatment to minorities. Although Tibetans and Uyghurs saw these spontaneous protests as an expression of grievance toward state discrimination and oppression, the majority Han Chinese viewed the protests as minority ingratitude toward state largesse. They further saw China's institutions encouraging dissent among ethnic minorities through such policies. This was the first time in the PRC's history when discussions on China's ethnic policy spilled from academics to ordinary citizens and into the public domain. The Chinese internet also started brewing with calls from netizens to curb the state's 'leniency' and 'privileges' toward 'ungrateful' ethnic minorities.

In fact, China did practice a limited preferential policy towards minorities in areas such as family planning, school enrolment, bank loans, job recruitment in minority regions, etc. This preferential policy (*Youhui Zhengce*) has however

never produced any strong tensions as the Han majority (almost 91%) live outside of minority areas and thus the state's ethnic policy was a non-issue to them. However, the 2008-09 protests incited strong emotions among the majority Han. This was due to the immense global attention that these protests received and the international scrutiny that followed about China as a nation and its treatment of minorities. The majority Han saw this as an affront and a betrayal of the state's largesse toward minorities. The majority's anger soon started resonating with scholars who have long called for assimilation and integration of the minorities with the majority, and the depoliticisation of ethnicity in China. These scholars include Ma Rong, Hu Angang, Wang Yingguo, et al.

Most of these scholars were influenced by Modernist theories and advocate civic nationalism, arguing that politicisation of ethnicities have strengthened ethnic identities and consciousness which have negatively affected China's national identity. They have called for replacing the Soviet model of governance based on ethno-federalism with that of complete cultural assimilation. They have maintained that, by copying Soviet theories and policies, China remains a multination state (*Duo Minzu*) that arouses a desire for independence among ethnic elites with previously weak identities. These scholars claimed that such ethnicity-based policies pose both a danger of separatism and a threat of dissolution of the nation.

Such widespread discussion and criticism led to speculations that there could be a shift in China's ethnic policies. The shift, although subtle, came in the January 2010 Fifth Tibet Work Forum. Unlike previous Tibet Work Forums, it did not emphasise infrastructure building like roads and hospitals but focused more on integrating Tibetan areas with mainstream China. The forum also highlighted the importance of ethnic contact, exchange, and blending.

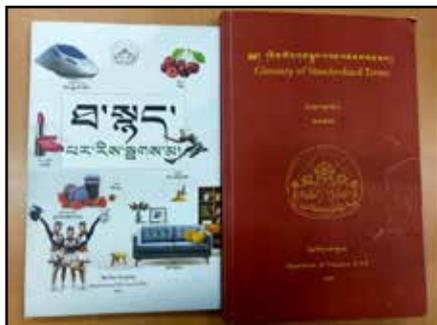
With the arrival of Xi Jinping as China's President in 2013, the assimilationist faction within Chinese policy makers

received a further boost. The Chinese government now openly embraces cultural assimilation as a means to create a single national identity by minimising ethnic minority identities and cultures. This was implemented with various initiatives such as clamping down on minority languages, encouraging inter-marriages with Han ethnicities, criminalising contacts with ethnic diaspora communities, programs to send ethnic minority children to Mainland China for cultural transformation, and also suppressing ethnic traditions and culture including religion. This assimilation of ethnicities through forced erosion of ethnic identities was further confirmed during the Seventh Tibet Work Forum in 2020. During the forum, Xi called for governing Tibet in the new era with the 'ten musts' giving a special focus on sinicising Tibetan religion. Identifying Tibetan Buddhism as the core of Tibetan cultural identity, he said Tibetan Buddhism should be adapted to socialist society and developed in the Chinese context.

Following these proclamations, ethnic policies in minority regions like Tibet, East Turkestan, Southern Mongolia and Hui areas have been implemented with a strong focus on sinicisation. Destruction of Tibetan Buddhist statues, imposing limits on the number of monks and nuns, suppression of Tibetan language education, encouraging inter-ethnic marriage with Hans, incentivising the study of Mandarin, and mass migration into Tibetan areas have now become the norm in Tibet. It remains to be seen how successful this second-generation ethnic policy would be in eradicating ethnic identities and forging a single Chinese national identity among ethnic minorities. However, one thing is certain. The fate of the unique cultural and religious identities of the national minorities is being seriously threatened into extinction through assimilation. The road ahead for national minorities and their cultures including Tibetans and Uyghurs are looking extremely difficult and fraught with challenges and obstacles.

Jamphel Shonu

29th Tibetan Terminology Meeting Finalises Over 575 Standard Terms



Glossary of standardised Tibetan terms published by the Education Department of Central Tibetan Administration.

The Terminology Desk of the Department of Education, Central Tibetan Administration has finalised over 575 standardised Tibetan terminology for applications in Administration, Law, Politics, Technology, and Environment during a five day meeting of the High-Level Standardising Board held from 27-31 December 2021.

This was the 29th meeting of the Board and the purpose of the meeting was to standardize Tibetan terminology for the above application and to aid in the preservation of Tibetan language and cultural heritage.

The Terminology section of the Department of Education was first instituted under the leadership of the 13th Kashag in 2006. Since then, the Tibetan Terminology Project has finalised and produced 14 volumes of Glossary of Tibetan Standardised Terms.

The offices under the jurisdiction of Central Administration and institutes such as schools, monasteries, libraries, and media etc are advised to incorporate the standardized terms finalised by the Board.

For detailed news visit:
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Around a Dozen Tibetans Arbitrarily Detained and Tortured, Second Buddha Statue Dismantled in Drakgo Crackdown



Picture of Drakgo monastery taken before the demolition of 99 foot Buddha statue, Maitreya statue and 45 colossal prayer wheels.

Following the Chinese authorities' demolitions of a giant Buddha statue, 45 huge prayer wheels, and a monastic school in Tibet's Drakgo (Ch: Luhuo County) in Kham Karze recently, the crackdown in the region continues as a second Buddha statue is dismantled. Moreover, around a dozen Tibetans have been arbitrarily arrested and detained by the local authorities.

While many of them are not identified at the time, among the arbitrarily arrested and detained include Paga, the abbot of Drakgo monastery, his assistant Nyima, another monk by the same name Tenzin Nyima, and Tashi Dorje, both from Drakgo Monastery. A local sculptor called Lhamo Yangkyab and another man Norpa Tsering Samdup were also taken away and detained for unknown reasons. Furthermore, monk Tenzin Nyima was beaten and tortured severely for not showing "proper expression".

In addition to the destruction last month, local authorities in Drakgo have also demolished another Buddha statue, a 30-foot-tall Maitreya statue located inside the Drakgo monastery compound. "The Chinese county officials tried twice but failed to demolish the statue of Jetsun Jampa Gonpo (Maitreya Buddha), the Buddha of the future. Afterwards,

with the help of bigger dozers and JCBs, they demolished the whole three-storey temple that housed the statue," said our sources.

The local Tibetans, suspected for sharing information about the demolitions, are being subjected to severe mistreatments including not giving proper food in prison, making them stand without clothes in the freezing cold weather, and inhumane beatings and tortures. Authorities are also punishing Tibetans for not showing "proper facial expressions".

The Central Tibetan Administration's official Spokesperson Tenzin Lekshay remarked, "The demolitions of school, Buddha statues, and prayer wheels in Drakgo, Kham and the cases of subsequent arrests and detention of Tibetans by the Chinese authorities are the show cast of China's belligerent attitude towards Tibetan culture, tradition and identity. Such are serious violations of human rights, including religious freedom. The Central Tibetan Administration condemns China's ongoing atrocious policies in Tibet."

In October, Chinese authorities forcefully tore down the Gaden Nangten School, a school run by the Drakgo Monastery, alleging the school had "violated" the land use law. In December, the Chinese government demolished a 99-foot-tall Buddha statue and 45 huge prayer wheels erected near Drakgo monastery while also removing and burning down prayer flags.

"Every day, think as you wake up, today I am fortunate to be alive, I have a precious human life, I am not going to waste it. I am going to use all my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others; to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. I am going to have kind thoughts towards others, I am not going to get angry or think badly about others. I am going to benefit others as much as I can."

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

US Special Coordinator of Tibetan Issues Uzra Zeya Calls for Direct Sino-Tibetan Dialogue Without Preconditions

US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Uzra Zeya expressed the US administration's strong commitment towards human rights, and called on the



US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Under Secretary Uzra Zeya.

People's Republic of China (PRC) to hold direct dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama or his representatives without any preconditions to achieve meaningful autonomy for Tibetans. Special Coordinator Uzra Zeya made these comments while speaking to Tenzin Chemey in an interview with Tibet TV on 14 January.

Speaking about her role as the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, she said she sees the role as fully reflecting President Biden's commitment to center human rights and democratic values in the US foreign Policy writ large. She expressed her own commitment to working with the international community and engaging the PRC officials on advancing human rights of the Tibetan people and preserving their unique historical, religious, cultural and linguistic rights, including calling upon the PRC to end interference in the selection and veneration of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders.

Further elaborating, she said her role also include calling upon the PRC to end its surveillance and harassment of Tibetan diaspora communities all over the world including in the US. She then

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Further elaborating, she said her role also include calling upon the PRC to end its surveillance and harassment of Tibetan diaspora communities all over the world including in the US. She then called on the PRC to engage in direct dialogue without preconditions with His Holiness the Dalai Lama or his representatives to resolve differences and achieve meaningful autonomy for Tibetans.

"We are also calling for increased access to Tibet for US and other officials including journalists like yourself and we seek reciprocity from China regarding the access that PRC officials enjoy in our country. We want to promote activities that protect the environment and the water resources of the Tibetan plateau on which over a billion people depend. We also seek to address the very significant humanitarian needs of the Tibetan refugees. We want to support opportunities for these refugees to improve their livelihood and we must

ensure that they are not forcibly returned to China. So it is a multi-pronged agenda that we are pursuing, one that we seek to intensively engage international partners to build support in this very concerted effort," she added.

Emphasising her commitment to restore the Sino-Tibetan dialogue, she said she intends to work intensively with partners throughout the US government, the US congress, and with likeminded partners and governments in the international community. She described resuming the Sino-Tibetan dialogue as the cornerstone of the special coordinator's role and something that she will continue to call for. She explained that the US administration believes that a negotiated agreement that leads to meaningful autonomy for Tibetans and ensures the preservation of their religion, culture and language provides the best hope for long term stability in the region.

She noted the concerning phenomena of authoritarian governments including the PRC effectively exporting their repression and using coercion, technology, diplomacy to pressure diaspora actors particularly those advocating for human rights. So, she clarified that the transnational repression aspect is an important part of her mandate in supporting Tibetan diaspora communities across the world.

Responding to questions on the US government's stance on the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics and the issue of reciprocal access, she said: "With respect to the Olympics, I want to underscore that the US took a principled decision not to send any diplomatic or official representation to the Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics games given the ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and their other severe human rights abuses including in Tibet."

"So, this question of access is critical and our decision with respect to the Olympics is also to show that we would not treat these games as business as usual, and we would not be contributing to the fanfare of the games in such a way that obscures the reality of human

rights abuses occurring as we speak in PRC. So on the question of access, this is an absolute priority and we have a legislative mandate that we intend to uphold and I think there is an opportunity in our stance with respect to the Olympics to show our commitment to promoting human rights and to shine a light on the reality of the situation in Tibet and elsewhere,” she added.

She further expressed that she is heartened by the strong bipartisan support for President Biden and Secretary Blinken’s decision to name her as the Special US Coordinator, and also for the issue of Tibet in the US Congress.

Two Tibetan Monks Held Incommunicado for Five Months; Chinese Government’s Poultry and Pig Farming Projects in Drakgo



Picture of the Nenang monastery is shown on the left, and arrested monks Tenzin Norbu and Wangchen Nyima are shown on the right. Photo: RFA

Two Tibetan monks, arrested by Chinese officials in Kham Karze’s Drakgo County five months ago, have since been held incommunicado, reported a reliable source.

Tenzin Norbu and Wangchen Nyima of Nenang Monastery in Drakgo were arrested on 15 August 2021. According to our source, they are currently being held in Tawu (Ch: Daofu) County prison in Karze (Ch: Ganzi).

Officials have withheld any information about the arrest and the charges of the two monks from their family members

causing fears for their life and safety, said the source. Though the reason for their arrest is unclear, it is suspected that it might be due to their involvement in the monastery’s running of informal classes teaching Tibetan language, culture and religion for local Tibetan children. China’s education policy degrading the use of Tibetan language in schools has led to parents sending their children to these informal classes organized by local monasteries. Such activities have drawn extra scrutiny from the Chinese officials on the monks, who are targeted and placed under heightened monitoring.

“The two monks are amongst those targeted and local authorities have been monitoring them for a long time”, explained our source. Wangchen Nyima is a well-known advocate for Tibetans’ education and health. He was earlier arrested in 2015 when the Chinese government forcibly shut down schools in his monastery. His brother Orgyan Choedrak was also arrested at the same time.

The two monks were brothers and also nephews of Tulku Choekyi Nyima, a respectable and revered Abbott of Nenang Monastery. Tulku Choekyi Nyima was a student of Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, a revered Nyingma lama and the founder of Larung Gar, the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastic academy.

According to other reports, on 18 August 2021, Khenpo Thubten and a monk named Bukyo were killed in a fire, believed by the Tibetans to have been set upon by the Chinese officials, in the Nenang Monastery assembly hall.

Since December 2021, Tibetans in Drakgo were made to experience the replay of the Cultural Revolution when two huge Buddha statues and other objects of worship including prayer wheels and flags were demolished. They are further made to obey official decrees and policies undermining Tibetan identities i.e. language, culture and religion. Failing to comply such orders have resulted in the arrest, detention, torture and ill-treatment of Tibetans. At

least about a dozen have been arrested and tortured for sharing information on the recent crackdown to outside Tibet.

Drakgo Demolitions and Chinese Government’s Poultry and Pig Farming Projects

Following the series of Chinese government’s demolitions in Drakgo, with the dismantling of the 30-foot Buddha Jampa Gonpo (Maitreya, the Buddha of future) statue between 21-22 December, Chinese authorities are now demolishing the quarters of lamas and monks at Gaden Namgyal Ling in Drakgo.

Further, the government is carrying out poultry farming and piggeries projects where authorities are making Tibetans to construct the farms while threatening the locals with heavy monetary punishments and prison sentences if they don’t give full compliance. Moreover, officials are even planning to build such poultry and piggery farms at the same location where they demolished Gaden Namgyal School. The school, run by the Drakgo Monastery, was demolished last October.

Tibetans are being arbitrarily arrested and detained in the name of needing “patriotic education” and training, where they are forced to praise the rule of the Communist Party and learn Chinese language. Officials are also severely punishing Tibetans for even small things such as showing “improper facial expression” and refusing to take part in the training sessions.

“The continuing ordeal of having to attend those ‘patriotic education’ training and having to suffer severe beatings at the hands of the Chinese officials in Drakgo has been taking place as early as November 2021”, explained our source. The beatings were so severe that several Tibetans have reportedly lost consciousness while one monk suffered a serious injury to his eyes.



Indian MP Urges Indian Government to Support the Tibetan Freedom Movement in Rajya Sabha

Shri Amarendra Dhari Singh, a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of India's bicameral parliament, raised the issue of Tibet on 3 February in the Parliament as part of his speech on the motion of thanks on the Indian president's address. Shri A D Singh is elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar as a member of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

In his speech, he said:



Shri Amarendra Dhari Singh, member of Rajya Sabha from Bihar.

“India will have to learn to stand with its friends. If not, we will be repeating the historical mistake of once again letting down our friendly people of Tibet. It is well documented that Tibetans never accepted the sovereignty and suzerainty of the Chinese.”

“Even Nehru, who is much loved by the current government, advised them to approach the UN and sent a young military officer Zorawar Bakshi to undertake strategic military concerns in Tibet in 1949. Things did not turn out as planned and the rest is history. However, the nation faces long term consequences of both action and inaction in this increasingly multipolar world, and India will have to align itself with its own national interest in its own neighbourhood and beyond.”

Wrongfully Imprisoned Tibetan Scholar Being Subjected to Life-Threatening Treatments

Go Sherab Gyatso, an eminent Tibetan scholar serving a 10-year prison sentence is currently in ill health caused by beatings and a series of mistreatments since his arrest in October 2020, according to a reliable source.



Go Sherab Gyatso

Lack of proper necessities in prison such as food and medical treatment compounded by beatings has further deteriorated Sherab's health. Go Sherab has been reportedly suffering from a chronic lung disease, believed to have contracted during his earlier imprisonment in 1998. He has since been on regular medications.

A recent report published by Human Rights Watch expressed major concerns and condemned the Chinese government demanding for the “immediate and unconditional” release of the imprisoned Tibetan monk. In the report, Sophie Richardson, China director at the Human Rights Watch, remarked “Once again the Chinese government's wrongful imprisonment of a Tibetan risks becoming a death sentence”. “Go Sherab Gyatso should be immediately released and given comprehensive medical care”, she added.

In light of Sherab's case, many Tibetan prisoners serving long sentence terms have died in the custody of the Chinese police from mistreatments and denial of proper medical care.

Chinese authorities arrested Go Sherab on 26 October 2020 while he was in Chengdu for his medical treatment. However, Go Sherab Gyatso's case lacked sound and valid evidence in justification of his lengthy prison sentence. The charges made by the Chinese authorities indicate support for Tibetan independence. Another source reported the main ground for his sentence as the content of the book Find your own path, a collection of his recorded talks. But there was no specific incident to substantiate the accusations. He is currently being held in Chushul prison (Prison no. 1 in the Tibet Autonomous Region).

On 21 July 2021, a group of UN experts jointly questioned and expressed serious concern to the Chinese government over the enforced disappearance of Go Sherab Gyatso. In response, the Chinese government on 27 August 2021 said that Go Sherab Gyatso was charged and arrested for suspicion of “inciting secession.” In addition, it was revealed that the Lhasa City Intermediate People's Court was yet to pronounce a verdict on his case. Tibetan sources later reported that he was given a 10-year sentence.

A reputed and highly outspoken towards preserving Tibetan identity, he was no stranger to conflicts and variance with the Chinese authorities. Prior to the arrest in Chengdu, Go Sherab Gyatso was previously detained several times between 1998 to 2011 for his writings criticizing Chinese policies undermining Tibet and the Tibetan people.

“Problems and disagreements are best resolved through dialogue. Genuine peace comes about through mutual understanding and respect for each other's wellbeing.

We must not lose hope. The 20th century was a century of war and bloodshed. The 21st century must be a century of dialogue..”
His Holiness the Dalai Lama

More Tibetans Arrested in Drakgo After Mobile Phone Inspection



Picture of Drakgo depicting the locations of the recent demolitions. The smaller circle shows an empty field where the temple housing the Maitreya statue was earlier located.

Three Tibetans pilgrims were arrested in Drakgo in January after they were found in possession of “politically sensitive information” on their phones during an inspection, according to a recent report.

A woman named Nortso and two men, Asang and Dota, were arrested under the allegations of keeping pictures and videos of the recent demolition of the 30-foot-tall Maitreya statue at Drakgo monastery, said the report, citing a source.

According to the report, the trio are residents of Drakyab county, Chamdo (Ch: Changdu), Tibet Autonomous Region and were returning from a pilgrimage to the monastic community in Larung Gar in Serthar County. It was reported that some of the photos were found as background images of their WeChat accounts during the search. They are currently being held in the Chamdo police station.

In another confirmed incident, Tashi Dorje, a monk of Drakgo monastery, was earlier arrested around 1 or 2 January 2022. He was accused of sending information about the recent Drakgo unrest outside Tibet.

Censorship remains high in Drakgo county as one source reported, “Keeping or sharing photos and videos of demolitions of Buddha statues, and using photos [Buddha Statue] as the background photo on WeChat, is considered a politically sensitive act

with offenders facing criminal charges.”

The recent Drakgo unrest, tied to China’s deliberate and relentless attack on the Tibetan identity, began last October when a Tibetan monastic school was forcibly demolished. In December, officials commenced the demolition of two huge Buddha statues, highly revered by the local residents, 45 huge prayer wheels and burnt down prayer flags. Every attempt of Tibetans to disclose information about the demolition was savagely suppressed. As a result, around a dozen Tibetans were captured and subjected to “political reeducation” programs.

China’s attempts of drawing respect and acceptance from the Tibetan community towards their rule are proving futile as more news emerges of Tibetans getting arrested in relation to the recent crackdown.

Former Tibetan Political Prisoner Ngawang Gyaltsen Passes Away at 58

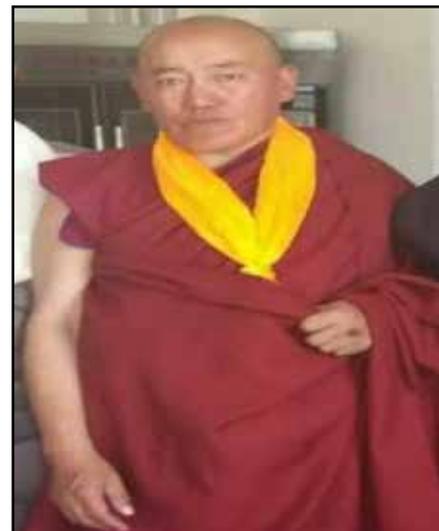
A former Tibetan political prisoner who spent more than 17 years in Chinese prisons working for the human rights of the Tibetan people has passed away on 22 February 2022, according to our source.

Ngawang Gyaltsen, also known as Ngodup Gyaltsen, passed away around 5:22 AM local time in Lhasa hospital due to ill health. He was only 58 years old.

He was one of the 21 Drepung monks who staged the first significant pro-independence peaceful demonstration in Lhasa on 27 September 1987. He was later arrested and detained for four months at a detention centre in Lhasa.

Following his release, he continued to work for Tibet’s independence and the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people. He along with nine other monks formed the ‘Group of Ten’ carrying out non-violent political activities.

According to the Amnesty International Group 22 report, “the ten monks’ non-violent political activities included the use of carved wooden blocks to print copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They also printed a document outlining their vision for the future, based on the 1963 Constitution drafted in exile by the Dalai Lama, proposing a democratic Tibet free from Chinese occupation”.



Picture of Drakgo depicting the locations of the recent demolitions. The smaller circle shows an empty field where the temple housing the Maitreya statue was earlier located.

The authorities arrested the ten monks on 13 May 1989. On 28 November 1989, he was tried by the Lhasa People’s Intermediate Court in the presence of around 1500 people where he was sentenced to 17 years in prison for “taking part in counter-revolutionary groups”, “inciting separatism”, “conducting espionage acts”, and “trespassing international borders”. He was also subjected to five years of deprivation of political rights in addition to his lengthy sentence term.

According to a report by Free Tibet, Ngawang was again arrested and later sentenced to three years in prison on 24 February 2015 in Nagchu’s Sog county on unknown charges. It was suspected that his confrontation with the Chinese officials on the ‘patriotic education’ led to his eviction from his monastery. He served a three-year sentence in Lhasa’s Drapchi prison until his release on 7 March 2019.

Sikyong Inaugurates New Tibet Museum of Central Tibetan Administration

The new Tibet Museum, one of the extensive projects undertaken by the Central Tibetan Administration that took 4 year-long completion was formally inaugurated by Sikyong Penpa Tsering at Gangchen Kyishong on 9 February.

The project was conceived in 2017 during the 15th Kashag under the leadership of former Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay with an aim to disseminate the uncensored story of Tibet to the world besides preserving the cultural heritage of Tibet.

Among the present guests at the inauguration were the Kalons, Deputy Speaker Dolma Tsering, Parliamentarians, representatives, and heads of Dharamshala-based Tibetan NGOs.

The new museum as explained by Director Tashi Phunstok in his introductory remarks is aimed toward representations of Tibet and Tibetan people and moreover to reclaim the right to tell their own stories. In parallel to highlighting Tibet's historical, political, environmental, and international importance through archives, photographs, and personal testimonies, it also focuses on educating about Tibet's culture, democracy in exile, teachings, and legacies of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Sikyong accompanied by Deputy Speaker Dolma Tsering and the guests touring the exhibition. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

In his inaugural speech, Sikyong expressed his appreciation and gratitude to donors for their financial support and thanked the experts and technicians for their collaboration and guidance.



Sikyong Penpa Tsering inaugurating the new Tibet Museum at Ghangchen Kyishong on 9 February 2022. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

“I also commend the previous Kashag and former Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay for the successful inauguration of the museum today,” said Sikyong Penpa Tsering.

“What is more important now is to ensure the contributions of the sponsors and the investment of the expertise are not wasted” Sikyong persisted while noting the museum as an essential medium to garner international attention to the political concerns of Tibet. To strengthen its presence and impact, Sikyong recommended standardizing the use of the museums to include audio in different languages and establishing virtual tours of the exhibitions for those incapable of physical access to the museum who can also benefit from the experience.

“All our achievement and outstanding work today has been possible because of the guidance and visionary leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama” Sikyong reminded and reassured Tibetans around the world particularly Tibetans inside that the His Holiness is in good health.

Also highlighting the importance of the newly inaugurated museum, Kalon Norzin Dolma of Department of Information and International Relations

(DIIR) said, “ This exhibition hall is an important place of knowledge where Tibet’s past history and current reality are formed through evidence of images, documents, and materials”. She further accredited the museum to be the ‘gateway to Tibet’s political struggle’ and the uncensored presentation of the true situation inside Tibet. Besides that, she highlighted its significance in educating young Tibetans about their cultural identity, the political history of Tibet, and the current status. Kalon concluded her address by thanking everyone involved in enabling the project to fruition.

The project owes its completion to major donors like USAID, Tibet Fund, and NED.



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His Holiness the Dalai Lama Condoles the Demise of Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh



His Holiness the Dalai Lama was saddened to learn that his friend and spiritual brother Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh had passed away. He offered his condolences to his followers in Vietnam and around the world.

In his condolence message, His Holiness wrote:

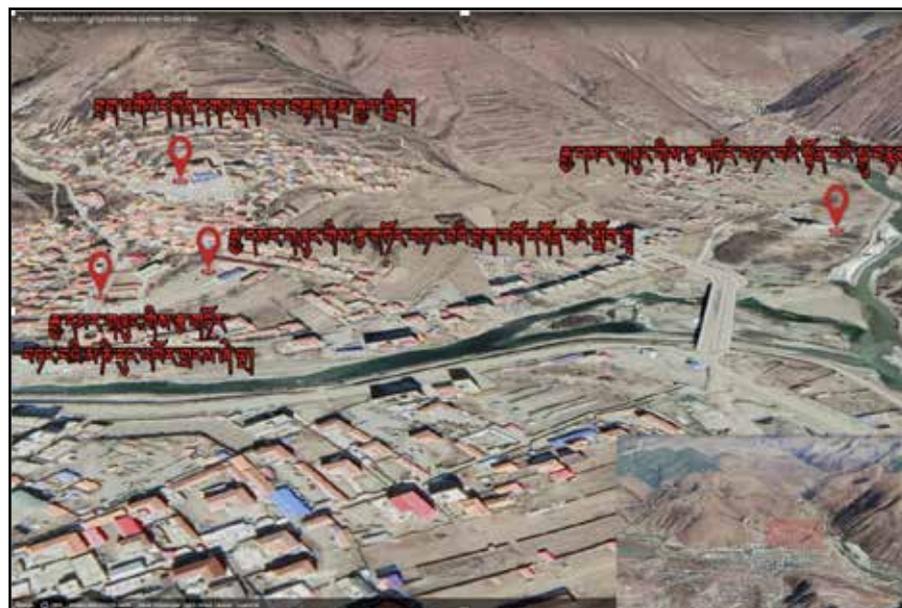
“In his peaceful opposition to the Vietnam war, his support for Martin Luther King and most of all his dedication to sharing with others not only how mindfulness and compassion contribute to inner peace, but also how individuals cultivating peace of mind contributes to genuine world peace, the Venerable lived a truly meaningful life.

“I have no doubt the best way we can pay tribute to him is to continue his work to promote peace in the world.”



Xi Jinping Replicating Mao's Cultural Revolution in Tibet

By T.G. Arya*



Aerial view of Kham Drakgo, the destruction and demolition sites: 1. Top-left: Gaden Rapgyaling monasteries; 2) Top-right: the 99-foot Buddha statue demolished; 3) Middle: Tibetan school of the Monastery; and 4) Bottom-left: site of 45-prayer wheels destroyed. Photo: Tibet.net

Only a few days have left for the 2022 Winter Olympics to start. However, the world seems not ready for the games, more so China itself. The CCP leadership, instead of concentrating on the Winter Olympics and managing the Coronavirus pandemic, is perpetrating Cultural Revolution-like atrocities and destructions in the occupied regions like Tibet, Uighur, and South Mongolia.

The recent destruction of the 99-foot Buddha statue, 45 huge prayer wheels, demolishing of a Tibetan school, burning of prayer flags in Drakgo of Kham region of Tibet with impunity demonstrates the CCP's leadership dismissal of the international norms and value system. The international community's silence has further encouraged the CCP goons to destroy the statue of Jetsun Jampa Gonpo, Buddha Maitreya, near Gadan Namgyaling Monastery. Continued silence from the free world would usher the Cultural Revolution of Mao's era in Tibet and other occupied regions.

The world has still not recovered from the Coronavirus pandemic, which has caused enormous suffering and is still

causing havoc worldwide. More than 5.5 million people have died, and there are some 310 million confirmed cases in 222 countries as of January 10. So, who is responsible for these pandemic deaths?

Instead of condemning and bringing the perpetrator to justice, the world leaders and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have honored the perpetrator to host the Olympics.

The Olympics is a sacred human ritual and celebration in games to honor freedom, democracy, and friendship. It is to celebrate the joy and achievement of the oneness and equality of all people across the world. But the reality and irony are that the CCP is all against freedom and democratic values. Therefore, it is analogous to sending lambs to the care of a wolf!

The world should know that it is not China hosting the Olympics; it is the CCP and its People's Liberation Army (PLA) who are hosting the games. They are hosting it not to honor freedom, democracy, and friendship but to tell their countrymen and the international community of the

success and supremacy of their value system – “power comes from the barrel of a gun.”

Enes Kanter, the American professional basketball player, has rightly said, “The Chinese Communist Party does not represent the Olympics' core values of excellence, of respect, of friendship, and they are a brutal dictatorship.” He has openly come out to condemn the CCP's injustices not because he is anti-China but because he is pro-justice and pro-humanity.

In 2008, despite voices from the Human Rights groups and demonstrations in Tibet, China was awarded the honor to host the Olympics. However, it was awarded with promises from the CCP leadership to reform and promote human rights, religious and press freedom in the regions. His Holiness the Dalai Lama also supported it, hoping that this would bring China closer to complying with the international norms and understanding.

But the reality is that after the Olympics, the human rights situation in Tibet, Uighur, and South Mongolia turned from bad to worst. Before the Olympics, some 2000 to 3000 Tibetans escaped to India and abroad annually. Since the 2008 Beijing Olympics, it trickled, and as of 2017 and 2018, there were only 3 or 4. Tibet, as of now, is said to have become like a police state, completely under surveillance and shackled. Whole villages have been turned into a spy network.

Taking advantage of the Coronavirus pandemic and international silence, the CCP leadership has now come out boldly to eliminate Tibetan identity, culture, and religious values. The cases of destruction of Larung-gar and Yachen-gar monastic communities are still vivid. What is going on in Drakgo is unimaginable and against international law and the Chinese constitution.

There is less than a month to host the sacred winter Olympics, yet China has time and guts to commit such atrocities in Tibet. This is an insult to the IOC and the international community.

The submissive and ambivalent attitude of the world leaders has led China to commit continuous border intrusions in India and Bhutan, aggressive military maneuvering around Senkaku island of Japan and Indo-Pacific regions, stifling democracy and freedom in Hongkong, threat to occupy Taiwan. These are all done to have the despotic leader continue at the helm to carry out the CCP's hegemonic ambition to conquer Asia and the world, and the Wuhan's

Coronavirus played Trojan horse of the CCP to this effect.

It is high time the world leaders and the international community take the CCP and the Coronavirus message more seriously and make a concerted effort to free China and the world from the threatening grip of communist dictatorship. If freedom, democracy, and the rule of law are to govern the international norms and values, then the need to revise China policy has come. The international community should be ready to condemn and hold China responsible for the pandemic and the current volatile war-like situation in the Southeast Asian regions.

A diplomatic boycott of the Olympics is one thing. Still, the very submission and handing over of the sacred Olympic torch to the Party known best for the human rights violation is something we all need to reflect and ponder deeply. Our children are bound to question and hold us responsible for the world they will inherit!

**Dr. Arya Tsewang Gyalpo is Representative at Liaison Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Japan & East Asia. He is a former DIIR Secretary and Director of the Tibet Policy Institute in Dharamsala. Disclaimer: Views expressed above are personal and do not necessarily reflect the official stance*

US broadcaster urged to include China's oppression in Tibet in coverage

An advocacy group working to promote democratic freedoms for Tibetans has written to NBC, the US broadcaster of the Olympics, urging them to include China's oppression in Tibet in their coverage of the Games.

"With just weeks to go before the 2022 Winter Olympics, we trust you plan to roll out the usual coverage. But these will be no ordinary Games. The severe oppression, including of freedom of expression, that the Chinese government inflicts on Tibetans and others under its rule demands equal attention," said the letter by the International Campaign for Tibet.

The Winter Games are scheduled to open on February 4.

"As you are well aware, the Chinese government is one of the most brutal human rights abusers the world has seen in decades.

"Since falsely promising to improve its human rights record ahead of the last Beijing Olympics in 2008, China has cracked down viciously on Tibet, which Freedom House now ranks as the world's least-free country alongside Syria.

"In 2020, the US government also designated China's persecution of the Uyghurs as genocide. The US and other



governments have imposed a diplomatic boycott of the Olympics in response to Beijing not abiding by international norms.

"Knowing this, the International Olympic Committee should have had the moral fiber to demand the Chinese government adhere to internationally upheld standards of freedom and human rights to deserve the Games.

"That has not taken place. Now, as the designated broadcaster of the Games, NBC too has an ethical responsibility as a defender of freedom, particularly that of expression, and must go beyond business as usual.

"By airing these Olympics, you are choosing to give China's authoritarian regime a platform to spread its propaganda. Therefore, it's only just that you provide equal time to the victims of China's oppression, who deserve more than to be brushed aside in the name of access and profits," added the letter.

Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, has lived in India since fleeing his homeland in 1959. The Tibetan government-in-exile is headquartered in this Himachal Pradesh hill town.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

Janjagaran Cycle Yatra (South India) by Ardent Tibet Supporter Sandesh Meshram Concludes in Bengaluru, Karnataka



Shri Sandesh Meshram with CRO Staffs, Tibetan Youth Hostel Director Mrs Choeying Lhamo and Student Council Members during the reception cum felicitation program.

Ardent Tibet Supporter and Regional Convener for Western Region – (Maharashtra & Goa) of the Core Group for Tibetan Cause – India Shri Sandesh Meshram a.k.a. Samten Yeshe who is also a member of India Tibet Friendship Society, Nagpur concluded his Janjagaran Cycle Yatra (South India) with the message of “FREE TIBET, SAVE INDIA” on 10 January 2022 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Shri Meshram had started his cycle yatra from Mundgod Tibetan Settlement, Karnataka on 10th December 2021 on the auspicious occasion of the 32nd Anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and International Human Rights Day. After passing through the major cities, towns and villages of Uttara Kannada, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry covering a distance of 2000 km approx, he reached Bengaluru, Karnataka in the afternoon of 10th Jan. 2022 earlier than as scheduled date of 12th January 2022 due to the cancellation of his programs in Chennai and other places following the protocols placed in by the local authorities in their areas respectively looking at the surge of Covid cases once again.

In Bengaluru, Shri Meshram was received at the Chief Representative Office, South Zone, Central Tibetan Administration by the Office Staff with the presence of Tibetan Youth Hostel Director Mrs Choeying Lhamo, Hostel Student Council Members and Regional Tibetan Youth Congress Executives.

All the staff and members warmly welcomed Shri Sandesh Meshram by offering Khatak to him respectfully.

A modest reception cum felicitation program in honour of Shri Sandesh Meshram was organised and held at the Chief Representative Office, Bengaluru on 11 January 2022, attended by the Office Staffs, Tibetan Youth Hostel Director Mrs Choeying Lhamo and Hostel Student Council Members taking precautions of the recent surge in Covid cases again in India.

During the program, Shri Meshram interacted with the members and shared his experience stating that India being huge in size and population, millions of Indians especially youth has no clear information about Tibet and its historical ties with India. Thus it led him to undertake this yatra. Humbly he stated that he could have been Tibetan in his previous generation which propels him to engage in these activities for the last more than 2 decades. In addition, he mentioned his campaign that aimed to create awareness among the general Indian masses to boycott Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics in protest against the human rights violation by the Chinese regime in Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and other territories under its brutal occupation.

Shri Meshram expressed his gratitude and thanked the Chief Representative Office, Bengaluru for welcoming and hosting him earlier than as scheduled during this tough time. He also extended his gratitude to all the members of Indian Tibetan Support Groups, Tibetan Sweater Seller's Associations, Tibetan Youth Congress, Tibetan Women Association, Tibetan Settlement Offices, individuals and volunteers for all the help and support during his journey of Janjagaran Cycle Yatra (South India).

Shri Meshram reaffirmed that he would continue to do anything within his capacity that would keep the flame of

Tibetan struggle burning and constant for its identity and freedom.

Prior to this, Shri Meshram had organised cycle yatras in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2019 covering almost a total distance of 13,770 km of India. Shri Meshram's FOURTH JAN JAGRAN CYCLE YATRA in 2019 was scheduled to pass through Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry also but due to Shri Meshram's health problem during the journey; he had to reschedule the yatra abandoning the above mentioned Southern States.



Shri Sandesh Meshram with his cycle inside the premise of CRO Bengaluru.

Hence, Shri Sandesh Meshram had organised JAN JAGRAN CYCLE YATRA (SOUTH INDIA) to complete his unfinished mission of campaign for the Tibet cause on 10 December 2021 from Mundgod Doeguling Tibetan Settlement, Karnataka – one of the biggest Tibetan Settlements in South India.

The main purpose of the cycle yatra was to create awareness among the general Indian masses about Tibet and its hard realities prevailing under the brutal occupation of Tibet by the Chinese Communist Government. This CYCLE YATRA was also to engage in re-strengthening of centuries-old relations between India and Tibet and to educate the masses that India shares border with Tibet, not with CHINA.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

Core Group for Tibetan Cause – India held a Virtual Meeting to Reconsolidate its Work for Tibet



Coordinator Jigme Tsultrim interacting with the members during the virtual meeting.

The apex body of Tibet Support Groups in India, Core Group for Tibetan Cause (CGTC-I) held a virtual meeting of its members coordinated by India Tibet Coordination Office (ITCO) on Thursday, 24th February, 2022. The main agenda of the Core Group meeting was the reconsolidation of ongoing campaigns and projects in regard to the Tibetan cause by the Tibet Support Groups in India. In addition to that, there was sub agenda on administrative positioning update.

Initiating the meeting, ITCO Program Officer Choney Tsering highlighted the developments around the world since the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic from China. The developments in Sino-India relations since the Galwan incident in 2020 and the frequent PLA Soldiers incursion attempt into Indian territory showing the evil mindset of China. The recent diplomatic boycott of Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics by many countries of the world including India.

He further highlighted the critical situation inside Tibet. The recent destruction of 99 feet Buddha statue and 45 huge prayer wheels with the wrongful detention of Tibetans, imprisonment of monks and nuns, and torture in prisons

which had been carried out by the Chinese police in Drakgo, Tibet.

ITCO Deputy Coordinator Tenzin Jordan briefed the members on the activities, campaigns and programs being carried out by ITCO and Tibet Support Groups during the current financial year that was from April, 2021.

The Core Group members then individually shared the activities and programs carried out by them in their respective jurisdiction during the past few months, and also laid out plans and programs to be carry out by them in future to strengthen the Tibetan cause.

Coordinator Jigme Tsultrim offered his thanks to all the members for their dedication and hard work for the Tibetan cause and informed about his transfer to a new office. He shared about his association with the members in this journey of Tibbat Mukti Sadhana and requested them to keep their spirit alive for the Tibetan cause. At the same time, he introduced the members to the new ITCO Coordinator designated Tsering Tsomo, who joined the meeting as special invitee from Office of Tibet, London.

Tsering Tsomo gave a brief introduction of her before the members and shared that she is looking forward to work with all the members with the new responsibility assigned to her.

The members led by Shri Surendra Kumar, National Co-Convener, CGTC-I offered their heartfelt thanks to Coordinator Jigme Tsultrim for his guidance, support and cooperation during the journey of Tibbat Mukti Sadhana. They appreciated his untiring work and efforts in bringing all the Indian Tibet Support Groups together for the Tibetan cause and wished him best for his new responsibility.

The members congratulated and warmly welcomed Tsering Tsomo as the new ITCO Coordinator and offered their best wishes for her new role and responsibility.

At the conclusion, Deputy Coordinator Tenzin Jordan presented the vote of thanks to all the members for attending and actively participating in the meeting at a short notice of time. He offered his thanks to Tsering Tsomo for attending the meeting in spite of her busy schedule and time difference.

“Look at children. Of course they may quarrel, but generally speaking they do not harbor ill feelings as much or as long as adults do. Most adults have the advantage of education over children, but what is the use of an education if they show a big smile while hiding negative feelings deep inside? Children don’t usually act in such a manner. If they feel angry with someone, they express it, and then it is finished. They can still play with that person the following day.”
His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Speaker Nancy Pelosi Testifies on China's Human Rights Abuses at CECC Hearing on Beijing Olympics



Speaker Nancy Pelosi testifies before the CECC hearing on Beijing Olympics on Thursday, 4 February 2022.

Amidst the flurry of diplomatic boycotts of the Beijing Olympics announced by the nations including the US, UK, Canada, India, and many more etc. The Congressional-Executive Commission on China held a hearing on the Beijing Winter Olympics on Thursday, a day before the opening of the games.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi who testified on hearing before the CECC declared it was the urgent moral duty to shine a bright light on the many human rights violations being perpetrated by the Chinese government yet cautioned the US athletes to refrain from the risk of angering the 'ruthless China'.

"While we fully support and root for our athletes, we cannot and will not be silent on human rights in China," Speaker Pelosi remarked adding that the US and the international community know the truth of China's gross rights violations and genocide of the Uyghurs, Tibetans and Hong Kongers despite China's repetitive attempts to cover up the truth of its human rights record.

"Many in Congress have fought to ensure that the world remembers the truth of the PRC's human rights record and to hold them accountable including by seeking to deny them the honour of hosting the Olympics".

"Now the IOC aided by the corporate sponsors once again turns a blind eye to the 2022 Winter Olympics".

"If we do not speak out against the human rights violations in China because of commercial interest we lose all moral authority to speak out against human rights violations anywhere," said Speaker Pelosi.

While the games are being held, the US Congress affirms to take bold actions against China to defend the human rights of those suffering under its regime.

Following the recent enactment of the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act in December last year, the US is once again prepared to advance another act aimed at increasing America's competitiveness with China. The America COMPETES Act of 2022 proposes to reinvigorate the innovation engine of the country's economy to outcompete China by providing new vistas for talented individuals from across the world.

"To all those suffering under the regime of PRC, America sees you, America stands with you, America will continue to fight for you," concluded Speaker Pelosi.

The Dalai Lama Graduate Scholarship for Academic Year 2022-2023

The Gaden Phodrang Foundation of the Dalai Lama is pleased to announce 'The Dalai Lama Graduate Scholarship' for the academic year 2022/23. The scholarship program is open for all full-time Tibetan graduate students (Masters and Doctoral degrees) studying in Europe, the Americas, Australia and Asia (excluding the Indian subcontinent). The online application portal is open at www.dalailamafoundation.org and will close on April 24, 2022 at 11:59 pm (Zurich: GMT+1). Applications are only accepted online.

The Gaden Phodrang Foundation of the Dalai Lama was established by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in 2015 and aims to promote the values to which His Holiness the Dalai Lama is committed, i.e. the promotion of universal human values, religious harmony, Tibetan culture and ecology, and the revival of ancient Indian knowledge. Furthermore, the advancement and welfare of the Tibetan people but also other people in need, irrespective of nationality, religion and origin is an important purpose of the foundation.

The DLG Scholarship aims to enrich and embolden Tibetan Human Capital and encourage students of Tibetan origin in a graduate field of study with potential to contribute to the welfare and benefit of the Tibetan people and the global human family. Since inception, approximately USD 2.5 million have been awarded to over 200 Tibetan students as supplementary bursary. Recipients of past scholarships have enrolled in prestigious universities across the globe pursuing a wide range of subjects such as Cell Biology, Pharmacology, Medical Physics, Environmental Engineering, Developmental Economics, Law, International Education, Clinical Psychology, Business Administration, Computer Science, International Affairs and many others.

For details:
www.dalailamafoundation.org

#IWillNotWatch #BeijingWinterOlympics2022

Youdon Aukatsang, The Times of India

While China goes on to whitewash its image by showcasing the opening ceremony of Beijing Winter Olympics, Tibetans, Uyghurs, Hongkongers and many thousands of human rights activists will be tuning in <https://nobeijing2022.org/iwillnotwatch/> to watch alternative ceremony and videos documenting Chinese atrocities and repression.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) granted 2008 Olympics to People's Republic of China (PRC) amidst mass uprising in Tibet and massive global protests, claiming that the Games will have positive impact on human rights situation in China. 13 years hence, human rights in China is at its all-time low and China today is one of the most repressive state in the world!

With shrinking space for dissent, 155 Tibetans have self-immolated in Tibet since 2009 protesting the oppressive Chinese regime. Entire Tibet is transformed into a high tech surveillance state with no access from the outside world. According to Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy, there are currently over 1000 political prisoners across Tibet suffering torture and even death. In the first month of 2021, Tenzin Nyima and Kunchok Jinpa died in prison enduring brutal torture.

Situation in Xinjiang is even worse with between 1.8 and three million Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples being held hostage in "re-education camps," suffering inhuman treatment and political indoctrination. Human rights NGOs and even United States and Canada have officially recognised that People Republic of China is committing genocide.

Xinhua news agency, Chinese propaganda machinery has been publicising participation of Tibetans, Uyghurs and "ethnic minorities" in the Olympics.

Most Tibetans have mixed feelings of pride and sadness upon hearing the news that Yongqing Lamu and Ciren Zhandui, both 18, competing in snowboarding and cross-country skiing, respectively (Yangchen Lhamo/Tsering Dhondup) representing China. A sense of pride to see talented young Tibetans but sad to see that they have no option but to represent the oppressor attempting to whitewash its image. How much ever China attempts to indoctrinate the Tibetans into assimilation and even sinicise their names, Tibetans will remain Tibetans at the core- people with a distinct identity and culture from the Chinese.

Hongkong was promised "one country two system" when it was handed over to China in 1997 for at least 50 years until 2047. However in recent years, China has passed several regulations including extradition law contrary to the basic law and cracked down heavily on those protesting the suppression of freedom in Hongkong.

Authoritarian Chinese regime has used all its tactics to pursue influence and power even beyond its borders. Many countries particularly democratic societies are facing Chinese aggression, bullying and manipulation of their independent institutions.

China is not fit to be the host of the Winter Olympics 2022 as it does not uphold the values of the Olympic Truce—"that all humanity is called upon to lay down its weapons and work towards building the foundations of peace, mutual respect, understanding and reconciliation." IOC has failed to take any action despite evidence and in fact chooses to simply ignore the fact that People's Republic of China is one of the most oppressive and authoritative regime.

By granting China the right to host Beijing Olympics, IOC is hand in glove with China whitewashing its image and is indirectly celebrating China's

repression of Tibetans, Uyghurs, Hongkonger and all its freedom loving citizens. Given the IOC's failure to act, it falls on Governments to take a stand against China's human rights atrocities by boycotting Beijing 2022.

United States, Canada, Australia and United Kingdom were the first four countries to champion diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Olympics and since then Japan, Netherlands, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have joined in issuing diplomatic boycotts. India announced its diplomatic boycott on Feb 3rd protesting the selection of PLA Commander who ordered the Galwan valley attack in 2020 as an Olympic torchbearer by China.

Global alliance against the Beijing Winter Olympics believe:

Respecting the universal principles of justice, freedom and equality, we must all stand with the right side of history and say NO to supporting Beijing 2022. A boycott even if diplomatic boycott will build pressure on China to take tangible steps to end its atrocities. Most importantly we must not allow China to use the games to showcase itself as a respectable, open and free country when in reality it is one of the worst and most oppressive regime in the world. It cannot whitewash the brutal occupation and ongoing repression in Tibet, the genocide of Uyghur communities and crackdown on the freedoms of Hongkongers. IOC has failed in its responsibility towards upholding human rights in the world and especially in nations that will host the Olympics. It has turned a blind eye and hid behind "political neutrality" as an excuse to ignore gross violations of human rights by China despite repeated global appeals against it

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

Opinion: Olympic Movement has Sold its Soul by Not Challenging China on Human Rights Abuses

By Nancy Armour, USA TODAY

The Olympic Games can never be seen in the same way again. Once aspirational, radiating hope and the promise of all that could be, they have been tainted by the crass calculations of their leaders.

The International Olympic Committee has sold the people of China out, refusing to hold the hosts of next month's Winter Olympics accountable for a litany of human rights abuses and, worse, providing cover for some of the atrocities. In doing so, it has sold itself and its ideals out, too.

"We know they have very close relations with China, we know it's very corrupted. But we didn't know (the IOC) would not only be silent but actively collaborate with the Chinese government," Badiucao, an artist-dissident who had to flee China because of his criticism of the government, told USA TODAY Sports.

"It's really ridiculous that we have the organization in charge of the Olympic Games, championing it as an event celebrating humanity and saying sportsmanship is more than just entertainment. How can it be so corrupted and play along with this evil regime, this evil government?"

In a word? Greed. In another? Expediency.

China is an economic powerhouse. It is the world's fastest-growing consumer market and its largest manufacturer, and two Chinese-based companies are now among the IOC's TOP sponsors. The last thing IOC members, partial to five-star hotels and first-class cabins, want is to alienate that growing source of wealth.

And when it came time to award the 2022 Winter Games, few other countries wanted them.

Several in Europe considered bidding only to say "Thanks, but no thanks." By the time the vote was taken, the



choices were Beijing or Almaty, Kazakhstan. Having dazzled the world with the Summer Olympics in 2008, and knowing the Chinese government would spare nothing and no one to do it again, the IOC saw Beijing as the safe and easy choice.

All it had to do was turn a blind eye when China suppressed dissent among its people. Stripped Hong Kong of its autonomy and cracked down on religious freedom in Tibet. Imprisoned more than a million of the minority Muslim Uyghur population and subjected them to slave labor, forced sterilization and abortion.

And, in the last few months, help China whitewash its silencing of tennis player Peng Shuai, a three-time Olympian.

When criticism of the Chinese was at its most intense, and there were calls for substantive responses to the disappearance of Peng following her allegations of sexual assault by a former senior Chinese official, IOC president Thomas Bach staged what was essentially a photo op with her and declared that she was fine. Peng still has not spoken freely, and she has essentially been erased from Chinese social media.

"It shows us pretty clearly that the IOC is not serious when it comes to human rights concerns," said Michael Mazza, a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

"Yes, it will be a stain on the legacy of the IOC and I think it will be a stain on Thomas Bach's legacy, in particular."

Bach will defend the IOC's shameful inaction by saying the Olympics are supposed to be above politics. Yet he plays politics when he wants to, brokering a truce between North and South Korea ahead of the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang.

And high-minded as the idea of Olympic neutrality is, it was politics that brought the Games into being, both in ancient times and the modern era. The Olympics were seen as a way to create unity among warring peoples, to make them see their enemies in a different light.

"O Sport, you are peace!" Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Games, wrote in his poem, Ode to Sport. "You forge happy bonds between the peoples by drawing them together in reverence for strength

which is controlled, organized and self-disciplined. Through you the young of all the world learn to respect one another, and thus the diversity of national traits become a source of generous and peaceful emulation.”

Now Olympic leaders stand by while the host nation wages war against its own people.

“They’re going to have to do a lot of brand protection, brand rebuilding, after this sequence of events,” said David Black, a professor at Dalhousie University whose areas of expertise include the politics of sports and governance.

“They felt themselves as having little choice but to take the line that politics should not intrude, but clearly politics have intruded. And could have been anticipated to have intruded.”

Because we have been here before.

When China was bidding for the 2008 Olympics, part of its pitch was that hosting the Games would lead to democratic reforms and an improvement in human rights. Yet before the flame was even lit, the government had gone back on that promise, and experts say conditions now are even worse.

“There’s nobody left to lock up,” said Sophie Richardson, Human Rights

Watch’s China director.

“Xi Jinping’s government has worked so assiduously since (China) was awarded these Games to just crush independent civil society,” Richardson said. “Most people who could have or would have wanted to try to find ways to protest around these Games have already been arbitrarily detained, disappeared or driven in to exile.”

The IOC has rare leverage with China and other autocratic nations. Hosting an Olympics is an immense source of pride, a declaration of their status as a world power. Even the threat of taking that away would be a colossal embarrassment, one a country like China would do almost anything to avoid.

But the IOC backed down from challenging China in 2008. This time around, it didn’t even bother to try.

“The IOC is dishonest and duplicitous and weak,” Richardson said, “and perfectly willing to sacrifice the people who are doing the hard work to try to make the kind of change in China that the IOCs of the world say they care about.”

The United States, Canada and a handful of other Western nations have announced diplomatic boycotts of the Beijing Olympics, their only way of showing

condemnation without punishing their athletes. But sponsors have been silent, dodging questions by reporters and human rights groups alike, and COVID protocols are such that, if there are protests during the Games, they will go unseen.

So the Beijing Olympics will go on. The athletes will bring us to cheers and stun us into silence with their performances, and China will stage another spectacle grand enough to hide the ugliness that occurs when the world isn’t watching.

Almost.

“Obviously, this Olympic Games is not stopping. It will be happening in China,” Badiuca said. “But the power is in our own hands. When the whole entire world has shifted their camera and is focused on China, let’s talk about China and not be fooled by its propaganda.

“We could,” he added, “turn this into an opportunity.”

The damage has been done, however. Much like the 1936 Games in Nazi Germany, now seen as an affront to the Olympic ideals, the 2022 Games in Beijing will forever leave a stain on the Olympic movement, and those who allowed it to happen.

Education Department Publishes Ten New Translated Storybooks



New translated storybooks for Tibetan children.

The Department of Education of the Central Tibetan Administration has successfully published ten new translated storybooks for Tibetan children this month. The books are being distributed to all the Tibetan schools in

India and Nepal for school libraries, classroom reading corners and hostel reading corners.

Seeing the need to increase the quantity of the quality Children’s literature in Tibetan, the department has been making great efforts, for the past many years, in publishing children’s books of different genres, and the translation project is one of the initiatives towards enriching children’s literature in Tibetan.

The translated storybooks include: Everyone has eyes, Everyone has mother, If I were a rainbow, Kevin and his magic turtle, The very helpful

monsters, Saahi’s quest, Shero to the rescue, The miracle on Sunderbaag Street, The poop book and Travelling seeds.

The translation, publication and distribution of the books were funded by USAID.



Environmental Impacts of Tso-nton -Lhasa Railway in Tibet

By Tenzin Youdon, tibetpolicy.net

Introduction

With the acceleration of urbanization and the Chinese government policy in reducing the cost of mineral transportation and other factors, the construction of the Tso-nton -Lhasa Railway in the Tibet plateau has started at the beginning of 2007. This railroad provides a major access route into Tibet from Siling to Lhasa which extends to 1118 km. The construction began in 2001 and was completed in 2006 despite the challenges faced by the engineers in building the railroad across an unstable landscape. The Tso-nton-Lhasa Railway is said to be the highest elevated and the longest railway across a permafrost region in the world.

In the early 1950s, due to unstable roads and poor transportation, traveling within and out of Tibet would take nearly from six months to a year. According to Evelyne Yohe and Laurie J. Schmidt, sometimes China was forced to use camels to transport cargo to Tibet. It is said that 12 camels on average, died for every kilometer the caravan traveled across the Tibetan Plateau and over high mountain passes.

According to Tingjun Zhang, a scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, "The Tso-nton Lhasa railroad is the most ambitious construction project in a permafrost region since the Trans-Alaska Pipeline." He studies the effects of climate change on permafrost areas all around the world.

However, building a railroad across the highest plateau in the world is hugely risky. Due to the thin air on the high plateau, non-acclimatized workers risk of nosebleeds, blackouts, and even death. Due to this, they need to carry oxygen bags, undergo daily medical monitoring, and work no more than six hours a day. To avoid prolonged exposure to the extreme climate conditions, workers rotate off the plateau every few weeks. In addition to the risks associated with construction at high altitudes, the biggest

challenge of building a railroad faced by the engineers across an unstable landscape was the permafrost. The total length of the railway in permafrost regions is approximately 550km and approximately 82km passes through

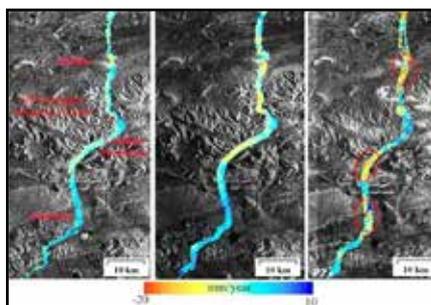


Fig2- Estimated ground deformation rate in the three regions a) 1997-1999 b) 2004-2010 c) 2015-2018 (Zhengjia Zhang et al, 2019)

discontinuous permafrost. Permafrost along the railroad lies in the eastern regions of the plateau.

Permafrost is defined as the ground with a mixture of soil, gravel, and sediment bound together by ice that remains at or below 0°C for at least two or more consecutive years. As one of the main components of the cryosphere, permafrost secures highly compressed carbon and methane gases created from decomposed organic remains which are the leftover materials from dead plants that couldn't be decomposed due to the extreme cold weather. Permafrost in the Tibet plateau covers 1.06 x106 km² or approximately 40% of the area of the plateau. This permafrost is highly sensitive to climate change and surface disturbances, especially to air temperature changes and is also considered the indicator region for climate and environmental changes. Outside of the Arctic and Boreal biomes, the Tibet plateau contains the largest permafrost region and is the source of the most major Asian rivers such as the Yangtze, Yellow, Indus, and Mekong. The Tibet plateau serves as the Water Tower for nearly 1.4 billion people (Yao et al., 2019). The Tibet plateau also plays a vital role in the stability of Asia's climate system, water

supply, biodiversity, and regional carbon balance making it crucial for the global biosphere integrity and sustainability of the surrounding areas.

Persistently warming climate due to accelerated temperature and anthropogenic interference increase has contributed to widely degraded permafrost across the Tibet plateau. Permafrost thawing is more dominant under engineering conditions than in natural conditions. The permafrost beneath the track experiences the combined effect of climate change and construction thermal disturbance. Slight changes in permafrost may cause embankment damage. Scientists and engineers charged with monitoring permafrost along the Tso-nton-Lhasa railroad's route are primarily concerned with the layer that lies directly above the permafrost, known as the active layer, which freezes and thaws seasonally. The active layer generally melts from April to September and freezes from October to March. Changes in the active layer may affect carbon pools and carbon flux. Soil carbon which is stored in large amounts in the permafrost represents an important potential carbon source under the influence of climate warming and can trigger a strong permafrost carbon-climate feedback. Due to climate warming, longer periods of seasonal thaw can cause the active layer to slump, causing the soil to shrink and anything constructed on top of it to shift and are vulnerable to collapse. As the ground thaws and freezes, it contracts and expands, putting stress on the foundations and twisting rail tracks. Due to the railway operation on the permafrost regions, the hydrothermal balance of the active layer has also been disturbed leading to the permafrost subsidence.

The railroad crosses many high-altitude mountains, such as Hoh Xil Mountain (ཨ་མེན་ལང་ས་རྩེ་རྒྱུ), Kaixin Mountain, Fenghuo Mountain, Tanggula Mountain (གྲངས་ལེ་རི་རྩེ), Tou Erjiu Mountain, and Nyenchen Tanglha (གྲངས་ལེ་རི་རྩེ) respectively. Other

sections of the railroad belong to high plain landforms with flat terrain. The rivers across the railroad include Kunlun River, Chumaer river, Beiluhe, Tuotuohe (ཐོག་ཐོག་ཆ་བོའི་འབབ་ཚགས་), Yangtze River, Buqū River, Za gya Zangpo river (རྩ་གཙང་ལྷོ།), Tongtian river, Nujiang River (རྩལ་མོ་རྩལ་ཆ), and Yarlung Zangpo River. Along the railroad, the area at an altitude of 4000m high is 960km long and the temperature is -10°C in many places year-round. The frozen soil layer thickness is greater than 60m and the average active layer thickness ranges from 0.8m to 4m with a mean of about 2cm.

The long-term observation of permafrost along the railroad has indicated that permafrost subsidence and thermal melt collapse are the common hazards affecting the stability of the railway embankment. Due to the construction of the railroad, the original thermal balance of the active layer has been destroyed leading to high subsidence in the permafrost regions. The sections with high subsidence values include Gormo-Xidatan, Budongquan (ནག་རི་ཆ་ནག་ཁ) - Hoh Xili, Wudaoliang (སྤྲིག་པ་ལ་སྤེལ) —Wuli, Tuotuohe—Yanshiping (བྲག་སྤྲིག་པ།), Tanggula Mountain (གཏང་ལ་རི་བོ) pass—Amdo, Naqu (ནག་ཆ) —Damxung (འདས་གཞང), and Yangbajing (ཡང་བ་ཅན) —Lhasa. Several thermokarst lakes have also developed near the railroad, such as Zonag Lake (མོ་ནོ་མཚོ) Kusai Lake (ཨ་ཚེན་གངས་མཚོ) and Salt Lake (ཚར་ཉན་ཚུ་མཚོ). The thermokarst lakes and thaw slumping has also been observed more frequently in the permafrost areas such as the Beiluhe region and Fenghuo Mountain. Some thaw slumps have also been observed in the Tuotuohe region through the time series of SAR maps.

The permafrost of the Xidatan area which is located at the glacial alluvial plain of Kunlun Mountain consists of mostly iron-shaped frozen soil. It is also observed that there are some glaciers and seasonal run-offs from the Kunlun Mountains. Due to the recent temperature rise and human activities, some glaciers have melted, and soil moisture also increased which caused subsidence in that area.

Yuzhu peak which is the highest peak in the eastern part of the Kunlun Mountains is covered by snow and ice and there are several seasonal run-offs from Yuzhu peak caused by melting glacier water. Melting of glaciers has been higher than the accumulation rate.

Before the opening of the railway in 2006, the ground deformation along the railroad was very minimal. However, the overall mean deformation rate has changed significantly after the opening of the railroad. The overall mean deformation rate at the beginning and the end of railroad was within 10mm/year. Based on the 3years (2015-2018) of InSAR observations (see figure 2), three regions with serious ground deformation have been detected. They are Beiluhe, south of Fenghuo Mountain and Tuotuohe. The modeled MAGT (Mean Annual Ground Temperature) of these three sites was also conducted. MAGT factor is also an important factor that extremely impacts the extent of embankment deformation in the permafrost regions. The MAGT was the lowest for the Fenghuo Mountain areas with a temperature of less than -2°C and the highest is for the river valley areas of Tuotuohe with a temperature above 0°C . For the Beiluhe basin areas, the MAGT ranged from -2°C to 0°C . High MAGTs would contribute to the increase in permafrost thawing and then lead to ground deformation around the regions of the railroad.

Socio-Economic Impacts of the Railways

The construction of the railroad has socio-economic impacts as well. Lhasa and its areas have become the most visited areas in Tibet since the operation of the railroad. However, the economic development of the country has generated a strong demand for livestock raising. The main industry of Amdo, Nagqu, and Damxung is animal husbandry. The traditional nomadic lifestyle in this area is disappearing quickly. Instead, the modern urban lifestyle is now much more common among Tibetans in Tibet. The alpine ecosystem has therefore evolved because of frequent anthropogenic activities which have

resulted in the over-exploitation of grassland resources. This condition has led to more threats to livestock farming and pasture management and affecting alpine grassland ecosystems. At present, the main problem associated with the grassland restoration project is that the funds for the project in Tibet are less than 5000 yuan per capita per year which is lower than the annual grazing income of herdsmen and thus affects the enthusiasm of herdsmen to participate in the project. Moreover, 6.97 million hectares of grassland have been fenced since 2008. During this process, pastures have been fenced and grazing areas have been reduced.

Effects of the Tso-nton – Lhasa Railway on the wildlife: A case study of Przewalski's Gazelle

The Tibet plateau has sheltered some of the most unique animal species including many endangered species. Endemic to the plateau, the Przewalski's gazelle is arguably one of the most endangered large mammals in the world. Historically, *P.przewalskii* was widespread across the semi-arid grassland steppe in the northeastern part of the plateau but has suffered a severe population decline due to anthropogenic disturbances. Overall human settlements and infrastructure development have restricted the movement of most populations and posed severe threats to the sustainable survival of Przewalski's gazelle. Haerghai County which is located on the east side of Qinghai Lake is home to the largest number of Przewalski's gazelle accounting for 40% of the species' total population. The construction of the railway has made it impassable for the animals except by the bridges and culverts. The influence of the railway on the surrounding environment and wildlife has been a major concern since its construction. The railroad which runs across the Haerghai County divides the gazelles' region into two sub-regions, namely Haerghai North (N) and Haerghai South (S) regions. To the northeast of the railway, the Talxuango population is separated from the Haerghai North by the highway G315 which was constructed in 1954. This highway unlike the railway is not

fenced or enclosed hence, the gazelles from Haerghai North have been observed moving across to Talexuango in the north. There are eight culverts underneath the railway constructed to allow for pedestrian or water flow along the 10km Haerghai North-South boundary, hoping that it might mitigate the negative effects of the railway on wildlife. However, there were no signs of the gazelles crossing these passages. This has been found from a survey from 2007- 2009 despite having the shortest physical distance between them. Hence, the railway remains the most likely unbridgeable barrier for the gazelles from Haerghai north and Haerghai south and considers it as two isolated populations. These isolated populations became more vulnerable to environmental stochasticity. The two sub-regions segregated by the railway, P.gazelle from Haerghai North and Haerghai South had a very low migration rate (0.0683 and 0.0242). The presence of a railway has effectively blocked the gene flow between the two sub-regions, thus resulting in a detectable level of consequences of genetic differentiation.

Engineering Techniques

To defend against the structural damage of permafrost thawing, engineers have developed various engineering control methods for maintaining permafrost stability. Such as the crushed rock embankment in warm and high ice content permafrost regions. After this measure was applied, permafrost temperatures decreased, and the permafrost table was raised. The permafrost table is said to be the upper boundary of permafrost. The Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Institute in Lanzhou, China, tested a crushed rock layer in a section of railroad embankment that overlaid permafrost. After one year, the section was significantly colder than before the installation of the rock layer. However, some parts of the plateau are covered with sand dunes. Unlike the mud, its grains don't stick together and are blown towards the railway embankment which is half a kilometer away. Hence, the sand blown permeates and fills up the gap in the crushed rock embankment. As it fills

up with sand, it loses its ability to cool the ground below and leads to permafrost thawing. However, this technique was not effective for the general embankment for some sections of the Tso-ngon-Lhasa Railway. Although the maintenance costs of the crushed rocks embankment are extremely low, installation of crushed rock is labor-intensive. However, the crushed rock did not produce enough cooling in the warmer permafrost ground.

Some experiments were conducted in the early 1970s, where large concrete ventilation tubes were placed beneath the test railway embankments to allow airflow. Hence, the embankment stayed frozen. This technique was discovered by people who have been living on this land for thousands of years. To survive the constant degradation of permafrost, houses built on the plateau have employed simple yet ingenious technology for its foundations. The large ventilation tubes placed beneath the railway embankments have air gaps that insulate the ground from heat generated inside the building. If the pipes are cleared, the permafrost does not melt. However, it was prove to be ineffective in more fragile permafrost areas.

Another solution was the thermosyphons also known as heat pipes. They are the metal tubes that look like stovepipes jutting out of the ground. They are about 10 meters long and up to 5 meters buried into the ground with 20cms in diameter with about 9 liters of ammonia in the bottom layer. Thermosyphons do not need electricity to apply to work. The ammonia inside it boils at low temperature drawing heat from the surrounding earth; hence 34kms of the railroad track were cooled this way. However, even thermosyphons were not sufficient in the most fragile areas of the warmer permafrost. Thermosyphons are costly to install and maintain and they must be placed along the entire length of a railroad.

For a better and more effective solution, the engineers decided to avoid the permafrost areas and built bridges over the top of them. There are around 675 bridges on the railway crossing the

railroad. Yet the biggest concern was to insert the concrete piers.

Despite the huge investments in the innovative technologies used while building the railroad, however, just after a month of the operation of the railroad in 2006, the state media made a rare admission that fractures started to appear in some railroad bridges because of permafrost movements under the rail bed. Therefore, it is still uncertain about the railroad's sustainability.

Conclusion

Even though the railroad has strengthened the economic linkages between cities both within and outside the Third Pole, however the impact of the railway on permafrost thawing could release huge amount of trapped carbon and methane gases which ultimately leads to the global warming.

Conservation measures should be taken immediately to prevent the further loss of genetic diversity for the survival of Przewalski's gazelle such as building wildlife friendly corridors over the railroad and the reduction of human disturbances are recommended.

Protection of wildlife is not only important for the preservation of nature or nomadic heritage but also for the ecological heritage of all Asia.

The permafrost-protecting techniques on the railway are to date reported as effective ways to stabilize the permafrost. However, sustainability has a temporary meaning, suggesting that what we currently consider to be sustainable may become unsustainable in future.



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Massive Arrests of Tibetan Buddhists in Sichuan After Statue Protests

By He Yuyan, Bitter Winter

also not happy about the publicity the incident received abroad.

The CCP has reacted by claiming that the new Religious Affairs Regulations should be interpreted to the effect that “large-scale religious statues” should be all demolished.

Previously, the measures were interpreted as referred to statues outside the areas of temples and monasteries. However, in Drakgo the authorities have even entered a Buddhist monastery and destroyed statues accused of being “too tall.”

In January, hundreds of Tibetan Buddhists protesting against the anti-statue campaign have been detained in Garzê Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and taken to transformation through education camps for “reeducation.” Their families do not know where they exactly are.

Clearly, a campaign is going on aimed at eradicating Tibetan Buddhism, and even Buddha himself through his statues, from the area of Sichuan province that was once part of historical Tibet.



An external view that appeared on social media of a re-education facility in Sichuan where Buddhist dissidents have been taken.

In December 2021, a megastatue of Buddha was destroyed in Luhuo (Drakgo). As protests continued, hundreds are being taken to re-education camps.

In December 2021, Bitter Winter reported that a 30-meter (99-foot) tall statue of the Buddha had been destroyed by the authorities in Drakgo (Ch. Luhuo). Drakgo is under the administration of

Garzê Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and is part of Kham, one of the regions of historical Tibet, now incorporated into the province of Sichuan. The authorities even burned down prayer flags and destroyed 45 prayer wheels around the statue.

Widespread protests followed, and continued into the new year 2022. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was

Health Department and Mentseekhang Holds Two-day Workshop on Mental Health



Group photo of all the participants, coordinators and the trainers.

The Mental Health Desk of the Department of Health, CTA in collaboration with the Mental Health Department of MenTseeKhang (Sowa-

Rigpa) Tibetan Medical & Astro-Science Institute had organized a two-day workshop from 12th to 13th February at Mentseekhang based in Bengaluru on ‘UNDERSTANDING & RESPONDING TO MENTAL ILLNESS’.

The Sowa-Rigpa doctors based at South India MenTseeKhang Clinics joined from Mumbai, Sikandarbad, Hunsur, Bylakuppe, Bangalore, Mundgod, and Mysore. From the Department of Health, CTA, Deputy Secretary Ms. Pema Youdon along with Program Coordinator Ms. Tsering Yangdol and

from Men Tse Khang, Doctor Tenzin Choying, Head of Mental Health Department of MenTseeKhang (Sowa Rigpa) Bangalore along with her team coordinated the workshop. Trainers were the Psychiatrist Dr. Ravindra Aggarwal and Psychologist Ms. Tanushri from Sangath, Goa.

All the participants actively participated and interacted in two days’ workshop. Participation certificates were provided to both the trainers and all the participants for the successful completion of the workshop. This workshop is funded by PRM.

Expert Draws Parallels Between China and Taliban as Xi Destroying Tibetan Culture

By Indian Express



Drawing similarities between Taliban and Xi Jinping, Strategic expert Brahma Chellaney said that Chinese authorities demolished a 99-foot statue of Lord Buddha in a Tibetan region of Sichuan in the same manner when the Taliban destroyed the Bamiyan Buddhas.

China is working to annihilate Tibetan religion, culture and identity, as the Chinese authorities have switched Tibetan language schools to Chinese and cut Tibetans off from ancient traditions, Tibet press reported.

Highlighting the recent demolition of Buddha statues in Sichuan province, the author mentions Brahma Chellaney tweet saying, “China is walking in the footsteps of Taliban. Taliban has destroyed numerous religious artefacts in Afghanistan during their first reign before the U.S invasion where their most notable targets were two massive Buddha statues built in the sixth century. Chellaney said China was on its way to wipe off the Tibetan culture and was following the footsteps of the Taliban.”

In 2001 the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan had demolished two historic and giant 15th-century statues of Lord Buddha in Bamiyan that invited shock and condemnation from across the world.

Authorities in China’s Sichuan province last month forced Tibetan monks and other local residents to watch the demolition of a large and venerated Buddha statue following official complaints that the statue had

been built too high, the Central Tibetan Administration reported citing Tibetan sources on January 5.

Radio Free Asia (RFA) verified the destruction of the statue by analysis of commercial satellite imagery, the Tibet Press reported.

It further reported that the Chinese authorities forced monks from Thoesam Gatsel monastery and Tibetans living in Chuwar and other nearby towns to witness the demolition, which started on December 12 and continued for the next nine days.

Based on rights organizations, the statue was initially formed with the complete agreement of the local authorities for Buddhist acceptance that it would avoid starvation, war, and possible disasters of fire, water, earth, and air with the financial support of local Tibetans in Drago County, Kham Tibet, the Tibet Press reported.

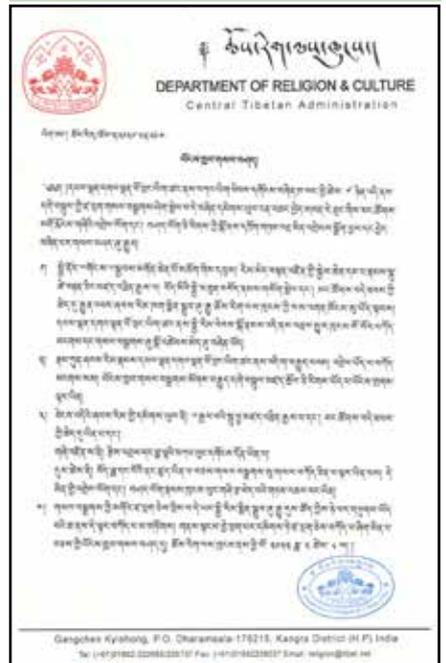
However, at the time of dismantling, local Chinese authorities declared that the construction documents are fraudulent and stated that the statue’s height was not permitted in the area.

The local residents and monks who were forced to witness the demolition have said that they had all the legal documents for the construction of the giant Buddha statue and that the Chinese authorities demolished it six years after it was built, the Tibet Press reported.

The US state department has said that it has profound concerns for the Tibetans and has requested China authorities to respect the human rights of Tibetans. It says it stands for the safeguarding of Tibet’s environment as well as the exclusive cultural, linguistic, and religious identity of Tibetan traditions.

Clarification from Department of Religion and Culture

The Department of Religion and Culture of the Central Tibetan Administration has issued the following clarification with regard to the urgent announcement that it circulated on 7 February 2022. The clarification is issued to provide a factual and contextual background in view of misinterpretation and misinformation being spread online on the same, the Department of Religion and Culture says.



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Japan Parliament Adopts Resolution on Human Rights in China

By Kiyoshi Takenaka, Reuters

Japan's parliament adopted a rare resolution on Tuesday on what it called the "serious human rights situation" in China, and asked the government to take steps to relieve the situation.

Japan has already announced it will not send a government delegation to the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics, following a U.S.-led diplomatic boycott over concerns about China's human rights condition, although Tokyo avoided explicitly labelling its move as such.

Since taking office in October, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said on multiple occasions that Japan would not mince words with China when necessary, and in November appointed former defence minister Gen Nakatani as his aide on human rights.

The resolution, adopted by the lower chamber, said the international community has expressed concerns over such issues as internment and the violation of religious freedom in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Tibet and Hong Kong.

"Human rights issues cannot just be domestic issues, because human rights hold universal values and are a rightful matter of concern for the international community," the resolution said.

"This chamber recognises changes to the status quo with force, which are symbolised by the serious human rights situation, as a threat to the international community," it said.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that the resolution "ignores the facts, maliciously slanders China's human rights situation, seriously violates international law and basic norms governing international relations, grossly interferes in China's internal affairs, and is extremely egregious in nature."



When Japan launched a war against other countries, it committed countless crimes, the statement added.

U.S. President Joe Biden in December signed into law legislation that bans imports from China's Xinjiang region over concerns about forced labour. Washington has labelled Beijing's treatment of the Uyghur Muslim minority genocide.

China denies abuses in Xinjiang, a major cotton producer that also supplies much of the world's materials for solar panels.

The conservative wing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sought the adoption of the resolution ahead of the Feb. 4 opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics although there were worries in the government about a potential economic impact, Jiji news agency has said.

There have long been competing views within the LDP about the approach to China. The party's more conservative wing is hawkish on China policy and seen as concerned primarily with defence issues. Other members of the party have pushed to preserve Japan's deep economic ties with its neighbour.

The parliamentary resolution called on the Japanese government to work with the international community in addressing the issue.

"The government should collect information to grasp the whole picture ... , monitor the serious human right situation in cooperation with the international community, and implement comprehensive relieving measures," it said.

The resolution did not directly use the word "China" anywhere in the text, and steered clear of such expression as "human rights violation", saying, instead, "human rights situation", in a possible nod to close bilateral economic ties.

Japan relies on China not only as a manufacturing hub, but also as a market for items from automobiles to construction equipment.



Special Frontier Force: India's Tibetan fighters Who Could be the Elephant in the Himalayan Room

By Probal DasGupta, First Post

The Special Frontier Force briefly rattled the PLA in 2020 and opened up India's political options of checking a dragooning dragon. Is there a strategic plan that includes the Tibetan issue — an elephant in the room that China ghosted all these years?

During the fiery summer of 2020, Indian troops outsmarted the Chinese PLA to secure tactical heights along the southern bank of Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh, which triggered two outcomes. One, it revealed to the nation the presence and ability of Tibetan commandos in India's special forces; and two, it left the adversary chastened.

The Chinese were beaten by Tibetans who owe their fidelity to the Dalai Lama — ousted and maligned for decades. For India that had been traditionally conservative on asymmetric warfare against China, a question arose: Where had the Special Frontier Force (SFF) — raised in the aftermath of the 1962 India-China war — been all these years? Did India miss a trick? The genesis of Tibetan resistance and our subsequent experiences with them helps us unravel a few uncomfortable truths.

How it started

In December 1961, employees at the airport building in Peterson Fields, a nondescript airport near Colorado Springs in the US, were perplexed by an unusual sight — a bunch of Tibetans on the tarmac. Unknown to the watchers, these Tibetans had reached Peterson Fields from Camp Hale in broad daylight instead of arriving later in a cover of evening darkness.

The sight of Tibetans at a faraway Colorado airfield during those years was bound to evoke curiosity. Within minutes, American soldiers swarmed into the building and warned them of dire consequences. The next day, the local papers splashed the story. Worried that



the revelation could become a national headline, Secretary of Defence Robert McNamara intervened and buried the story. In an era when state communism was a red rag to the West, presidents Eisenhower and John Kennedy were actively involved in training and deploying Tibetans as a key resource to foil Mao Zedong's consolidation over Tibet.

When Mao invaded Tibet in 1950, Tibetans revolted and were faced with bombings and massacres by China. The killings pushed the resistance into forming an armed outfit called 'Chushi Gangdruk' (Four Rivers, Six Ranges) in 1957. All this while, the Indian government adopted a placatory policy on China, downgraded diplomatic presence in Tibet to avoid a conflict, which in effect allowed Mao to consolidate brazenly in Tibet.

CIA and the Tibetan Cause

The CIA, which was prominent in its operations in India, noticed the developments and stepped in. A covert operation involving a US-led Tibetan Task Force began in Tibet. In his book, *The Noodle Maker of Kalimpong*, the Dalai Lama's brother, Gyalo Thondup,

mentions that the fighters didn't lack passion but needed weapons and training. General KS Thimayya, India's Army Chief, suggested the idea of raising a special force consisting of Tibetan refugees. However, his idea was ignored by defence minister Krishna Menon.

In 1959, after training in Colorado, USA, nine Tibetan guerrillas were parachuted into Tibet to operate alongside local resistance fighters and destroy Chinese chemical transports. The plan was leaked to the Chinese and the guerrillas were killed. Many such missions were foiled. The Chinese crushed the resistance but the 'Chushi Gangdruk' spirit survived. The resistance would take a new turn soon after.

Indo-US Team up on Tibet in 1960s: SFF is born

Three years later, in October 1962, Chinese forces attacked India. The resultant debacle forced prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru to reach out to the US for weapons assistance. One aspect of their conversations was the use of guerrillas against Chinese interests in Tibet. JFK had understood that India needed to be co-opted into the plan. The

US pushed for use of Indian airspace more extensively to unleash Tibetan fighters into Tibet.

By the time the war was over, the careers of India's defence minister and the Army Chief had ended ignominiously, but a new idea had taken birth. Intelligence Bureau chief BN Mullick set up a training centre in India for Tibetan fighters. Gyalo Thondup helped recruit Tibetans from refugee camps across India and Brigadier (later Major General) Sujan Singh Uban, a retired world war veteran was made the first commander of SFF.

The mid-sixties saw Sino-Indian tensions rise high, culminating in two consecutive battles on the Sikkim-Tibetan border where India handed China two defeats. Though no Tibetan guerrilla was involved in these battles, a new Indian aggressiveness was palpable elsewhere along the border. India agreed to sustain guerrilla operations within Tibet from their base in Mustang in Nepal and the SFF recruited Gorkhas alongside Tibetans.

The operation proved fruitless but made SFF more agile and audacious about operating across the border. China had newly turned into nuclear power and SFF troops formed part of an Indian Army-led mountaineering expedition to plant a nuclear monitoring device atop Nanda Devi to track Chinese nuclear testing plans in Xinjiang. Tibetan guerrillas infiltrated with impunity into Tibet those years – tapping phone wires, extracting intelligence, ferrying spy satellites.

Ironically, India's half-decade of frenetic covert intelligence activity against China was followed by a reversal to a half-century of familiar inertia on Tibet. By 1970, America's romance with Tibetan independence ended with the arrival of President Nixon and his China bonhomie project. The American decision depleted India's willingness towards using Tibetan forces against China anymore. Bereft of American support, India's strategy on Tibetan fighters and the SFF lacked clarity or boldness. A generation of impassioned Tibetan fighters was thus lost.

India loses its way

The Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 provided the SFF with a stage, albeit a different one: 3,000 troops infiltrated into East Pakistan from the border town of Demagiri in Mizoram and conducted successful raids against Pakistani troops in the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) region. Fighting in unfamiliar terrain, they shut down the escape route of Pakistan Army's Chittagong-based 97th (I) Infantry Brigade.

The SFF had proved its combat worthiness but that animated further the larger political question about using Tibetan fighters inside China. China hadn't interfered in India's war with Pakistan in 1971. India's strategy towards China thereafter returned to a more cautious note with self-imposed 'red lines' drawn to accommodate its northern neighbour. The SFF wasn't included in India's plans on China anymore. Years later, the use of SFF in August 2020, was bound to evoke surprise and alarm among the Chinese, whose concern ran along three possible streams – strategic, psychological and political.

Why China hates the mention of Tibet

On the tactical front, it was a signal for China that a bunch of determined, acclimatised troops who were accustomed to the terrain and combat environment could derail the PLA, whose troops are rotated, by turns, at peace locations and the LAC. It must be added though that the current generation of SFF troops are quite different from the fighters of the 1950s. Major Manish Naik, who commanded SFF troops feels that the current lot are third-generation Tibetans in India who do not have memories of loss and suffering at the hands of the Chinese and hence might lack the spontaneous drive of an earlier generation. However, there is enough memory on the Chinese side about the PLA's past history of being outmanoeuvred in local skirmishes. Any setback in a hyperactive digital world today can serve as a psychological blow to the domestic public morale which Xi Jinping has carefully built up.

Jayadeva Ranade, a China expert at the Vivekananda Foundation, feels that SFF military action in 2020 'heightened nervousness amongst senior Chinese leaders' and writes that the Chinese leadership has now increased its attention to Tibet Autonomous Region. Herein lies the bigger but linked political dimension that craves increased Indian participation.

The funeral of SFF soldier Nyima Tenzin, a Tibetan, who died during the 2020 operation was attended by Indian political leaders. In late 2021, when a group of six parliamentarians from Congress, BJP and BJD attended a meeting under a 'Forum on Tibet' at a Delhi hotel, the Chinese embassy flared up in response. Zhou Yongsheng, Political Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Delhi wrote angrily that the Tibetan Government-in-Exile was an illegal organisation.

Tibet is the key to China's territorial claims in the Himalayan region. China expert Brahma Chellaney believes that America's Tibetan Policy and Support Act (TPSA), which became law recently, recognises the importance of choice amongst Tibetans about picking the Dalai Lama's successor. Interestingly, visits of Xi Jinping and other party officials to Tibet last year avoided any mention of the Panchen Lama, the Chinese anointed successor to the Dalai Lama so as to not stir a debate.

An ambitious and authoritarian Chinese government under Xi Jinping is circumspect about the breach of the more international red line — Taiwan while it brazenly violates the 'one country two systems policy' in Hong Kong. As Taiwan increasingly appears prickly, China wouldn't want the Tibet discussion — another sore, but less troublesome point — to be revived from cold storage. The Chinese are wary that it might be used as a negotiating tactic by India. If we flip it, the central question is: The SFF briefly rattled the PLA in 2020 and opened up India's political options of checking a dragooning dragon. Is there a strategic plan that includes the Tibetan issue — an elephant in the room that China ghosted all these years?

Self-immolation Attempt at Tibet's Potala Palace Thwarted by Chinese Police

By Tashi Wangchuk and Kalden Lodoe, RFA



Discontent over harsh Chinese rule has sparked nearly 160 burning deaths since 2009.

A Tibetan shouted slogans and attempted to self-immolate in an apparent protest in front of the iconic Potala Palace in the Tibet regional capital Lhasa this week but was thwarted by Chinese police, sources in the region and in India told RFA Saturday.

Immediately after the incident Friday morning outside the Potala, police took away the Tibetan, whose identity, condition and whereabouts remain unknown, the sources said.

“Right after this incident took place, the Chinese police blocked all the streets in front and around Potala Palace. And today there are more Chinese soldiers deployed in front of the Potala Palace

than usual,” a source inside Tibet, who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid potential legal danger, said Saturday.

The massive hilltop Potala that dominates the Lhasa skyline was the winter palace of historic Dalai Lamas from 1649 until 1959, when the current Dalai Lama fled to India after an uprising against Chinese rule over the formerly independent Himalayan region, triggering a crackdown in which the palace was shelled and thousands were killed by Chinese troops.

A second source from the large Tibetan exile community in India confirmed having heard of the Potala incident but also had no further details.

So far, 157 Tibetans are confirmed to have set themselves on fire since 2009 to protest Chinese rule in Tibetan areas, and another eight have taken their lives in Nepal and India.

The previous report of a self-immolation was that of a 26-year-old man named Shurmo, who set himself ablaze in September 2015 in the Tibet Autonomous Region's Nagchu (Chinese, Naqu) county. His death was confirmed only in January of last year.

Friday's aborted self-immolation bid occurred in the run up to the March 10 anniversary of the 1959 rebellion, known as Tibetan National Uprising Day, a period when the Chinese government usually tightens control and surveillance.

High-technology controls on phone and online communications in Tibetan areas often prevent news of Tibetan protests and arrests from reaching the outside world.

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama is reviled by Chinese leaders as a separatist intent on splitting Tibet, which was invaded and incorporated into China by force in 1950, from Beijing's control.

The Dalai Lama himself says only that he seeks a greater autonomy for Tibet as a part of China, though, with guaranteed protections for Tibet's language, culture, and religion.

Chinese authorities maintain a tight grip on the region, restricting Tibetans' political activities and peaceful expression of ethnic and religious identity, and subjecting Tibetans to persecution, torture, imprisonment, and extrajudicial killings.

Voluntary Tibet Advocacy Group (V-TAG) Tibetans for Tibet

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) led by Sikyong Penpa Tsering considers Tibet advocacy as one of the main priorities in restoring freedom for Tibet. While the CTA continues its efforts to bring the Tibetan cause at the forefront internationally, the 16th Kashag has undertaken a new initiative, Voluntary Tibet Advocacy Group (V-TAG) to provide every Tibetan the opportunity to optimize their potentials in contributing to the non-violent, mutually beneficial, negotiated, and lasting solution to the Sino-Tibetan conflict. V-TAGs are voluntary associations of Tibetans formed to carry out advocacy campaigns in their

respective countries. The main goal of establishing V-TAGs is to reinforce the existing advocacy campaigns across the world by providing a platform for every Tibetan to contribute in their own ways for the larger cause of Tibet.

The Tibetan community in the diaspora is undergoing significant social and demographic changes. As of today, Tibetans are spread around the world and have established Tibetan organizations in at least 20 countries. Despite the challenges posed by such changes, as citizens of the country and having a good understanding of local languages and system of governance, provide a unique

opportunity for them to actively engage in garnering international support for Tibet.

CTA expects V-TAGs to act as one of the main vehicles of the Tibetan movement under the guidance of DIIR and Offices of Tibet, and to work in close coordination with Parliamentary Friends of Tibet, Tibet Support Groups, Tibetan Associations, and other stakeholders resulting in more concrete support for the Tibetan movement from across the world until the aspirations of Tibetans are fulfilled and freedom is restored in Tibet.

Obituary: CTA Mourns Demise of Tridu Pon Chime Namgyal, Former Deputy Speaker of Tibetan Parliament

The Department of Religion and Culture, Central Tibetan Administration, organised a prayer service today to mourn the demise of Tridu Pon Chime Namgyal, a former Vice Chairman (Deputy Speaker) of the Tibetan Parliament-in Exile (earlier referred to as the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies – ATPD). He passed away on 3 January 2022 at a hospital in the US state of Massachusetts.

During the prayer service, Sikyong Penpa Tsering spoke a few words describing Tridu Pon Chime Namgyal's service in the Tibetan Parliament. Secretary Tsegyal Chukya Dranyi of the Kashag Secretariat read out a brief biography of the deceased. The prayer service was also attended by Kalons of the 16th Kashag, justice commissioner, members of the standing committee of



the Tibetan Parliament, heads of the autonomous bodies, and the entire staff of the Central Tibetan Administration. Following the prayer service, the offices of the Tibetan administration were shut as a mark of respect and mourning in honour of the deceased.

Brief Biography of Tridu Pon Chime Namgyal:

Tridu Pon Chime Namgyal was born in

1942 to Namkha Dorje and Dolkar in Yushul Tridu in the traditional Dotoe province of Tibet. He was educated in Tibetan language and has also received military training. Before becoming a member of the Assembly of the Tibetan People's Deputies (ATPD), he has served as the village leader of camp no. 2 in Lugsum Samdupling settlement in Bylakuppe, South India. He also served as a member of the governing board of the Tibetan co-operative society, and a standing committee member of Dokham Chushi Gangdruk.

Tridu Pon Chime Namgyal was also a member of the 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th Assembly of the Tibetan People's Deputies. Most notably, he served as the Vice Chairman (Deputy Speaker) of the Tenth Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies from 1988 – 1990.

Obituary: Tibetan Political Prisoner and Former CTA Staff Thinley Phuntsok Passes Away at 88

The Central Tibetan Administration mourns the demise of Tibetan political prisoner Thinley Phuntsok, former staff of the Department of Security who passed away on Tuesday.

Thinley Phuntsok has dedicated over 37 years of his life to the Central Tibetan Administration and has served with sincerity and determination.

Brief Bio of Thinley Phuntsok

Thinley Phuntsok was born on 7 October 1933 in Tibet. In 1941, he received his primary education from Lobsang Phuntsok, Secretary at Gyuto Monastery, and in 1944, he was enrolled in a special English school established by the Tibetan government in Lhasa. In 1946, he attained further studies from Lhundup Paljor, a teacher at Nang



Rongsha school, and then officially enrolled in the school until 1952.

In 1967, along with a group of patriotic compatriots, he established a secret anti-communist group due to which in 1970, he was detained and imprisoned where he was subjected to torture and other cruel forms of abuse. Yet again in 1978, he formed a secret organisation called the Patriotic Society with Rabgang Gonpo Sonam and several other relevant

members. Thinley Phuntsok served as Vice President of the group. He was again imprisoned in 1983.

On 14 September 1984, Thinley Phuntsok came to Nepal to meet his relatives. On 5 October 1984, he arrived in Dharamshala and in 1985 joined the exiled based Tibetan government where he served at the Department of Security as a junior clerk till his appointment as Under Secretary. During his long service, he has made many contributions to the political struggles of the exiled government. In 2007 he along with his family immigrated to the United States.

The Central Tibetan Administration is eternally grateful for the glorious contributions of Thinley Phuntsok and offers condolences to the surviving family members of the deceased.

Obituary: CTA Mourns the Demise of Gyaltsen Choden, a Former Ganden Phodrang and CTA Civil Servant

The Central Tibetan Administration held a prayer service today to mourn the demise of Tsedrung Gyaltsen Choden, one among the few surviving officials of Independent Tibet and the Central Tibetan Administration in exile. He passed away on 12 January in the United States.

The prayer service was held at the Kashag Secretariat and was attended by Sikyong Penpa Tsering, Kalon Gyari Dolma, Kalon Tharlam Dolma and Kalon Norzin Dolma of the 16th Kashag.

The prayer service was also attended by Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel and Deputy Speaker Dolma Tsering of the Tibetan Parliament in exile; pro-tem Chief Justice Commissioner Karma Dadul and Justice Commissioner Tenzin Lungtok of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, and Auditor General Arya Pema Dadul of the Central Tibetan Administration. The general staff of the Central Tibetan Administration could not take part in the prayer service as the Tibetan administration is under a work from home mandate due to a surge in Covid cases.



Delivering the eulogy for the deceased, Sikyong Penpa Tsering said: “We are gathered here today to mourn the demise of Kungo Gyaltsen Choden la. He served the Tibetan government from a young age. After coming into exile, he served the exile government in various capacities for the entirety of his life. He was one of the longest serving Tibetan civil servants and we offer our deepest condolences to his family members. We believe that he has lived a truly meaningful life serving the Tibetan people and fulfilling the aspirations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.”

Brief Biography of Gyaltsen Choden:
Tsedrung Gyaltsen Choden was born in 1920 at Medo Gongkar near Lhasa. He was third among the four children born to father Jangchup Phuntsok and mother Kelsang Dolma. He started his schooling from 1930. In 1935, he joined Tashi Lhunpo monastery to study Buddhist theology and philosophy.

In 1946, he was selected as an accountant (Tsedrung). He came into exile in 1959. In 1964, he was appointed as the education secretary and took charge of editing and printing the biography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In 1967, he served as the cashier cum head of home division at the Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi. In 1969, he was appointed as the secretary of Home Department and served as the settlement officer of Kollegal Settlement from 1976. From 1980, he served as the settlement officer of Lugsam Samdupling settlement. In 1982, he was appointed as the settlement officer of Doeguling settlement in Mundgod and in 1989, he was appointed as the principal of CST Mundgod. He retired from active service in 1992.

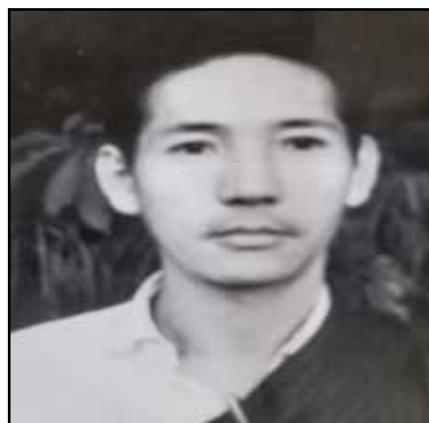
Obituary: Former CTA Staff Venerable Sampho Jigme Wangchen Rimpoche Passes Away

A former CTA staff Venerable Sampho Jigme Wangchen Rimpoche, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, 6 February 2022, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Brief Bio of Sampho Jigme Wangchen Rimpoche:

Venerable Sampho Jigme Wangchen Rimpoche was born in Lhasa, and at the age of seven, he was recognised as the reincarnation of Tokden Shakya Shiri, the great Dzogchen master of Tibetan Buddhism. He studied his Tibetan from Tarkhang School in Lhasa, Tibet.

In 1959, he escaped Tibet via Nathula (the border between Sikkim and Tibet) with his family and close relatives.



Later in 1960, he began his service in the newly set up Tibetan government-in-exile, where he has served as Secretary of the Council of Tibetan Education

and Culture. He had also edited the biography of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tibetan Freedom Press, the book on Tibetan history translated by Phuntsok Tashi Takla from the Chinese Tang dynasty annals, and Tsepon T. W. Shakapa's Tibet: A Political History.

Apart from that, Venerable Sampho Jigme Wangchen Rimpoche had also served as the Headmaster of Tibetan Refugee School in Simla, Assistant Director at the Tibet House, New Delhi, and Tibetan language teacher at Girls High School in Gangtok, Sikkim.

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QUOTES

“I believe compassion to be one of the few things we can practice that will bring immediate and long-term happiness to our lives. I’m not talking about the short-term gratification of pleasures like sex, drugs or gambling (though I’m not knocking them), but something that will bring true and lasting happiness. The kind that sticks.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama

“There is only one important point you must keep in your mind and let it be your guide. No matter what people call you, you are just who you are. Keep to this truth. You must ask yourself how is it you want to live your life. We live and we die, this is the truth that we can only face alone. No one can help us, not even the Buddha. So consider carefully, what prevents you from living the way you want to live your life?” His Holiness the Dalai Lama

“Hard times build determination and inner strength. Through them we can also come to appreciate the uselessness of anger. Instead of getting angry nurture a deep caring and respect for troublemakers because by creating such trying circumstances they provide us with invaluable opportunities to practice tolerance and patience.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama

“If we think only of ourselves, forget about other people, then our minds occupy very small area. Inside that small area, even tiny problem appears very big. But the moment you develop a sense of concern for others, you realize that, just like ourselves, they also want happiness; they also want satisfaction. When you have this sense of concern, your mind automatically widens. At this point, your own problems, even big problems, will not be so significant. The result? Big increase in peace of mind. So, if you think only of yourself, only your own happiness, the result is actually less happiness. You get more anxiety, more fear.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama
