



TIBETAN BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2023

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Tibetan & Indian Ancient Wisdom

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Editor
Tenzin Phende
Email: tibbul@tibet.net

Asst. Editor
Tenzin Choetso
Dawa Tsering

Layout & Design
Tenzin Phende

Circulation Manager
Tenzin Dolkar
Email: circulation@tibet.net
Tibetan Bulletin is published by:
Department of Information and International Relations,
Central Tibetan Administration,
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Losar Greetings from Central Tibetan Administration

Acting Chief Justice Commissioner Greet Tibetans on Losar, Tibetan New Year 2150



The Acting Chief Justice Commissioner Karma Dadul extends Losar greetings to Tibetans inside and outside Tibet on the occasion of traditional Tibetan New year- Losar 2150-the year of the Water Rabbit. The Tibetan New year begins on 21 February 2023.

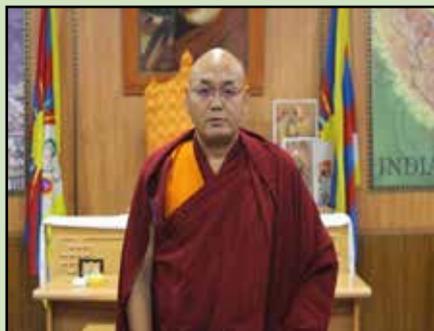
Chief Justice Commissioner's message:

On this joyous occasion of the Tibetan new year, Losar 2150- the year of the Water-Rabbit, I extend my heartfelt greetings to our supreme spiritual leader His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, religious leaders and representatives of Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetans in and outside Tibet.

I also extend greetings to our brothers and sisters in the Himalayan region who are also celebrating the new year.



Speaker of Tibetan Parliament in Exile greets Tibetans on Losar, Tibetan New Year 2150



Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, Khenpo Sonam Tenphel extends Losar greetings to Tibetans inside and outside Tibet of Tibet on the occasion of the traditional Tibetan New year- Losar 2150-the year of the Water-Rabbit. The Tibetan New year begins on 21 February 2023.

Speaker's message:

On the auspicious occasion of the Tibetan New Year, I extend my profound greetings and Tashi Delek to Tibetans inside and outside Tibet including old and new friends of Tibet. May this new year bring you an abundance of happiness and bless you with a long and healthy life.

With the grace and benevolence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama bestowed upon us, the Central Tibetan Administration in exile has achieved great heights of success in all its undertakings and endeavours. However, we must not forget about the prevailing dire situation inside Tibet. At such a critical time, it is our collective responsibility to pool every effort toward the protection and

preservation of our cultural heritage and national identity.

In view of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's advancing age, His repeated assurance to live a long and healthy life gives us immense joy and happiness. Therefore, it is imperative that we are united in fulfilling His Holiness's wishes and aspirations. It is also our collective responsibility to adhere to and imbibe the glorious teachings of His Holiness in practice.

Likewise, if we reflect on the state of human rights and freedom inside Tibet, the situation is deteriorating each day as evidenced by reports released by international organisations. We must take Tibet into our highest consideration and continue to strongly discuss, campaign, and advocate for Tibet. May all be assured that the 17th Tibetan Parliament remains unfeigned in discharging our duties toward the public and the cause of Tibet. Meanwhile, I urge the cooperation and contributions of individuals and organisations to fulfilling the common goal. I would like to once again reiterate my call to unite efforts to resolve the long-standing goal.

As we embark on a new year, let us pledge to cultivate kindness and compassion every day. Finally, I pray for the longevity of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other Buddhist holy personalities with the fulfilment of their wills. May Tibet's issue resolves at the earliest.



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Sikyong Penpa Tsering of the 16th Kashag Greet Tibetans on Losar, Tibetan New Year 2150



Sikyong Penpa Tsering of the 16th Kashag extends Losar greetings to Tibetans inside and outside Tibet on the occasion of the traditional Tibetan New year- Losar 2150-the year of the Water-Rabbit. The Tibetan New year begins on 21 February 2023.

Sikyong's Message:

Preceded by paying obeisance to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on this occasion of the 2150th year of Tibetan calendar, which is also the water hare year, on behalf of the 16th cabinet and myself personally, I wish to extend a happy new year to all the Tibetans, inside Tibet and outside Tibet, as we enter into the new year with a new hope.

Of course, to have this hope, first, we have to understand our own situation; we survive in a manner that we survive today mainly because of the leadership of His Holiness, because of the far-sighted vision of His Holiness, and because of all the deeds of His Holiness over the last 63 years since we came into exile. And His Holiness has been going around the world with two folded hands, and that is the reason why we are in the position that we are today. So therefore, I urge every Tibetan to recognise the services that were rendered by His Holiness and follow His Holiness' guidance because His Holiness is such

a leader who is revered by everybody in this world.

His Holiness has also given us many assurances about his wish to live a long life, not for himself, but for the benefit of humanity and Tibetans in particular. So therefore, whether the lama lives long or not also depends on the relationship between the lama and the disciples. And we being his disciples, have to make sure that we follow his guidance, and we follow his leadership, his words, and his thoughts on any activity, whether it's regarding resolving the Sino-Tibet conflict or whether it is looking after the welfare of the Tibetan community in exile – these two responsibilities that are entrusted to the Central Tibetan Administration.

We are fully committed to following the thinking and thoughts of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and the guidelines that he has issued over many years. And I urge every other Tibetan also to follow the same, and we will be able to achieve what we intended to achieve with the cooperative effort of all the Tibetans, whether it's seven million Tibetans inside Tibet or the 130,000 Tibetans in exile.

We have an added responsibility and so we should not forget that if we all contribute to the cause of Tibet, then we will definitely reach the objectives that we have set.

I again wish you a very happy new year, and I also wish that all your dreams and all your wishes be fulfilled so that throughout this year, you don't feel sick and be in a position to serve the community. Thank you very much and HAPPY LOSAR again!

EU Calls for Immediate Release of Tibetan Political Prisoners

The EU expressed concern for cases of unlawful detention, enforced disappearance, torture and ill treatment and urged China to investigate and stop violations of human rights and international law during the 38th round of EU-China Human Rights dialogue held in Brussels.

The one-day meeting held on 17 February 2023, the EU highlighted the particularly vulnerable situation of Tibetans, Uyghurs and persons belonging to religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities across the country and called for the immediate release of Tibetan activists, writers and religious leaders, including Go Sherab Gyatso, Rinchen Tsultrim and Tashi Dorje.

They also discussed the crackdown on human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists in Tibetans areas, East Turkistan, Inner Mongolia and Hong Kong.

In a press statement issued by the EU at the end of the dialogue, it said the dialogue included an in-depth exchange of views on human rights both in the EU and China. It further said both sides welcomed the reopening of this communication channel on human rights.

Representative Genkhang welcomed the EU's call for the immediate release of Tibetan political prisoners and its expression of concern for the situation in Tibet.

Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director for Asia-Pacific in the European External Action Service, and Sun Lei, Deputy Director General, represented the EU for International Organisations and Conferences of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Human rights dialogues between the EU and the Chinese government have stalled since 2019, following the EU's imposition of human rights sanctions against officials involved in human rights abuses in Xinjiang and Beijing's retaliatory sanctions against members of the European Parliament and other individuals and entities.

UN Experts Express “Serious Concern” over Systematic Assimilation Policy of China in Tibet



In light of unabated oppression and systematic control over any expression of Tibetan cultural identity by China, a group of four UN human rights experts have expressed “serious concern” over the policy of “acculturation and assimilation of Tibetan culture” in China-occupied Tibet.

The UN experts have categorically noted a “series of oppressive actions against Tibetan educational, religious and linguistic institutions, in contradiction to the right to education, cultural rights, freedom of religion or belief and other minority rights of the Tibetan people”, in a joint communication sent to China. In particular, the experts underlined the residential schools system in Tibet as “a large-scale program to assimilate Tibetans into majority Han culture”, in contrast to what China claims. The communication sent originally on 11 November 2022 was made public recently as per established procedures.

Echoing concern expressed by the Central Tibetan Administration and Tibetan rights groups over the systematic eradication of Tibetan culture, identity and language including removing Tibetan as a medium of teaching instruction; forcible closure of local Tibetan schools; curtailment of any informal voluntary setting to teach Tibetan language and culture, inter alia, UN experts have sought clarification from China on policies and actions on these concerning issues. Furthermore, China has been asked to furnish

information on a number of schools—private, semi-private and state funded—with instruction on the Tibetan language and changes over the past 10 years.

The 17-page communication includes an annexure which gives detailed reference to International human rights law recalling China's obligation under international bills of rights and concerns/recommendations which have previously been issued by the UN human rights treaty bodies and special procedures. Notably, the UN experts have reminded China about the three resolutions on Tibet, (A/RES/1353 (XIV), A/RES/1723(XVI) and (A/RES/2079(XX)), which have been adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1959, 1961 and 1965.

Representative Thinlay Chukki, Tibet Bureau Geneva, has welcomed the intervention by the UN experts on this critical matter and noted that “the Chinese government should oblige the demands of the UN experts and submit details pertaining to its acculturation and assimilation policies against Tibetans particularly being implemented through residential schools.”

The four UN experts who have issued the communication include the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, a Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, a Special Rapporteur on the rights to education and a Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

**Profiling Tibetan Political Prisoners:
Tsering Dolma**



Name: Tsering Dolma
Date of Arrest: 2 April 2021
Current Status: Sentenced to 8 years

Brief Profile: Chinese authorities in Kham in Tibet sentenced Tsering Dolma to eight years imprisonment in September 2022 for her political activism. She was arrested twice before – once on 1 June 2008 and another time in 2012 with her father – for participating in protests against China's oppressive rule in Tibet. Her health has greatly deteriorated due to the severe beatings and torture she endured during each arrest and subsequent detention. She is reportedly suffering from multiple health complications including arthritis, epilepsy, liver disease, and a broken elbow. A wife of Khams Karre, Dolma is a mother of two sons.

UN, OHCHR and the Human Rights Foundation
Tibet Advocacy Program
Department of International and Development Studies

PROFILING TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS



DORJEE TASHI
Date of Arrest: 10 July 2008
Current Status: Life Imprisonment

Brief Profile: Chinese authorities in Lhasa sentenced Dorjee Tashi to life imprisonment on 17 May 2010 on trumped-up charges of “loan fraud”. A renowned Tibetan entrepreneur, wealthy businessman and a member of the Chinese Communist Party, Dorjee Tashi was initially detained on 10 July 2008 on suspicion of providing covert funding to Tibetan protesters in Tibet and making donations to the exile Tibetan community. According to his own testimony, Dorjee was subjected to severe torture, beaten with electric batons, poured hot chili fluid through his nostrils, denied proper food, and handcuffed and hung in the air. Later, the Chinese court deferred his appeal process for six years and denied multiple meetings with his lawyer. His family continues to appeal for immediate release as well as fair trial process for Dorjee Tashi.

UN, OHCHR and the Human Rights Foundation
Tibet Advocacy Program
Department of International and Development Studies

Department of Information and International Relations Welcomes UN Probes into China's Colonial Boarding Schools in Tibet

The Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) welcomes the UN human rights experts' communication raising serious concern over the Chinese government's colonial-style residential schools and its assimilationist impact on Tibetan cultural and national identity.

Four UN Special Rapporteurs — with mandates on Minority Issues, Fernand de Varennes; Cultural Rights, Alexandra Xanthaki; the Right to Education, Farida Shaheed; and Freedom of Religion or Belief, Nazila Ghanea — voiced their concerns about China's assimilationist policies threatening the existence of Tibet's language, culture, and religion. These experts have particularly raised serious concerns over China's vast network of colonial boarding schools in Tibet while also asking several questions to China about its "policy of acculturation and assimilation of the Tibetan culture [...], through a series of oppressive actions against Tibetan educational, religious and linguistic institutions."

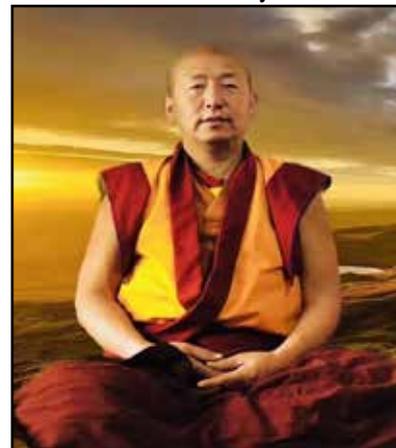
Nearly one million Tibetan children, ages ranging from 4 to 18, are currently forcibly enrolled and placed in Chinese boarding schools in Tibet away from their families, depriving them of the opportunity and the space to learn and acquaint themselves with their own religion, culture, and language. Considering that many of these children suffer emotional and psychological trauma from forced separation from their families and incessant political indoctrination sessions, as well as horrific experiences of sexual abuse, racial discrimination and poor living conditions in these boarding schools, the UN and governments around the world must take concerted actions to ensure China is held accountable for flagrant violations of its international and national legal obligations.

In addition to the communications with and case submissions on gross human rights violations in Tibet being made to the UN Special Procedure and the Office of the High Commissioner on a regular basis, the DIIR wrote to the then newly-appointed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Volker Turk, on 16 December 2022. The letter expresses grave concerns about several human rights violation issues in Tibet including the colonial boarding schools, severe Covid restrictions in Tibet, compulsory mass DNA sample collection and a series of self-immolations in Tibet since 2009. The High Commissioner is urged to prompt UN investigations into all these rights violations being perpetrated against the Tibetans in Tibet.

Noting the significance of the recent Special Rapporteurs' communication, the Kalon (Minister) of DIIR, Norzin Dolma, stated, "We welcome the timely intervention of the UN Special Rapporteurs' probe into China's colonial-style boarding schools currently in mass operation across Tibet. Leaving such a horrendous policy and practice unquestioned and unchecked will, unfortunately, lead to the gradual extinction of the Tibetan national identity — including its language, culture and religion — in all its form and essence. Therefore, we urge the Office of the High Commissioner to call upon China to allow unfettered access to Tibet to conduct an independent investigation. The DIIR also thanks the UN Special Rapporteurs, governments, elected officials, NGOs, Tibet supporters and human rights defenders for their relentless effort to bring justice and freedom to Tibetans inside Tibet."



Political Prisoner Geshe Phende Gyaltzen Dies in Lithang County's Custody



A 56-year-old prominent Tibetan monk from Gyongpa township in Lithang County, Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (incorporated into China's Sichuan province) who was in the custody of Lithang County's police station since March last year has reportedly died on 26 January 2023 due to unknown ill health.

According to reliable sources, Geshe Phende Gyaltzen was often engaged in imparting religious teaching to his disciples. He was also actively engaged in renovating Shedrub Dhargyeling monastery in Lithang. In March 2022, he was arbitrarily arrested by the local authority and sentenced to imprisonment for mediating a dispute between two parties in the county. The authority transported his body to his native town in Gyongpa but prohibited people from visiting the deceased including the imposition of restrictions on internal movement for three days. Following the days, the body was shifted to Beijing.

Geshe Phende Gyaltzen was born in Gyongpa township in Lithang County. He had been to India in 1985 to study Buddhist tantric and received a Geshe Degree at Sera Mey Monastery's Pomra Khangtsen in Bylakuppe, South India. After that, he travelled to Dharamshala, Manali, Darjeeling, Bhutan etc on a prolonged spiritual retreat before returning to Tibet to give a teaching.

UN Experts Press Release Highlights Alarming Forced Assimilation and Separation of 1 Million Tibetan Children in Tibet by China



A group of three UN independent experts strongly condemned China for forcibly separating over “1 million Tibetan children from families” and assimilating Tibetan culture at colonial style boarding schools, in a strongly worded press release, earlier today. Recently, the UN Experts had made public their communication with the Chinese government expressing serious concerns over the situation.

In the press release, the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Mr. Fernand de Varennes; Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education Ms. Farida Shaheed and Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki jointly voiced concern over Chinese policies aimed at “assimilating Tibetan people culturally, religiously and linguistically through a residential school system.” The experts warned around a million Tibetan children had been affected by the policies.

The experts said they were “disturbed” by “the residential school system for

Tibetan children appears to act as a mandatory large-scale programme intended to assimilate Tibetans into majority Han culture, contrary to international human rights standards”, in recent years.

While describing the mandatory compulsory education curriculum in Mandarin without any access to Tibetan language, history and culture in China led residential schools for Tibetan children, the UN experts said “as a result, Tibetan children are losing their facility with their native language and the ability to communicate easily with their parents and grandparents in the Tibetan language, which contributes to their assimilation and erosion of their identity”.

The experts also highlighted the share of residential schools in Tibet is “much higher” compared to other parts of areas under China, and this has been increasing in recent years. The forced closure of rural schools in Tibetan populated areas and replacement by

township or country-level schools which exclusively use Chinese in teaching and communications has further added to the share of residential schools in Tibet, said the UN Experts.

The experts expressed alarm at the Chinese policies of “forced assimilation” of Tibetan cultural identity into “dominant Han-Chinese majority, through a series of oppressive actions against Tibetan education, religious and linguistic institutions”. And further noted China’s relentless persecution of Tibetan individuals advocating Tibetan language and education. The UN experts said they are in contact with the Chinese authorities regarding the aforementioned issues also raised in its communication to China in November 2022.

Representative Thinlay Chukki noted that “this is one of the first press releases by the UN experts on Tibet, detailing the egregious human rights violations in Tibet and we hope many will follow especially given the dire situation in Tibet, which remains the least free regions in the world. As noted by the experts, even though there are many residential schools in other parts of China their numbers are much higher in Tibet. This points to the concerted and systematic efforts of China to destroy Tibetan language, culture and religion. While communicating with China, we call upon the experts to press China to close down these so-called residential schools and to provide detailed reports on the same.”



Central Tibetan Administration Welcomes Re-introduction of the Tibet Bill “Promoting a Resolution to Tibet-China Conflict” in both Houses of the US Congress

China Continues Enforcement of Restrictive Policies Inside Tibet



The bill proposes that the United States make it a policy to protect the Tibetan People’s right to self-determination under international law and that their ability to exercise this right is precluded by the current People’s Republic of China’s (PRC) policies; and that the conflict between Tibet and the PRC is unresolved, and that the legal status of Tibet remains to be determined in accordance with international law. The legislation makes it clear that the only path ahead is to embrace His Holiness’ Middle Way approach, which is based on negotiation in good faith and without preconditions, to establish genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within the framework of the constitution of the People’s Republic of China.

Appreciating the efforts of Congressman Jim McGovern, Congressman Michael McCaul, Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Todd Young, Kalon Norzin Dolma of the Department of Information and International Relations, CTA, said, “The reintroduction of the bipartisan bill in both the Houses of the US Congress is yet another demonstration of the U.S lawmakers’ commitment to giving a much-needed impetus to the resolution of the long-standing unresolved Sino-

Tibet conflict through Middle Way Approach”.

“Such strong demonstration of solidarity by the U.S reaffirms the Tibetan people’s faith and trust in the just leadership of the U.S. and their steadfast commitment to protecting and advancing cherished American values by defending those striving for peace, democracy, freedom and human rights everywhere. The proposal of this bill has undeniably deepened the optimism of Tibetans inside Tibet who, as we speak, are continually subjected to severe repression,” Kalon Norzin Dolma said.

Acknowledging the United States’ firm and perpetual support towards the cause of Tibet, Kalon appealed for support from members of the U.S Congress to translate the Tibet bill “Promoting a Resolution to Tibet–China Conflict” into policy as a way forward to resolve the long-standing Sino–Tibetan conflict.



The Communist Party of China continues to strictly enforce repressive policies inside Tibet, perennially violating the rights and freedom of Tibetans and subjecting them to unequal treatment.

According to reliable sources inside Tibet, it is said that very few cherry-picked Tibetan students who have scored high marks in their tertiary education occupy the top administrative positions in the so-called “Tibet Autonomous Region” while the rest are predominantly occupied by Chinese officials. Because of the declining number of job opportunities for Tibetans, in areas like Shigatse, most Tibetan graduates above 18 are compelled to enlist in PLA. Moreover, in an attempt to brainwash young Tibetan students, education in the schools is replaced by political propaganda that repeatedly rolls out accusations against His Holiness the Dalai Lama for carrying out separatist activities.

Similarly, in the annual report of Palyul county of Kardze Prefecture, the authority’s adherence to the sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism and enhanced supervision of religious affairs in compliance with the law has been reported. The report further mentioned about the expulsion of 4,651 monks and nuns from monasteries and the demolition of 4,120 monk’s quarters at Yarchen Gar Monastery, one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist institutes in Kham, Eastern Tibet.



Visit: <https://tibet.net/tibet-advocacy-group/>

UN Committee Questions China on Monoracial Policies and Widespread Rights Violations in Tibet and other Regions

During the last two days, 15-16 February 2023, the UN Committee on Cultural, Economic and Social Rights reviewed China for the third time on China's implementation of the Covenant. The UN Committee members questioned China on its monoracial policies enforcing forced assimilation of Tibetans, Uyghurs, Mongolians and others as well as the widespread rights violations being carried out in Tibet, East Turkistan (CHN: Xinjiang), Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China.

Mohamed Ezzeldin Abdel-Moneim, Chair of the UN Committee, chaired the review session. The task force that carried out the review consisted of Country Rapporteur Michael Windfuhr, Ludovic Hennebel, Preeti Saran and Asraf Ally Caunhye. The Chinese government delegation of 39 members was led by Ambassador Chen Xu, Permanent Representative of China, to the UN office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland.

The UN Committee members repeatedly questioned China on its monoethnic, monoracial policies enforced by China against Tibetans, Uyghurs and Southern Mongolians and noted that these policies of China are evidently counterproductive and in violation of international laws. The UN Committee questioned China on wide-ranging topics related to Tibet, including persecution of Tibetan human rights defenders, forced resettlement of Tibetan nomads, appropriation and mass-evictions of Tibetans from their lands, free and prior consent from Tibetans before construction of mega dams in Tibet, forced labour in Tibet, discrimination against Tibetans in labour markets, freedom of religion in workplace, disparity in access to education for Tibetans, forced assimilation of nearly 1 million Tibetan children in boarding schools, language rights of Tibetans, rights of Tibetans to freely practice

their religion including the flying of prayer flags and circumambulation (kora) of holy shrines, large-scale destruction of religious sites, measures to control Tibetan Buddhist practice of reincarnation and so on.

Despite specific and repeated questions from the UN Committee members asking for data and clarification, the Chinese delegation failed to provide satisfactory answers. The Chinese delegation either denied all charges or provided blanket self-praising statements. Exasperated by the delegation's unsatisfactory line of answering, one of the committee members remarked that if the Chinese delegation considers the well-substantiated allegations of violations as "baseless," then it should provide details of the investigation based on which this conclusion was arrived at.

The Tibet Bureau Geneva, International Campaign for Tibet and members of Tibet Advocacy Coalition attended the review session. Representative Thinlay Chukki from Tibet Bureau Geneva thanked the UN Committee members for the detailed review of China, touching upon all major areas and noted, "The review evidenced the dedication and passion of the Committee members and the Secretariat to protect and promote human rights."

"The widespread human rights violations in Tibet are well-documented, and despite this, China repeatedly denies the substantiated criticisms as evidenced in the review. It is time China is held accountable for the egregious human rights violations in Tibet. As we look forward to the Committee's concluding observations, we hope China will introspect its policies and ensure that Tibetans, Uyghurs, Southern Mongolians, Hong Kongers and Macau people are guaranteed genuine universal human rights," remarked Representative Thinlay Chukki.

PROFILING TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS



A-NYA SENGDRRA
Date of Arrest: September 2018
Current Status: 7 Years' Imprisonment

Brief Profile: A-Nya Sengdra, a Tibetan environmental and anti-corruption activist, was sentenced to seven years in prison on 6 December 2019 by a Chinese court in Golog, Armdo. He was falsely charged with "gathering people to disturb public order" and "provoking troubles." He is well respected in his community for his campaign work against illegal mining activities and corrupt Chinese government officials. He was detained and severely tortured by Chinese security officers for over 14 months without trial. The Chinese court denied A-Nya Sengdra's request to drop charges against him and overturn his sentence on 17 June 2020.

Tibet Advocacy Centre
Department of International and Environmental Relations
Central Tibetan Administration

PROFILING TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS



SEYNAM
Date of Arrest: 23 March 2021
Current Status: Six Years' Imprisonment

Brief Profile: Chinese authorities in Serthar County sentenced Seynam to six years in prison in September 2022. A Tibetan writer, an environmentalist, and a Tibetan language educator, Seynam was initially taken into custody on 23 March 2021. Previously, Seynam, 33, was arrested and held along with 10 other Tibetans for 13 days for attending a community forum on what is known as "the wellbeing of parents of the land of snow." A native of Serthar County, Kham Karze, Seynam is the father of a daughter.

Tibet Advocacy Centre
Department of International and Environmental Relations
Central Tibetan Administration

PROFILING TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS



MIGMAR DHONDUP
Date of Arrest: March 2008
Current Status: 14 Years' Imprisonment

Brief Profile: On 27 October 2008, Chinese officials in Lhasa sentenced Migmar Dhondup to 14 years in prison for "espionage". Migmar Dhondup, a tireless conservationist and a very well-educated NGO worker, was accused of "providing intelligence concerning the state's security and interests to" the exile Tibetan community "before and after the 'March 14' incident". After leaving Tibet in 1992, Migmar studied at the Tibetan Children's Village school in Bylakuppe and graduated in business studies from a South Indian college. Upon returning to Tibet, he dedicated himself to improving the health and social conditions of Tibetan farmers and nomads in Lhokha and Lhasa. A native of Dingri, Shigatse Prefecture, Migmar speaks fluent English and works as a tour guide. Although Migmar's release date is set for 2022, the Chinese authorities have not yet provided any information regarding his release.

Tibet Advocacy Centre
Department of International and Environmental Relations
Central Tibetan Administration

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Lays Foundation Stone of Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan & Indian Ancient Wisdom



His Holiness the Dalai Lama blessing a model of the proposed building before taking his seat on stage at the the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan & Indian Ancient Wisdom in Bodhgaya, Bihar, India on January 3, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

Under a wintry sky this morning, His Holiness the Dalai Lama drove out past the Magadh University to the prospective site of the Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan and Ancient Indian Wisdom. There, as monks of Namgyal Monastery chanted prayers, accompanied by the Hon'ble Kiren Rijiju, Minister for Law and Justice, Government of India, Shri Sushil Modi, MP, Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Ambassador Kumar Tuhin, Director General ICCR, he unveiled the foundation stone. He closely examined an architectural model of the proposed buildings before taking his seat on the stage.

Interim director of the project, Tempa Tsering, greeted everyone present and welcomed the special guests. He announced that the Centre was being established to fulfil His Holiness the Dalai Lama's vision that if awareness of ancient Indian wisdom, particularly with regard to the workings of the mind and emotions, could be revived and shared more widely, it would contribute to the creation of a more peaceful, more compassionate world. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Bihar and the Government of India for their

support. He declared that the Centre will be open to everyone who wishes to learn about Tibetan and Ancient Indian Wisdom.

In a speech delivered in Hindi, Prof Samdhong Rinpoché recalled that many years ago Vinobha Bhave suggested that a time would come when Indian culture would take a leading role in the world. His prediction was widely dismissed, but in retrospect it seems he was a far-sighted visionary. Rinpoché went on to say that since the materialistic outlook associated with science and technology has failed to bring peace and satisfaction to the world, ancient Indian knowledge and values may fill the gap.

In the past, Rinpoché asserted, Indian schools of thought were mutually enriched when they engaged in an exchange of ideas founded on reason and logic. Tibetan tradition has kept this approach alive. With the establishment of this Centre, these traditions will be restored to India.

Kumar Sarvjeet, MLA for Bodhgaya and Minister of Agriculture in the Government of Bihar spoke next on behalf of the Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar. He informed the gathering

that the Chief Minister is completely supportive of His Holiness's vision. He has made clear that he and the Government of Bihar will do whatever they can to help bring the project to fruition. He disclosed that the Government and people of Bihar, and the local people especially, are grateful that the Centre is being established in Bodhgaya.

Hon'ble Kiren Rijiju, Minister for Law and Justice in the Central Government, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, paid his respects to His Holiness, the Sakya Throne-holders and other honoured guests. He stated that whenever he comes to Bodhgaya and reflects that 25 centuries ago the Buddha actually walked in this locality, he feels at peace. This is what makes Bodhgaya a sacred place and now His Holiness reinforces that status by his presence. The Buddha showed the world how to attain enlightenment and, in our time, this is what His Holiness does too.

"His Holiness has made India his home and has committed himself to helping to revive awareness of ancient Indian wisdom," he said. "People from around the world come to India to pay their respects to him. His Holiness refers to India as the guru and Tibetans as the students, but I say that it is he, an apostle of peace, who is the guru to world. On behalf of the people and government of India I express gratitude to him. It's a privilege for us to have him among us here in India.

"I'm honoured to have been able to take part in laying the foundation stone for this Centre for Tibetan and Ancient Indian Wisdom. His Holiness states that the wisdom of Nalanda nurtured by such masters as Nagarjuna, Aryadeva and Chandrakirti, a tradition grounded in reason and logic, was kept alive in Tibet. It was concerned less with religion and more with a science of the mind. A centre to study along these lines is being established and people from around the

world will be able to come and study here.

“His Holiness is committed to extolling such human values as compassion and tolerance, forgiveness and self-discipline. He is pledged to work to preserve Tibetan culture and protect the natural environment of Tibet.

“The Government of India is committed in turn to supporting this centre, which will encourage us to look within. The Centre will be a world-class institution, a gift to humanity, where it will be possible to discover the link between peace of mind and world peace.”

“Today, we’re all gathered here out of our admiration for the Buddha’s teaching,” His Holiness observed. “We all wish for peace, so we need to cultivate compassion and the practice of doing no harm. The Buddhadharmā not only reveals peace and happiness to the world, it shows us how to overcome suffering.



Hon’ble Kiren Rijju, Minister for Law and Justice in the Central Government addressing the audience at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan & Indian Ancient Wisdom in Bodhgaya, Bihar, India on January 3, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

“Indulging in wishful thinking is not enough, we have to look at the causes of suffering, which are rooted in our

self-cherishing attitudes and destructive emotions, and put an end to them. Peace in the world depends on individuals achieving peace of mind.

“Shantideva has made the situation abundantly clear in his work, ‘Entering into the Way of a Bodhisattva’:

All those who suffer in the world do so because of their desire for their own happiness. All those happy in the world are so because of their desire for the happiness of others. 8/129

Why say more? Observe this distinction: between the fool who longs for his own advantage and the sage who acts for the advantage of others. 8/130

For those who fail to exchange their own happiness for the suffering of others, Buddhahood is certainly impossible – how could there even be happiness in cyclic existence? 8/131

Proceeding in this way from happiness to happiness, what thinking person would despair, after mounting the carriage, the awakening mind, which carries away all weariness and effort? 7/30

“If you’re warm-hearted and determined to help others, it will make you happy. Therefore, we can be grateful to the Buddha for his teaching.” His Holiness continued.

“India is a land where, because of the fundamental and long-standing traditions of ‘karuna’ and ‘ahimsa’, many different spiritual traditions flourish. To ensure peace in the world we need to encourage the notion of non-violence or doing no harm— ‘ahimsa’. Tibetan refugees are fortunate to have been able to come to live in a land that



A view from the stage during His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s talk at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan & Indian Ancient Wisdom in Bodhgaya, Bihar, India on January 3, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

explicitly upholds ‘ahimsa’.

“I don’t have much more to say. I thank the Government of Bihar and the Central Government for their support, without which it would be difficult to bring this project about. We are grateful.

“We need to think of the welfare of others and continuously cultivate a warm heart; to be of service to others is a practical and realistic way to lead our lives. Thank you.”

Karma Chungdak offered words of thanks. He first of all expressed gratitude to His Holiness for inspiring the establishment of this Centre for Tibetan and Ancient Indian Wisdom and for taking part in the laying of the foundation stone today. He thanked representatives of Tibet’s several spiritual traditions, monks and nuns, for their attendance. Finally, on behalf of the Dalai Lama Trust, he offered thanks to Hon’ble Kiren Rijju, for representing the Government of India, and Kumar Sarvjeet, for representing the Government of Bihar, as well as Sikyong Penpa Tsering and Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, for representing the Central Tibetan Administration, on this great occasion.



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Sikyong Penpa Tsering's Impactful First Visit to the United Kingdom



Sikyong received at the Heathrow airport by Representative Sonam Frasi and Tibetan community.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering, during his short stop-over in the UK, en-route to Washington DC, to primarily speak at the University of Oxford's prestigious Oxford Union Society, covered a wide range of engagements with media, think tanks, students and staff of Oxford University as well as interact with Tibetan compatriots to raise awareness of the Tibetan situation inside Tibet and outside.

On Monday, 30 January 2023, Sikyong was greeted at London Heathrow Airport by Representative Sonam Frasi, Tibetan Community in Britain and local Tibetans before heading straight to Tibet House, where he had a luncheon meeting with the staff of the Office of Tibet, London. Later that afternoon, he had a meeting with a BBC Executive Producer. Sikyong's first day's engagement ended with a visit to London's Piccadilly Circus to pay homage to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's the Art of Hope produced by CIRCA.

On the second day, 31st January morning, Sikyong visited BBC studios in Portland Place to give two separate interviews with different departments of BBC World Service before heading to Oxford University. He was greeted by

a member of the Oxford Union Society at the entrance and taken on a tour of the Oxford Union including a corridor where a framed picture taken of the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama dated 2 December 1991 was on display alongside those of many other famous and respected world leaders.

In the Oxford Union's debating hall, under the talk titled Tibet – An Unresolved International Conflict, Sikyong spoke eloquently for about 20 minutes on Tibet's glorious past – militarily, spiritually, transliteration and culturally; international impact of the present impasse with PRC – environment, water security, trade and global peace; and the future aspirations of resolving the conflict with China peacefully as guided by His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Middle Way Approach adopted as a policy by the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile. He also referenced two books – Tibet Brief and Tibet Was Never a Part of China Since Antiquity – on the legality of Tibet's historical status of independence from China.

This was followed by 40 minutes of Q&A during which Sikyong among other issues,

reiterated his unwavering faith and commitment in following the advice and guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama;

highlighted the strong Tibetan spirit still inside Tibet, their courage in protecting their religion and belief system, despite the heavy surveillance of gridlocks and AI tools used to control the Tibetans in Tibet, and the all-pervasive sinicisation including the colonial-style schools, rolled into all walks of life for the Tibetans under Xi Jinping's policy of One-Nation China;

shared his concerns on the repercussions of the mega damming programme along Tibet's rivers;

expressed his disappointment in the inherent weakness in the structure of United Nations Organisation to rein in even one rogue member of the Security Council;

touched on Tibetan relationship with other victims of China's persecution like the Uyghurs, Hongkongers and Mongolians; and

rejected CCP's claim on the reincarnation process of His Holiness the Dalai Lama referring to His Holiness' 2011 statement and Kashag's six-point statement dated 29 September 2022

In conclusion, Sikyong implored the international community to take responsibility for creating this monster called 'China' and projected Tibetans as a strong internal force that partners with the international community in bringing positive change inside China.

After the Oxford Union talk, he was interviewed by the editor of the Oxford University students' magazine. More meetings with smaller group of students and staff of the Oxford University continued in a different hall during which request came to speak at a future event in Oxford. Some asked how they can support Tibet and Sikyong advised them to open an Oxford chapter of Students for Free Tibet or join UK-based Tibet Support Groups.

Sikyong then addressed a gathering of around 20 Tibetans living in and around Oxford including those studying and working at the University of Oxford. He explained to them the policies and priorities of the 16th Kashag, highlighting areas and platforms where Tibetans in the West and CTA can work together, and the objectives of V-TAG and the population survey. He then responded earnestly to questions, concerns, suggestions shared by the Tibetans in attendance, and requested them to work on preserving our language and support the Office of Tibet, London, in raising awareness about Tibet, especially the highly educated people present there.

On the morning of Wednesday, 1 February, the day of his departure to USA, Sikyong was interviewed by an international think tank based in Cambridge and participated in Drukthar's DrukTalk podcast before heading to the airport with the staff of the Office of Tibet, London.

This visit was organised by the Office of Tibet, London at a short notice considering the importance of the invitation received from the Oxford Union Society and it helped to enhance understanding of the current Tibetan situation and standpoint. Additionally, this visit works as a perfect precursor to Sikyong's forthcoming visit in April when the Office of Tibet has lined up a heavy schedule of engagements that are more of political and diplomatic nature.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering's Official Engagements in North America and Canada

Sikyong Penpa Tsering of the Central Tibetan Administration landed in Washington DC on 1 February 2023 following his successful engagements in London. Upon his arrival, Representative Dr Namgyal Choedup of the Office of Tibet, Interim President Bhuchung Tsering from the International Campaign for Tibet, and board members of the Capital Area Tibetan Association received Sikyong at the Airport.

As part of his first-day engagement, accompanied by interim Secretary Tenzin Legdup of the Finance Department and Representative Namgyal Choedup, Sikyong paid a courtesy visit to US Special Coordinator



Sikyong Penpa Tsering along with Representative with Tibetan youth .

for Tibet Under Secretary Uzra Zeya and Senior Director for Democracy and Human Rights at the National Security Council, Rob Berschinski. Prior to that, Sikyong met with the Representative and staff of the Office of Tibet in DC and the interim President and Vice President of the International Campaign for Tibet to discuss the Tibetan advocacy campaign.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering's official engagement in North America continues, talks about US legislative's introduction of Tibet bill.

He met Senators and Congressmen/ Congresswomen in D.C, Calls for support in enacting the Tibet Bill

Sikyong addresses to Tibetan youth and Tibetan community in various part of



Sikyong-led Tibetan delegation with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and Congressman Jim McGovern.

North America and Canada.

He further urged youths to partake in V-TAG initiative of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Sikyong also met and interacted with the Director and staff of the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Affairs (DRL), and President Derek Mitchell and the staff of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to apprise them of CTA's undertakings and the future projects.

He further met with program heads of the US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and US Agency for International Development (USAID). Sikyong was accompanied by Interim Finance Secretary Tenzin Legdup and OOT Representative Namgyal Cheodup.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering arrived at Canadian province of Alberta as the final leg of visitation during this trip.

McCaul, McGovern, Young, Merkley Introduce Legislation to Promote Peaceful Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict

Washington, D.C. – House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) along with Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) have introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to strengthen the United States’ policy to promote dialogue between the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and the Dalai Lama toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Tibet and the PRC.

The Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act seeks to empower the United States government to achieve its long-standing goal of getting Tibetans and PRC authorities to resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue. The legislation ensures that U.S. policy is grounded in principles of international law, and accurately reflects that the conflict between Tibet and the PRC remains unresolved. It seeks to jump-start negotiations between PRC officials and the Dalai Lama or his representatives. No formal dialogue has happened since 2010, and Chinese officials continue to make unreasonable demands of the Dalai Lama as a condition for further dialogue.

“The Chinese Communist Party continues to oppress the Tibetan people. Tibetans are subject to the CCP’s mass surveillance and censorship tactics and are arbitrarily killed or imprisoned for expressing their desire for freedom. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to reject the CCP’s claims that their tyranny over Tibet is legitimate and will assert the Tibetan people have a say in their own future,” said Chairman McCaul.

“The Tibetans are a people who deserve to have their rights respected under international law,” said Congressman McGovern. “This includes the right of self-determination, which they have been denied by the Chinese government and the international community. The Biden Administration has been vocal about Ukrainians’ rights to decide how they

are governed, and the Tibetan people are no less entitled to this right under founding UN covenants. Our bipartisan bill can help incentivize the two sides to negotiate a durable solution.”

“The Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) aggression towards Tibet is self-serving, with negotiations and even the very definition of Tibet on the CCP’s terms. We must refresh U.S. policy towards Tibet, and push for negotiations that advance freedoms for the Tibetan people and peaceful resolution to the CCP’s conflict with the Dalai Lama. Putting this bill forward again demonstrates America’s resolve that the CCP’s status quo – both in Tibet and elsewhere – is not acceptable,” said Senator Young.

“America’s values supporting freedom and self-determination for all people must be at the center of all of our actions and relationships around the world—especially as the Chinese government pushes an alternative vision,” said Senator Merkley. “This legislation makes clear that the United States views the Tibet-China conflict as unresolved and that the people of Tibet deserve a say in how they are governed. It sends a clear message to the People’s Republic of China: we expect meaningful negotiations over Tibet’s status and do not view current Chinese government actions as meeting those expectations,” said Senator Merkley.

The Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Conflict Act has two main components:

It strengthens the basis for U.S. support for dialogue by making it U.S. policy that the Tibetan people are a people entitled to the right of self-determination under international law and that their ability to exercise this right is precluded by the current PRC policies; and that the conflict between Tibet and the PRC is unresolved, and that the legal status

of Tibet remains to be determined in accordance with international law.

It also counters PRC disinformation on Tibet by directing the State Department’s Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to ensure that U.S. government statements and documents counter disinformation about Tibet from PRC officials, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions including that of the Dalai Lama, authorizing existing funding under the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 to counter disinformation about Tibet, and requiring the annual Report on Tibet Negotiations report to Congress on the Executive Branch’s activities to counter disinformation about Tibet.

Representative McGovern is Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and a member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Representative McCaul is Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Senator Merkley is the co-chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senator Young is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

“Times are changing and truth will prevail. There are indications that things will change for the better in China before long. Therefore, please remain strong and preserve your sense of brotherhood and sisterhood. Be cheerful and remain at ease.”

-His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama to Tibeans inside Tibet

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Delivers the Inaugural TN Chaturvedi Memorial Lecture

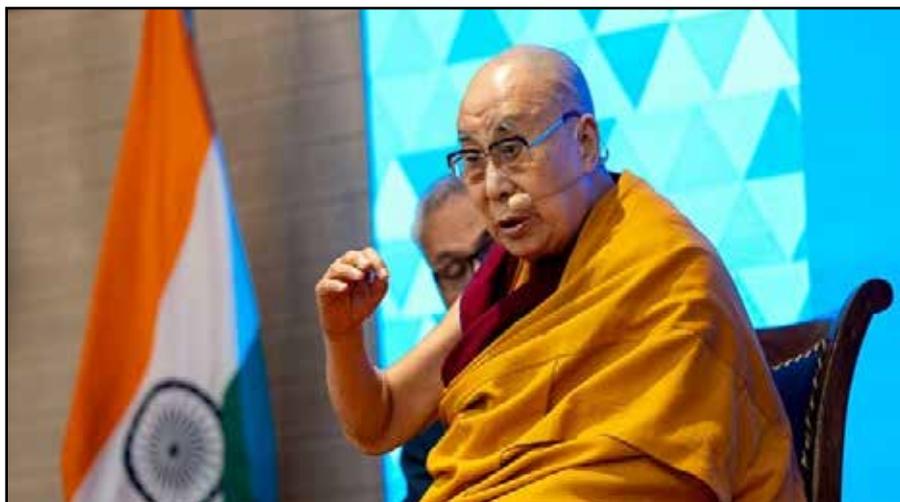
His Holiness the Dalai Lama drove to the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) where he had been invited to give the inaugural TN Chaturvedi Memorial Lecture. TN Chaturvedi was a distinguished member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Following his retirement, he served as Comptroller and Auditor General of India and later as Governor of Karnataka. Members of the Chaturvedi family, Director General of the IIPA, SN Tripathi, Deputy Director of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library RK Mishra and others received His Holiness on arrival and accompanied him to the TN Chaturvedi Memorial Hall.

His Holiness took part in the lighting of a lamp to open the occasion. He was felicitated by DG IIPA, SN Tripathi, welcomed by Atulindra Nath Chaturvedi and introduced to the audience by Aatil Nath Chaturvedi, who then invited him to address them.

“As I child in Tibet I learned about aspects of ancient Indian thought,” His Holiness observed. “Later I came to this country as a refugee, became a guest of the Government of India and have spent the majority of my life here. In that time, I’ve come to appreciate such qualities of ancient Indian thought as ‘karuna’ and ‘ahimsa’. Humanity needs these concepts in practice.

“Although I didn’t have the opportunity to meet Mahatma Gandhi, I was able to meet Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri and as a result of talking to them developed sincere respect for them. India is a democratic country, a place where many religious traditions live together under secular principles—which is wonderful.

“My life now is dedicated to promoting ‘karuna’ and ‘ahimsa’, but I express my admiration for them just as an ordinary human being. We are all the same as human beings. We’re born the same



His Holiness the Dalai Lama delivering the Inaugural TN Chaturvedi Memorial Lecture at the Institute of India Public Administration in New Delhi, India on January 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor.

way and we survive because of our mother’s compassion. As human beings it’s our nature to be compassionate. We’re social animals. We depend on our community to survive, therefore we in turn to support the community. By extension, all eight billion human beings alive today have to learn to live together.

“When we talk about ‘karuna’ and ‘ahimsa’ we’re not thinking of the differences between us, but rather ways in which we are the same. Where there is ‘karuna’ ‘ahimsa’ naturally comes about. When you have ‘karuna’ within, it gives you inner strength and self-confidence. And on that basis, you can see other human beings as your brothers and sisters.

“Dividing people into ‘us’ and ‘them’ is out of date. Instead, we should think of them in terms of ‘karuna’ and ‘ahimsa’. If we cultivate this precious thought of ‘karuna’, we’ll be free from fear, anger and hatred. We’ll sleep soundly and enjoy good physical health.

“My life has been difficult, but difficulties have brought opportunities to put these deeper inner values into practice. It’s foolish to think only in narrow terms, dwelling on our national, ideological or religious identity, because as human beings we are all the same and we have to live together.

“When I think of TN Chaturvedi, I remember that he lived his life in the spirit of ‘karuna’ and ‘ahimsa’. I’m now 87 years old, but I look younger than I am because I have peace of mind. Nevertheless, having an attractive external appearance isn’t nearly as important as revealing the inner beauty of ‘karuna’.”

In answering questions from the audience, His Holiness mentioned that modern education with its materialistic outlook has tended to come mainly from the West. He feels that if education today is to train people to be truly warm-hearted it needs to be combined with the inner values of ancient Indian thought. Material progress brings many benefits, but they should not come at the cost of inner peace and inner strength.

His Holiness remarked that the time has come to think about the whole of humanity, not just this or that nation. In the 21st century, faced with the consequences of climate change, he said we cannot afford to think only in terms of individual nations; we have to learn to live together. The seriousness of global warming means we have to talk about what we can do about it and what we can do to preserve the world’s natural ecology.

When it comes to taking care of nature, His Holiness advised that we have to remind ourselves that we are part of nature and our lives depend on nature.

Challenged to say whether he ever gets angry, His Holiness declared that as someone who has studied Shantideva’s book ‘Entering into the Way of the Bodhisattva’ and for whom compassion is a core practice it rarely occurs.

He denied that ‘karuna’ is a source of weakness that leaves you open to being mocked and exploited by others. He reiterated that taking care of your community is the way to take care of yourself. He stated that one of the things he most appreciates about people from Tibet and the Himalayan region is their generally warm-hearted wish to help each other.

Asked how to make positive use of Artificial Intelligence His Holiness replied that no matter how sophisticated machines may be, they have a long way to go to emulate the human mind.

When invited to name someone he considers a role model today, His Holiness answered that a person he really admires is the great Indian master Nagarjuna. He lived long ago, but what he taught was how to think clearly. He was someone who took to heart the Buddha’s advice to his followers, “As the wise test gold by burning, cutting and rubbing it, so, bhikshus, should you accept my words—after testing them, and not merely out of respect for me.” His Holiness remarked, “I respect all religious traditions, but the unique feature of the Buddhadharm is that it encourages us to investigate.”

The moderator, Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar IIPA, thanked His Holiness for pointing out that ‘karuna’ brings inner strength and peace of mind. TN Chaturvedi’s second son Avanindra Nath Chaturvedi then presented a memento to His Holiness. Dr RK Mishra offered the word of thanks: “We have all been privileged to listen to what His Holiness has to say about ‘karuna’. Thank you all for coming.”

Commercial Lease Contract of ORTC Bylakuppe Hotel and Restaurant

The Department of Home, CTA has announced the commercial lease contract of ORTC Bylakuppe hotel and restaurant ‘Tara Kissan Villa’. The deadline for the application submission is 20 March 2023.



Details regarding 19 rooms at ‘Tara Kissan Villa’

Category	Room	Qty	Facilities	Carpet area
A	Suite Room	2	1. Bedroom with king size bed. 2. Living room with kitchenette 3. AC 4. LCD 5. Study table with chair 6. Luggage rack 7. Wardrobe 8. Dressing table 9. Balcony with outdoor sitting table chair 10. Attached washroom with shower	370 sft.
B	Standard room	17	1. Bedroom with double bed size 2. LCD 3. Study table with chair 4. Luggage rack 5. Wardrobe 6. Dressing table 7. Balcony with outdoor sitting table chair 8. Attached washroom with shower	225 sft.

Executive Secretary,
 Department of Home - CTA
 Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamshala - 176215
 Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh - India
 Email: homesecretary@tibet.net / agriculture@tibet.net
 Phone: 01892-222412/222214

For more details kindly visit www.bod.asia

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Addresses Visitors from M3M Foundation

His Holiness the Dalai Lama greeted 120 recently graduated Indian college students and members of the M3M Foundation in the yard of the Tsuglagkhang, the Main Tibetan Temple, adjacent to his residence on 23 January.

The M3M Foundation, founded by the M3M India group, is working on equitable development to create a brighter India. It aims to introduce sustainable development and empower marginalized communities by focussing on education, health, livelihood and conservation of the environment. The foundation fosters life skills in the students under its care, encouraging them to value equality, empathy, inclusion, collaboration and trust.

Once His Holiness had taken his seat, the Chairman of M3M gave him a traditional Himachali welcome, offering him a cap and a shawl. Indicating five cows with their calves tethered nearby, he informed His Holiness that four are to be given to widows and one to a local school.

Invited to address the gathering, His Holiness declared:

“As human beings we are all brothers and sisters. But in addition to that, we Tibetans have long-standing special relations with India.

“In the seventh century, the Tibetan king, Songtsen Gampo married a Chinese princess and I’m sure enjoyed Chinese food. However, once he’d decided that Tibetans needed to learn to write, he chose to model the new Tibetan script on the Indian Devanagari alphabet rather than on Chinese characters.

“A century later, another Tibetan king, Trisong Detsen invited one of the foremost scholars of Nalanda University to Tibet. Shantarakshita introduced the vast knowledge of the Buddha-dharma that encompassed an understanding of



His Holiness the Dalai Lama wearing a traditional Himachali cap and shawl offered to him by the Chairman of M3M at the start of their meeting in the courtyard of the Main Tibetan Temple in Dharamsala, HP, India on February 28, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

everything from the smallest particle, to space and the workings of the mind.

“Sometimes I jokingly say that in times past we Tibetans were the students and you Indians were the teachers, but now, when Indian has come so much under the influence of western thought, it is we Tibetans who have kept ancient Indian knowledge and values alive. Essentially this involves karuna and ahimsa, compassion and non-harming or non-violence. Mind you, although we value karuna and ahimsa, we Tibetans remain powerful and strong. Karuna brings inner strength leading to inner peace, greater self-confidence and the ability to smile. It’s because I practise karuna,” and he laughed, “that I always smile.”

His Holiness further explained that, as a philosopher and logician, Shantarakshita’s approach to Buddhism was based on developing a gradual understanding founded on reason and logic. At the same time there were Chinese monks in Tibet who taught that quietist meditation was a more effective approach. King Trisong Detsen organized a debate between the Chinese monk Hashang and Shantarakshita’s disciple Kamalashila. In declaring the Indian scholar the winner, he gave his

approval to his studious investigative and analytical approach. His Holiness mentioned that this was how he was brought up, beginning to learn about the workings of the mind and emotions when he was only four or five years old.

“Since I came to live in India, I’ve been able to meet all kinds of people, including scholars and scientists, who are interested in the methods for achieving peace of mind we have kept alive. I am convinced that if we are able to combine a command of technological development with a better understanding of the mind, we’ll be able to employ technology in a proper, healthy way. It’s a mistake, for example, to direct technological prowess primarily into the development of more sophisticated weapons. Science would be better used in pursuit of peace.

“All eight billion human beings alive today want to live in peace. It’s human nature to be affectionate. When we’re born, we survive and find peace in our mother’s care and attention. Then, as young children we accept others as they are. We don’t seek to identify differences between us. That’s something we learn to do later when we go to school, which can lead us to discriminate on the basis



Members of the audience posing for a group photo with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the end of the program in the courtyard of the Main Tibetan Temple in Dharamsala, HP, India on February 28, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

of ‘us’ and ‘them’.

“Since we are all human beings, we need to view each other as brothers and sisters. Relying on weapons to fight and kill brings nothing but destruction. Particularly sad is fighting in the name of religion, because at their core all religions teach compassion and loving-kindness.

“If we think in terms of the oneness of humanity, we can dispense with weapons and solve any differences between us through dialogue and discussion. We have to remind ourselves of what we have in common. We’re all born the same way and we all die the same way. I hope that in my lifetime we can create a genuinely peaceful world free of weapons and violent conflict.

“What’s more, since global warming is becoming so serious, we must learn to live happily together, helping one another, while we can.”

In answering questions from the audience His Holiness expressed an appreciation of the way so many diverse

customs and points of view flourish in India and the people who hold them live peaceably together. This is something, he said, from which the world can learn.

He recommended encouraging young children to think less in terms of ‘I’ and more in terms of ‘we’. He repeated that the serious problems we face because of climate change mean we have to cooperate and work together. Ideas of ‘us’ and ‘them’ are out of date.

Finally, asked how to achieve spiritual growth, His Holiness observed:

“Many different emotions affect our minds. Some, like anger and fear, are disturbing; others like empathy and compassion bring joy. Nurturing positive emotions naturally helps reduce those that are destructive. As I’ve already mentioned, it’s compassion that leads to inner strength and peace of mind. Therefore, we have to constantly remind ourselves that as members of the same human family we are brothers and sisters. And we must follow the example of those good people who work for peace and not those who fight and kill.”

PROFILING TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS



THARDOE GYALTSEN
Date of Arrest: December 2013
Current Status: 18 Years'
Imprisonment

Brief Profile: Chinese authorities in Nagchu, Tibet, arrested Thardoe Gyaltsen and secretly sentenced him to 18 years in prison for “inciting separatism” for allegedly possessing photos and recordings of the speeches of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in January 2014. A highly respected administrator and chant master at the Drogma monastery, Thardoe Gyaltsen was also targeted for his enormous contribution to preserving and promoting Tibetan culture and language. Before his arrest, he taught Tibetan language and culture classes to hundreds of Tibetan students in the monastery, which the Chinese authorities forcibly shut down. Originally from Kham Druu, he studied Buddhist Philosophy at Gaden Monastery in Lhasa before joining Drogma Monastery where he was the head of the Democratic Management Committee. Further, during his trial, his family was prohibited from providing legal assistance on his behalf by the Chinese government.

Tibet Advocacy Centre
 Department of Education and International Relations
 Central Tibetan Administration

PROFILING TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS



THUPTEN LOBSANG LHUNDUP
Nick: Dhi Lhundup
Date of Arrest: June 2019
Current Status: 4 Years' Imprisonment

Brief Profile: Chinese authorities in Chengde unjustly sentenced Lobsang Lhundup to 4 years in prison on an alleged charge of “disrupting social order”. Lobsang Lhundup, pen name Dhi Lhundup, a popular Tibetan intellectual and writer, was arrested on 30 June on suspicion of teaching Tibetan language, history and Buddhism at a private Tibetan cultural education centre and writing books critical of Chinese policies. He was held incommunicado for two years without access to his family or lawyer after his arrest. Born in Anshu Golag, he became a monk at an early age. For years, he taught Tibetan language, history, and Buddhism after completing his studies at Larung Gar Monastery. A prolific writer, Lhundup has also written and published several books and articles, including “Words United with Life at Risk” and “The Art of Positive Resistance”. He is married and has a young daughter.

Tibet Advocacy Centre
 Department of Education and International Relations
 Central Tibetan Administration

PROFILING TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS



KHANDO TSETEN
Date of Arrest: 26 April 2019
Current Status: Seven Years'
Imprisonment

Brief Profile: Chinese authorities sentenced Tibetan songwriter and artist Khando Tseten to seven years in prison on the charges of “inciting state subversion” and “sharing state secrets” after he composed a song praising His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In the past, he had been imprisoned in December 2012 for taking part in a student protests calling for Tibetan language freedom in Reikong County. Khando Tseten had been kept under strict surveillance and cut off from state welfare benefits, preventing him from attending school. He was born in the town of Dokar, Thuring County, and is a father of a child.

Tibet Advocacy Centre
 Department of Education and International Relations
 Central Tibetan Administration



China Will Interfere With Dalai Lama Succession: Tibet's President-In-Exile

By NDTV



They have been preparing for that for the last 15 years," he said.

China is expected to interfere in the succession of the Dalai Lama, and anticipating that eventuality, the Tibetan government-in-exile has worked out a plan for a democratic transition of the leadership role by the spiritual .

In an interview to PTI, President of the Tibetan government-in-exile Penpa Tsering pointed out that a replay of the 1995 appointment of a rival Panchen Lama by the Communist government of China while a boy chosen by the Dalai Lama as the incarnate of the Lama was whisked away from the public eye, can be expected.

“What happens after the present Dalai Lama is no more, is a big challenge for the Tibetans, especially if the Sino-Tibetan conflict is not resolved,” he said on Tuesday.

“We believe China will definitely interfere with the succession process of the Dalai Lama... They have been preparing for that for the last 15 years,” he added.

Tsering, who also holds the title of Sikyong, stated that the Chinese government issued a “diktat” in 2007

on the need for it to be involved in the succession of all reincarnate Lamas.

“This was done, aiming at using religion as a political tool... (Even) though China should not have any role nor any other government,” he said.

“They (Chinese) intervened in 1995 when they chose a boy (Gyancain Norbu) as the Panchen Lama. The boy recognised by His Holiness (the Dalai Lama) as Panchen Lama (Gedhun Choeyi Nyima) was whisked away and we still have no news of whether he is alive,” he said.

Nyima has not been seen by any independent observer since May 17, 1995. While the Chinese government claims he lives a “normal” life, Tibetan exiles and human rights groups believe that he is being held at a “Chinese gulag as a prisoner of conscience”.

Tibetan Buddhists believe that the soul of a high Lama or “living Buddha” after his death may be reborn as “soul boy” and can be found through the interpretation of arcane signs.

“Communist China professes not to believe in religion, yet it wants to

interfere in what is a purely a religious function,” rued Tsering, adding that the Dalai Lama in jest has said that if the “Chinese government is so interested in re-incarnation, it should study Tibetan Buddhism”.

To prepare the world and Tibetans for the day when the 14th Dalai Lama passes away, a six-point plan has been prepared. The cornerstone of the plan, Tsering said, is a democratic transition.

While the religious leadership remains with the Dalai Lama, since 2011, the political leadership of the Tibetan community has devolved on the directly elected Sikyong or president of the Tibetan government-in-exile. Till then, the temporal head of the Tibetan government-in-exile elected by the ‘Kashag’ or parliament-in-exile was ‘Kalon Tripa’ or prime minister with the Dalai Lama as the overall head.

A popular uprising in 1959 against the Chinese who had invaded Tibet in 1950, which was bloodily put down killing thousands of civilians, saw the Dalai Lama and many of his followers fleeing to India. A year after that, the Dalai Lama established a democratically-elected parliament.

“The Dalai Lama who was influenced by Indian democracy, which he saw for the first time during a visit in 1956-57, has been preparing us for a democratic future,” Tsering said. The Tibetan leader said the Dalai Lama found that while India’s democratically functioning Parliament allowed people to speak freely, the Chinese apex legislature of which he was a high official was a place where none could speak their mind, prompting him to adopt democracy in running the affairs of the Tibetan exiles.

“That is why I, a farmer’s son, have been able to take on the mantle of the Tibetan political leader... We will carry forward democratically,” he said.

Covid Deaths Increase in Tibet Due to Restrictions on Access to Hospitals, Medical Facilities

By ANI

The Covid mortality surge has made lives of Tibetans increasingly difficult due to current restrictions on access to hospitals and other medical facilities, reported Tibet Press.

Tibetans are not allowed to use the medical facilities, and the entire problem is being handled behind closed doors without anyone in the outside world knowing.

Tibetans endure unending suffering and death at the hands of ruthless Chinese rule, as well as the current Covid pandemic, reported Tibet Press.

Due to the current restrictions on access to hospitals and other medical facilities. Four individuals, including two local government workers, perished on January 7 in Dragyab county, Chamdo prefecture, according to sources who spoke with Radio Free Asia (RFA).

Additionally, according to some sources, the dead are reportedly being transported in huge numbers from nearby districts to the Larung Gar Buddhist Academy in Serta county, Sichuan, for cremation.

According to sources, the Chinese government has in the meantime reopened Tibet to tourists from other parts of China. In Lhasa, officials have announced the free entrance to the city's tourist sites, reported Tibet Press.

When the epidemic struck, the government's Zero COVID policy resulted in harsh, unjustified measures and seriously endangered the lives of the Tibetan people. The outbreak started on August 7th, 2022, and lockdowns commenced immediately after, reported Tibet Press.

As usual, China barred journalists and other observers from entering Tibet in order to assess the gravity of the situation there and to learn more about it.



Representative Image (Photo Credit: Reuters)

The only source of information was the Chinese media, which is definitely the most biased channel because it totally complies with the government's intentions.

The Chinese government made sure to emphasize that the outbreak originated in the Tibetan region and that it appeared to be the third-generation sub-variant of Omicron. They even went so far as to say that the specific variety had not yet been seen anywhere in China, reported Tibet Press.

After stringent lockdowns designed to stop the spread of the disease were lifted by Chinese authorities in early December, Tibetan sources report that COVID deaths had risen in Tibetan parts of China.

According to a source who lives in Tibet, since the zero-COVID policy's limits were loosened on December 7 in response to protracted demonstrations across China, more than 100 people have perished in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet.

According to the source, 64 victims have burnt in the Drigung Cemetery in Maldro Gongkar alone on January 2. Additionally, 30 bodies were cremated at the Tsemonling Cemetery, 17 bodies at the Sera Cemetery, and another 15 bodies at a cemetery in Toelung Dechen, reported Tibet Press.

Other sources reported that COVID has also claimed the lives of Tibetans in the western Chinese provinces of Sichuan, Gansu, and Qinghai's Ngaba, Sangchu, Kardze, and Lithang regions. So many remains were taken to Ngaba's Kirti monastery in Sichuan that some were left out to feed the vultures.

According to a Tibetan resident of Sichuan's Derge county who spoke to RFA under the condition of anonymity in order to avoid drawing the notice of authorities, "COVID has penetrated every corner of Tibet."

The public was already worried that China might conceal information regarding the pandemic's progress after the loosening of limitations, but on December 25 the National Health Commission of China declared that it will stop publishing the daily COVID case counts.

Chinese authorities in Tibet are clamping down on taking photos or video recordings at local cemeteries to keep news of rising COVID deaths in the region from reaching the outside world, reported RFA.

After lockdowns to stop the spread of the disease were lifted by authorities in the first few days of December, the number of fatalities in Tibetan regions of China has risen again. According to a local source who spoke on the condition of anonymity for security reasons, between 15 to 20 bodies are now transported daily to a cemetery in the Tibetan Autonomous Region's Drigung and to other cemeteries in the city of Lhasa.

The condition of Tibetan people demands international assistance and that such cruel and unfair activities be stopped. While the rest of the globe is recovering from the Covid outbreak, Tibetans continue to struggle for access to basic services rather than having the time to heal.

Xi Jinping and China in the Historic Year of 2023

By Tsewang Gyalpo Arya, Japam Forward

With his term extended for an historic additional five years, Xi Jinping may be feeling invincible and strong. But he must know that nothing is permanent.

It has been over three years since a coronavirus from the Chinese city of Wuhan invaded the world, plunging us all into one of history's worst extended crises and viral pandemics. The international community has struggled with COVID-19 and its variants with masks and sanitizers all these years. However, the year 2023 ushered in exposing the failure of Xi Jinping and his ill-conceived zero-COVID policy. People revolted, and the world saw China inundated with the coronavirus tsunami.

Even today, we see no respite from the virus. Currently, nearly 6.75 million have died. And the virus is still lurking around, with 23.3 million current cases in different variants (nearly 675 million cases in different variants from the outset).

China suppressed information, maintained a supercilious attitude, and pretended to be clean and ahead of others.

This paper examines China, the COVID pandemic, what the 3rd term of Xi Jinping augurs, and the Taiwan issue.

It looks at why, despite the country's deteriorating situation, is China flexing its muscle around antagonizing the pacifist neighbors in the Indo-Pacific regions. And how Japan and the international community should work together to deter the threats and dangers that China portends.

Will military alliances and acquisition of counterstrike capability be enough to keep the aggressors at bay?



Former CCP General Secretary Hu Jintao is escorted out of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China at the closing ceremony. General Secretary Xi Jinping observes in the Hall of the People in Beijing on October 22 (Kyodo)

Xi Jinping and the COVID-19 Pandemic

When the pandemic first spread in China in 2019, the authorities suppressed information. And the virus spread globally. Now that the world has gained some level of leverage and competency in containing the virus, it has burst open in China.

Xi Jinping's faulty zero-COVID policy backfired. This inhuman and draconian policy to hush the people by locking them inside unhygienic places with no proper food and medical facilities coerced them into the street and revolt.

It lifted its zero-COVID measures. But China is now struggling with the virus of its own making, which Xi Jinping first tried to use as a Trojan horse to global hegemony. COVID-related death is surging, and crematoriums are booked and full.

It is estimated that over 250 million caught COVID in 20 days last December (2022) in China, and thousands are

dying daily. Close to 60,000 people are reported to have died in just a few days after lifting the zero-COVID restrictive measures. Given the tight control over media, this could be the tip of the iceberg.

Governments worldwide are worried and fearful of another pandemic coming out of China. When some nations, including Japan and South Korea, announced a requirement for a negative PCR test result 72 hours prior to departure for anyone departing China, the latter retaliated with the suspension of visas for Japanese and South Korean citizens alone. This is how China conducts its wolf-warrior diplomacy, targeting close and easy prey.

Sending Infected People Abroad Under Xi Jinping

Now that China has the largest number of infection carriers, why is it encouraging people to travel abroad? This reflects the thinking and value system of the communist leadership.

Information from Tibet is scarce because of the strict and harsh measures adopted by the communist regime to stop contact with the outside world. It is wrong to presume that everything is fine in Tibet just because there is no news. It is precisely the opposite. Things are so strictly controlled, and the people are so traumatized that there is no space to vent their emotions.

More than 157 Tibetans have committed self-immolations since 2009 to protest the Chinese occupation of Tibet and the repressive rule.

At least five people committed suicide in 2022 in Lhasa and the suburbs to protest the inhuman treatment at the mass quarantine sites. From what little information trickling from Tibet, on January 2 alone, 64 bodies were cremated at the Drigung cemetery in Maldro Gongkar. And Kriti Monastery in Amdo is seeing 10 to 15 bodies every day seeking last funeral prayers.

Many are dying and suffering unnoticed and unreported. The situation in Uyghur areas and Southern Mongolia is the same, where people are too terrorized to come out and voice their grievances.

Xi Jinping and Aggressive Diversions

Amidst all these crises in China and the occupied regions, instead of trying to control the pandemic and save the lives of its citizens and people around the world, Xi Jinping is using this opportunity to further tighten his grip on power.

Moreover, in attempting to divert the attention of the people, the communist leadership resorts to frequently used tactics. They provoke the democratic world outside, and make incursions across neighboring borders to incite Chinese nationalism and hush the dissents at home.

Not content with the iron grip it has on people in the country, China is policing the overseas Chinese. And it is doing the same for Tibetans, Uyghurs, and Southern Mongolians living overseas,



HH the Dalai Lama meets with Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui during his first Taiwan visit in 1997. (Photo archive: Tibet Museum DIIR)

through its dubious outposts far and beyond its borders.

Prominent countries where these outposts are identified are the United States, Japan, Italy, France, Britain, Germany, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, among other nations. This is the long arm of repressive Chinese law trying to control people beyond its border. We must strongly protest this overt attack on other nations's sovereignty.

China and Taiwan Belong to Chinese people:

The communists, under the leadership of Mao Zedong, took over China in 1949. They established the People's Republic of China (PRC) and forced the then government of the Republic of China (ROC) headed by Chiang Kai-shek to retreat to Taiwan. Both the ROC and PRC are the results of the Chinese people's aspiration to achieve a fair government for the people, by the people, and of the people.

The ROC later embraced the path of people-centered democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. Today, Taiwan is a multi-party democracy, ranking 94th on GDP per capita with a high record of civil liberties and a healthcare system. But mainland China, despite the promise of socialist paradise and dictatorship of

the proletariat, is still under the tyranny of a repressive authoritarian regime.

In the International Community

When China was selling faulty medical gear around the world, Taiwan donated generously to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan was with the international community to battle the illness it caused, while China bossed around, ignored WHO, and obstructed independent research on the source of the virus.

Here, we can see the difference between a democratic entity and an authoritarian regime. A democratic government, however small, has greater potential and inclinations to contribute to humanity than a big totalitarian regime.

So said His Holiness the Dalai Lama in an interview on CNN's "Piers Morgan Tonight."

If a nation belongs to the people and not to a government or a political party, the government in Taiwan is the legitimate government of the people of China. The Communist Chinese government is not legitimate because it is not the government for, by, and of the people. It is not the representative government which the Chinese people fought to achieve when they established a Republic a hundred years ago.

Aggressions in the Indo-Pacific Under Xi Jinping

Continued military aggressions by China in the South and East China seas and its wolf-warrior diplomacy have prompted the nations around the Indo-Pacific region to boost their military presence. The result of China's behavior is making the area highly dangerous and volatile.

Despite the 2016 ruling by an international tribunal in the Hague, China's incursions and reclamation activities have continued. It has further equipped the disputed reclaimed areas with military facilities and airstrips. And it has deployed anti-aircraft missile systems, fighter jets, and jamming equipment in the regions.

China made the Senkaku Islands a core issue out of nothing. It claimed ownership only after the US reverted the Islands to Japan in 1972 under the Okinawa Reversion Treaty. Then China invented a new status quo, making the Senkaku Islands a core issue. Chinese internal documents reveal that Xi Jinping vowed in 2016 to take over Senkaku Islands and other disputed islands in the Indo-Pacific regions stating that securing the Islands was a "heavy historical responsibility" for his generation.

Taiwan Threats from Xi Jinping

Xi Jinping is stated to have repeatedly said that China will unify Taiwan within his extended term. In addition, he has warned the Taiwanese people that independence would only bring profound disaster to Taiwan.

China fired missiles over Taiwan, some of which fell into Japan's exclusive economic zone, during US Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the region in August 2022. China deployed 71 warplanes in a day for a "strike drill" at the year's end in December 2022 to force and intimidate the people of Taiwan to submission.

Taiwan Military Expert: 'Porcupine Strategy' Could Deter Chinese Invasion These constant aggressions and provocations have disturbed the peace in

the Indo-Pacific regions. They have also warned the international community of another Ukraine-like situation brewing in the region.

Japan's Soft Power and Bold Leadership

China's continued provocation and intimidation have coerced Japan to adopt a more realistic policy of strategic deterrence to contain the red dragon's nagging fume. Japan recently increased its defense budget to strengthen its defense preparedness and to acquire counterstrike capability. As a country, it has every right to defend its land and territory.

Since adopting the war-renouncing postwar constitution, Japan has patiently tolerated Chinese incursions and threats with the hope that someday, a good sense would prevail over the communist neighbor.

But Xi Jinping's third term and his irresponsible rhetoric outbursts betray any promises of peaceful years ahead. Instead, China's maritime harassment and assertiveness have reached a stage where the Japanese parliament has been forced to debate the need for stronger self-defense through revision of the war-renouncing Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan.

Parliamentarians Focus on Chinese Human Rights

Japan's lower house and its upper house also passed resolutions condemning China for violations of human rights and religious freedom in the occupied regions of Tibet, the Uyghur Autonomous Region, and Southern Mongolia in February and September 2022, respectively.

The Japanese Diet has called upon the government to monitor and remedy the serious human rights situation in cooperation with the international community.

Both houses of Japan's parliament have recognized the issue of human rights as not limited to the internal affairs of a single country but as a legitimate

concern of the international community. Moreover, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government appointed former Defense Minister Nakatani Gen as its International Human Rights Advisor.

Additionally, last September, Japanese parliamentarians formed a bipartisan Special Caucus to monitor Chinese human rights violations. Lawmaker Keiji Furuya was appointed as the Chairman. This will encourage and further confirm Japan's leadership and potential contributions in enhancing freedom, human rights, and democratic values worldwide.

In addition, US President Joe Biden has hailed Japanese Prime Minister Kishida's measures to reinforce Japan's defense capability as "bold leadership" to contain the threats from China, North Korea, and Russia.

Persevering to Attain Peace and Democracy

Japan suffered greatly during World War II, but it struggled and persevered to become one of the most peaceful, democratic, and developed nations. It has won respect and admiration of the international community.

The way Japan handled the Great East Japan Earthquake and the tsunami disasters in 2011 won millions of hearts. The Island nation inspired many countries and contributed significantly to promoting peace and development around the world.

Japan initiated the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) concept to ensure peace and stability in the region and promote free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. If democracy, freedom, and the rule of law are to prosper and survive, Japan's role and initiative in propagating these universal values should be supported and acknowledged.

Free and democratic countries around the world should join Japan and India, the two positive forces in Asia. And along with them, they should join the members of the Indo-Pacific Alliance (AUKUS) and the QUAD, to tame



HH the Dalai Lama stands with the members of Tibet China Initiative members at Emory University, Atlanta, 2013

and pacify the destructive force of the totalitarian regimes threatening the world order.

This soft power of Japan needs to be activated to defuse the tension and pacify the irresponsible red dragon's assertive fury. The international community should stand with Japan in realizing this warm and compassionate side of Japanese culture in enlightening and educating the Chinese leadership.

Tibet, a Zone of Peace and Non-Violence

Tibet was once a military power in Central Asia. With the advent of Buddhism from India, however, Tibet renounced territorial aggressions and committed to the development of mind and inner peace.

Historically, Tibet played crucial roles in pacifying and negotiating peace for the warring neighboring states of Mongols, Gorkha, Manchu, and China. No wonder the Dalai Lamas, Sakya Lamas, and other high Tibetan lamas are still revered in these countries and the neighboring Himalayan regions.

The Dalai Lama's government was governed through "Choe-srid nyiden" policy, where the country was ruled through religious ethics based on the Buddhist teachings of peace and non-violence. This concept of governance has ensured peace and stability in the

country and neighboring regions.

Tibet may not be a materially developed nation, but it is highly developed in terms of spiritualism and the inner science of mind. Just like Japanese Shinto, Tibetan's indigenous faith, Bon religion, respects hills, mountains, rivers, and forests as the abode of gods and deities. Conquering nature and exploiting it to satisfy human greed was taboo for them.

Himalayan mountains, glaciers, rivers, and grasslands were safe in the Tibetans' hands. Tibetans lived in peace and hoped to spread this message of peace to the world.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has proposed to make Tibet a zone of peace, free of military installations and conflict, where the international community and all faiths could come and learn to spread the message of peace and non-violence around the world.

A Continuum of Danger

Unfortunately, with the coming of Communist power in China in 1949, China invaded Tibet brutally under the guise of "peaceful liberation." Despite the repeated plea for help, the United Nations and the international community sacrificed Tibet to appease the communist aggressions and avoid confrontation.

Tibet's border with the Himalayan states of Nepal, India, and Bhutan, which was most peaceful in the past, has now become very dangerous and militarized. This is due to continuous border incursions from China.

Today Tibet has become one of the most militarized zones threatening peace and stability around the region. But a dream and hope of Tibet as a zone of peace is still relevant.

With the Chinese occupation of Tibet, India and the neighboring countries are faced with continuous border incursions from China. If Xi's threat is to be taken literally, Taiwan is in grave danger.

Communist rule over Taiwan would jeopardize peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific regions. International norms and universal value systems based on freedom, democracy, and the rule of law will suffer, and a situation like Tibet and Ukraine will proliferate.

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, a noted Indian leader and the father of the Indian constitution, said, "By letting China take over Tibet, we have brought the enemy to our border." True to his word, China's constant border incursions have left India, Nepal, and Bhutan's borders highly militarized and volatile.

If the current communist regime were to take over Taiwan, the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific regions and to the world would be greatly disturbed. The consequences would be disastrous.

Imminent Danger and the Way Out!

Military deterrence is necessary to counter the threat posed by China. But too much emphasis on arms and military deterrence may not be conducive to peace. Instead, we need to explore the human aspect of resolving conflicts.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has rightly said,

Therefore, the promotion of the international and universal values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law is crucial. Chinese people have never

tasted the joy and freedom of democracy and the rule of law for which they once fought. For that reason, the world should be more assertive in educating and enlightening the Communist leadership so that through dialog, mutual understanding and respect could be developed. If that happens, a cordial environment promising peace and stability for humanity should be the result.

Japan's war-renouncing constitution and its role in the Free and Open Indo-Pacific alliance have great potential to inspire the international community. And they can open the eyes of the communist neighbor to take a more reasonable and peaceful approach to alleviate the difference through dialog rather than missiles.

Realization of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's concept of Tibet as a zone of peace, and Japan's vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, can contribute greatly to disarming the regions and making this world a better place to live and breathe in. Japan, strengthening its defense,

must also build on this soft power to counter the Chinese assertiveness in the South and East China seas.

Conclusion

Democracy is inevitable. History has shown that people cannot be subjugated for long because the human spirit is free and unfathomable.

With his term extended for an historic additional five years and absolute authority over the politburo, Xi Jinping may be feeling invincible and strong. But he must know that nothing is permanent.

The world, including China, is on high alert because of his obstinate and corrosive lust for power. His third term, which he acquired through unscrupulous means, may be his eventual undoing. Just like he forced Hu Jintao out of the Chinese Communist Party National Congress, his day, too, will come. Mao, Deng, and Jiang have come and gone, and so will Xi.

Justice and righteousness are

fundamental truths essential to our existence. But we should be bold enough to raise our voices whenever injustices are perpetrated anywhere.

It is refreshing to hear Japanese Prime Minister Kishida saying he will not mince words with China when necessary.

True, to avoid ambiguity, Japan should be clear and concise about what it wants to convey to its communist neighbor. The land of the rising Sun has great potential to harness the fiery red dragon, not through tanks and missiles but through the message of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the goodwill of the international community. While working on defense preparedness, Japan should explore this side of its soft power.

The international community should support Japan's bold leadership to realize this potential. Together they should navigate the year 2023 to prevail over the dark force of totalitarian regimes and let humanity bask in the sunshine of peace and freedom.

Exiled Tibetans place hopes in history

By AFP

As China shows no compromise and the Dalai Lama ages, the elected leader of Tibetans in exile is looking to history as he plans for the future.

Penpa Tsering was elected in 2021 as the second-ever leader, or sikyong, of the Tibetan government-in-exile in India, part of a plan by the now 87-year-old Dalai Lama -- the globally recognizable face of Tibet -- to pass the baton.

On a visit to Washington, Tsering met lawmakers about a bill that would recognize that Tibet -- ruled with an iron fist by China since the 1950s -- was historically an independent country and that its current status is "unresolved."

"We have adopted a different tactic to gain the right leverage," Tsering, who

has spent his whole life in exile since his birth in 1967 in India, told AFP in an interview.

Tsering insists he is not seeking independence for Tibet, in line with the "Middle Way" of the Dalai Lama who believes that pushing demands beyond autonomy would be suicidal against a vastly more powerful China.

But the Dalai Lama has also rejected Beijing's longstanding demands to say that Tibet was historically part of China, a refusal cited by Beijing in declining dialogue with his representatives since 2010.

An independent Tibet, Tsering explained, would have been an occupied country when it formalized Chinese rule



Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet is seen in June 2021
© Hector RETAMAL / AFP/File

in 1951, making the agreement "null and void."

"We tell governments that if you keep repeating the statement that Tibet is part of People's Republic of China, then you're going against international law," Tsering said.



The Dalai Lama is seen in Bodhgaya, India in December 2022 © Sanjay KUMAR / AFP/File

Tsering hoped more countries would follow the United States on the historical position. Britain, which reached a 1911 accord with Chinese and Tibetan envoys when it ruled India, had uniquely said that China had “suzerainty” over Tibet but in 2008 joined the rest of the world in recognizing Beijing’s sovereignty.

China’s embassy in Washington denounced the legislation, which has been introduced with bipartisan support, saying, “Tibet is part of China.”

“We urge the US side to take concrete actions to honor its commitment of recognizing Tibet as part of China, not supporting ‘Tibetan independence,’ and stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China’s internal affairs,” an embassy spokesperson said.

China ‘is going to change’

Tsering acknowledged it was “difficult” to see a resumption soon of talks with China but did not give up hope.

“As Buddhists we don’t believe in permanence. Change is the only

constant,” he said.

“China is definitely going to change. But the issue is how long will it take.”

China, however, has increasingly brushed off criticism. It has clamped down on Hong Kong, carried out major military drills off Taiwan and has been accused by the United States of “genocide” against the Uyghur people in its northwest.

An image of the Dalai Lama is displayed behind Penpa Tsering, the political leader of Tibetans in exile

An image of the Dalai Lama is displayed behind Penpa Tsering, the political leader of Tibetans in exile © Stefani REYNOLDS / AFP

Many observers believe China shut off the Tibet dialogue in anticipation that the cause would shrivel away without the Dalai Lama, the charismatic Nobel Peace Prize-winning monk whose once frenetic international travel schedule has slowed down in recent years.

Tsering quipped that the Dalai Lama has spoken of living another 30 years. But

he also credited the monk with creating one of the few successful examples of a democracy in exile.

The Dalai Lama’s initiatives will help “make sure that our struggle will have the strength to continue for another few decades, if need be.”

Exiled Tibetans have also started to speak, gently, of coordination with Western governments once the 14th Dalai Lama dies. The United States has already said it would not recognize any choice of Beijing.

The Dalai Lama has spoken of breaking tradition by choosing a reincarnation, possibly a girl, before dying or even of declaring the institution over.

Such musings have outraged Beijing which, while officially atheist, has insisted that the Dalai Lama reincarnate in line with Buddhist tradition.

In 1995, Beijing selected its own child as the Panchen Lama, another influential Tibetan religious figure, and detained a Dalai Lama-recognized six-year-old, described by rights groups as the world’s youngest political prisoner.

Tsering said that the decision on reincarnation would be left solely to the Dalai Lama.

“China has all the resources, both human and financial, and they are very good at propaganda and forcing countries to take positions,” Tsering said.

“But they cannot handle uncertainty. So right now, His Holiness’ decision of not disclosing all the processes is, I think, very wise.”

<https://www.bod.asia>

xizang-zhiye.org

www.indiatibet.net



United Nations: “One Million Tibetan Children Forcibly Separated From Their Parents”

By Massimo Introvigne, Bitter Winter



Schoolchildren in Tibet. From Weibo.

In November, three UN Special Rapporteurs wrote to China. There has been no satisfactory answer, and they have decided to go public.

Children forcibly separated by their families, and sent to boarding schools, often hundreds of miles away from their parents, where their culture and language are eradicated by trying to instill into them a new, foreign identity. When Canadians became aware that this was what had happened to First Nation children, deprived of their indigenous identity, language, and religion in Christian boarding schools, protests and court cases erupted.

The protesters, however, were probably unaware that what once happened in Canada is still going on today—in China, and the victims are one million Tibetan children.

This not an opinion by Bitter Winter or by “anti-Chinese” Tibetan activists only. It is a truth consigned in two official United Nations documents, signed by three UN Special Rapporteurs: Fernand de Varennes, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues; Farida Shaheed, Special Rapporteur on the right to education; and Alexandra Xanthaki, Special Rapporteur

in the field of cultural rights.

The three Special Rapporteurs first wrote to China a confidential letter, dated November 11, 2022. Since they had not received a satisfactory answer, although they say they “remain in contact” with Chinese authorities, they published the letter and a press release earlier this month.

They claim that “around a million children of the Tibetan minority” are “affected by Chinese government policies aimed at assimilating Tibetan people culturally, religiously and linguistically through a residential school system.”

The three UN Special Rapporteurs said they are “very disturbed that in recent years the residential school system for Tibetan children appears to act as a mandatory large-scale programme intended to assimilate Tibetans into majority Han culture, contrary to international human rights standards.”

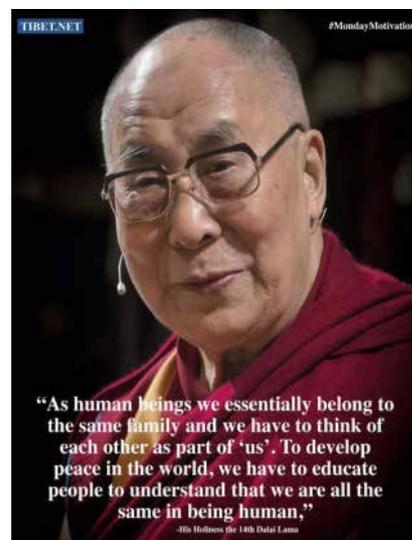
One million Tibetan children, i.e., the majority of children in Tibet, have been forcibly separated from their families, against the protests of their parents, and sent to boarding schools,

both in Tibet and in faraway locations in China, where “the educational content and environment is built around majority Han culture, with textbook content reflecting almost solely the lived experience of Han students,” and using exclusively Mandarin Chinese (Putonghua) as a language.

“As a result, the UN Special Rapporteurs said, Tibetan children are losing their facility with their native language and the ability to communicate easily with their parents and grandparents in the Tibetan language, which contributes to their assimilation and erosion of their identity.”

Rural schools that used Tibetan as a language are closed, the Special Rapporteurs continued, and replaced “by township or county-level schools which almost exclusively use Putonghua in teaching and communications, and usually require children to board.”

The Special Rapporteurs harbor no illusion on what the aim of this policy is. It is the “forced assimilation” of the next generation of Tibetans into the Han Chinese culture, and the liquidation of their Tibetan cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage. Others have called it a cultural genocide.



Czech Foreign Minister Lipavsky Discusses China, Tibet and Mutual Trade On Visit To India

By brmodaily.com

Lipavsky met representatives of Tibetans in exile, and gave a speech stressing the trade potential of India and the Czech Republic. Photo credit: Jan Lipavský – ministr zahraničí ČR, via Facebook.

Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky met representatives of the Tibetan community today during his visit to India, and commented on China's aggressive actions on the northern borders of India in an interview with the WION news channel.

Lipavsky wrote on Twitter that he was pleased to meet representatives of Tibetans in exile again during his visit to India, adding that the friendship between the late Czech president Vaclav Havel and the Dalai Lama was still alive.

China claims that it liberated Tibet and has been improving the lives of its inhabitants by financing its economic development, but Tibetans say Beijing has been suppressing the local people, language and culture.

Lipavsky told WION that China and its economic superpower seem to be the biggest challenge in the Pacific. "It's becoming a military superpower and we need to be ready to be looking for ways to approach it. I think India understands this very, very well. I think Europe understands this quite well. And definitely, the US understands this very well and we need to be able to cooperate on that and talk to the Chinese in a way that will avoid any possible future conflicts," he said.

When Lipavsky met the head of the Tibetan Government in Exile Penpa Tsering in Washington last year, it met with sharp condemnation from China, which said Lipavsky was sending an inappropriate message to the Tibetan separatist movement.



The interview also mentioned possible cooperation in the defence industry. "The Russian war against Ukraine shows that the Russian military is not a reliable partner. We have a very good defence industry, and we are ready to present it to India. Some projects are already happening, and we want to be able to increase that kind of cooperation," Lipavsky said.

India has never openly condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and maintains intensive business relations with Moscow. India abstained on the UN General Assembly vote last week on a resolution calling on Russia to immediately withdraw its troops from Ukraine.

Lipavsky said the purpose for his visit to India was "to show that the Czech Republic is ready to cooperate, and we have a lot to offer."

"We have great universities, we have great companies. We want to build a relationship of mutual interest in terms of research and innovation. We have a very strong automotive industry, speaking about Skoda or Tata trucks.

We want to be here, and we want to be part of this thriving economy," Lipavsky said.

He also said he would meet representatives of two airline companies. "We want to show them that Prague is ready for a direct flight to India," he said.

Lipavsky today gave a speech at the Europe Business & Sustainability Conclave business conference in Delhi, which was also attended by India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. He said the Czech Republic and India could develop cooperation in science, innovation and technology, for example, in such fields as telehealth, biomedicine and microelectronics.

He said Czech firms offered solutions in the concept of smart cities, energy value of waste and clean technology. He promised to intensify contacts between Czech and Indian universities and research institutes.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

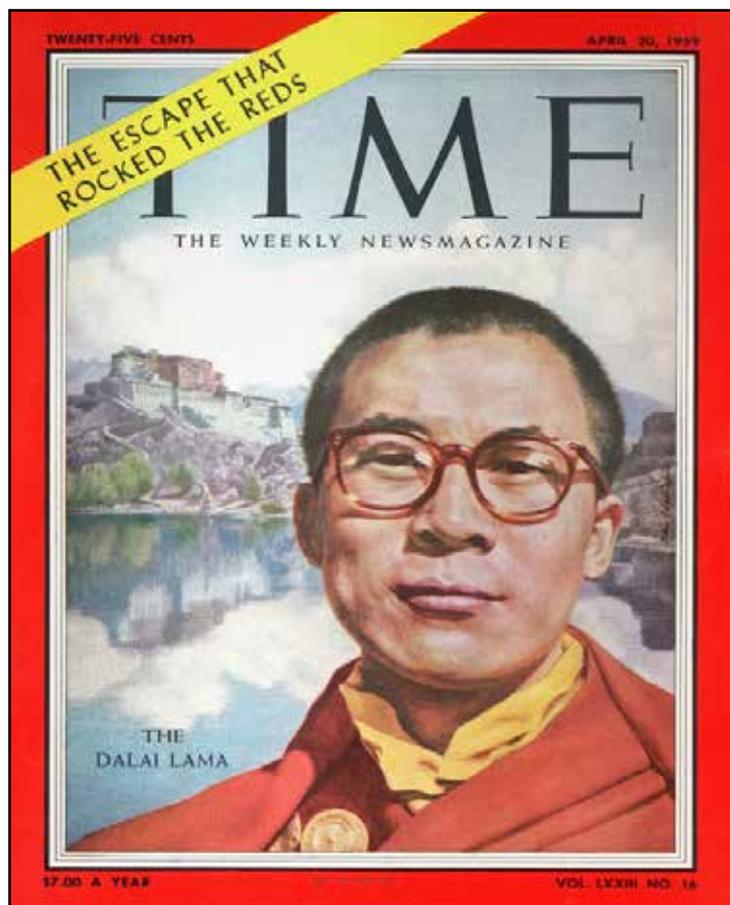
The Dalai Lama on the Gratitude He Feels Looking Back at His Escape From Tibet (20 April 1959)

By Dalai Lama, TIME.COM

A single image can certainly evoke strong memories. This 1959 TIME cover photo and the accompanying story of my escape from Tibet brings movingly back to me the tragedy of my land and of my people.

I will soon be 88. This cover appeared when I was 24. At that time, in spite of our earnest efforts to coexist, the Chinese authorities did not, unfortunately, respond positively. The very survival of the Tibetan identity was at risk. So, it was decided that, in the interests of our land and our people, I should leave Lhasa. Initially I had some fear and hesitation about doing this. But since the Tibetan people had placed their hope and trust in me, I knew where my responsibility lay. In the same way, when I was hardly 16, and even though I was ill-prepared, I had to take up the political leadership of Tibet. Sometimes I say that at 16, I lost my personal freedom, and at 24 my country's freedom was lost. Subsequently, I became a refugee.

The tragedy of Tibet has yet to be resolved. But my becoming a refugee in India brought with it many hidden blessings. For one, the moment I was able to cross over from Tibet to India on March 31, 1959, I realized the value of freedom. Since then, I have been the longest-staying guest of the Indian government, enjoying every possible liberty. In addition, India has provided me, and those other Tibetans who managed to escape, the freedom to preserve and promote Tibetan identity and our culture of peace and compassion, and to share them with the entire world. Most important, I have enjoyed in exile the freedom to pursue my spiritual development, even as I have tried to take care of Tibetan affairs. For many decades now, I have had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with leaders of different religious traditions, scholars, and scientists. These new friends have



enabled me to understand more clearly the state of humanity and the ways in which I can contribute to a better world. It is my strong belief that modern education does not give sufficient attention to the importance of warmheartedness. We are social animals; our survival depends on others. As human beings we thrive on affection, which is one reason why all religious traditions stress compassion. People with little or no interest in religion are also human beings and for them, too, experiencing loving-kindness contributes to a healthy and happy life. I am now pledged to devote myself to my four principal commitments: promoting human values; religious harmony; ancient Indian wisdom, on the basis of compassion (karuna) and nonviolence (ahimsa); and, obviously, Tibetan

culture—the basis of our identity. I firmly believe that all four can contribute to a more peaceful world.

Today, I am stateless, unable to return to my country. But we Tibetans have a saying, “Your homeland is wherever you are happy. And whoever loves you is your parent.” India and its people, as well as many across the world, have provided me with constant love and support. When I look at this cover from 1959, I am grateful that I have been able to lead a meaningful life dedicated to helping others.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

TIPA Announces Registration for Cultural Immersion Summer Course

The Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts Announces registration for Cultural Immersion Summer Course beginning from 15 July – 14 August 2023.

Interested children are required to fill out an authorisation letter for weekends and outings. They are also required to fill out a guarantee letter from their parents.

Objectives

To enable Tibetan children living abroad to join the TIPA Culture Immersion Summer Course to learn the basics of Tibetan performing art forms, Tibetan language, culture, history and fundamental principles of Buddhist philosophy.

To experience first-hand the Tibetan exile community in India through visits and interaction with TIPA artists.

To enable the children to get a feel of the Tibetan spirit of maintaining their identity in exile and a better sense of understanding and appreciation of the Tibetan cause and aspirations.

Program schedules and events

The 2023 Summer School program will be held from 15th July – 14th August 2023. This covers the four-week program at a stretch. The further details on the course are as follows.

Reporting Date & Time: July 14, 2023, Friday

10.00 a.m.: Children to report at TIPA Office

2.00 p.m. (afternoon): Orientation Program in TIPA Auditorium

PROGRAMMES

Weekday Programs

This will be of two types-beginners & advanced as below:

Theoretical and Practical Tibetan performing arts classes, language Tibetan classes for beginners and advanced Tibetan Grammar & composition for beginners/advanced

Tibetan History: Highlighting some of the great kings, Gaden Phodrang Government and the Dalai Lamas, Chinese Invasion and 1959 Uprising and aftermath.

Introduction to fundamental principles of Buddhist philosophy and Tibetan Religious festivals.

Tibetan Culture and Traditions

Tibetan dress – regional differences and types

Learning traditional Tibetan performing art forms – Folk, Classical, Opera and musical instruments.

Current Tibetan Situation

Central Tibetan Administration: visits & study sessions of Tibetan communities in exile; Tibetan issues in international arena: Study& discussions; His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Middle Way Approach: Study& discussions.

Weekend Programs

Site visits around Dharamsala

Group discussions and doing projects

Interaction with TIPA artists.

Eligibility

Age: Between 13 to 17 years.

Accommodation

The accommodation for the participants will be arranged in a hostel within the campus.

Rain gear and other accessories

Since the monsoon will be in full swing during that time, the parents are requested to include complete rain gear (raincoats/umbrella, boots) in their packing list. The parents are requested not to send any electronic gadgets with their child except for a simple cell phone which should be deposited with the hostel matron or warden.

Dress Code

Students are requested to bring decent clothes during the program. We will be observing “Lhakar” (White Wednesday)

every Wednesday, so kindly bring at least one set of Traditional dresses. (Chuba)

Medical assistance

TIPA will handle all the minor medical cases; however, major medication and referral costs should be borne by the parents

-Documents to be attached to the online registration form

-Guarantee letter from the parents

One recent passport-size photo

-Authorisation Letter for the child/ children to be taken for weekends and outings

-Copy of passport or travel document

Travel Assistance

If any of the parents have difficulty in reaching TIPA, you can write to us for guidance and the course coordinator will help provide all necessary arrangements. Parents will bear the expenses incurred in arranging these.

Program Fees/Costs

The total amount for a single child to attend the Culture Immersion Summer Course is US \$ 550/- or an equivalent amount.

Parents are requested to send adequate pocket money with their child and maybe deposited it at the office.

GETTING ADMISSION

Parents who are interested in enrolling their child/children in this summer camp program can contact:

Tsering Wangdu

TIPA,

McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala

Distt. Kangra-176219 H.P. INDIA

WhatsApp: (+91) 8894996646

summercamp.tipa@gmail.com

Note: Online registration form will be effective from 1 March – 31 May 2023. It will be on a first-come, first serve basis.

TIBETAN MEDIA

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

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

NewsTibet
241 E. 32nd Street
New York, NY 10016
Web: www.tibetoffice.org

Tibet Bulletin (Official Chinese bi-monthly)
Department of Information & International
Relations, Dharamshala-176 215, HP, India
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Circulation Manager, DIIR,
Central Tibetan Administration,
Dharamshala 176 215, H.P., India

Contacts for the Central Tibetan Administration

INDIA

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

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

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

NEPAL

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

UNITED STATES

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

BRAZIL

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

SWITZERLAND

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

JAPAN

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

UNITED KINGDOM

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

FRANCE

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

BELGIUM

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

AUSTRALIA

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

RUSSIA

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

SOUTH AFRICA

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

TAIWAN

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



www.mwa.tibet.net

QUOTES

“Indulging in wishful thinking is not enough, we have to look at the causes of suffering, which are rooted in our self-cherishing attitudes and destructive emotions, and put an end to them. Peace in the world depends on individuals achieving peace of mind.”- His Holiness the Dalai Lama during laying foundation stone of ‘Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan & Indian Ancient Wisdom.’

“We need to think of the welfare of others and continuously cultivate a warm heart; to be of service to others is a practical and realistic way to lead our lives. “- His Holiness the Dalai Lama during laying foundation stone of ‘Dalai Lama Centre for Tibetan & Indian Ancient Wisdom.’

“My life has been difficult, but difficulties have brought opportunities to put these deeper inner values into practice. It’s foolish to think only in narrow terms, dwelling on our national, ideological or religious identity, because as human beings we are all the same and we have to live together.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama while addressing the inaugural TN Chaturvedi Memorial Lecture

“Since we are all human beings, we need to view each other as brothers and sisters. Relying on weapons to fight and kill brings nothing but destruction. Particularly sad is fighting in the name of religion, because at their core all religions teach compassion and loving-kindness.” - His Holiness the Dalai Lama while addressing visitors from the M3M foundation.
