

U.S. – CHINA SUMMIT:

ICT Statement: US – China summit: “a positive development for human rights and Tibet”: The International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) is pleased that President Obama reasserted, in front of President Hu Jintao, the long-standing policy of the United States on Tibet, which supports a resolution through dialogue and the preservation of the Tibetan identity. ICT believes that the strong human rights message coming out of this critical summit between the United States and China will reinforce the determination of other world leaders to raise Tibet and human rights issues, in both bilateral and multilateral forums, with China and other serious human rights violators.

<http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/ict-statement-us-china-summit-positive-development-human-rights-and-tibet>

A collection of government official statements, ICT statements and letters, and press coverage on the summit can be found in this ICT blog post: “Obama-Hu summit info dump” <http://weblog.savetibet.org/2011/01/21/obama-hu-summit-info-dump/>

INSIDE TIBET:

ICT Report: Three more Tibetan writers sentenced to prison: On December 30, the Ngaba Intermediate People’s Court sentenced three Tibetan writers from Ngaba, Amdo, who had been imprisoned for “incitement to split the nation.” The three men – Dhonko, Buddha and Kelsang Jinpa, were detained last summer after essays they wrote about the March, 2008 protests in Tibet and issues of Tibetan culture and identity were published. At the sentencing, none of the defendants, families or lawyers were allowed to address the court. At the October 21 trial, Buddha challenged the notion that their writings provide evidence of the charge, saying: “I don’t think this is criminal evidence. Many Chinese writers have written similar articles, like Wang Lixiong and Yu Jie, for example. There are many, but because they are Chinese, there is no punishment. Since we are a minority people, you are considering this a crime.”

<http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/three-more-tibetan-writers-sentenced-prison>

Human error caused deadly mudslide in Drugchu, Tibet: Jiang Gaoming, Chief researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Botany writes that last year’s deadly mudslide at Zhouqu (*Tibetan: Drugchu*) offers compelling lessons on the ability of human development to increase the risk of natural disasters. He writes that unchecked tree felling and trading eventually led to the county’s forestry resources diminishing by 100,000 cubic metres per year. And in addition to deforestation, widespread construction of hydropower dams has contributed to the area’s vulnerability. Drugchu exploited its mountains, its water and its rivers and, in return, suffered a powerful mudslide. This is the national ecological disaster in microcosm. China endured 26,000 geological disasters from January to July 2010, nearly four times as many as the same period in 2009.

<http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/4040>

EXILE TIBET:

Tibetan Election Commission announces final list of candidates for upcoming Tibetan elections: On January 19, 2011, the Central Tibetan Election Commission announced the final list of candidates for the 2011 Tibetan General Elections to be held on March 20, 2011. The Chief Election Commissioner announced three final candidates for the Tibetan Prime Minister position – Dr. Lobsang Sangay, a senior research fellow at Harvard Law School, Mr. Tenzin Namgyal Tethong, a former prime minister of the Tibetan Government in exile, and Mr. Tashi Wangdi, a former minister in the exile government. For the Parliamentary elections, the commission announced that 94 candidates to be in the final race for the 44 seats in the Tibetan Parliament in exile.

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=28948&article=Election+Commission+announces+final+list+of+candidates+for+2011+Tibetan+Elections%3a+Update>

DALAI LAMA:

Transcript of Video-conference with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and three Chinese intellectuals from Mainland China: His Holiness the Dalai Lama participated in a live video conference with three Chinese intellectuals from Mainland China on January 4, 2011. The conference was organized by Beijing based Chinese writer Wang Lixiong, and participants included Chinese civil rights activist Teng Biao and human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong. An English transcript of the conference is now available online.

<http://www.tibet.net/en/index.php?id=2094.&articletype=flash&rmenuid=morenews&s&tab=1#TabbedPanels1>