

U.S. GOVERNMENT:

ICT Report: Capitol Hill focuses lens on Tibet: Kalon Tripa Lobsang Sangay, Kirti Rinpoche and ICT's Bhuchung Tsering testify before Congress: On November 3, 2011, Tibet was the focus of two hearings in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Tibetan Prime Minister (Kalon Tripa) Dr. Lobsang Sangay and Kirti Rinpoche, spiritual leader of the Kirti monastic community testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing specifically on the issue of Tibet, and ICT's Bhuchung Tsering, testified before the House Committee of Foreign Affairs in its review of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China's (CECC) 2011 Annual Report. These congressional testimonies came during a week the Dr. Sangay spent in Washington meeting with Members of Congress, including Senators John McCain, Joe Lieberman, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick Leahy and Marco Rubio, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and numerous other Representatives, journalists and policy experts. The U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, Under Secretary of State Maria Otero, submitted written testimony regarding the CECC report. She urged the Chinese government "to address its counterproductive policies in Tibetan areas" and urged for "access to Tibetan areas for journalists, diplomats and other observers" and for resumption of dialogue with the Dalai Lama's representatives. Copies of the testimonies are available at: <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/capitol-hill-focuses-lens-tibet-kalon-tripa-lobsang-sangay-kirti-rinpoche-ict%E2%80%99s-bhuchung-t>

INSIDE TIBET:

ICT Report: Tibetan nun self-immolates in Kardze: continued resistance despite Chinese crackdown: On November 3, a Tibetan nun called Palden Choetso set fire to herself in Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan, the Tibetan area of Kham. Palden Choetso, the third Tibetan to commit self-immolation in Kardze, is the second Tibetan nun and the 12th Tibetan to have set fire to themselves in Tibet since February 2009. According to reports from Tibetans in exile, she may have set fire to herself at the same place that monk Tsewang Norbu from Nyitso monastery self-immolated on August 15, 2011. As her body was burning, Palden Choetso called for the long life of the Dalai Lama, freedom, and for the Dalai Lama to return home. The three self-immolations in Kardze take place in the context of continued unrest and severe crackdown. This ICT report details developments in Kardze since June 2011. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetan-nun-self-immolates-kardze-continued-resistance-despite-chinese-crackdown>

EXILE TIBETANS:

Chinese repression to blame for Tibet immolations: In an op-ed published in the Washington Post, Kalon Tripa Lobsang Sangay said that Chinese repression is to blame for the Tibet immolations and that "the monks and nuns who immolated themselves were sacrificing their bodies to draw the world's attention to Chinese repression in Tibet." Dr. Sangay said, "The Tibetan leadership in exile does not encourage self-immolation or protests inside Tibet because China only responds with more repression." He urged the United Nations and the international community to press the government of the People's Republic of China to restore freedom and resolve the issue of Tibet through dialogue. He said, "It is clear that the root of the self-immolations is the continuing occupation of Tibet. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan administration are not the problem but the solution." http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/chinese-repression-to-blame-for-immolations-in-tibet/2011/11/03/gIQAYBXzjM_story.html

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State Department Daily Briefing Question taken on Tibet: On November 4, 2011, in a question taken at the State Department daily briefing, the spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State reiterated that the US has "consistently and directly raised with the Chinese government" concerns about Tibetan self-immolations and urged for the Chinese government to address its counterproductive policies in Tibetan areas, and to allow access for journalists, diplomats and observers. When asked how and when these were raised, Ms. Nuland said, "We've had extensive conversations based in Beijing with our – from our Embassy personnel. But as you know, Assistant Secretary Campbell and others have raised these issues directly and regularly, as has the Secretary, on the larger issue of the rights of Tibetan people within China." <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2011/11/176682.htm#CHINA>