

**U.S. GOVERNMENT:**

**ICT Report: U.S. Tibet Coordinator visits Tibetan settlement in south India:** Under Secretary of State Maria Otero, who serves as U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan issues, visited Bylakuppe, the largest Tibetan refugee settlement in the India on February 8 and 9, 2011. This is the first visit by a Tibet Coordinator, the top U.S. official who oversees Tibet policy to Tibetan settlement areas in India. She was received by officials of the Central Tibetan Administration and Lodi Gyari, the Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. ICT Director of Government Relations, Todd Stein, who is travelling in tandem with the delegation said, "Under Secretary Otero expressed the continued strong support of President Obama, Secretary Clinton and the U.S. Government for the welfare of Tibetans and the viability of their communities as they endeavor to preserve their distinct identity during the time of exile in India." Otero's visit is part of a visit to South Asia that includes Nepal, where she will review the specific challenges faced by Tibetans there. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/us-tibet-coordinator-visits-tibetan-settlement-south-india> U.S. Government statements regarding the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues' visit to India can be viewed here: <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/us-government-statements-regarding-us-special-coordinator-tibetan-issues-visit-india>

**TIBET IN EXILE:**

**The Karmapa addresses gathering in Dharamsala: "Please be at ease;":** On February 2, the Karmapa addressed a huge gathering of supporters in Dharamsala, India acknowledging the difficult situation surrounding the allegations of financial misconduct and stating that he trusts that the matter will be cleared in time. In a show of solidarity, the Deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in exile, Dolma Gyari and seven other members shared the stage. The comments marked the first time that the Karmapa has spoken publicly since the investigation began. The Karmapa called India a second home to Tibetans and said, "India, in contrast to communist China, is a free country, a democratic country that is based on the rule of law. Therefore, I trust that things will improve and the truth will become clear in time. So please be at ease. There is no need to worry." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/please-be-ease-his-holiness-karmapa-addresses-gathering-dharamsala>

**INSIDE TIBET:**

**Tibetan singer released from jail:** On February 8, Radio Free Asia reported that according to a close relative, popular Tibetan singer Tashi Dhondup, has been released from jail after serving most of a 15-month sentence for recording songs calling for Tibetan independence. The relative speaking on condition of anonymity said, "He arrived safely at his hometown of Yulgan (Chinese: Henan) county on the same day around 7:00pm. On the way, he passed through Tsekhog (Chinese: Zeku) county, where he was well received by the locals with scarves and greetings. His family, fans and friends gave him a warm welcome on his arrival home at his home county in Malho prefecture." He was detained on Dec 3, 2009, for producing CDs titled '58' and 'Torture without Trace' and was sentenced in 2009 to 15 months hard labor. <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/released-02082011153914.html>

**Two Tibetans including a juvenile sentenced to prison terms:** On February 9, Voice of Tibet radio reported that a Chinese court in Kanlho Tibet Autonomous Prefecture has sentenced two Tibetans including a juvenile to prison terms. The report said that 16 year old Thupten Dhargye was sentenced to one and half years for carrying out anti-China protests on November 14, 2010 in Machu County. His 15 year old friend Dorpel, who joined him in the protest, was not sentenced but in poor physical state after being tortured while in detention. Dorpel has been released to his family. In another case, 38 year old Goshul Lobsang was sentenced to 11 years in jail on November 26, 2010 by the same court for allegedly taking part in protests in 2008. He was arrested on September 10, 2010.

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=29081&article=2+Tibetans+including+a+juvenile+sentenced+to+varying+prison+terms>

**TIBET IN THE MEDIA:**

**ICT Statement on Super Bowl commercial featuring Tibet issue:** Super Bowl watchers were given an opportunity to briefly consider the dire human rights situation in Tibet by Groupon, a subscription network that negotiates discounts with popular businesses. Their advert "Save the Money – Tibet" has generated a lot of debate. ICT President Mary Beth Markey said, "ICT welcomes the ad and the debate it has generated among people who care. We hope it drives Super Bowl viewers to advocacy groups like ICT, so that critical issues for Tibet can be addressed." Here is a link to two blogs by ICT staff on this topic: <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/statement-super-bowl-commercial-featuring-tibet-issue>