

# More Tibet News from Around the World



Lech Walesa hosted His Holiness during this recent trip to Poland.

## Dalai Lama Urges Government Action on Global Warming

December 8, 2008

KRAKOW, POLAND (AFP) — The Dalai Lama on Sunday appealed to governments to protect the environment against global warming as UN climate talks continued in Poland — and said even his native Tibet was threatened.

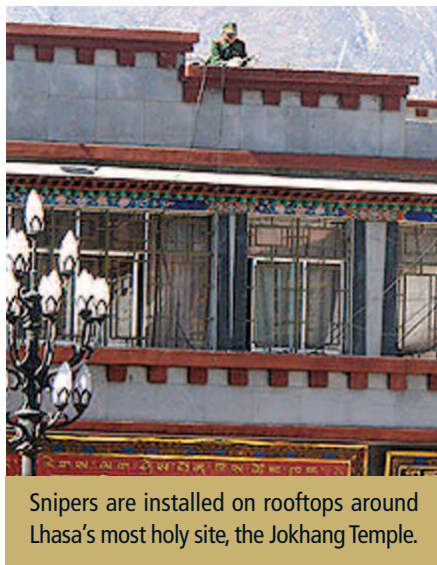
“I do have some serious concerns as a result of learning from specialists (that) unless we pay sufficient attention and (adopt) sufficient method of protection ... global warming is really, really very serious,” the Tibetan spiritual leader said.

Governments had to pay sufficient attention to the problem and where necessary make the appropriate steps to protect the environment even if that involved some economic sacrifices, he told reporters in the city of Krakow.

In the Tibetan plateau area “warming is higher than global rate so if present trend will go continuously without serious protection some of these major rivers covering Asia will dry ... billions of human

beings for life depend very much on these rivers.”

UN climate scientists have warned that any global temperature rise beyond a two degree threshold could unleash devastating consequences across the globe.



Snipers are installed on rooftops around Lhasa's most holy site, the Jokhang Temple.

## China's Iron Fist Cracks Down to Subdue Tibetan Rebels

The Australian  
November 8, 2008

In the ancient back alleys of Tibet's capital, Lhasa, a grim military operation has played out this week, hidden from the eyes of the world. As night falls, hundreds of Chinese troops fan out across this rebellious city, armed with riot shields and assault rifles.

When the sun rises, the soldiers do not melt away, but are replaced by a new rotation of troops. The military stranglehold on Lhasa by day is maintained with one chilling addition — snipers are

installed on rooftops around the city's most holy site, the Jokhang Temple, ready to train their guns on the hundreds of Tibetan pilgrims praying in Barkhor Square below.

In an interview, the vice-governor of the Tibet Autonomous Region, Bai Ma Cai Wang, reveals that China has recently boosted its security presence in Lhasa above and beyond the crackdown that followed the March riots. This is China's first public acknowledgment that it has beefed up its security forces in Tibet.

“In order for Tibet's stability and for people's safety and for people's desire for security and order, the Government has moderately adjusted the presence of the police force on the street,” he says.

Bai Ma says the Government fears a repeat of the March riots, which he says were the work of the exiled Dalai Lama and his supporters. “After the March 14 riots, the Dalai Lama and his followers have speeded up their separatist activities.”

## “Smile, We Now Have a File on You” — Internet Cafés Get New Surveillance Device

Reporters Without Borders  
October 24, 2008

CHINA — Reporters Without Borders condemns the Chinese government's latest measure to reinforce surveillance of Internet café users, who will henceforth have to have their mugshot taken and their ID card swiped by a Customer Registration Device to be installed in all of Beijing's estimated 1,500 Internet cafés by the end of the year.

# More News *cont'd*

For more ICT news  
and updates, please visit  
[www.savetibet.org](http://www.savetibet.org).

Since September 2007, the Chinese cyber-police have been dispatching online patrols to Internet café computer screens to check on their users. Two virtual police officers called JingJing and ChaCha pop up on the screens every half hour to remind Internet users that the authorities are monitoring the Internet closely. By clicking on the icons, Internet users can communicate with the cyber-police and report violations.

## China Keeps Its Tight Grip on Tibetans in Provinces

The National  
October 24, 2008

BEIJING — Tibetan people face [continuing harsh conditions] seven months after protests broke out in Lhasa. While there were expectations that the situation would be relaxed following the conclusion of the Beijing Olympics in August, some Tibet analysts have said conditions are actually getting worse.

Guards at numerous checkpoints on motorways leading into these areas — across several provinces of western China that are traditionally home to the Tibetan people — stop vehicles and search Tibetans from head to toe, according to one source. The road between Xining and Lhasa, a nearly three-day drive, is punctuated by no less than 18 police checkpoints.

Streets in such places as Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, are saturated with military police and army, although some have switched to plain clothes and now hide their weapons in cloth bags, following the return of foreign tourists in recent months.



Paramilitary policemen patrol a street in Lhasa in May.

Some of the worst conditions exist at Tibetan monasteries. Jamyang Norbu, a prominent Tibetan writer living in the United States, said the Chinese regard the monasteries “as the source of all problems”. Security people are stationed inside the monasteries to keep an eye on monks. In recent months, small police stations have been built right beside these monastic centres.

## Jailed Tibetan Monk Tortured

The Straits Times  
October 19, 2008

BEIJING — A Tibetan monk who helped make a film about alleged Chinese repression in his homeland has been freed after seven months in jail but says he was tortured while in custody, the film-makers said. Mr Jigme Gyatso, also known as Mr Golog Jigme, was arrested in March shortly after completion of the film ‘Leaving Fear Behind’.

‘The interrogators beat him continuously and hanged him by his feet from the ceiling for hours and kept him tied for days on the interrogation chair,’ said a statement by the group Filming for Tibet, which produced the film. ‘During the

interrogations he fainted several times due to the beatings.’

Mr Jigme Gyatso was arrested along with film-maker Dhondup Wangchen, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

## China’s Plans to Resettle 470,000 Tibetan Nomads

Reuters  
October 11, 2008

SHANGHAI — Authorities in the Chinese province of Sichuan plan to spend 5 billion yuan (\$732 million) to settle 470,000 Tibetan herders in permanent houses, state media said, as part of efforts to promote the development of ethnic Tibetan areas.

Of 533,000 herders in the province, 219,000 have no fixed residences and 254,000 are living in shanty homes. Some ethnic Tibetans claim China has been trying to destroy their way of life as a people.

## Row with Chinese Police near Kirti Monastery Leaves 50 Tibetan Monks Injured

The Times  
September 27, 2008

Fifty monks have been injured and at least four were taken to hospital after clashes between police and Tibetan monks near an ancient monastery that has been under tight security since anti-Chinese unrest swept across the Himalayan plateau in March.

# Tibet Benefit Climb Supports Small Grants Program

Pro-Tibet activists said that the incident happened when a monk left the Kirti monastery after obtaining a pass from the authorities. “The returning monk was beaten so badly by the armed police that he was bleeding when he managed to return to the monastery,” the Free Tibet Campaign said. Other monks went to the police station to protest against the treatment of their colleague and an argument ensued. Police said that they would call local authorities to discuss the matter but shortly afterwards two truckloads of armed officers arrived and began to beat the monks.



## China-Tibet Theme in Benetton Ad Courts Controversy

Never a company interested in playing it safe, Benetton took out double-page advertising spreads in a number of leading international news dailies showing a Tibetan monk and a Chinese soldier praying face to face under the word “Victims.” The ads, which coincided with the opening day of the Beijing Olympics in August, also appeared in the 74th edition of Benetton’s Colors Magazine. According to Benetton’s Web site, the image “attempts to make a small contribution to dialogue and engagement between Tibetan and Chinese people.”

## ICT Staff, Friends, and Members Scaled Wyoming’s 13,770 Foot Grand Teton on August 5.

The annual benefit climb raised more than \$40,000 for a small grants program for Tibetan environmentalists, journalists and others. The climb is run by ICT’s Rowell Fund for Tibet, in memory of Galen Rowell, one of America’s best climbing photojournalists. The climb requires fitness but no previous experience. ICT supporters from age 11 through 79 have participated and have included several father-son and mother-son teams.

Galen Rowell was the co-chair of ICT’s Board of Advisors and a longtime friend of Tibet. Together, Galen and Barbara produced the book “My Tibet” with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and introduced Tibet to countless people around the world. Through photographs and writing they documented and brought attention to many threatened ecosys-

tems and cultures. The Rowell Fund for Tibet gives small grants to Tibetans who are working to promote their culture and environment in the arenas of environmental conservation, photography, humanitarian issues, journalism/literature, and women’s projects. Since 2003, the Rowell Fund has awarded nearly \$250,000.

Pictured here are ICT staff John Ackerly and Tencho Gyatso, world famous climbers David Breashears, Conrad Anker and Jimmy Chin, and ICT supporters Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Arthur Greg Sulzberger, Bill Ackerly, Charlotte Bonilla, Abby Bronson, and others.

Next year’s climb is scheduled for July 25–28, 2009. For more information, see [www.savetibet.org/rowellfund](http://www.savetibet.org/rowellfund) or email us at [rowellfund@savetibet.org](mailto:rowellfund@savetibet.org).



ICT friends, members and staff on this year’s annual Grand Teton benefit climb for the Rowell Fund in August.