

**DALAI LAMA:**

**Dalai Lama leaves for U.S. and Canada:** The Dalai Lama left Dharamsala, his exile hometown on September 21 for a visit to the United States and Canada for an almost three-week tour. He will give a series of Buddhist teachings, public talks, and will take part in dialogues on peace and education. The visit begins in Memphis, Tennessee, where he will receive the International Freedom Award from the National Civil Rights Museum. He travels to Canada from Sept 27 to Oct 3 before returning to the US, where he will take part in events in New York and Washington DC. The Dalai Lama's upcoming schedule can be viewed at <http://www.dalailama.com/page.60.htm>

**INSIDE TIBET:**

**China bans foreigners from Tibet ahead of Oct 1 celebrations:** China has banned foreigners from travelling to Tibet ahead of the October 1st celebrations marking 60 years of Communist rule in China. Security has been stepped up across the country to ensure nothing mars the celebrations. Tan Lin, an official with the Tourism Bureau of Tibet said that foreign tourists would be banned from Tuesday (September 29), but those who have already arrived would be allowed to stay. China requires foreigners to obtain special permission to visit Tibet and routinely bars them from all Tibetan minority areas of the country during sensitive periods.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hC-wXEaXT09xfzgikuh1YbJ2EWwwD9AS4PKG0>

**ICT Report: Dhondup Wangchen faces trial: new information on charges:** According to information from an official source passed onto Western governments, Dhondup Wangchen may be facing charges of 'inciting separatism' and espionage. Wangchen, who filmed 'Leaving Fear Behind', a film documenting Tibetan views of last year's Beijing Olympics, the current situation in Tibet and the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet, has been detained since March 26, 2008. Earlier this year, Chinese lawyer Li Dunyong, from the Beijing Gongxin law firm, was blocked from taking on the case by the Xining judicial authorities. Wangchen's family was informed that the court would designate a government-appointed lawyer for the trial. According to a Chinese-language blog site, Lawyer Li Dunyong believes that Wangchen's actions in shooting a footage and interviewing Tibetans for a film do not constitute a crime under Chinese law. At present, there are serious fears for Wangchen's welfare as he is being held incommunicado without being allowed family visits. Various western governments have raised concern about Wangchen's case and at least one government was refused permission to have access to any trial or hearing of Dhondup Wangchen.

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/dhondup-wangchen-faces-trial-new-information-charges>

**Tibetan man flies banned snow lion flag:** On September 16, during an entertainment event in Nangchen county in Yushul Tibet Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai, a group of men suddenly appeared chanting anti-china slogans and one of them climbed a tree, tied a Tibetan snowlion flag on it and fled off on a waiting motorbike. The others ran into the crowd of spectators and disappeared. The authorities sealed off the event venue and called for reinforcements to hunt for the men. It is not known yet if anyone has been arrested or detained.

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=25526&article=Tibetan+man+flies+flag+on+tree%2c+police+lau+nh+hunt&t=1&c=1>

**UNITED NATIONS:**

**UN Human Rights Chief says China fails to protect minority rights:** On September 15, while delivering an 'update report' to the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), Ms. Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern at the recent events in Eastern Turkestan and Tibet declaring that the underlying causes include "discrimination and the failure to protect minority rights." China, who had seen an advance copy of the High Commissioner's statement charged that she was "ignoring facts." China's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva said that his government "deplores" the move by the High commissioner for "choosing to ignore facts and pointing fingers at many sovereign States." He added that the events in Eastern Turkestan and Tibet were "serious violent and criminal acts instigated and organized by hostile and separatist forces" and not caused by his government's ethnic policy. Ms. Pillay's statement comes three weeks after the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) urged Chinese authorities to find out the "root causes" of the protests of 2008 in Tibet and Eastern Turkestan in July this year. Some observers thought Ms. Pillay's strong remarks indicate a possible lack of progress in talks on an official fact-finding visit to Tibet by the High Commissioner following the March 2008 uprisings on the Tibetan plateau. <http://www.unpo.org/content/view/10063/83/>