

INSIDE TIBET:

New York Times highlights Tibetan Filmmaker tried for subversion: On October 30, the New York Times highlighted Tibetan Filmmaker Dhondup Wangchen, in an article about rights advocates clamoring for the president's attention, in the hopes that he will raise the plights of individuals like Wangchen, or broach thorny topics as free speech, democracy and greater religious freedom in his first trip to China. Dhondup Wangchen is a self taught filmmaker who spent five months interviewing Tibetans about their hopes and frustrations living under Chinese rule who is now facing charges of state subversion after the footage was smuggled abroad and distributed on the internet and at film festivals around the world. Detained since March 2008, Dhondup managed to sneak a letter out of jail a month ago saying that his trial had begun. Mr. Wangchen's family hired a lawyer, but the authorities barred him from court last July, leaving him with a public defender. The Lawyer, Li Dunyong said that Wangchen told him that he was tortured and that he had contracted hepatitis B while in custody. Since then, he has been held incommunicado. Officials at the Xining Intermediate Court in Qinghai Province, where Wangchen is being held, would not comment on his case.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/31/world/asia/31tibet.html>

AUSTRALIA:

Australian Prime Minister under pressure to get tough on Tibet: The Australian Prime Minister Mr. Kevin Rudd is facing renewed pressure to meet the Dalai Lama and get tough on Tibet. This comes shortly after Rudd's upcoming meeting with Li Keqiang, the man tipped to be China's next premier. The Australia Tibet Council pointed out this will be one of numerous meetings Mr. Rudd has held with top-level Chinese government leaders in his time as prime minister, including five one-on-one meetings with Chinese president Hu Jintao. Mr. Rudd, last met the Dalai Lama in 2007 as the leader of the opposition, had confirmed earlier this month, that he would not meet the Tibetan Spiritual leader when he visits Australia in December. <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,26278562-12377,00.html>

EUROPEAN UNION:

E.U. condemns execution of two Tibetans; China rejects criticism: On October 29, the European Union condemned the execution of two Tibetans, Mr. Lobsang Gyaltzen and Mr. Loyak on the basis of its principled opposition to the death penalty. Early, in May 2009, the EU had called for a commutation of the death sentences handed by the Lhasa Intermediate People's Court to several Tibetans, among them Mr. Gyaltzen and Mr. Loyak. The EU also reiterated its concerns about the conditions under which the trials were conducted, especially with regard to whether due process and other safeguards for a fair trial were respected. China was quick to hit back, warning Europe not to interfere, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhouxu said that the two Tibetans had been executed for their role in deadly ethnic unrest that rocked the region in March of last year. He repeated China's insistence that the unrest was planned and organized by what it calls a Dalai Lama "clique," asking the EU to, "not send wrong signals to 'Tibet independence' separatist forces, so that healthy and stable development of China-Europe relations can be maintained." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/declaration-presidency-behalf-european-union-regarding-recent-executions-two-tibetans>
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ijaKM0rsLJlZynV7Oxo0ZOxxiA_Q

TIBETANS IN EXILE:

Nobel Peace Laureates launch 'Thank You Tibet' campaign: On October 27, at a press conference in Dharamsala, India, Nobel Peace Laureates Mairead Maguire and Jody Williams launched the "Thank You Tibet!" campaign. Together with Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi, the women released a statement recognizing the many contributions made by Tibetans and His Holiness the Dalai Lama throughout their fifty years in exile. The statement said, "despite the attack on their people and the displacement of their culture they preach and practice compassion and respect for the dignity of every person.If a community exiled from their homeland and scattered across the world can come together and grow into a democratic society that respects human rights, every community can do so."

<http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/news/article/nobel-peace-laureates-launch-thank-you-tibet-campaign#system-readmore>

DALAI LAMA:

Dalai Lama visits Japan: Prime Minister Hatoyama sends message: On November 1, Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama sent a message to the visiting Dalai Lama through a group of Lawmakers, saying that he hopes to meet the Tibetan Spiritual leader again. Hatoyama avoided meeting the Dalai Lama during this visit in hopes of not provoking China but the message may draw criticism from Beijing all the same. The Dalai Lama has met Hatoyama several times, the last of which was in November 2007, when Hatoyama was secretary general of the Democratic Party of Japan at which time he expressed support for 'high autonomy' in Tibet. <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20091102a5.html>