

INSIDE TIBET

“A Choked Silence”: images from Tibet of crackdown: Although Beijing has sought to impose an information blackout, reports on the situation in Tibet continue to filter out. On October 31, ICT released a photostory presenting new testimony from Tibet with new images and footage that depict the scale of the continuing crackdown and conveys the atmosphere of fear and intimidation reigning throughout the Tibetan plateau. The report contains several minutes of powerful video footage providing a striking glimpse of the scale and magnitude of the march Tibet protests and the response of the Chinese authorities. Images taken by a Taiwanese-American tourist in eastern Tibet featured with this report show a heavily armed police presence in summer in the Tibetan area of Kham in the towns of Lithang and Kardze in Sichuan province. The visitor described the area as being "like a war-zone". Images of military on the streets of Lhasa in September are also shown with this report, together with further evidence of continued disappearances and detention, with Tibetans experiencing extreme brutality while in custody. Another American visitor to monasteries and towns in Tibetan areas of Qinghai and Gansu following the March protests described the situation in the area immediately following the March protests: "Young green-uniformed soldiers stood guard, black guns with thick barrels at the ready, before a military transport...The repercussions were underway. Terror is not threatened, it is reality. Monastery after monastery, town after town we traveled, driving hundreds of miles down unpaved roads; the same story, the same choked silence." The full report can be viewed at <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/behind-news/a-choked-silence-images-tibet-crackdown>

U.S. GOVERNMENT:

The US calls on China to review Tibet policies: The United States on October 29, called on China to review its policies in Tibet, ahead of the talks in Beijing between the Dalai Lama's envoys and Chinese officials. State Department Spokesman Gordon Duguid said, "[the United States] encourage China to examine policies that have created tensions due to their effect on Tibetan culture, religion and livelihoods." Duguid added, "It has been our longstanding and consistent view that the most appropriate and productive means of dealing with the difficult issue of Tibet is through serious, substantive dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the Dalai Lama's representatives" and that in order for the dialogue to be meaningful, both parties must be genuinely committed to the process. He said, "We and others around the world will continue to look to these talks to result in concrete progress." http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gepET_VJhMwV38HL37ucJW_7cxfg

DALAI LAMA:

The Dalai Lama's Envoys leave for 8th round of Talks: The Dalai Lama's Envoys Lodi Gyari and Kalsang Gyaltsen accompanied by three senior aides departed for Beijing on October 30 for the 8th round of talks with the Chinese leadership. A press statement from the Department of Information and International Relations, Dharamsala said that they will be there for a week. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/his-holiness-dalai-lamas-envoys-leave-china-8th-round-talks>

Dalai Lama begins week long Japan visit: The Dalai Lama on October 31 began a week long visit to Japan where he is expected to stay until November 7th. This is the Dalai Lama's first trip overseas after he was given a 'green signal' by doctors to resume his activities following a surgery to remove gall stones in New Delhi. During this visit, arranged by a Japanese Buddhist group and Tibetan supporters, he will be teaching and traveling. <http://www.dalailama.com/news.301.htm>