

**U.S. GOVERNMENT:**

**ICT Report: Presidents Obama and Hu discuss Tibet at their first summit:** Presidents Obama and Hu have released a joint statement at the US-China summit in Beijing that indicates they discussed a resolution for Tibet, human rights and religious freedom. In the joint statement, President Obama said, "I spoke to President Hu about America's bedrock beliefs that all men and women possess certain fundamental human rights ... We did note that while we recognize that Tibet is part of the People's Republic of China the United States supports the early resumption of dialogue between the Chinese government and the representatives of the Dalai Lama to resolve any concerns and differences that the two sides may have." President Hu said, "The two sides reaffirmed the fundamental principle of respecting each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity... We will continue to act in the spirit of equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and engage in dialogue and exchanges on such issues as human rights and religion in order to enhance understanding, reduce differences and build common ground." <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/joint-press-statement-president-obama-and-president-hu-china>. The joint statement confirms pledges by Obama Administration officials that Tibet would be discussed at the summit. Mary Beth Markey, ICT Vice President for International Advocacy said: "President Obama went to Beijing looking for forward movement - not a roll-back on Tibet. It remains to be seen whether his new approach will be understood by the Chinese as a desire to be substantially helpful in resolving the Tibet issue, and whether President Obama uses the weight of his office to promote an early resumption of the dialogue with meaningful progress toward a resolution." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/presidents-obama-and-hu-discuss-tibet-their-first-summit>

**INSIDE TIBET:**

**ICT Report: Founder of Tibetan cultural website sentenced to 15 years in closed-door trial in freedom of expression case:** According to reports from Tibet received by Tibetan exiles, Kunchok Tsephel, an official in a Chinese government environmental department and founder of the influential Tibetan literary website, Chodme ('Butter-Lamp', [www.tibetcm.com](http://www.tibetcm.com)) has been sentenced to 15 years in prison on charges of disclosing state secrets. The news emerged as President Obama made a pointed reference during his visit to China about the importance of free flow of information and uncensored internet access. Thirty-nine year old Kunchok Tsephel was detained on February 26, 2009, when his house was ransacked and his computer, camera and mobile phone were seized. His family had no idea of his whereabouts until November 12, when they were summoned to court to hear the verdict of 15 years imprisonment after a closed-door trial at the Intermediate People's Court of Kanlho, Tibet Autonomous Prefecture. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/foudner-tibetan-cultural-website-sentenced-15-years-closed-door-trial-freedom-expression-c>

**DALAI LAMA:**

**ICT Report: Dalai Lama hosted by the Italian Parliament for World Parliamentarians conference on Tibet:** The Dali Lama arrived in Rome on November 17, to address the 5<sup>th</sup> World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet at the Chamber of Deputies, the Italian Parliament. Penpa Tsering, Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile based in Dharamsala, India welcomed the attendees which included over 200 Parliamentarians from 28 different countries. The objective of the conference is to develop a plan of governmental action to advance Tibetan issues and secure effective governmental support for the process of dialogue between the Chinese leadership and His Holiness the Dalai Lama or his representatives leading to a negotiated solution for Tibet. The convention takes place four years after the last was held in Edinburgh and attended by 133 Parliamentarians and associates from 30 Parliaments around the world. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/dalai-lama-hosted-italian-parliament-world-parliamentarians-conference-tibet>

**EUROPE:**

**ICT Report: Italian Parliamentarians issue letter of support for Dalai Lama as Tibetan Leader arrives in Rome:** On November 17, a letter welcoming the Dalai Lama to Rome for the World Parliamentarians Conference on Tibet was issued by 114 Italian Parliamentarians. The letter, initiated by Hon Matteo Mecacci (PD), President of the Parliamentary Inter-group for Tibet, thanked the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Gianfranco Fini, for allowing the international conference to take place in the Italian Parliament and expressed the hope that the Italian government will fully acknowledge the significance of the Dalai Lama's tireless work in seeking a genuine autonomy and an end to repression in Tibet. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/italian-parliamentarians-issue-letter-support-dalai-lama-tibetan-leader-arrives-rome>