

**INSIDE TIBET:**

**Human Rights Watch: Nations should protest 7 yr sentence for 81 yr old Tibetan printer:** Human Rights Watch[HRW] in a press release on December 5 said that the international community should protest the imprisonment and secret sentencing of Paljor Norbu, an 81-year-old Tibetan traditional printer, and seek his immediate exoneration and unconditional release. Paljor Norbu was taken by the police from his home in Lhasa, Tibet on October 31, 2008, on suspicion that he had printed "prohibited material," including the banned Tibetan flag. He was tried in secret in November and sentenced to seven years. His family were hand-delivered a letter informing them of the sentence. His current whereabouts are unknown. HRW said that Norbu was not granted even the minimal rights that are supposed to be provided under Chinese criminal procedures; violations included the failure to notify his family of his formal arrest or of the trial date; the refusal to reveal where he was detained; the failure to allow him defense representation of his choice in court; the failure to communicate the full verdict of the trial; and, the refusal to inform the family of his current whereabouts and of where he will serve his prison term. HRW said that it has observed an increase in the number of arrests and convictions in recent weeks, indicating that the crackdown after Tibetan protests in March 2008 was extending beyond the people suspected of involvement in those demonstrations. Other recent cases like Filmmaker Dhondup Wangchen, Labrang monk Jigme Gyatso and Norzin Wangmo, who was imprisoned for having told relatives abroad about the situation inside Tibet are cited in the release.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/05/china-free-prominent-tibetan-cultural-figure>

**DALAI LAMA:**

**The Dalai Lama pays tribute to Polish courage; calls for dialogue to solve world problems:** The Dalai Lama called for dialogue to solve the world's problems, not warfare, in Gdansk, Poland on December 8 despite pressure from Beijing on the French to cancel this meeting. He paid tribute to Polish courage and determination in resisting past communist oppression under Soviet rule.

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/dalai-lama-pays-tribute-polish-courage-calls-dialogue-solve-world-problems>

**Sarkozy meets with Dalai Lama; China reacts angrily:** French President Nicolas Sarkozy met with the Dalai Lama for 30 minutes in the Polish city of Gdansk, at a gathering of Nobel Peace prize winners. The meeting has prompted China to react angrily warning of consequences for Beijing's relations not only with Paris, but with the EU as well. Ahead of Mr Sarkozy's Gdansk trip, Beijing had expressed its discontent with the planned meeting and called off an EU-China summit planned for 1 December. Meanwhile, Mr. Sarkozy stressed that he was free to meet whomever he chooses, he said, "I am free as the French president and the EU president, I have values and convictions. Let's not make things tense. The world doesn't need it and it doesn't correspond to reality." France's human rights minister, Rama Yade, also called for calm saying, "There is no need for psycho-drama. The Dalai Lama is not a dangerous man. He is a man of peace, of non-violence, who has been awarded the Nobel prize for peace." <http://euobserver.com/9/27249> and

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-36907020081207>

**The Dalai Lama addresses the European Parliament:** The Dalai Lama on December 4 addressed the European Parliament where he countered the recent Chinese propaganda offensive and Chinese official's provocative comments that he was guilty of "ethnic cleansing." He said that this accusation was made because the 'Memorandum of Genuine Autonomy' presented by his representatives to Beijing officials called for "the recognition of the right of autonomous areas...to regulate the residence, settlement and employment or economic activities of persons who wish to move to Tibetan areas from other parts of the PRC." He said: "We have made it clear in our memorandum that our intention is not to expel non-Tibetans. Our concern is the induced mass movement of primarily Han, but also some other nationalities, into many Tibetan areas, which in turn marginalizes the native Tibetan population and threatens Tibet's fragile natural environment. Major demographic changes that result from massive migration will lead to the assimilation rather than integration of the Tibetan nationality into the PRC and gradually lead to the extinction of the distinct culture and identity of the Tibetan people."

While thanking the European parliament for their consistent support, he also spoke of his fears for the future of the Tibetan people following the wave of overwhelmingly peaceful protests since March 2008, "It is as though Tibetans face a death sentence, a sentence aimed at wiping out the spirit of the Tibetan people." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/dalai-lama-pays-tribute-polish-courage-calls-dialogue-solve-world-problems> The full text of the 'Memorandum of Genuine Autonomy' is available at <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/ict-welcomes-public-scrutiny-memorandum-tibetan-autonomy-counter-chinese-propaganda>

**E.U.**

**ICT calls for EU Emissary to help resolve the Tibet issue:** Brussels - The International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) calls on the European Union to designate as soon as possible a high profile European Emissary to help resolve the issue of Tibet and put an end to tensions between China and Europe around Tibetan issues. Such an initiative would be welcome in Europe where the Dalai Lama enjoys overwhelming support for his moral leadership and would be an appropriate outcome of the Dalai Lama's current visit to European countries. The Dalai Lama's visit began on November 30 when he met with Czech Prime Minister Topolánek in Prague and includes an address to the plenary of the European Parliament in Brussels on December 4 and a meeting with French President Sarkozy on December 6 in Gdansk, Poland.

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/international-campaign-tibet-calls-eu-emissary-help-resolve-tibetan-problem>