

INSIDE TIBET:

China appoints new Tibet Governor: On January 15, China named Padma Choling (Tib: Pema Trinley), 58, a Tibetan and a 17-year veteran of the People's Liberation Army as its new Tibet governor to replace Qiangba Puncog (Tib: Jampa Phuntsok) who stepped down earlier in the week. Qiangba Puncog – the public face of the government crackdown since the march 2008 Tibet protests, was named head of the regional parliament. China's official Xinhua news agency quoted Padma Choling saying, "Stability is of overwhelming importance. We will firmly oppose all attempts at secession, safeguard national unification and security, and maintain unity among different ethnic groups in Tibet." Regional Communist Party secretary Zhang Qingli, also a former military official, is expected to retain his post in the ongoing reshuffle. Although Tibet is nominally an autonomous region, the region's leader has always been an ethnic Chinese Han. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j2He5sen-2w2LtkoDw-wK2u3qKPw>

Tibetan Man sentenced to 6 years for "separatist" links: On January 14, 2010, a Tibetan man named Dolma Namgyal, was been sentenced to six years' imprisonment for his alleged links with "separatist forces of the Dalai clique." Until the day of his sentence, Namgyal's family members had no information about his whereabouts since his arrest in April 2008. Namgyal is currently being held in a prison in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province. <http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=26415&article=Tibetan+man+from+Ngaba+sentenced+to+6+years+for+separatist+link>

CHINA:

ICT Report: Google decision a "crack in the wall of censorship" that sets new standard: Google's decision to halt censorship on its search engine in China and its threat to pull out of the Chinese market in response to cyber-attacks that seek to access the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists sets a new standard for other companies operating in China. Mary Beth Markey, ICT Vice President for Advocacy said, "For 20 years, we've battled against putting profits in the China market ahead of human rights. It's impossible for us not to see Google's decision as anything but a real victory for the people and those who support their struggle for greater freedoms." This news from Google comes in the context of stepped-up efforts by Chinese government authorities to criminalize information-sharing and pursue charges of "subversion" for online, email or phone discussions with the outside world about the situation in Tibet. According to an official report on December 26, 2008, Beijing has set up a task force with the Public Security Bureau specifically targeted at the "fabrication and spreading of rumors." This has led to numerous detentions and supports the trend identified by ICT of harsher punishments meted out for Tibetans who receive and impart information and opinions. <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/google-decision-crack-wall-censorship-sets-new-standard>

GERMANY:

German FM raises human rights and Tibet in China: On January 15, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle urged China to show more respect for human rights but said that differences of opinion on this issue should not hinder trade ties between them. Westerwelle said, "The German government's engagement for human rights and civil rights is not abstract but very concrete." He said, "Tibet and the protection of cultural minorities were also topics we discussed and over which we had differences of opinion." Tibet is a sensitive subject to broach with China and it took months for China to forgive Angela Merkel for meeting with the Dalai Lama in 2007. <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60E1HM20100115?type=marketsNews>

NEPAL:

Nepal hands over detained Tibetans to the UN: On January 19, Nepalese immigration authorities have handed over ten Tibetans arrested while crossing the border illegally to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Immigration officials had earlier planned to hand them over to Chinese authorities and changed their mind after they found no proof of involvement in anti-china activities. The eight men and two women had been arrested on January 17 for crossing the border illegally and had been handed over to the immigration officials. The detained refugees told immigration officers that they wanted to go to India to meet their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. <http://www.nepalnews.com/mail/index.php/news-archive/2-political/3588-tibetans-arrested-from-dolakha-handed-over-to-unhcr.html>