

**FLEEING TIBET:**

**Tibet protestors escape to India:** Five Tibetan monks who staged protest marches last year in Labrang Amdo against Chinese rule have managed to escape, arriving in Dharamsala, India on May 10 and two others on May 19. Three of the monks were in the group of 15 monks who managed to disrupt a Chinese state-managed media tour of foreign journalists on April 9, 2008. The five monks have been on the run for more than a year to avoid arrests before finally escaping to Nepal and then to India. The monks had escaped separately into the hills near their monastery soon after taking part in the protests. 41 yr old Maday Gonpo said, "We began our protest at Tachu Do in the center of Kardze town. After we had crossed two bridges, five police vehicles and two army vehicles arrived and attacked us. There were about 1,000 protesters, including about 15 who were leaders. Of these, five were detained, while I and others managed to escape. Two of my friends were wounded by gunfire." Gonpo said that since there was no way he could go home, he wandered from place to place, mainly in the hills of Nyagrong and other areas where nomads live." Speaking about his involvement in the demonstrations that erupted all across the Tibetan plateau last spring, one of the monks Jinpa said, "What has been happening in Tibet from last year is a spontaneous outcome of deep rooted resentment Tibetan people have had against the Chinese government. No one was there to tell us to protest. Situation alone compelled us to come out on the street."

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=24695&article=Tibet+protest+monks+receive+hero%E2%80%99s+welcom e+in+Dharamsala&t=1&c=1>

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=24750&article=Two+more+Tibet+protesters+escape+to+India&t=1&c=1>

**EUROPE:**

**ICT Europe: Calls for cohesive EU position on Tibet as China steps up pressure over Dalai Lama visits:** ICT-Europe released a new policy paper on May 18 in Brussels, which calls upon the European Union to adopt a consistent new position on Tibet to reflect the importance of Tibet in EU-China relations ahead of the EU-China Summit which opens in Prague on May 20. The last summit meeting was cancelled by the Chinese government after French President Sarkozy, then EU President, met the Dalai Lama - an indication of the importance of the Dalai Lama to the Chinese government in determining its relationship with Europe. Since then, Beijing has stepped up pressure on individual European countries including the Netherlands to block meetings between heads of state, ministers and members of the Parliament and the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama visits Europe at the end of this month. Vincent Metten, EU Policy Director for ICT in Brussels, said: "The cancellation of the last EU-China Summit by Beijing during the French EU Presidency raised the diplomatic stakes, pointing both to the importance China attaches to the Tibet issue and the need for a unified EU response. To equivocate on Tibet as a result of Chinese interference would be a strategic mis-step in EU-China relations. The EU should intensify its support for a resolution and assist both sides, after 50 years of failed efforts, to remove obstacles and move forward." <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/call-cohesive-eu-position-tibet-china-steps-pressure-over-dalai-lama-visits>

**UNITED STATES:**

**President Obama names Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. as Ambassador to China:** On May 16, President Obama picked Utah governor Jon Huntsman Jr for one of the top diplomatic posts of Ambassador to China. The President said that his administration is seeking a "new era of partnership between our two nations that will advance our shared dreams of opportunity and security in America, in Asia and around the world." The Salt Lake Tribune said that Governor Huntsman has a deep passion for the Chinese culture and a background in Asian affairs that dates back to a Mormon mission he served from 1979 to 1981 in Taiwan where he learned to speak Mandarin Chinese. He was a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for East Asia in 1990 and later was nominated to be ambassador to Singapore by President George H.W. Bush. In 2001, he became the deputy U.S. trade representative for the region. According to the article, "As governor, Huntsman spoke out in favor of Tibetan independence and supported pro-Tibetan protests in San Francisco that threatened to block the Olympic torch relay on its way to the Beijing Olympics in 2008." The article also said that, while working at the Commerce Department, he participated in protests over the Chinese government's harsh crackdown on protestors in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

[http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci\\_12387433](http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_12387433)

**DALAI LAMA:**

**The Dalai Lama in Europe:** The Dalai Lama will be travelling in Europe from May 29 thru June 7 visiting Denmark, Iceland, Netherlands and France. The Chinese have been threatening reprisals against EU countries whose leaders welcome or meet the Dalai Lama. French President Nicolas Sarkozy defied stern warning from Beijing to meet with the exiled Tibetan leader in Poland in December 2008 and now media speculation has grown about the Dalai Lama receiving the Citizen of Honor that was voted by the city of Paris in April 2008. A Chinese ministry spokesperson said, "We urge the Paris side to stop doing things that interfere in China's internal affairs and make no further errors on the Tibet-related issue." While Mayor Delanoe stands by the statement that "it is not an interference in China's internal affairs."

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?id=24705&article=Paris+mayer+stands+by+the+Dalai+Lama+on+its+honorar y+citizen+award&t=1&c=1>