

DALAI LAMA:

ICT Report: The Dalai Lama's March 10 message to Tibetans – “Truth will prevail: On March 10, His Holiness the Dalai Lama delivered his annual statement to the Tibetan people. He stressed openness, transparency and the free flow of information within China as the means for building greater understanding of the true situation in Tibet and greater trust between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples, and among Tibetans themselves. He invited Tibetan officials in Tibet to visit Tibetan communities “in the free world” to understand the aspirations of Tibetans in exile. He stressed that the Tibet issue was not the result of a dispute between the Chinese and Tibetan peoples, but rather the result of the “ultra-leftist policies of the Chinese communist authorities.” He specifically referenced the decision by the Chinese government at the Fifth Work Forum held in Beijing on January 18-20, 2010, “to implement their policies uniformly in all Tibetan areas” – a departure from the previous approach which developed Tibetan policies uniquely for the TAR. The Dalai Lama said that a resolution through his “Middle Way Approach” would be “of benefit to us both.” [The Chinese and Tibetan people]. He cited support for the middle way from President Obama, which was also echoed in the official White House statement on February 18, 2010. He characterized the lack of a positive response from the Chinese government as “disappointing,” but he noted changes in the perspective among the Chinese people – “There will be a time when truth will prevail. Therefore, it is important that everyone be patient and not give up.”

The full text of the statement was seen at www.dalailama.com and the additional statement by the Cabinet (Kashag) of the Central Tibetan Administration can be seen at www.tibet.net

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/dalai-lamas-march-10-message-tibetans-truth-will-prevail>

U.S. GOVERNMENT:

ICT Report: U.S. State Department finds “Severe Repression” in Tibet: In a clear rebuke of official Chinese claims, the U.S. Department of State has provided a catalogue of human rights abuses and economic, social and cultural discrimination faced by Tibetans under Chinese rule. The findings are contained in the Tibet section of the State Department’s “County Report on Human Rights Practices for 2009,” released on March 11, 2010. The report describes the “blunt censorship” of Tibetan language web content, minimal Tibetan-language schooling for children, the absence of Tibetan-language instruction in higher education, severe restrictions placed on freedom of movement for Tibetans – at the local, national and international levels – and the exclusion of Tibetans from much of Tibet’s commercial opportunity. The report states, “The economic and social exclusion of Tibetans was a major reason why such a varied cross-section of Tibetans ... participated in the 2008 protests.” The Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chief negotiator with Chinese officials, Lodi Gyari said, “This report provides validation of the grievances that underlie His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s efforts to seek genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people. Its findings on the areas of discrimination against Tibetans – in language, religion, culture, education, economic development, and freedom to travel – mirror the components of the Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy that we have presented to the Chinese officials. Progress on these building blocks is essential toward achieving stability and a durable solution that benefits the Tibetan and Chinese peoples.”

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/us-state-department-finds-severe-repression-tibet>

Speaker Pelosi statement on the 51st Anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising: On March 10, Speaker Nancy Pelosi released a statement on the 51st Anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising, honoring the many brave Tibetans who have sacrificed their lives fighting for freedom and aspirations of the Tibetan people to live in peace. In her statement, the speaker stressed the need for Beijing to work towards a solution that respects the human rights of all Tibetans. She said, “A negotiated agreement is essential and it would ensure internal stability in Tibet and bolster China’s reputation in the world.” She commended President Obama for his meeting with the Dalai Lama at the White House in February and said that the meeting marked another chapter in the long friendship and close ties between the United States and the People of Tibet. The full text of the statement can be viewed at <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/tibet-news/pelosi-statement-51st-anniversary-tibetan-uprising>

NEPAL:

ICT Report: Tibetans in custody after protests in Nepal: On March 10, twenty-six Tibetans were taken into police custody in Kathmandu, Nepal after taking part in protests to mark the Anniversary of Tibet’s 1959 National Uprising Day. The considerable massing of police force deployed to confront the Tibetans in what has traditionally been a peaceful vigil is an indication of China’s heavy footprint in Nepal. There are particular concerns for 15 Tibetans who held a brief protest in front of the Chinese consulate, an observer said, “It was terrible to watch. They were there for about five minutes before being dragged off quickly by police. They have been badly beaten by Nepalese police.”

<http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetans-custody-after-protests-nepal>