

**INSIDE TIBET:**

**Three Tibetan self-immolations in Ngaba:** On April 24, 2013, three Tibetan self-immolations took place in Ngaba, Dzoerge (Chinese: Ruo'ergai] county and in Dzamthang. Two monks identified as 20 yr old Lobsang Dawa and 23 yr old Konchog Wooser, set themselves alight near Tagtsang Lhamo Kirti monastery and died. Their bodies were moved to the monastery where monks held prayers for them. And a 23 year old Tibetan woman set herself on fire and died in Dzamthang county. Her name and details are still not known. <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/three-04241023160540.html>

**ICT Report: Cultural Genocide and the 11th Panchen Lama:** April 25, 2013, is the 24th birthday of the 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, taken into Chinese custody on May 17, 1995, at the age of six. He has not been seen in public since. On this date last year, ICT released its report, "[60 years of Chinese Misrule: The case for Cultural Genocide in Tibet.](#)" which speaks to the intense control of Tibetan Buddhism including the manipulation by the Chinese authorities of religious figures, as personified by the Panchen Lama's experience is an area where cultural repression has been most visible and intensely felt by Tibetans. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/cultural-genocide-and-11th-panchen-lama>

**U.S. GOVERNMENT:**

**ICT Report: State Department annual report on human rights for 2012:** The State Department's annual Country Reports for Human Rights Practices, released on April 19, highlights the continuing egregious human rights in Tibet. The report notes the number of self immolations were six times as much as 2011 and that the Chinese response to the self immolations was harsh, with family members and associates of the self immolators being denied social benefits, detained and sentenced. The report said U.S. government officials submitted more than 10 requests for diplomatic access to Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) between May 2011 and December 2012, but none were granted. ICT's compendium of the Tibet section of the report can be found here <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/state-department-annual-report-human-rights-2012>

**US calls on China to hold unconditional dialogue on Tibet issue** On April 16, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell told reporters, "We call on the Chinese Government to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama, with his representatives, without preconditions." Ventrell added that the question of human rights was raised by Secretary of State John Kerry in his meeting with Chinese leadership during his trip to China. <http://www.tibet.net/2013/04/16/us-urges-china-to-hold-unconditional-dialogue-on-tibet-issue>

**U.S. CONGRESS:**

**ICT Report: US Senators urge Tibet agenda for Secretary Kerry visit to China:** On April 11, 2013, twenty one United States Senators wrote to Secretary Kerry asking him to "make Tibet an integral issue" during his first visit to China as Secretary on April 13. The bipartisan letter, authored by Senators Mark Udall (D-CO), Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) said "While more than 100 self-immolations of Tibetans continue to make headlines, we know that there are countless others among the six million Tibetans inside Tibet who struggle silently every day to preserve their culture, their religion, and their dignity in the face of destructive Chinese policies. The United States has a moral responsibility to help the Tibetan people in this quest." <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/us-senators-urge-tibet-agenda-secretary-kerry-visit-china>

**U.N.:**

**ICT Report: Government statements on China and Tibet at 22nd Human Rights Council Session:** The 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, underscored the importance of multilateral engagement on Tibet. At the session that concluded on March 25, twelve countries and the European Union (EU) called on China to ensure the human rights of the Tibetan people. The United States, Germany and the Czech Republic specifically highlighted the issue of criminalizing and sentencing families and associates of Tibetans who have self-immolated. Statement excerpts available at <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/government-statements-china-and-tibet-22nd-human-rights-council-session>

**GERMANY:**

**German Parliament urges China to safeguard human rights in Tibet:** On April 24, the German Parliament's human rights committee urged Chinese leadership to look into the causes of the self-immolations and "to end the control of religious life and to stop the repression by the authorities." Expressing strong support for statements made by international community including the United Nations and European Parliament, they demanded access for UN diplomats, parliamentarians and journalists into Tibetan areas. <http://www.tibet.net/2013/04/25/german-parliament-urges-china-to-safeguard-human-rights-in-tibet/>

**ICT NEWS:**

**ICT Light of Truth Award ceremony brings together eminent individuals with historic connection to Tibet:** On April 13, 2013, five remarkable individuals were presented with ICT's Light of Truth Award by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Switzerland for their outstanding contributions to the Tibetan cause. They included 90-year old Mr. Robert Ford, the International Commission of Jurists, Ms. Sigrid Joss-Arnd, Professor Dr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling, and Professor Theo Van Boven. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/ict-light-of-truth-award-ceremony-brings-together-eminent-individuals>