

INSIDE TIBET:

Tibet on World Press Freedom Day: China has one of the world's most restrictive media environments, and international media watchdog groups report that the situation in Tibet is worse than in other areas of the PRC. According to a special report on China by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the number of Tibetan journalists jailed in China has more than doubled in the last four years. Meanwhile, Freedom House, in its Freedom of the Press 2013 report, noted that several of the journalists serving the longest prison terms in China are Tibetans and Uyghurs. In light of the increasing restrictions on media freedom in Tibet, on May 3, World Press Freedom Day, ICT called on the Government of the PRC to ensure freedom of speech and of the press by lifting all forms of censorship and harassment of journalists in Tibet. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-press-releases/world-press-freedom-day>

U.S. GOVERNMENT:

State Department Daily Press Briefing Question on Tibet: On May 9, a question was asked if the U.S. supports the Dalai Lama and his Prime Minister's request that Tibetans should get autonomy within China's constitution. U.S. State Department Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell, responded that the U.S. policy remains unchanged, but added that the U.S. "continues to call on the Chinese Government to permit Tibetan to express grievances freely, publicly, peacefully and without fear of retribution." He further added that the U.S. continues to urge the Chinese Government to refrain from statements that denigrate the Dalai Lama and Tibet's unique cultural, linguistic and religious traditions. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2013/05/209207.htm#CHINA>

Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom visits China: US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Suzan Johnson Cook and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Daniel Baer traveled to China April 22-25, 2013. The State Department announced that, "In Beijing, the delegation discussed enhancing exchanges on religious freedom issues and raised concerns, such as those related to Tibetans, Uighurs, and unregistered Christian groups, with officials from the State Administration for Religious Affairs and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference." The report said, "Promoting greater respect for human rights is among our top foreign policy objectives, including in our relations with China." <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/04/208649.htm>

TIBETAN LEADERS:

Sikyong Lobsang Sangay completes successful visit to Washington DC: Tibetan political leader Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay visited Washington DC from May 6-10, 2013, his third official visit since assuming Tibetan political leadership. The Sikyong had meetings both in the House and Senate to discuss a range of issues related to Tibet. Senator Ben Cardin, Chairman of the East Asian & Pacific Affairs Subcommittee hosted a working coffee on behalf of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Sikyong also met with Senators Tim Kaine and John McCain. In the House, the Sikyong met with Leader Pelosi, and Congressmen Jim McGovern and George Miller. Visit highlights also include a talk hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), meetings with think tanks, media and other NGO's. Detailed information can be viewed at <http://tibet.net/2013/05/12/skong-dr-lobsang-completes-a-successful-washington-d-c-visit/>

Tibetan leader urges US Congress to hold China to account on Tibet: In an op-ed article on The Hill, Tibetan Political Leader Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay said that the toll of Tibetans who have chosen to self-immolate has now reached 117. He said, "The prime cause of this tragedy is the profound resentment of and resistance to China's continued occupation and repression in Tibet." As the elected leader of the Tibetan people, charged with the political responsibilities formerly held by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Sikyong Sangay said, "I look to Congress for your continued support in advancing a peaceful solution to the Tibet question" and urged the U.S. Congress to further strengthen its efforts to encourage Chinese government to enter into a meaningful dialogue to resolve the Tibet issue peacefully. <http://www.thehill.com/blogs/global-affairs/guest-commentary/297903-tibetan-leader-lobsang-sangay-congress-needs-to-hold-china-to-account-on-tibet>

THE DALAI LAMA:

His Holiness the Dalai Lama in the US: His Holiness the Dalai Lama arrived in College Park, Maryland on May 7, 2013 to begin a 14 day visit to the United States. From Maryland, His Holiness traveled to Portland and Minnesota, and will visit Madison (WI), New Orleans (LA), and Louisville (KY). His Holiness's schedule consists of various teachings and public talks – complete schedule available at <http://www.dalailama.com/teachings/schedule> Update of daily events available at <http://www.dalailama.com/news>