

TIBET SELF-IMMOLATIONS:

ICT Report: Two Tibetan teenagers set themselves on fire in Ngaba: On February 19, two teenage Tibetans set fire to themselves and died in Dzorge (Chinese: Ruergai/Zo ige) County in Ngaba Tibetan & Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province (Tibetan area of Amdo) bringing the total of known Tibetan self-immolations to 104 since February 2009. Seventeen year old Rinchen and 18 year old Sonam Dargye were former classmates from the same village of Gardong. The families have recovered Rinchen and Sonam's bodies although it is not clear whether they will be allowed carry out religious rites for the deceased. <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-report/two-tibetan-teenagers-set-themselves-fire-ngaba>

ICT Report: Tibetan farmer from nomadic area sets fire to himself in Labrang: On February 17, a 49-year old Tibetan nomad and farmer, Namlha Tsering set himself on fire in the main street of Labrang, Gansu (Tibetan area of Amdo). Images showed a man huddled on the road amidst traffic with his body ablaze and Chinese paramilitary forces arriving on the scene after the incident. <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetan-farmer-nomadic-area-sets-fire-himself-labrang>

ICT Report: Further self-immolation in Tibet despite harsh legal measures to deter protests; Tibetan who set fire to himself in Nepal dies: On February 13, Drugpa Khar set himself on fire and died in Amchok Town in Sangchu (Xiahe) county in Kanlho (Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu on the third day of Tibetan New Year (Losar). Drugpa Khar, who was in his twenties, was from the village of Tsue, Kanlho in the Tibetan region of Amdo. <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/further-self-immolation-tibet-despite-harsh-legal-measures-deter-protests-tibetan-who-set->

Seven Tibetans sentenced; 70 more held: Chinese courts have sentenced seven more Tibetans for terms upto 14 years and rounded up 70 others for suspected roles in the self-immolations and other protests. Five of them were sentenced on January 26, in Draggo (Luhuo) County People's Court in Kardze for their alleged roles in a January 23, 2012 protest in Sichuan's Kardze Prefecture. And China's official Xinhua reported that Chinese courts in Qinghai sentenced two Tibetans - one to four years for promoting ideas related to "Tibetan independence" to families of Tibetan self-immolators and - the other to 13 years for encouraging a monk to self-immolate. <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/burnings-02082013165841.html>

VOA rejects Chinese allegations on Tibet self-immolations: On February 6, Voice of America director David Ensor categorically denied allegations contained in a Chinese state media CCTV report, that VOA broadcasts encouraged self-immolations in Tibet. The allegations were part of a CCTV documentary and accused VOA of using secret code to send messages to people inside Tibet. Director Ensor said, "That is the one of the more amazing parts of the CCTYV report. That suggestion is totally absurd." <http://www.bbg.gov/press-release/voa-rejects-chinese-allegations-on-tibet-self-immolations/>

Tibetans skip New Year festivities: Tibetans around the world and inside Tibet chose to forgo traditional Tibetan lunar New Year or Losar festivities this week, opting instead to mourn and pray for compatriots who self-immolated to challenge Chinese rule. Prayers were held across Tibetan areas on February 11, 2013, the day of Losar.

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/skip-02122013190438.html>

NEPAL:

ICT Report: Tibetan sets fire to himself in Kathmandu: On February 13, a young Tibetan self-immolated at an important Buddhist site in Nepal. The Tibetan, identified as 25 year old monk Drongchen Tsering (or Drongtse) had recently arrived in Nepal from Tibet. He was the son of a reincarnate Lama and originally from Kardze (Chinese: Ganze) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province (Tibetan area of Kham). Following the incident, security has been stepped up in the Boudhanath area of Nepal. <http://savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/tibetan-sets-fire-himself-kathmandu-tibet-100th-self-immolation>

TIBETAN LEADERS:

Central Tibetan Administration urges International bodies to investigate self-immolations: In a press release on February 14, 2013, the head of the Central Tibetan Administration, Sikyong Lobsang Sangay said, "The ongoing and unprecedented self-immolations by an increasing number of Tibetans in Tibet are the ultimate acts of civil disobedience against China's failed rule in Tibet." Sikyong Sangay urged for international agencies and national governments to look into the case of the increasing Tibetan self-immolations. <http://www.voatibetanenglish.com/content/article/1603746.html>

AUSTRALIA:

China denies Tibet visit for top Australian Diplomat: On February 14, Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr told a Senate estimates hearing in Canberra that Australian Ambassador Frances Adamson has been seeking to travel to Tibet since March 2012. He said several requests had been made but so far to no avail. Minister Carr had earlier announced in March 2012 that Ambassador Adamson would seek to travel to Tibet to talk to locals and look into why a growing number of Tibetan self-immolations. <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/china-blocks-aussie-officials-tibet-visit/story-fn3dxiewe-1226577967355>