

Message from ICT's Board of Directors



Mary Beth Markey, during a recent visit to the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala, India

The Board of Directors of the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) announces with regret that it has accepted the resignation of Ms. Mary Beth Markey from her position as ICT President, effective from the end of May 2013. Throughout 25 years of political and human rights advocacy for Tibet in Washington, D.C. and internationally, including as U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff and at the International Campaign for Tibet, Ms. Markey has been at the forefront of the Tibet movement.

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forefront of the Tibet movement.

Ms. Markey served as ICT Director of Government Relations (1996-2002), ICT Vice President for International Advocacy (2003-2010) and ICT President (July 6, 2010-May 31, 2013). Outstanding initiatives launched under her leadership include, in the area of advocacy, the Congressional Gold Medal for **His Holiness the Dalai Lama** and the Tibetan Policy Act; in the area of policy

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analysis, ICT annual reports "Dangerous Crossings: Conditions Impacting the Flight of Tibetan Refugees" and "60 Years of Chinese Misrule: Arguing Cultural Genocide in Tibet;" in the area of funding, the ICT Partnership for the Sustainability of Tibetan Communities and a National Endowment for Democracy grant for election-monitoring in exile; and, in the area of organizational development,

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the expansion of ICT advocacy from Washington, Berlin and Amsterdam to new offices in Brussels and London and a partnership with the Australia Tibet Council.

Ms. Markey's strategic vision contributed to the institutionalization of the Tibet issue within the U.S. foreign policy framework. Legislation crafted in the Senate included the Voice of America Tibetan Broadcast Service, the Tibetan scholarship program, and the Special Envoy for Tibet, an initiative that would lead to a fully staffed office within the U.S. Department of State with a senior U.S. official serving as Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. **Ms. Markey** accompanied numerous U.S. government delegations to Nepal and India for the purpose of monitoring U.S. programs and to meet

with Tibetan leaders, including **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**. She personally received, on behalf of ICT, every Tibetan political prisoner whose release to the United States had been secured by the U.S. government.

Ms. Markey presented Tibetan issues to international forums, including the UN Human Rights Council, was a frequent commentator on international news programs, and received a Human Rights Press Award from the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong for her outstanding contribution toward greater awareness and appreciation of human rights issues.

"For many years, Mary Beth has devoted substantial energies to the international struggle for human rights in Tibet and, in

particular, has played a vital part in ICT's efforts to promote a political solution for Tibet," noted Lodi Gyari, Executive Chairman of the ICT Board of Directors. "The board is deeply appreciative of her exceptional service and her unshakeable faith in the just cause of Tibet. We wish her much success in the future."

The Board of Directors has named **Bhuchung K. Tsering**, the current Vice President of Special Programs, Interim President while an intensive international search for a new President is conducted. Born in Tibet, has worked at The International Campaign for Tibet since 1995. He previously held positions in the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamsala, India and the Office of **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**.

EU-China Human Rights Dialogue 2013

On June 25, 2013 the EU held the 32nd round of its human rights dialogue with China in Guiyang (Guizhou).

This was the first time the EU-China human rights dialogue was held outside Beijing when it took place in China. The choice of the location is very important, as Guiyang is in one of China's poorest regions with a high number of minorities.

The EU delegation was led by **Gerhard Sabathil**, Director for East Asia and the Pacific in the EU's European External Action Service. **Li Junhua** from the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry led the Chinese delegation.

Before the actual dialogue, the EU was accompanied on a field trip. The EU had made a request to visit a detention center, which was not accommodated. The field trip included a visit to Guiyang City Christian Church, Pianpo Village, where 97% of the population belongs to the Buyi ethnic group, and an EU-China Environmental Governance Project designed to increase environmental justice for the people of Guizhou. There was also a meeting with the Governor of Guizhou province, **Mr. Chen Mingming**. The EU raised a number of human rights

issues as well as three individual cases of people detained in this province.

During the dialogue, the EU expressed its concerns about several human rights developments in China, such as its revised criminal law, freedom of religion, minority rights, the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), civil society's involvement and cooperation in multilateral fora.

With regard to Tibet, the EU mainly raised the issue of self-immolations as a proof of the seriousness of the situation in Tibet. The EU also called for a resumption of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue and for free access to Tibet for diplomats and journalists. Unfortunately, China did not show much cooperation and openness on these issues.

For the first time the EU and China held a joint press briefing at the end of the dialogue during which the EU handed over its list of individual cases. ICT regrets that the Chinese officials informed the EU that they would no longer accept lists of individual cases during the next rounds of the human rights dialogue.

The EU insisted again on having a second round of dialogue before the end of the year as well as the usual legal experts' seminar.

To read the EU's official press release, [click here](#).

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ICT Delivers Statements on Tibet at the 23rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council

From May 27 to June 14, 2013 the UN Human Rights Council held its 23rd regular session in Geneva.



The session was opened by an address from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, in which she updated the Council on her Office's activities. In her speech **Mrs. Pillay** expressed concern about systematic human rights violations in many parts of the world, such as Syria, Myanmar, Iraq, the Central African Republic and Palestine. Regrettably, the High Commissioner failed to mention China and Tibet in her statement, despite having highlighted the worrying situation of self-immolations in a public statement released on November 2, 2012.

ICT actively participated in this session and delivered four statements on behalf of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, both during the interactive dialogues with several Special Rapporteurs (extrajudicial executions, right to education and cultural rights) and during the general debate on human rights situations that require

the Council's attention.

In its statements, ICT highlighted the deteriorating human rights situation in Tibet following the overwhelmingly peaceful protests by Tibetan people against Chinese repressive policies in March 2008, which led to the killing of more than 200 Tibetans by Chinese security forces. The Council was informed of another case of the excessive use of force by the Chinese authorities at the end of May 2013, when over 4,500 Tibetans gathered near **Naglha Zamba**, a sacred hill rich in mineral resources in eastern Tibet, to protest against its exploitation by Chinese miners.

Moreover, ICT stressed that the vast majority of Tibetans was disadvantaged both socially and economically by the inadequate provision of education, including the violation of language rights in schools in Tibet, resulting in an illiteracy rate of over 45%. This

is diminishing the Tibetans' ability to actively participate in their own society. ICT believes that effective monitoring of alleged violations of the right to education is currently not possible in the PRC due to a lack of judicial independence.

Furthermore, ICT highlighted the repression faced by Tibetan artists and showed how any lyrics, visuals or performing arts that criticized Chinese governmental institutions, as well as the promotion of national symbols, such as the Tibetan flag or the image of **the Dalai Lama**, are systematically censored.

ICT urged the Chinese authorities to fully implement the recommendations by the Council's Special Procedure Mandate-holders and Treaty Bodies concerning the human rights situation faced by the Tibetan people, and to allow official visits to China to the 12 Special Procedures, which requested it, as well as to the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

After all of ICT's statements, the Chinese representatives asked for and made use of their right to reply. China rejected ICT's statements, stressing that they were merely false accusations, as it had always attached great importance to the rights of national minorities. It pointed out that Tibet had undergone great social and economic development, which resulted in an unprecedented level of enjoyment of freedom and rights by Tibetan people.

During the general debate on Item 4, several European countries, namely Austria, the Czech Republic, France and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union and the United States of America mentioned China and Tibet in their statements. In particular, they focused on the violations of freedom of association and expression, including Internet censorship, as well as on extralegal detentions and forced disappearances. ■

ICT Participates in FIDH's 38th Congress in Istanbul



FIDH Asia Team in Istanbul

Representatives of 178 non-governmental organizations from 117 countries gathered in Istanbul, Turkey, from May 22 to 27, 2013 for the 38th Congress of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) during which they adopted a resolution on Tibet.

Every three years, FIDH convenes a congress that is attended by all its member organizations worldwide, to elect new leadership, update membership and adopt resolutions on key issues for the organization.

Vincent Metten, ICT's EU Policy Director, attended the Istanbul Congress. ICT first participated in an FIDH Congress in 2010, the year it became a member, at the 37th Congress in Yerevan, Armenia.

The Congress passed its resolution on Tibet after discussing the latest developments in Tibet, in particular cases of self-immolation and the absence of talks between the Tibetan and Chinese sides since January 2010.

The resolution denounced the intensification of campaigns against **the Dalai Lama** and the military build-up in Tibet, as well as the strengthening of policies and measures that are the root causes of self-immolations.

It called on the Chinese leadership to resume dialogue with representatives of the Tibetan side, to re-evaluate the "stability maintenance" approach as applied in Tibet and to end the military buildup and limit the dominance of the security apparatus. Furthermore, it encouraged diplomats, including representatives of multilateral organizations, and journalists, to continue seeking access to all Tibetan areas.

In 2012, FIDH published in partnership with ICT a joint report entitled "Human rights violations and self-immolation: testimonies by Tibetans in exile".

To read the FIDH resolution on the human rights situation in Tibet, [click here](#) ■

Tsering Woesser is a Candidate for the 2013 Sakharov Prize

Tsering Woesser, a Tibetan activist and writer, is one of the candidates for the 2013 edition of the prestigious European Parliament's Sakharov Prize.

This prize is awarded every year to honor individuals or organizations who have dedicated their lives to the defense of human rights and freedom of thought. Former recipients of the prize have been **Nelson Mandela** (1988), **Aung San Suu Kyi** (1990) and Reporters Without Borders (2005).

Tsering Woesser represents one of the rare, accessible dissenting voices on Tibet within The People's Republic of China. She is a poet, blogger, dissident writer and cultural historian based in Beijing who provides a unique window into the complex realities of Tibet.

Mrs. Woesser and her husband, **Wang Lixiong**, a renowned Chinese writer and scholar who frequently writes about Tibet, were both put under house arrest in Beijing after speaking to reporters during the Tibetan unrest of 2008 and again in June this year in order to block any contact with foreign journalists invited to visit Tibet in early July.



Tsering Woesser

ICT strongly supports her candidature. Awarding this prestigious prize for the first time to a Tibetan author and activist in the year of the Chinese once-in-a-decade leadership change would send a strong signal of the European Parliament's stance on and respect for the rights of minorities and cultural diversity. This would also be reinforced by the fact that 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the Sakharov Prize.

For more information on **Woesser's** biography and work, [click here](#) ■

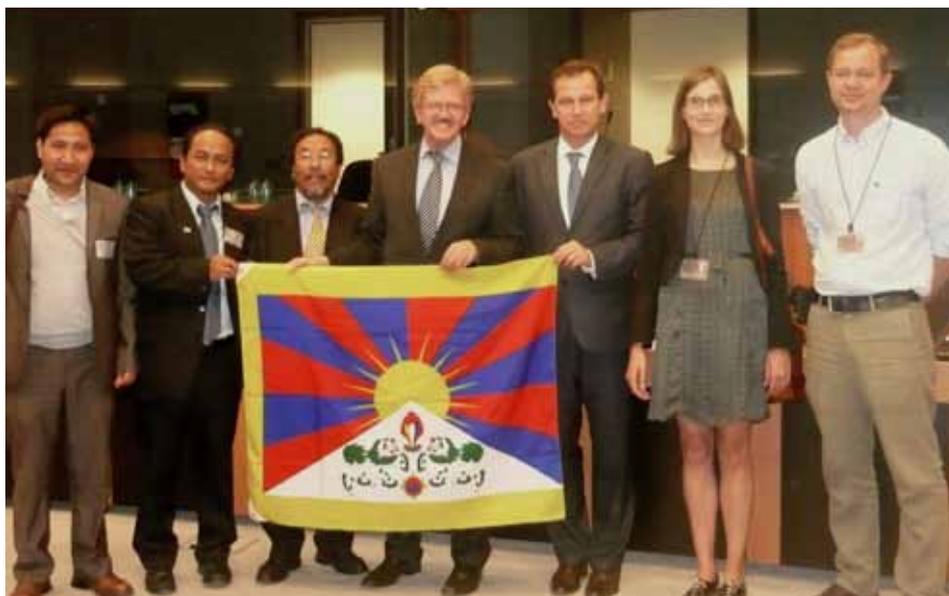
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EP Tibet Intergroup Hosts a Conference on Tibet's Environment



Tenzin Norbu (second left) with MEPs Thomas Mann and Csaba Sógor (centre), and ICT's Vincent Metten (first right)

On June 19, 2013 the European Parliament held its 97th Tibet Intergroup meeting, hosting a conference on the state of Tibet's environment, sponsored by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Thomas Mann (EPP), Satu Hassi (Greens) and Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (S&D), co-organized by the Office of Tibet in Brussels, ICT Brussels and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).

In their opening speeches, both MEPs **Thomas Mann** and **Satu Hassi** highlighted how the destruction of the environment in Tibet is interlinked with human rights violations, and that Tibet's environment is not only a local and regional issue but also a global one. **Mrs. Hassi** also mentioned the recent disaster at the Gyama copper and gold mine near Lhasa, which killed 83 miners.

Keynote speaker of the conference, entitled "*Tibet's Environment: Denuding, Degrading & Depopulating*", was **Tenzin Norbu**, Director of the Environmental

and Development Desk of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA). He gave a presentation focusing on resource exploitation, nomads' resettlement and climate change. Being a huge source of water reserve, Tibet is often referred to as "Asia's water tower" or the "Third Pole". Many Asian rivers and millions of people in downstream countries depend on the Tibetan glaciers.

However, the 46,000 glaciers on the Tibetan plateau are retreating very fast and if this trend continues, more than 60% of them will have melted in the

next 40 years. While stressing Tibet's richness in natural resources, **Tenzin Norbu** explained that these resources are in danger of disappearing soon due to over-exploitation of minerals and forests on the Tibetan plateau. As the Chinese government is undertaking development plans that call for the construction of railroads, highways and dams in the region, Tibetan nomads, who have been living on the Tibetan plateau for centuries, are now being forcibly relocated, which is preventing them from living their traditional lifestyle. 1.43 million nomads have already been moved to Chinese settlement camps and another 185,500 families are expected to be relocated by the end of 2013.

Tenzin Norbu's presentation was followed by the screening of the short documentary "From Nomad to Nobody" by **Michael Buckley**, giving a rare insight into the life of Tibetan nomads and the many challenges they currently face.

For more information on the documentary, [click here](#) ■

Tuesday 19th JUNE 2013
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
room xx - 12.30 to 14 pm

TIBET'S ENVIRONMENT
DENUDING DEGRADING & DEPOPULATING

Hosted by MEP Satu Hassi
Keynote speaker Mr Tenzin Norbu,
Director, Environment and Development Desk,
Central Tibetan Administration

For registration, please contact
satu.hassi-office@ep.europa.eu
Sandwich lunch will be served from 12.30 onwards.

The Greens | EFA
The European Free Alliance

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET



The EU Adopts its Guidelines on Freedom of Religion or Belief

On June 24, 2013, the EU adopted its new Guidelines on the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB).

They complete the set of eight other EU guidelines on the death penalty, torture, children in armed conflict, human rights defenders, rights of the child, violence against women, promotion of international humanitarian law and human rights dialogues with third countries.

As the EU underlines, its guidelines form an important part of the EU's human rights 'toolbox' for external action. They are not legally binding, but because they have been adopted at ministerial level, they represent a strong political signal that they are priorities for the Union. Guidelines are practical tools to help EU representations in the field better

advance the EU's human rights policy.

In the EU Guidelines on FoRB, the EU reiterates the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief as a fundamental right of every human being. The EU Guidelines state the right of all persons to manifest their religion or belief either individually or in community with others. People who change or leave their religion or belief, as well as persons holding non-theistic or atheistic beliefs should be equally protected, as well as those who do not profess any religion or belief.

The Guidelines explain what the international human rights standards on FoRB are and they give clear political lines to officials of EU institutions and EU Member States. They also provide EU missions with practical guidance on how to seek to prevent violations of FoRB in order to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief in the EU's external action.

ICT welcomes the new EU Guidelines on FoRB, as religious repression is currently one of the most problematic issues in Tibet. Tibetan Buddhism is an integral element of Tibetan identity and

Tibetan nationalism and, therefore, is perceived as a potential threat to the unity of the PRC and the authority of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which requires PRC citizens to 'love the country' above all else. In recent years, the level of repression of the Tibetan people's freedom of religion and other rights strongly linked to it, such as freedom of speech, assembly and association, has increased even further. At the same time, the Chinese government stepped up a particularly aggressive campaign against **the Dalai Lama**.

Of particular importance for ICT's work is the paragraph concerning the manifestation of religion or belief, which states: "*Individuals have the right to decide for themselves whether and how they wish to manifest their religion or belief*". Indeed, the display of **Dalai Lama** images is banned in Tibet. Officials still remove pictures of **the Dalai Lama** from monasteries and private homes, and open veneration of **the Dalai Lama** remains prohibited.

To read the full text of the EU Guidelines on FoRB, [click here](#) ■

ICT's Recommendations to the Lithuanian EU Presidency

On July 1, 2013 ICT submitted its Recommendations to the new Lithuanian EU Presidency. It called on Lithuania to continue its strong support for Tibet and ensure the Tibet issue is brought back to the forefront of the Council of the European Union's political agenda, as the Baltic country assumes the six-monthly rotating presidency of the Council.

Vincent Metten, EU Policy Director at ICT's Brussels office, said: "*The people of the Baltic states, once under Soviet rule, know what it is to face political persecution under an occupying power. There is widespread popular support for the Tibetan cause in Lithuania, and Lithuanian MEPs have spoken out in the European Parliament about the need to take a stand against China. Unlike a number of other European countries, members of the Lithuanian Parliament met Tibetan Leader Lobsang Sangay during his recent visit to Vilnius, and there is great anticipation about the Dalai Lama's forthcoming visit in September.*"

ICT recommended that Lithuania lead the EU in ensuring the adoption of a clear EU policy on Tibet, including the adoption of an EU common position on the right of all EU Member States and members of the EU institutions to welcome and meet with **the Dalai Lama** and legitimate representatives of the Tibetan people in whatever manner they deem appropriate, disregarding interference or threats from the Chinese government.

ICT also recommended a more robust EU stand in promoting the resumption of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue and reinforcing international cooperation on Tibet with like-minded countries, in particular by using the upcoming Universal Periodic Review on China in October this year to press the Chinese Government on the situation in Tibet.

While the EU has occasionally voiced its concerns about the degradation of the human rights situation in Tibet and the high number of Tibetan self-immolations, these statements have yet to be matched by concrete actions.

Lithuanian Member of the European Parliament Leonidas Donskis said: "*The Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) has a group of MPs who are staunch supporters of Tibet. The same applies to more than one Lithuanian MEP. Having experienced the decades of*

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isolation and hopelessness in the former Soviet Union, Lithuania does not need additional explanations of Tibet's drama. I believe that my country will keep Tibet on the political agenda during our Presidency in the EU, and our human rights activists are not going to give up either. This is to say that Lithuania's Presidency can become an important phase in Tibet's saga of the struggle for its autonomy and human rights."

ICT's submission to the Lithuanian Presidency highlights the high responsibility of countries such as Lithuania that have

themselves experienced foreign occupation. In Lithuania, self-immolations have also been carried out as political protests against Communist rule. Lithuania regained independence in 1991 following 51 years of forcible inclusion in the Soviet Union, which was not recognized by most countries in Western Europe and the United States.

To read ICT's Recommendations to the Lithuanian EU Presidency, [click here](#) ■

Recent News from Tibet: Destruction of Old Lhasa

The Chinese authorities are currently carrying out elaborate and ambitious plans to expand and 'redesign' Lhasa by 2020 to make it a 'human culture tourism center'. This has involved destruction of much of the traditional architectural heritage of the 'Old City' of Lhasa and its environs.



Beijing-based Tibetan writer and blogger **Woeser** (see article about **Woeser** in this edition) posted images of Lhasa on her blog on May 4, 2013, depicting a new shopping mall now being built in the old city of Lhasa near the pilgrimage route that encircles the Jokhang Temple. The shopping mall apparently encompasses 150,000 square meters, with an underground parking garage with 1,117 parking spaces. Although outside of the Jokhang Temple buffer zone, this area has seen some demolition of historic buildings over the past year or two, and a significant

number destroyed over the last 20 years.

As Lhasa is a river town and its water table is close to the surface, building underground requires extensive pumping to lower the water table, not only on building sites but in the surrounding area. This raises the danger of land subsidence, a common occurrence in cities where aquifers have been intensively pumped.

There has been no mission to Lhasa by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and its advisory bodies since 2005, at which time the mission report expressed considerable

concerns about "uncontrolled urban development and expansion of tourism-related facilities in and adjacent to the boundary of the property" and "negative impact of the rehabilitation projects on the protection of the traditional urban tissue of the historic center."

Information about the exact extent of the work being carried out in Lhasa, including in the historic area, is difficult to obtain due to the official crackdown and restrictions on information imposed by the Chinese authorities. Other expert bodies such as the Tibet Heritage Fund are no longer able to operate in Lhasa. ICT recommends that a further mission should be a matter of urgency.

The original 'Old City' area of Lhasa, which is at least 1,300 years old, today represents less than two per cent of the total area of Lhasa, with the rest of the city constructed mainly out of modern concrete buildings. Hundreds of historic Tibetan buildings have been razed to the ground over the past 20 years, including the village of Shol, once at the foot of the Potala Palace.

The dramatic increase in tourism in Lhasa since the opening of the new railway from Qinghai in 2006 has been especially acute at Lhasa's historic cultural sites, such as the Jokhang Temple and the Potala Palace – the only structures in Lhasa accorded national-level protection. These sites have a particular significance to the Tibetan people because of their connection to **the Dalai Lama** and Tibet before the Chinese invasion.

To learn more about the destruction of Lhasa, [click here](#) ■



Gartse Jigme, when he was taken into detention

Political Prisoners Focus

Gartse Jigme

On May 14, 2013, a respected Tibetan monk and writer called Gartse Jigme Gyatso (Ch: Gazi Jiu Mai) was sentenced to five years in prison in Tsekhog Dzong (Ch: Zeke Xian) in Malho prefecture, Qinghai, the Tibetan area of Amdo after writing two popular books on the situation in Tibet and Tibetan peoples' suffering. Gartse Jigme Gyatso's third book, which was seized by police from the publishers' before printing, includes a discussion on self-immolations in Tibet and Chinese policy. He was detained by police in his room at Gartse monastery in Tsekhog (Ch: Zeke Xian) on January 3, 2013 and taken to Xining. The exact charges against him are not known.

Gartse Jigme Gyatso had been under constant surveillance and detained on a number of occasions since the publication of his second book in 2008, called 'Courage of the Tibetan King' Tsanpoe Nyimtop, a collection of essays in Tibetan language about the political situation in Tibet since the March 1959 Uprising and the protests that swept across Tibet in 2008.

Despite the danger, **Gartse Jigme Gyatso** began his work on a third book, which also addressed serious questions about the situation inside Tibet. This time, the

authorities seized the books while they were at the publishers, and attempted to prevent their distribution. Even so, some copies of the book have been circulating underground. Both texts are circulating in exile in the Tibetan language.

In this book he assesses present injustices and the outbreak of protests across Tibet since March 2008 in the light of the brutal history of the occupation, making connections between young protestors today and religious and secular leaders over the past 50 years ■

This number's video suggestion

Fire in the Land of Snow: Self-Immolations in Tibet

Voice of America has produced a 56-minute-documentary examining self-immolations in Tibet.

"Fire in the Land of Snow: Self-Immolations in Tibet" is a documentary that explores the causes behind at least 120 self-immolations known to have taken place in Tibet since 2009.

Combining smuggled videos, first-hand accounts and interviews with experts, scholars and officials, this film provides an in-depth and comprehensive look at the recent history of Tibet and the powerful forces that lie at the heart of one of the largest waves of political self-immolations in history.

To watch the film, [click here](#) ■

Upcoming Events

- ▶ 9-27 September: 24th session of the Human Rights Council
- ▶ 9-14 September: His Holiness the Dalai Lama will visit Latvia and Lithuania