

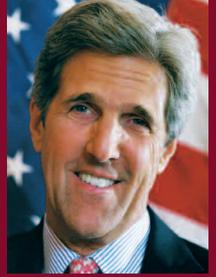
# Tibet

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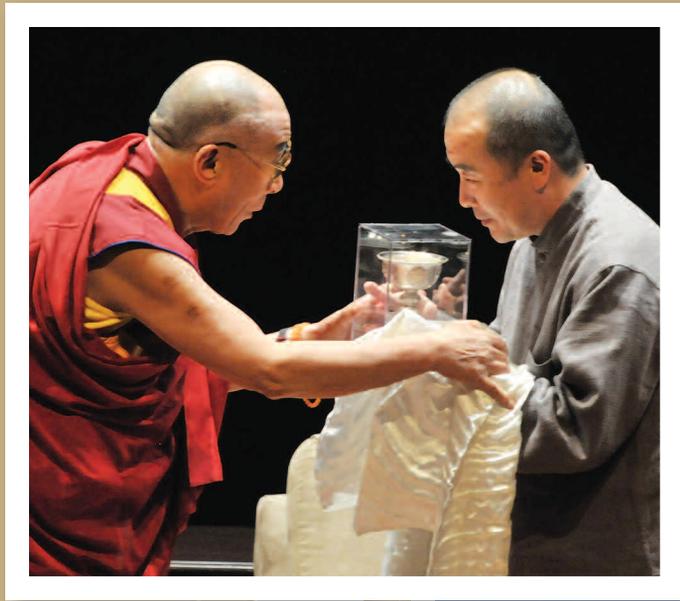
## PRESS WATCH SPRING 2013 *A publication of the International Campaign for Tibet*

### INSIDE:

- Spotlight on Chinese Engagement
- Self-Immolations Report
- Tibetan Rappers Ask for "Respect"
- Calling on Secretary of State John Kerry



INTERNATIONAL  
**CAMPAIGN**  
**FOR TIBET**  
*25 years amplifying Tibetan voices*  
 1988 - 2013





# KARMA

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IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO — IT'S GOOD KARMA.



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The Mandala Society is an intimate group of Tibet supporters, committed to helping future generations of Tibetans. By including the International Campaign for Tibet in their will or trust, Mandala Society members ensure that ICT will continue to have the resources to promote a peaceful resolution of the occupation of Tibet, and will be able to help rebuild Tibet when Tibetans achieve genuine autonomy.

For more information about Mandala Society membership, please contact Chris Chaleunrath at 202-785-1515, ext. 225, [chris.chaleunrath@savetibet.org](mailto:chris.chaleunrath@savetibet.org), or use the envelope attached to this newsletter to request a call.



# From the President



## TIBET PRESS WATCH

The International Campaign for Tibet works to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet.

Founded in 1988, ICT is a non-profit membership organization with offices in Washington, D.C., Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels and London and field offices in Dharamsala and Kathmandu.

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Dear Friends,

On March 15, 1988, the International Campaign for Tibet was established to support the Tibetan people's struggle for human rights and democratic freedoms. From a handful of dedicated individuals, ICT has grown into an international organization empowered by the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

I hope you will take a moment to visit our website and view a slideshow of ICT highlights over the years at [www.savetibet.org/about-ict/25-years-international-campaign-tibet](http://www.savetibet.org/about-ict/25-years-international-campaign-tibet). Of course, none of us who cares deeply about Tibet can rest on our laurels when the situation remains so difficult for the Tibetan people, and I assure you that the ICT family around the world is as dedicated as ever to working towards a solution for Tibet secured in the dignity of the Tibetan people.

Indeed, we are looking forward, with faith in the courage of individual Chinese and Tibetans—like Wang Lixiong, featured on our cover receiving the Light of Truth Award from the Dalai Lama, and Tsering Wooser, featured on page 4 as a recipient of the 2013 International Women of Courage Award. It is these individuals who will instigate an evolution in thinking among their communities, towards a more progressive and democratic future for China.

On this 25th anniversary, we are acutely aware that time marches on—almost always at a faster pace than we'd like. Together we have watched Tibet transformed rapidly by Beijing's central planners. But we have also watched the message of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, rooted in his Buddhist beliefs, define how the world understands the Tibetan struggle.

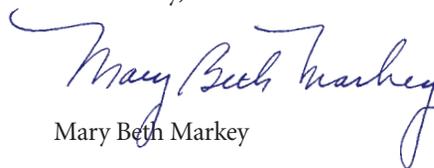
Many of you have long been a part of this international movement for Tibet, finding roots in your own beliefs. It is very much the same for the ICT leadership, professional staff, and volunteers. We are a mosaic of nationalities, faiths, ethnicities, and ages. We are walking many paths, but in the 25-year history of ICT, we have all been similarly rooted in the principles set forth in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and our belief in their applicability to all people. Over a quarter century, ICT's mission and our daily work has been taken up with the firm conviction that Tibetans and Chinese are equal members of the human family and have the right to freedom, justice, and peace.

Our commitment and the message of compassion and tolerance of our touchstone, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, run through the pages of this 25th anniversary edition of the *Tibet Press Watch*. I am confident that you will find it edifying reading.

Board Chairman Richard Gere joins us in thanking you—all the good people who have supported ICT's work over the last 25 years in the belief that the survival of Tibet's ancient wisdom culture is of profound importance to the very survival of the global community.

It is a great privilege to be a part of this historic movement.

In solidarity,



Mary Beth Markey

Cover, clockwise from upper right: Demonstrations in Lhasa captured in 1987 by John Ackerly, President of ICT 1999–2009; The Dalai Lama emerges from the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in 2007 after receiving the Congressional Gold Medal; Former political prisoner Ngawang Sangdrol holds a picture of His Holiness the Dalai Lama; The Dalai Lama presents ICT's Light of Truth award to Chinese writer and social theorist Wang Lixiong in 2009.

# ICT Responds

## Updates & Press Releases

### Women of Courage Award to Tsering Woesser Affirms U.S. Commitment to Tibet

March 8, 2013



Tsering Woesser

In a formal ceremony at the U.S. State Department today, First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry presented the 2013 International Women of Courage Award in absentia to Tsering Woesser, the Tibetan writer, blogger and activist. Tencho Gy-

atso, representing ICT at the award ceremony, said, “This award is more than an acknowledgment of Woesser’s courageous work; it is also a recognition of the risks that so many Tibetans take each day to be heard.”

Woesser, under house arrest in Beijing, was unable to accept the award in person. She described increased restrictions on her movements since the award was announced and explained that she has been denied a passport by the Chinese government. Since 2007, the award has been presented in recognition of women who have demonstrated courage and leadership, often at great personal risk, to promote justice and rights. Secretary John Kerry said, “For her courageous stand to improve human rights conditions in Tibet...for giving eloquent voice to those who otherwise will not be heard...this award was given to Tsering Woesser.”

“I don’t think of this as an award for myself only,” Woesser told *Voice of America Tibetan Services*. “It is an expression of international awareness of the current situation in Tibet... There have been over one hundred Tibetan self-immolators, and I want to give this award to them.” (translation from Tibetan)

Todd Stein, ICT Director of Government Relations, reacted to the policy implications, saying, “It is especially gratifying to witness this high-level and public expression of the U.S. commitment to the

Tibetan struggle for rights and dignity. The U.S. government smartly encapsulates many of its concerns with China in this award: limits on free expression, cyber censorship, discrimination against non-Chinese populations. The effort by Chinese authorities to intimidate and silence Woesser is as predictable as it is a tribute to her courage and conviction to tell the true Tibet story.”

Woesser’s blog (in Chinese) can be found at <http://woesser.middle-way.net> and English translations of her work can be found at [www.highpeakspurearth.com](http://www.highpeakspurearth.com).

### ICT Testifies in Spain’s National Court on Chinese Leadership Policies in Tibet

December 30, 2012

ICT has testified in Spain’s National Court to the direct responsibility of senior Communist Party leaders for policies in Tibet as part of a ground-breaking lawsuit under the principle of “universal jurisdiction,” a doctrine that allows courts to reach beyond national borders in cases of torture and terror perpetrated by states. The case brings Spanish lawyers and Tibet activists closer to the objective of arrest warrants being served to several Chinese leaders for policies on Tibet. ICT’s report was presented to the court on October 26.



Alan Cantos, Tibet Support Committee in Spain; Kate Saunders, ICT Director of Communications; and lawyer José Elías Esteve Moltó in Madrid.

### Members of Congress Urge Obama to Lead Effort to End Tibet Crisis

December 21, 2012

*A total of 2,338 ICT members urged their Representatives to sign the letter to President Obama. Its full text can be found at [savetibet.org](http://savetibet.org) in the Media Center, under Press Releases.*

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives have written to President Obama asking that the “United States take a leading role and engage actively with partner nations on measures that could bring near-term improvements in the human rights situation in Tibet.” The letter was authored by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Frank Wolf (R-VA) and signed by a total of 58 House Members of both parties.

The letter reflects an emerging and urgent international consensus that the Chinese authorities must end strict controls on the Tibetan population. Since December 11, the governments of the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, and the external affairs chief of the European Union, have all issued similar statements. These followed an unprecedented statement by U.N. human rights commissioner Navi Pillay on November 2, in which she called for the Government of China to respect Tibetans’ rights and to allow UN officials and foreign media unimpeded access to Tibetan areas.

To this end, the letter asks President Obama to take “a leading role in support of Commissioner Pillay’s statement and actively engage partner nations on measures that could bring near-term improvements in the human rights situation in Tibet and serve to de-escalate rising tensions brought about by hard-line and destructive Chinese policies and actions.”

Todd Stein, ICT Director of Government Relations said, “[The signatories’] expectation is clear—that the U.S. government has a moral obligation to speak out on behalf of the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people when the Chinese government has abjectly failed in its responsibility to safeguard those rights.”

# Ideas, Advocacy & Dialogue

From Our Blog — [weblog.savetibet.org](http://weblog.savetibet.org)

## Sadness and Anxiety over the Self-Immolation in Nepal

By Todd Stein, February 15, 2013



Todd Stein

act in Kathmandu has brought me more anxiety and worry.

On an emotional level, it may be because I know and have a personal connection to the *stupa* (shrine) at the center of the Boudhanath neighborhood where the act occurred. On a professional level, I worry that the negative marginal consequences for the Tibetan population in Nepal are greater than those faced in towns on the Tibetan plateau. Arguably, the Tibetan refugees have relatively more to lose if this self-immolation precipitated a further downgrade in their conditions following Chinese pressure.

This population is increasingly vulnerable. Thousands lack papers and do not have the legal right to work, own property, or send their children to school. The severely dysfunctional Nepalese government has not acted to solve this problem. The Chinese government sees Tibetans in Nepal as a source of agitation and a mouthpiece for “splittism,” and it has put immense pressure on Nepal to clamp down on “anti-China activities.”

Past may be prologue here. In response to the 2008 uprising on the Tibetan plateau, Tibetans in Nepal held demonstrations in front of the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu. The result was a series of detentions under pressure from the Chinese Embassy. The reality that many of the protestors lacked legal standing in Nepal

increased their vulnerability. Over time, the Tibetan community came to understand that the risks outweighed whatever benefits they derived from demonstrating. Since 2008, Chinese interference has only made things worse. Tibetans cannot freely assemble in public without raising suspicions. Surveillance has increased. Local elections have been blocked.

I fear that the self-immolation by Drongchen Tsering may make things worse. Let us hope this was an isolated act and doesn't portend a larger trend. And that Tibetans in Nepal are not subject to further restrictions and vitriol from the Chinese. Lastly, let's wish that Nepalese politicians can get back on the path of constitutional reform, to create the opportunity for a process to provide legal standing for the long-staying Tibetan residents of Nepal.

*Shortly before going to press, we were informed that the body of Tibetan monk Drongtse, who set fire to himself in Kathmandu on February 13, was cremated by Nepalese authorities late at night without appropriate Buddhist rituals being performed with the body. This happened despite appeals for such rites by the Tibetan community, which were also backed by representatives of the international community in Nepal.*

## Solidarity with Tibetans on Losar (New Year)

By Melissa Jimison, February 11, 2013



Melissa Jimison

*Losar Tashi Delek!* Today marks the first day of the Tibetan New Year, Losar. At this time of increased tumult inside Tibet, I am especially thinking about our brave Tibetan brothers and sisters inside Tibet and the challenges they face. I'm thinking about families who are unable to celebrate this Losar together. I want them to feel the embrace of compassionate people outside of Tibet who care about them and stand with them. At the end of last year,

ICT collected messages of solidarity from Tibet supporters worldwide. Thousands of people signed our “Season of Solidarity” message, but others wrote more personalized notes. Some of those follow. May the year of the Water Snake 2140 bring peace to Tibet and the Tibetan people.

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Dear people of Tibet,

I think of you every day and what you are going through. I fly the Tibetan flag over my front door because you cannot. Know that we care and are trying and we will never stop telling your story and asking the world to relieve your suffering. Know that it will happen.

Most sincerely,  
Gail H.

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Tibetan People,

Tashi delek! Everyday I meditate on compassion and love for all sentient beings; the people of Tibet always weigh heavy in my heart though and the struggle that you endure each day. Please know that you are in my thoughts and that I am behind you in every step you take towards peace in Tibet.

Please know that you are not alone on your path to justice and peace for all the people of Tibet. You have my support, my admiration, and my solemn promise that I will not allow the plight of your people to be hidden from the world's conscience. I am with you. The world is with you. Take heart.

Most sincerely,  
Brittany H.

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We pray that the Chinese people will soon force their government to adopt a more humane and loving attitude toward their Tibetan brothers and sisters on this Earth. Remember, Truth and Goodness always prevail in the end, so you will ultimately be victorious in spite of unimaginably horrible losses on the way to your destination.

Most sincerely,  
Devki J.

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*More messages of solidarity can be read at [weblog.savetibet.org](http://weblog.savetibet.org)*

# On the Ground In Tibet

In a letter to ICT, an American traveler to Tibet describes what she witnessed on a recent trip.

By Mary Barrett, January 14, 2013

As a recent traveler to Tibet, I witnessed China's extreme response to the self-immolations. It has long been difficult for journalists to enter Tibet and witness the intimidation, detentions, and arrests related to these actions. Since the middle of June, foreign travelers are sometimes being denied entry, and existing permits have been cancelled on short notice. When my companions and I first entered the country, open Wi-Fi was available, and we were able to send a few photographs out by email. But by the time we left, the open Wi-Fi had been closed.

Lhasa is on lockdown. All entries to the Jokhang and Barkhor squares are secured, and all streets in the Jokhang area are under constant patrol. At the entrance to Jokhang Square, bags are x-rayed, permits and Tibetan IDs are checked, and pilgrims without Lhasa residency are detained. A foreign group could not linger, but the same was not true for the large number of Chinese tourists. In the old city and surrounding the Jokhang, patrols of five officers

pass almost every five minutes during the day. *All of them have fire extinguishers strapped to their backs.* Additional police, a fire truck, and five large police vehicles stand ready at the entrance to Jokhang Square.

As non-Tibetans or Chinese, we were accompanied by security when going through Jokhang and Barkhor. Plain-clothes Chinese security photographed us. We were denied

entry as a group to the public square in front of the Potala Palace. Our scheduled time to enter the Potala was cancelled just an hour after it was reported to us while the large Chinese groups continued to gain access. We asked about doing the kora around the Potala and were denied.

More important is what is happening to the residents of Lhasa and to the Tibetan pilgrims who travel to Lhasa. Police and security are knocking loudly at residences in the middle of the night, asking for residency ID. Public buses are stopped, and Tibetans are removed. This is not happening to Chinese residents or tourists, and it causes great pain and frustration. Checkpoints on the roads into Lhasa are stopping travelers, and pilgrims from outside are being turned back.

Meanwhile, Chinese tourists are being told Tibetans are dangerous and may want to harm them. However, large groups of Chinese tourists continue to enter Tibet, many with the purpose of shopping. We were told that statistics of foreign visitors remain falsely high because the Chinese tourists are categorized as "foreign." All trekkers are absent, and the Everest base camp in Tibet is closed.

We receive daily updates from Syria and Egypt of the oppressive and increasingly deadly conditions their citizenries are forced to endure because of brutal authoritarian governments. The Tibetans have long suffered the erosion of their freedoms, and they are desperate. As one Tibetan said to me about the searching and detention of Tibetan citizens while the Chinese move freely, "This is my place." He did not say, "This is my home" or "This is my country" but "This is my place. This is where I am."

When will Tibetans feel safe and supported in their own place?

**"Police and security are knocking loudly at residences in the middle of the night, asking for residency ID. Public buses are stopped, and Tibetans are removed."**



Soldiers march through Barkhor Square with fire extinguishers strapped to their backs.



A patrol passes through sections of Lhasa nearly every five minutes during the day.

PHOTOS © MARY BARRETT

# Tibet in the News

## My Nephew Self-Immolated for Tibet

By Tsering Kyi, Excerpted from the *Washington Post*, January 29, 2013



Tsering Kyi

The early morning call from my relatives in Tibet woke me in my Washington, DC, apartment. I heard people crying and yelling and sounds of protest in the local dialect of my hometown Amchok in eastern Tibet. I knew something terrible had happened. Villagers told me, “Your nephew set himself on fire around 2 pm today.”

On January 12, my nephew Tsering Tashi became the first Tibetan self-immolator of 2013. How did such an idea occur to my humble nephew? It was only a few

days back when we spoke on the phone. He said to me, half joking, half serious, “I see you often on TV... Don’t you have any nice *chupas* [traditional Tibetan robes] to wear?”

I teased him back. This was my last conversation with him. I had not seen my nephew or other family members since 1999, when I escaped the Chinese, arriving in India as a refugee. I later moved to America.

My nephew Tsering Tashi was only eight years old when I left home. Because I recited the Tibetan alphabet *Ka, Kha, Gha, Nga*, at home, his name for me was “sister Ka-Kha.”

On the morning of the day he set himself on fire, he asked his fellow herdsmen to look after his yak and sheep. In the fold of his woolen robe, the others did not see the bottle of gasoline.

My nephew, in his thick woolen *chupa*, was seen in the town engulfed in flames and calling out the name of “His Holiness the Dalai Lama.”

Tibetans threw stones to keep the police and army away from my nephew’s body for as long as they could. My brother was called to identify the disfigured self-immolator. The police blocked the way of monks who tried to come to pray over my nephew’s body. They turned away anyone who came to offer condolences.

An old member of the family said to me, “They ordered us to have a quick funeral without monks. We have our Tibetan tradition of arranging a funeral... But the police are coming here again and again.”

How do I live with the fact that my beloved nephew was burned into bone and ashes beyond recognition? Through the immensity of his own grief, my brother tried to comfort me: “I don’t think that my beloved son died without meaning or reason.” Deep down, I too believe that the flames will illuminate our struggle for freedom and bring a ray of hope to my suffering homeland.

My dear nephew—your sister Ka-Kha will keep your last words in her heart. Sleep in peace.

## Tibet Is Burning

By Op-Ed Contributor Xu Zhiyong, Excerpted from the *New York Times*, December 12, 2012

Beijing—Around noon on Feb. 19, an 18-year-old named Nangdrol set himself on fire near the Zamthang Monastery in the northeast Tibetan town of Barma. In a note left behind, he wrote, “I am going to set myself on fire for the benefit of all Tibetans.” Referring to China’s ethnic Han majority as “devils,” he added, “It is impossible to live under their evil law, impossible to bear this torture that leaves no scars.”

I first visited China’s far west 21 years ago. When I returned in October, I had to hitch a ride to Barma. I was the third passenger in the car; the other two were young Tibetans. “Pardon me, but do you hate the Hans?” I asked them. When I told them I was there to visit Nangdrol’s parents to express my sadness, they said they’d been to the site where he died, as hundreds of Tibetans had: “He is our hero.”

It was dark when we arrived in Barma. One of my fellow passengers asked a man for directions but was waved off. He asked two men on motorcycles and an argument broke out. Two men jumped out of a minivan and upbraided him indignantly for bringing me there. Fear and hostility shrouded the place like night. “We are Tibetans,” he said as we left Barma. “We are Buddhists, but we can’t go to Lhasa without a permit.”

The next day, I returned to Barma. A teenage monk asked several of his peers but got no answers. Passers-by shook their heads. The road back from Barma was open only from noon to 1 pm. I had to leave. Reluctantly, I climbed into a cab. I had been to many places over the years but never felt so lost.

I stopped the driver a mile or so down the road. After my repeated pleadings, the roadside shop owner gave me directions to Nangdrol’s home. It was a small mud-plastered house. The iron gate was locked. A middle-aged woman, passing by, said his parents now live on a faraway cattle farm. The day of his death, she told me, he wore new clothes, and he was freshly bathed, with a fresh haircut.

I didn’t know how else to express my sorrow. I asked the woman to give 500 yuan (about \$80) to Nangdrol’s parents, letting them know that a Han Chinese man had come to pay his respects.

I am sorry we Han Chinese have been silent as Nangdrol and his fellow Tibetans are dying for freedom. We are victims ourselves, living in estrangement, infighting, hatred and destruction. We share this land. It’s our shared home, our shared responsibility, our shared dream—and it will be our shared deliverance.

**“I am sorry we Han Chinese have been silent as Nangdrol and his fellow Tibetans are dying for freedom. We are victims ourselves, living in estrangement, infighting, hatred and destruction.”**

# 25 Years of Advocacy for Tibet

For a quarter of a century, ICT has worked to promote human rights and democratic freedoms for the people of Tibet. With the collaboration and guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, we have provided support to Tibetans in exile, intervened on behalf of political prisoners, and helped amplify the voices of Tibetans inside and outside Tibet. We have called the world's attention to the oppression and brutality suffered under Chinese authority. Without question, our work has only been possible because of the steadfast determination and compassion of our supporters. On the occasion of our twenty-fifth anniversary, co-founder Michael van Walt shares his comments on ICT's history as the first organization to lobby for Tibet on Capitol Hill.

**Michael van Walt, Co-Founder:** The year 1988 may be the official date of incorporation, but we started the work of ICT around 1986. I came to Washington, DC, in the beginning of 1985. At that time, there wasn't any active lobbying for Tibet in Washington. Then Tenzin Namgyal Tethong, Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari and, shortly after that, Michele Bohana established ICT. The work in Washington had started taking off already in connection with the first visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the U.S. in 1979.



Some members of Congress in the Senate and the House, like Senator Claiborne Pell and Congressman Charlie Rose and their staff (Mary Beth Markey and Keith Pitts, respectively), were excited by

**ICT was created to be a means through which His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the government in exile could be effectively heard.**

His Holiness' visit and became serious supporters of the cause. Joel McCleary, who was a staffer in the White House at the time, was very instrumental in making the visit happen and later became involved also in the development of ICT.

In 1987, His Holiness the Dalai Lama presented his Five Point Peace Plan at the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in

Washington. That was his first official political statement in the West and a "game-changer," as people in Washington might say. This led to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Strasbourg Proposal, in which he set out the contours of a solution for the Tibet issue, which did not entail a separation of Tibet from the PRC. That statement was delivered at the European Parliament in 1988, and before we knew it, His Holiness was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

This was all part of a serious effort of His Holiness to resolve the tragic situation in Tibet, but one that required the internationalization of the issue—not to hurt or embarrass China, but to draw the attention of the world to what was happening in Tibet, since the Chinese government was unwilling to listen to the Tibetans and address their grievances. The Tibetans were now taking the

initiative and determining the international conversation instead of reacting to Chinese government actions.

ICT was very much part of the worldwide effort to lobby governments and engage with people internationally. It was not established to be a U.S. lobbying organization—it was actually set up to be the international organization that it is today. For a long time, it was indeed U.S.-focused, and it became a campaign organization soon after its conception because of the need that arose as a result of the outburst of demonstrations in Lhasa in 1987. In order to capitalize on the large number of young people, like John Ackerly, who witnessed their repression and were committed to helping Tibetans, ICT became part of channeling that new momentum and energy.

At the time, because there hadn't really been sustained effective lobbying on the Hill and at the State Department, ICT was created to be a means through which His Holiness the Dalai Lama



ICT believes in the importance of on-the-ground monitoring and reporting and has field operations in Kathmandu and Dharamsala for this purpose. ICT field staff are proficient in Tibetan, Chinese, and English languages. Above, a former member of the ICT field staff listens to the stories of Tibetan refugee children in India.



Left to right at ICT's first office: John Ackerly (ICT staff, 1988 and President, 1999-2009), Tenzin Chodak, Tenzin N. Tethong (ICT President, 1988-1990), Michele Bohana (ICT Director, 1988-1991), Mac McCoy, Tsering Tashi and Dr. Warren Smith.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and President George Bush just after the the Gold Medal ceremony in 2007.

and the government in exile could be effectively heard. Tenzin N. Tethong's role in the U.S. as His Holiness' representative and as one of the founders of the organization and Lodi Gyari's position as Kalon for International Affairs in the Kashag at the time were what led to the close ties and identification of ICT with His Holiness and with Dharamsala; our collaboration is the legacy of the special relationship established by these two men.

At the beginning, ICT functioned both as an independent organization and as a helping hand to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Dharamsala in facilitating contacts with Congress, State Department, White House, and others when it was difficult if not impossible for Tibetan officials to meet with U.S. government officials. When Lodi Gyari—who became Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Washington—came to head ICT, that aspect of its work only grew stronger. With ICT's expansion to Europe, first in Amsterdam, then Berlin and Brussels, with the field offices in India and Nepal, and now the new partnership with Australia's ATC, the *International Campaign for Tibet*, as originally conceived, is now a reality.

When we look back at the history of the organization, ICT has certainly done quite well at helping to internationalize the issue of Tibet and at impacting policy on the Hill and policy of successive administrations as well as of governments in Europe. In terms of communicating and gaining support among the people, we have also experienced tremendous success.

A lot of what ICT started out to do has been achieved, though not in terms of changing policy of China in Tibet. But we need to realize that change will mainly have to come from within China and Tibet, where it is the people who must be in the driver's seat. From the outside, we must speak out, support the Tibetan people, and maintain the pressure to help them bring about the changes they want and need. This is critical, because if we don't help to keep the issue truly alive internationally, change may not happen in time.



Since 2009, ICT has organized a Lobby Day and training in Washington, DC for Tibetan-Americans and their American supporters. This annual event has spread to other national capitals around the world.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama met with President Barack Obama at the White House in July 2011.

# Inside Tibet

## Ongoing Self-Immolations in Spite of Harsh Crackdowns

Twenty-one more Tibetans have set themselves on fire since our last report, bringing the total to 114 since February 27, 2009. At least 93 of those who have self-immolated have died. Meanwhile, the Chinese government has intensified its efforts to blame His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the protests, and to bring criminal action against Tibetans it accuses of “inciting” self-immolations. The new leaders installed during the Chinese government’s transition of power in November 2012 have not eased the harsh policies toward Tibet. Self-immolations have been ongoing in spite of aggressive crackdowns, attesting to the anguish of the Tibetan people. With sadness and regret, we present the Tibetans who have chosen self-immolation as a non-violent act of protest since our last edition on December 4, 2012.

### UPDATE

It has been confirmed that Passang Lhamo, a 62-year-old Tibetan woman, traveled to Beijing and self-immolated on September 13, 2012 after authorities refused to allow her to retain her home despite her repeated appeals to the central authorities. She was taken to a hospital and treated for her burns. Her whereabouts remain unknown, a reminder of the difficulty of confirming information in Tibet. **Wellbeing: Unknown**

### APRIL 16, 2013

Chugtso, 20 years old, died after self-immolating in the Tibetan area of Dzamthang (Chinese: Rangtang) county, Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

### LATE MARCH/EARLY APRIL, 2013

An unidentified Tibetan woman of an unknown age self-immolated in protest over the planned destruction of her home in Kyegudo (Chinese: Yushu) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province, according to Radio Free Asia’s Tibetan service. She is the third Tibetan from Kyegudo to self-immolate over land-rights issues related to reconstruction following a 6.9-magnitude earthquake in 2010. The woman’s condition is believed to be not life-threatening, but details are still being confirmed. **Wellbeing: Unknown**

### MARCH 26, 2013



Konchok Tenzin, 28, was a monk at Mokri monastery. He died in the course of protest, and his body was cremated the same night so as not to be confiscated by authorities, accord-

ing to Kirti monks in exile. Following the incident, security forces were deployed in large numbers, and a strict crackdown was imposed. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

### MARCH 25, 2013

A Tibetan forest guard set fire to himself in Sangchu (Chinese: Xiahe), Gannan in Gansu Province. In contrast to other self-immolators, Lhamo Kyab, 43, appears to have poured petrol over a pile of logs, set them alight, and then placed himself amidst the flames, according to Tibetan sources in exile. An image received from Tibet depicts what can barely be discerned as human remains on bare earth, near a pile of wood, with denuded steep hillsides beyond. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

### MARCH 24, 2013



Kalkyi, 30, immolated herself close to Jonang Gonchen monastery in Dzamthang Dzong. She was a nomad from Poewa Tsang family in Barwa Shang, Zamthang Dzong (Chi-

nese: Rangtang Xian) in Ngapa prefecture. Kalkyi left behind four children under 15, and her husband Trube.

**Wellbeing: Deceased**

### MARCH 16, 2013



A 28-year-old Kirti monk called Lobsang Thogme set fire to himself and died on the fifth anniversary of a protest in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba), eastern Tibet, in which armed police fired

into an unarmed crowd. He is the third Kirti monk to set fire to himself on the anniversary of the crackdown in 2008. In a translation from the Tibetan, the Kirti monks in exile said: “Before reaching the gate, he fell to the ground. By that time, many monks and laypeople reached the spot, and he was taken to the county hospital, but passed away soon after. It is not known what he shouted during his protest. On arrival at the hospital, a large force of police and soldiers came there and forcibly took possession of his remains, which they then took to the prefecture headquarters at Barkham.” **Wellbeing: Deceased**

### MARCH 13, 2013

A Tibetan woman called Kunchok Wangmo, 31, self-immolated in Dzoge (Chinese: Ruo’ergai) in Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture. Kunchok Wangmo’s body was taken away by troops immediately after her self-immolation. Her husband, Drolma Kyab, was detained in Dzoge, Ngaba and his whereabouts are unknown. The couple has an 8-year-old daughter. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

### FEBRUARY 25, 2013

Two separate immolations occurred on this date. A monk called Sangdag of unknown age set fire to himself around 10 am on a road south of Ngaba town (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan. Sangdag was a monk from the Diphu monastery (Sakya school) in Ngaba Dzong.

On the same day, a second individual, Tsesung Kyab, in his late 20s, set fire to himself in front of the main temple of Shitsang Gonsar monastery in Luchu County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu province. Harrowing images show

Tsesung Kyab ablaze as pilgrims look on.  
**Wellbeing: Sangdag, Unknown; Tsesung Kyab, Deceased**

#### **FEBRUARY 24, 2013**

Phagmo Dundrup, in his early 20s, self-immolated on an evening when hundreds of Tibetans were present at the Chachung monastery, an important and ancient Gelugpa monastery in Tsoshar Prefecture in Qinghai province, for a traditional prayer ceremony and presentation of butter-lamps of the Buddha and other deities. According to information from Tibetan sources in exile, monks tried to extinguish the flames after Phagmo Dundrup set himself ablaze. The monks took him to the hospital, but he passed away in a hospital in Xining. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

#### **FEBRUARY 19, 2013**



Two individuals immolated alongside one another on this date. Rinchen (pictured), 17 years old, and Sonam Dhargye, 18, both died after setting fire to their own bodies in protest

against the Chinese government in Dzoge Township, Ngaba County, eastern Tibet around 9:30 pm. According to the same sources, the families were able to recover their bodies. Rinchen and Sonam attended primary school in Kyangtsa Township. Rinchen had been working away from home and returned for the Tibetan New Year (Losar) holiday.

**Wellbeing: Rinchen, Deceased; Sonam Khargye, Unknown**

#### **FEBRUARY 17, 2013**

A 49-year-old Tibetan man called Namlha Tsering set himself on fire in the main street of Labrang, Gansu (the Tibetan area of Amdo), not far from Labrang monastery. Images emerged showing a man huddled on the road amidst traffic, his body ablaze. Chinese police and paramilitary arrived quickly on the scene and removed Namlha Tsering. It is not yet known whether he is still alive.

**Wellbeing: Unknown**

#### **FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

Drugpa Khar, who was in his 20s, doused himself in gasoline and set himself on fire in Amchok town in Sangchu (Xiahe) County in Kanlho (Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu, on the third day of the Tibetan New Year, according to Tibetan sources in exile and Radio Free

Asia's Tibetan language service. Drugpa Khar was a father of three children aged between one and six years old. He was born in Lushu Kyi village in Tsoe, Kanlho, the Tibetan area of Amdo.

**Wellbeing: Deceased**

#### **FEBRUARY 3, 2013**



Lobsang Namgyal, in his mid-30s, had been a monk at Kirti monastery in Ngaba. His ashes have not been returned to his family, according to the monks. Lobsang Namgyal was known

as an exceptional student at Kirti monastery who had been tapped to study for the highest qualification in Tibetan Buddhism, a Geshe degree. "He was regarded as a model for a new generation of students at Kirti," the Kirti monks in exile said in a statement in Tibetan. He self-immolated outside the Public Security Bureau of Dzorge (Chinese: Ruergai/Zoige) County in Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province.

**Wellbeing: Deceased**

#### **JANUARY 22, 2013**



Konchok Kyab (also known as Konba), 26, set fire to himself around noon to protest China's policy on Tibet, and he passed away after the incident. He self-immolated between the

local monastery and Bora Shang. Konchok Kyab was from the Gyara village in Bogtsa unit in Bora Shang, Sangchu Dzong, or Labrang, Gannan prefecture in Gansu province. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

#### **JANUARY 18, 2013**

A man in his 20s who has been named as Tsering set himself on fire in Drachen village, Marthong County, Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan province. He passed away at the scene and his body was taken away by Chinese police, according to Tibetan exile sources. He is survived by his wife and two children. **Wellbeing: Deceased**

#### **JANUARY 12, 2013**

Following 22-year-old Tsering Tashi's self-immolation in the main street of Amchok township, Chinese police and Public Security Bureau officials arrived in several vehicles. They barred the monks of Amchok



monastery and local lay Tibetans from offering prayers and ordered Tsering Tashi's family members to cremate the body as soon as possible. When the family initially said that they

needed to perform the customary religious rituals for a death, they were threatened and told that they would be responsible for the consequences if they refused. Tsering Tashi was married to Yumtso Kyi and is survived by his wife, parents, and two sisters. He was described by Tibetans who knew him as "good-natured and polite" with a keen passion for horses and horse-racing.

**Wellbeing: Deceased**

#### **DECEMBER 9, 2012**

Seventeen-year-old student Wangchen Kyi died after setting fire to herself at around eight in the evening in the Dokarmo nomadic area of Tsekhog (Chinese: Zeku) County in Malho (Chinese: Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai (the Tibetan area of Amdo). Wangchen Kyi called for the long life of the Dalai Lama and of the Tibetan people as she set herself ablaze, according to reports from exiled Tibetans in contact with people in the area.

**Wellbeing: Deceased**

#### **DECEMBER 8, 2012**

Two individuals immolated separately on this date. Twenty-four-year-old monk Kunchok Pelgye set fire to himself outside Taktsang Lhamo Kirti monastery in Dzoege, in Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan (the Tibetan area of Amdo). Kirti monks told ICT, "As he self-immolated, monks gathered around him in shock and began to recite a prayer...His remains were carried back to his room, and the hundreds of monks continued to chant prayers dedicated to him."



The second individual, Pema Dorjee, 23, had traveled from his home to the Shitsang Garser monastery in Luchu (Chinese: Luqu) in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu

province, to pray at the anniversary of Tsongkhapa's passing. Pema Dorjee shouted that the Dalai Lama should be allowed to return to Tibet, and called for the unity of the Tibetan people.

**Wellbeing: Both Deceased**

# Special Report

International Campaign for Tibet, January 18, 2013

## Chinese State Media Blame “Dalai Clique” and Announce Detentions in Aggressive Security Drive against Tibetan Self-immolations

According to a January 15, 2013 report carried on *Xinhuanet.com*, after the self-immolation and death of a young Tibetan man, Sangay Gyatso, in Gansu province last October, the local Public Security Bureau immediately set up a “full strength” task force and “successfully caught key members of the overseas Dalai Clique’s Tibetan Youth Congress.” The report claims that certain Tibetans—who attended an important Tibetan Buddhist teaching, the Kalachakra, in India last year and subsequently returned to Tibet—were arrested for organizing “the premeditated incitement to self-immolate, resulting in the death of one person.”

The strong statement, which appears to be aimed at a Chinese audience, is indicative of an increasingly aggressive strategy of reprisals against friends, family and others who may be connected in some way to Tibetans who self-immolate. Hundreds of Tibetans were detained and subjected to ‘re-education’ upon their return from this major religious teaching by the Dalai Lama. The detentions indicated apparent fears by the authorities of a spread in unrest following a series of self-immolations and protests in eastern Tibet.

**“If Tibetans are indeed taking their lives to say repression must end, and the authorities are answering them with further repression, then where is the solution?”**

The Tibetan Youth Congress, a worldwide organization of Tibetans based in Dharamsala, India, described the charges as “ridiculous,” with TYC Joint Secretary Tenzin Norsang telling the *New York Times*: “Those who are self-immolating have been living under Chinese rule for more than 50 years—they don’t need anyone to tell them what to do.” TYC President Tsewang Norbu issued a statement saying that his organi-

zation would never encourage anyone to self-immolate, and that the accusations are meant to deflect blame from failed Chinese policies in Tibet.

Mary Beth Markey, President of ICT, reacted to the arrests, saying: “Tibetans are sadly familiar with the use of punitive measures as an official state response to protest. But, in the context of nearly 100 Tibetan self-immolations, a police response is extremely callous and certainly devastating to the Tibetans who have been caught up in this exercise of misplaced blame. If Tibetans are indeed taking their lives to say repression must end, and the authorities are answering them with further repression, then where is the solution? A humane response that addresses legitimate grievances is urgently required.”

A Tibetan living in exile, Choegyam Tso, who knew Sangay Gyatso, the Tibetan whose self-immolation set into motion the police response, told Dharamsala-based *Voice of Tibet* radio: “He was a very honest person and he cared about young people and respected elders. The Chinese government makes up its own stories rather than face the reality of the situation on the ground.”

Sangay Gyatso lived in the town of Tsoe in Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu province (the Tibetan area of Kham). In December, the *Gannan Daily*, the local government-run paper in Gansu Province, outlined sweeping measures issued by China’s judicial and law enforcement authorities. According to the directives, those “criminals” who “actively participate in inciting, coercing, enticing, abetting, or assisting others to carry out self-immolations, will be held criminally liable for intentional homicide in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Criminal Law of the People’s Republic of China.”

Also in December, *Xinhuanet* reported the detention of a Tibetan monk from Kirti monastery in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture,

Sichuan province. The 40-year old monk, Lorang, or Lobsang, Konchok and his 31-year old nephew Lorang, or Lobsang, Tsering, are reportedly accused of playing a role in inciting several self-immolations. According to the *Xinhuanet* report, the two Tibetans had passed on information about self-immolations to Tibetans in India. From March 2008, when protests swept across Tibet, and continuing since the self-immolations began in November 2009, the Chinese government has engaged in a comprehensive cover-up of the torture, disappearances and killings in Tibet, and has prosecuted cases against Tibetans for the passing on of information from Tibet to the outside world.

### Keep Informed, Connect with ICT

Join us for the online conversation at our blog at [weblog.savetibet.org](http://weblog.savetibet.org)



Visit our website in Chinese at [www.liaowangxizang.net](http://www.liaowangxizang.net)

“Like” us on Facebook. International Campaign for Tibet



For up-to-the-minute news, follow



@SaveTibetOrg (in English)

@BhuchungTsering (in Tibetan)

@LiaoWangXiZang (in Chinese)

Share us with your contacts and join in the Tibet conversation. The more people who care about Tibet, the bigger the impact we can have!

# Spotlight on Chinese Engagement

Since the organization's founding, Chinese engagement has been an important part of the work of ICT. Members of the Chinese Outreach team—including Bhuchung K. Tsering, Vice President of Special Programs; Rinchen Tashi, Deputy Director for Chinese Outreach; and Pema Wangyal, Research Analyst—outline the scope of their work in the Chinese-speaking community.

On November 15, 2012, Chinese leader Xi Jinping said in his first speech as Communist Party leader, "China needs to learn more about the world, and the world also needs to learn more about China." Our goal is to contribute to Chinese learning about the world, specifically where Tibet is concerned. Ninety-five percent of Tibetans live inside Tibet, and the Chinese people don't see or interact with them. We want to improve the understanding of concerns about human rights and democracy in Tibet and to increase communications between Tibetan and Chinese people. It is very important that we remember that it's not the Chinese people who are bad, it's the system that is bad.

One key strategy for reaching people is our 28-page Chinese-language newsletter, *Liaowang Xizang* (Tibet Monitor). Since 2002, ICT has published news from inside Tibet for a Chinese-speaking audience. On a bi-monthly basis, our team distributes 4,300 copies of each issue. About 2,000 copies go to government officials, major university libraries, Tibet scholars in Beijing and Shanghai, teacher training schools in Tibet, and other key stakeholders inside China and Tibet. Each county in Tibet receives five copies. We send the remaining copies to readers in Taiwan, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and North America, as well as Chinese-speaking Tibetans in India, Nepal, and elsewhere. Refugees who arrive in India and Nepal often do not have English language skills, but they can read unbiased reports on what is happening in Tibet in *Liaowang Xizang*. It's essential that we distribute the newsletter in print rather than electronically, which would trigger Internet censorship. Most readers receive two copies—one to keep, one to share.

*Liaowang Xizang* provides a counterbalance to the Chinese-language propaganda and tries to foster a more informed public discourse. A businessman in Shanghai recently told us it is "the best material to learn something other than the government's po-

sition on Tibet." A few years back, the *Tibet Daily*, a state-owned paper based in Lhasa, printed images of the newsletter with an announcement of its banning, which had the effect of boosting circulation inside Tibet tremendously. We heard from a Tibetan living in exile who went back to visit his hometown and stopped to see the chief of police, a family friend. The chief opened a cabinet in his office, and there was a copy of the newsletter prominently displayed, with a picture of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on its cover.

We also use person-to-person networking opportunities and meet with Chinese scholars at academic conferences. We run a lecture series in Washington, DC, that brings together Chinese and Tibetans to discuss their views in a public forum. Many Chinese elite have an acute interest in Tibetan Buddhism, so we can connect with them on that level. And of course, social media is very important too. His Holiness the Dalai Lama supports these efforts, and he often hosts gatherings with small groups of Chinese intellectuals to discuss aspects of the Tibet issue. We help facilitate meetings with Chinese students, democracy leaders, and journalists.

People ask us whether there is hope of real change in China. Recently, we've seen harsher policies in Tibet as a reaction to the self-immolations and other protests. But at the same time, we see average Chinese citizens questioning the system, and a more positive public discourse developing. We see Chinese citizens standing up for Tibetan civil rights, which makes us optimistic. But we have to take a long-term view. In the meantime, ICT supporters play



The cover of a recent issue of the Chinese-language newsletter *Liaowang Xizang* contains the headline "Let the Fire Brighten the Road to Freedom."

a tremendous role by funding the work that we do. In the United States, our supporters have been incredibly helpful in urging the U.S. government to put pressure on China on behalf of the Tibetan people. They also share information with our team about what's going on inside Tibet when they visit.

Just prior to going to press, we received notification that deep government budget cuts have resulted in a grant we depend on to sustain our Chinese outreach activities being slashed by \$25,000. This severely threatens our ability to continue distributing the Chinese-language newsletter, *Liaowang Xizang*. To help sustain this initiative, please visit [www.savetibet.org/urgent](http://www.savetibet.org/urgent) to make a donation.

# Arts & Culture Column

## Tibetan Rappers Ask for “Respect”



Cast and crew of the controversial TV program are shown here with a message in Chinese that reads, “People demand the banning of ‘Tibet’s Secret.’”

A Tibetan group identifying itself as “Sheep Dung” has released a music video in response to a Chinese Central Television (CCTV) historical drama that they call offensive and disrespectful to Tibetan culture and religion. The TV program is “Tibet’s Secret,” written and directed by Chinese director Liu Depin and starring several Tibetan actors. The series depicts the period of history in the 1930s and 40s leading up to China’s invasion of Tibet in 1950. Its protagonist is a Tibetan Lama. Other characters include Tibetan noblemen and officials. According to reports, those who are pro-China are depicted as “good guys,” while those who are anti-China are corrupt “bad guys.”

CCTV claims that the show is based on historic fact and is educational for its Han Chinese viewers. But many Tibetans feel it is neither a true accounting of events nor an authentic representation of their culture, and that it only serves to widen the rift between the Chinese and Tibetan peoples. Rumors that a second series may be in the works have incited more controversy.

Music has long been a part of the Tibet movement. The group known as Sheep Dung chose rap, a genre with deep roots in social protest, as its medium. Though their name might sound humorous to Westerners, dung from sheep and yaks holds a powerful place in Tibetan nomadic life because it is the material that fuels the fire used for cooking and heating the home. Perhaps the members chose the name as a metaphor for fueling the fire of the Tibetan struggle. According to the blog *High Peaks Pure Earth*, their video was uploaded to a Chinese video-sharing site called Youku on February 3, 2013 but was quickly taken down the same day. By then, it had already been shared widely on Weibo, China’s answer to Twitter, and uploaded to YouTube. As of March 1, 2013, the video had more than 2,500 views on YouTube.

Performed almost entirely in Mandarin, and clearly aimed at a Chinese audience, the video opens with a call to ban “Tibet’s Secret.” As it continues, still photos of the show’s cast and crew are overwritten with red messages denouncing the program and calling the Tibetan actors “traitors.” The lyrics express frustration with

Liu Depin’s work: “Look how ugly he portrays us.” As the video continues, the news media images of the cast and crew are replaced with beautiful and iconic visions of Tibet: snow-capped mountains, the Potala Palace, Tibetan elders, hands clasped in prayer.

A clear message of Tibetan pride asserts itself throughout: “From birth, we carry names given by the Buddha. The story of our ancestors still remains on our foreheads.” The chorus is the only part of the song that is sung instead of rapped, and it is a soul-stirring tribute to Tibetans—who are referred to as “Gangchenpa,” the people of the snow mountains. According to *High Peaks Pure Earth*, the chorus is borrowed from a popular Tibetan song.

The faces of the group members are never visible in the video; identifying themselves would be highly dangerous. But there is an image of a protestor with a black baseball cap and a bandanna wrapped under his eyes—a universal symbol of defiance.

The “Respect” video and translated lyrics are available online at [weblog.savetibet.org](http://weblog.savetibet.org)

### Donor Profile: Dr. Horace Shaffer *Friend of Tibet Since 2002*

Dr. Horace Shaffer, 90, of New Hope, PA, became interested in the Tibetan cause at the time of the Chinese invasion in 1950. His travels to Kathmandu, where he saw Tibetan refugees displaced from their homes, inspired him to get involved. In 2000, he took part with Richard Gere in a march to the Chinese embassy in Washington among nearly seven thousand protestors.

He began donating to ICT that same year. Asked why he chose to contribute, he said, “Donating to ICT is an extraordinarily worthwhile contribution because it is helping Tibetans who are suffering. . . You can trust how the money is being used. For regular people, the most important thing they can do is give financial support.” Dr. Shaffer has been a practitioner of Dzogchen Buddhism for 16 years and regularly attends retreats.

*Join Dr. Shaffer as a Friend of Tibet and become a member of a small inner circle of supporters. Your monthly contribution provides the steady support that allows us to act (not just react) in defense of the people and culture of Tibet. Contact Lizzy Ludwig at [lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org](mailto:lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org) or 202-580-6767.*

# Take Action for Tibet

## Urgent Petition to Secretary of State John Kerry

A new Secretary of State gives us a great opportunity to further strengthen the U.S. State Department's position on Tibet. Secretary Kerry has a long record of support for Tibet. In 2012, he helped steer two Tibet resolutions in the Senate, and he has met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama on several occasions. The Tibetan government in exile welcomed his nomination, saying Secretary Kerry has been a "long-term friend" of Tibet.

However, at this moment, the suffering in Tibet is intensifying by the day—as evidenced by the ongoing self-immolations by Tibetans who feel they have no other way to protest China's harsh policies. Secretary Kerry is now uniquely positioned to become a powerful advocate for Tibet in the U.S. government, and we need to make sure he prioritizes Tibet among a long list of international issues that deserve his attention. Meanwhile, China's lobbyists and public relations officials are working everyday to assert their official state version of events, and we need to balance their propaganda efforts with a clear call for urgent attention to Tibet.

Please take a moment to clip this petition, sign it, and send it back to us in the attached envelope so we can deliver your message along with the others. If you choose to take independent action to encourage Secretary Kerry, please inform us at [members@savetibet.org](mailto:members@savetibet.org). We track the level of public support for Tibet, and your efforts deserve to be counted. Thank you!



PLEASE CLIP HERE:

Secretary Kerry:

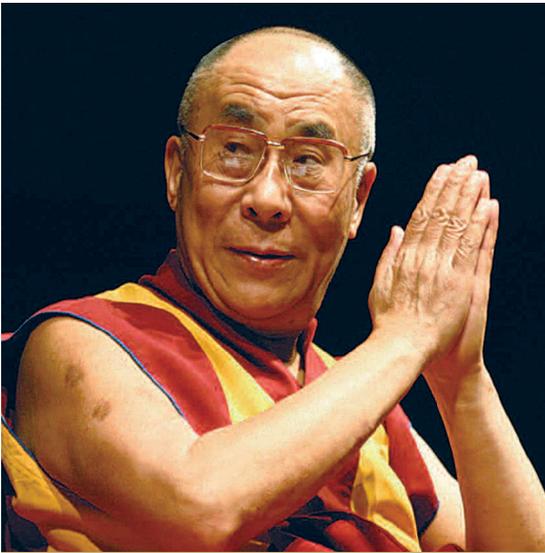
Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of State. I am counting on you to make resolution of the crisis in Tibet a priority throughout your tenure at the State Department. Specifically, I urge you to:

- Appoint a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues who will actively promote U.S. policy on Tibet that includes productive dialogue and emphasis on human rights improvements.
- Keep Tibet at the forefront of your engagement with the Chinese government to support a China rooted in respect for human dignity and universal human rights.
- Strongly support programs that fend off cultural destruction and provide necessary humanitarian assistance to Tibetans.
- Work with other governments and the United Nations to present a united front against oppression and injustice wherever it occurs—including in Tibet.

Respectfully,

(Sign here) \_\_\_\_\_





Learn more about the Dalai Lama's recent visit to the U.S. at [www.savetibet.org](http://www.savetibet.org).

## Small Gifts, Big Difference

The *Friends of Tibet* are a small inner circle of supporters of the International Campaign for Tibet who make an automatic gift each month. The steady, reliable support of our *Friends of Tibet* gives us the ability to act (and not just react) in defense of the people and culture of Tibet. Take the next step in your support by joining the *Friends of Tibet* today. Contact Lizzy Ludwig at [lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org](mailto:lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org) or 202-580-6767.



**Lobby Day, March 18-19:** More than 140 Tibetan-Americans and friends of Tibet converged on Washington, DC, this year, and nearly 7,000 ICT members sent messages to House and Senate, urging them to help solve the crisis in Tibet. Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA 24th District), pictured, met with several participants in person.