

Tibet

བོད་

PRESS WATCH

FALL 2014
*A publication of the
International Campaign for Tibet*

INSIDE:

- Travels in Exile: Dharamsala
- Police Open Fire on Tibetans
- Update on Recent Successes
- Petition to President Obama



A TIMELESS CULTURE PREVAILS

Join supporters around the world in building a better future for Tibet.

These are a few ways to invest in ICT's work.

FRIENDS OF TIBET

Become a regular supporter of ICT's advocacy for Tibet by making a recurring monthly contribution, and join a network of committed, reliable supporters across the country and around the world. Visit savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet/

PARTNERS FOR TIBET

Become a leading supporter and join a select group of ICT members who contribute \$1,000 or more. Your generosity will be recognized with exclusive benefits and opportunities to engage more deeply in our work. Visit savetibet.org/partner-for-tibet/

MANDALA SOCIETY

Join an intimate group of supporters who have chosen to create a living legacy to Tibet. Place ICT in your will or trust, make a gift of stocks, retirement funds or real estate, or participate in a gift annuity.

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Celebrate the special occasion of a friend or family member, or honor someone's memory, with a donation to support Tibet through the work of ICT. Each donation is recognized with a print or electronic card to the person you designate.

The International Campaign for Tibet depends on contributions from members to sustain its work in support of Tibet. Your generosity makes a difference.

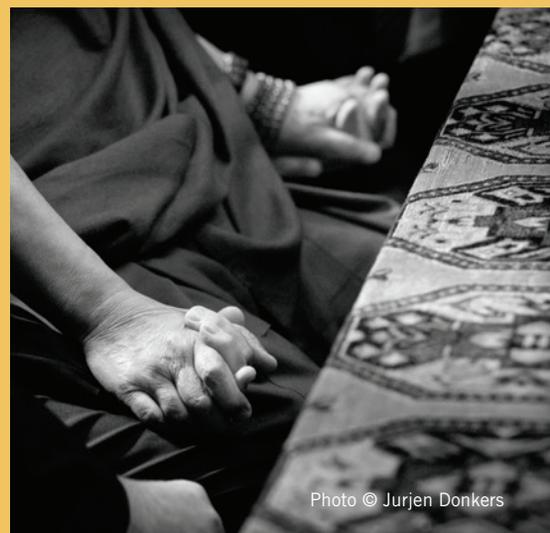


Photo © Jurjen Donkers

Learn more about these opportunities and other ways to stand with Tibetans by supporting ICT's work at savetibet.org/other-ways-to-give/ or contact Lizzy Ludwig at **202-580-6767** or lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org

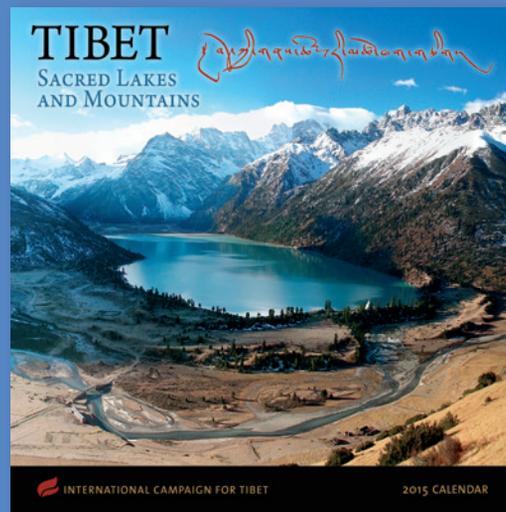
2015 CALENDAR

Sacred Lakes and Mountains

For centuries, Tibetans have looked upon their homeland as sacred and have practiced a deeply rooted tradition of pilgrimage to sacred places. The breathtaking landscape of crystal blue lakes, high peaks, and pure earth has helped cultivate the spiritual lives of the Tibetan people for generations. Pilgrimage to sacred sites in Tibet is a cultural phenomenon with religious, social, political, and even ecological significance. Every Tibetan goes on a pilgrimage at some point in life, and in doing so becomes a *Nekorwa* (one who goes around a sacred place).

The International Campaign for Tibet's 2015 calendar provides glimpses of the rich topography of sacred sites. It also brings attention to the impact and potential risks of tourism, mining, and other Chinese government policies that are enacted with little or no consideration of local Tibetan populations or the impact on the pristine landscape.

Order your 2015 calendar today for \$14.99 plus shipping at savetibetstore.org or by calling **877-259-9209**. Limited quantities are available.



In 2015, Tibetans inside Tibet will make special pilgrimages to these holy places to honor the occasion of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday.

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, DC, Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels and a field office in Dharamsala.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Gere, Chair
Lodi Gyari, Executive Chair
Gare Smith, Vice-Chair
Steve Schroeder, Treasurer
John Ackerly
Ellen Bork
Pam Cesak
Jim Kane
Marco Antonio Karam
Melissa Mathison
Joel McCleary
Keith Pitts
Grace Spring

CONTACT INFORMATION

International Campaign for Tibet
1825 Jefferson PI, NW
Washington, DC 20036
202-785-1515
www.savetibet.org
info@savetibet.org

Editorial Support

Andrea Calabretta and
Schultz & Williams

Dear Friends,

I write to you as my first year as President of the International Campaign for Tibet draws to a close. You are one of the reasons why I was so honored and proud to have been selected to serve in this role. I remain inspired by ICT's members and supporters around the world who, like you, are committed to protecting Tibet and the rights of Tibetans against the Chinese government's relentless repression.

ICT members come from across the United States and around the world. We are of varying nationalities, faiths and personal backgrounds. Our diversity is a great strength—all the more so because we are united by a vision of a peaceful, secure future for Tibetans.

This past year, one of our goals has been to internationalize the organization even more, forming partnerships around the world that allow us to support Tibet. One example was my participation in a meeting of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy in Dakar, Senegal. The WMD is a network that includes activists belonging to organizations from all over the world.

In Europe, as well, we have worked to keep Tibet on the agenda at meetings of the United Nations and European Union. Earlier in the year, a trip to Italy was an important occasion for me to advance this goal since Italy chaired the EU for six months in 2014. I also had the great pleasure to travel to the ICT-Germany office, which has made enormous strides in changing the perception of the Tibet issue in Germany, in particular among its politicians. I traveled to Amsterdam in September for a public meeting with dozens of members of ICT-Europe and was able to present to them how we are working to respond to the formidable challenges posed by China.

This year has also been focused on strengthening our communications efforts. Because we want you and many others to know more about the work we do at ICT, we have redoubled our commitment to presenting the best information possible and to reaching a wider audience. We also launched *Tibet Tidbits*, a short weekly roundup of events and information outside the mainstream media. I continue to post on my blog, *A Free Tibet in a Free World* (weblog.savetibet.org/matteo-mecacci-blog), about my personal reflections on the experiences and challenges that our global movement faces.

This newsletter is of course part of the efforts to enhance our outreach. I hope you will take the time to read this issue thoroughly, giving particular attention to the page 9 Special Report on the criminalization of self-immolations and the persecution of Tibetans who are accused of being "associated" with them. You will also find a travelogue on page 6 from a trip made to Dharamsala, India, by members of ICT's Rowell Fund Advisory Board along with some of our staff members. Please take a few minutes to sign the petition on page 11 and help us to urge President Obama to prioritize Tibet.

As you already know, I care a lot about our members and I am proud to be part of a committed and generous group of ICT supporters who I consider the backbone of the Tibetan movement worldwide.

In solidarity and with my utmost respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Matteo Mecacci". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Matteo Mecacci
President

Cover: Novice monks picnic in the grass behind Lhamo Kirti monastery, a stronghold of Tibetan national sentiment in eastern Tibet. Read a traveler's firsthand account of this area in "Observations from Amdo" on page 5.

Inside Tibet



Chinese Tourists Trample Tibetan Prayer Flags

August 22, 2014

A Tibetan recorded these images of Chinese tourists walking and sitting on Tibetan prayer flags at the top of a holy mountain in Tibet and posted them to the microblogging site Weibo (China's version of Twitter) along with this note: "The object under your feet is the faith of mine which I place above my head. The thing you have ignored is my lifelong dream. Thank you for coming, but you are not allowed to trample my dignity."

At Least Seven Tibetans Dead After Police Open Fire in Kardze, Tibet

August 28, 2014

Seven Tibetans have died in Sereshul, Kardze, Sichuan subsequent to paramilitary police shooting anti-riot projectiles into a crowd of Tibetans protesting the detention of a respected village leader on August 12, according to Tibetan sources.

The crowd of Tibetans had gathered to protest after a widely respected village leader named as Wangdak was taken from his home in the middle of the night. When local people heard that Wangdak had been detained, they gathered to protest his detention and call for his release. Paramilitary police were deployed and according to several exile sources, used teargas and opened fire on the crowd. Full details of the circumstances of the shooting are not known.

The authorities subsequently denied medical treatment to those with wounds and detained numerous other Tibetans in a sweeping crackdown of males above the age of 13 in the area. On August 17, a Tibetan named by sources as Lo Palsang from Shugba village, who had been wounded in the demonstration, was detained and committed suicide in custody. According to sources, his suicide was intended as a protest against the crackdown. A second detainee, a 22 year-old man, died from his injuries. Three additional Tibetans later died at the detention center and were identified by exile Tibetan sources as Tsewang Gonpo, 60; Yeshe, in his early forties, and Jinpa Tharchin, who was 18.

On August 18, Jinpa Tharchin's wife, who was seven months pregnant, committed suicide by hanging herself. While it could not be fully confirmed, the same Tibetan sources reported that a Chinese People's Armed Police officer had been shot. It is not known whether he died on the scene or afterwards from his injuries. There has been no mention of any such deaths in the Chinese state media, as far as can be ascertained.

Observations from Amdo

August 6, 2014

A foreign researcher and speaker of both Tibetan and Chinese provided this report from a visit to eastern Tibet.

As my plane touched down in Chengdu, capital of China's Sichuan province, I wondered what I would find on my return to Tibet. My destination was Amdo, the northernmost region of Tibet, which is divided into supposedly "autonomous" prefectures in Sichuan, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces today. Since my last visit 3 years ago these areas have witnessed enormous demonstrations, harsh crackdowns, and dozens of self-immolations. Over the following two weeks I traveled through tiny villages and big cities, speaking to nomads, monks, and shopkeepers in Mandarin and Tibetan about their lives in Chinese-occupied Tibet. What I found illustrates the paradox China faces in Tibet: Even while Beijing tightens its grasp and transforms the country, their efforts are failing on a human level. All across Tibet, people are openly and courageously displaying their discontentment with Chinese rule and their longing for the return of the Dalai Lama.

Sometimes the transformation of Tibet is a physical presence, visible to the naked eye. An hour or two outside of Xining, just



"China Dream" propaganda in Lanzhou.

beyond the noise and construction of the newly-constructed city of Ping'an, the landscape begins to change into something identifiably Tibetan. But as prayer flags and stupas begin to proliferate by the side of the road, so too do pylons, work crews, and the other signs of railway construction. Hours to the east the same work can be seen in the narrow river valleys connecting Tsoe with the first major town beyond the border of northeastern Tibet, Linxia. Arriving in Sangchu town one notices just how quickly the Chinese "quarter" has grown into a "half"...

Continue reading the full report online at bit.ly/eastern-tibet

Self-Immolation Report

With sadness, we report the first self-immolations in Tibet in five months, bringing the total to 133 self-immolations since 2009.



Lhamo Tashi

September 17, 2014

A Tibetan student in his early twenties, Lhamo Tashi, set fire to himself and died outside a government Public Security Bureau headquarters in Tsoe City, northeastern Tibet, where he was studying. After setting himself on fire at around midnight, Lhamo Tashi was taken away by police in Tsoe City, the capital of Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan

Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu Province (the Tibetan area of Amdo). A Tibetan in exile with contacts in the area said: "We do not know whether Lhamo Tashi had a specific message or left a note. But some local people believe that he chose the timing to coincide with Xi Jinping's visit to India."

Wellbeing: Deceased

September 16, 2014

A 42 year-old Tibetan, Kunchok, set himself on fire outside a police station in the Golog (Chinese: Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai Province, according to information received from inside Tibet. Kunchok's self-immolation took place in Tsangkor town in Gade (Chinese: Gande) county, but Tibetans nearby managed to extinguish the flames. Kunchok was rushed to the hospital and was deeply distressed that he had survived, according to Tibetan sources. News of this incident did not reach Tibetans in exile until October 5 due to restrictions on information and tightened security in the area.

Wellbeing: Unknown

The most up-to-date information and analysis on the self-immolations inside Tibet is available at savetibet.org

In the News

Chinese Party Official Promotes Interracial Marriages in Tibet

A senior Chinese official, Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Chen Quanguo, has urged intermarriage between Tibetans and Chinese in order to promote “ethnic unity.” At a ceremony in Lhasa in August, Quanguo congratulated 19 mixed families for their contributions to “the happiness and harmonious nature of our motherland.” His comments were promoted on the front page of *Tibet Daily*, the official Party newspaper.

Chen even spoke about the need for Party officials and departments to set themselves up as “matchmakers” for introducing couples to each other, “building a bridge to connect [singles from all ethnic groups] to their soulmates.” The state media invoked the marriage of Chinese Princess Wencheng to a Tibetan king in the 7th century, which is the main story used officially in modern China to describe the Sino-Tibetan relationship. In re-telling this story, the Chinese authorities rewrite history by using the symbolism of this marriage in an attempt

to convey that there is harmony between Tibetans and Chinese, underline their dominance over Tibet, and prove the Chinese brought “civilization” to Tibet.

“No one would object to individuals coming together of their own free choice, whatever their race or ethnicity. But the Chinese Communist Party’s attempts to set itself up as ‘match.com,’ awarding economic and social privileges to mixed couples, reveals only a cold-hearted lack of insight into what will create genuine harmony in Tibet.” —Matteo Mecacci, President of ICT

The move is unlikely to influence whom Tibetans or Chinese marry in practice, and the over-statement of the message appears to indicate official insecurities over a lack of genuine unity in Tibet. The new emphasis indicates the level to which the Chinese Party state seeks to interfere in people’s private lives, and could indicate a shift in approach on ethnic minority policy following recent statements by Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Chinese Writers and Democracy Advocates Discuss Outreach on Tibet

ICT hosted a roundtable discussion on July 17 in Washington, D.C. with Chinese writers and democracy advocates to discuss how to strengthen outreach to Chinese society on the issue of Tibet.

They discussed the present state of understanding about Tibet by the Chinese people in China and what steps the Chinese democratic community can take under the existing legal and administrative channels to help redress Tibetan social, environmental, judicial, and political grievances.

They also considered ways to counter the constant disinformation of the Chinese government on matters such as the Middle Way Approach proposal to resolve the Tibetan issue and on the concept of “Greater Tibet.” Many of them were of the opinion that if the Chinese people were informed correctly and became aware of the Middle Way Approach, they would not have any reason not to support it.



President Matteo Mecacci welcomed participants and emphasized that Chinese engagement was one of ICT’s crucial programs.

Participants also stressed the importance of pooling together available informational resources in Chinese language, and of strengthening their general outreach to Chinese people with proper information and message on Tibet.

China Losing Soft Power Battle in North America

Following up on our Spring 2014 *Tibet Press Watch* story “Battling the Chinese Narrative: The Scourge of Soft Power,” we are pleased to report that University of Chicago and Penn State University have recently severed ties with the Confucius Institutes. And on October 29, the Toronto School District cancelled its plans for a partnership with Confucius Institutes.

This follows a June 2014 statement by the American Association of University Professors recommending universities cease their relationships with Confucius Institutes. The statement reads in part, “Confucius Institutes function as an arm of the Chinese state and are allowed to ignore academic freedom. Their academic activities are under the supervision of Hanban, a Chinese state agency which is chaired by a member of the Politburo and the vice-premier of the People’s Republic of China. Most agreements establishing Confucius Institutes feature nondisclosure clauses and unacceptable concessions to the political aims and practices of the government of China. Specifically, North American universities permit Confucius Institutes to advance a state agenda in the recruitment and control of academic staff, in the choice of curriculum, and in the restriction of debate.”

The full statement is available at aaup.org/report/confucius-institutes

Nobel Laureate Summit Moving Because of Denial of Visa for Dalai Lama

Due to Chinese pressure on the South African government, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was forced to cancel plans to attend a summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to be held in Cape Town this fall. This is the third time His Holiness’ plans to travel to South Africa were thwarted. “The Nobel peace summit scheduled to be held in South Africa to honor the legacy of our fellow laureate, the late Nelson Mandela, has been cancelled as the South African government wouldn’t allow me to attend it,” the Dalai Lama said in a speech in Dharamsala, India. “This is sort of bullying a simple person.” When his fellow Nobel laureates learned His Holiness could not attend the summit, they too cancelled their plans to attend, and the summit was postponed. It will be held in another venue.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, a member of ICT’s International Council of Advisors, later said, “I cannot believe that the South African government could shoot itself in the same foot thrice over. I believed that our government had a proper pride...I am ashamed to call this lickspittle bunch my government.”

Ideas, Advocacy & Dialogue on the ICT Blog

Read more at weblog.savetibet.org

With the New EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs a New Strategy on Human Rights in Tibet is Needed

By Elena Gaita, Oct 27, 2014

ICT calls on Federica Mogherini to ensure that human rights are included at every level of EU-China relations.

The Tibet Issue and the Chinese Transition to Democracy

By Qin Weiping, Oct 8, 2014

A participant in an ICT roundtable discussion with Chinese scholars expresses his point of view on the Tibet issue.

Beijing Should Learn from the Scottish Referendum

By John N., Sept 22, 2014

State-owned Chinese news outlets strike a revealingly apocalyptic tone regarding the Scottish referendum.



Can Democratic Countries Allow Tibetan Self-Immolators to Be Called “Terrorists”?

By Matteo Mecacci, Oct 17, 2014

An ICT report shows that the Chinese government has mobilized forces against self-immolation, calling it an act of terrorism.

Visiting Exile

Travels in Exile

A group of Rowell Fund for Tibet Advisory Board members, friends, and ICT staff recently made a trip to Dharamsala, India, to meet with Tibetans in exile.



The ICT group with staff from the Lha Charitable Trust, which provides services to Tibetans including free language classes, cultural exchange programs, vocational training, health and environmental awareness education, volunteer opportunities, clothes, medicine, and a community kitchen. Lha is a past recipient of a Rowell Fund for Tibet grant to purchase equipment for photography classes.



Kalon Dickyi Chhoyang and Secretary Sonam Dagpo of the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) of the Central Tibetan Administration kindly hosted the group for dinner after the final day of the second Parliament session for 2014. They shared many of the interesting projects undertaken by the DIIR including upcoming updates to the Tibet Museum.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama founded the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives to preserve sacred Tibetan texts like the one pictured here, carried by Tibetans on the arduous journey across the Himalayas into exile. The Library's significant oral history project was the first outside Tibet and was aided by a grant from the Rowell Fund.



Members of ICT's group spun prayer wheels while doing a Kora, a clockwise circumambulation around the Tsuglagkhang, which is comprised of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's official residence, the Namgyal Gompa Monastery, The Tibet Museum, and the Tsuglagkhang Temple itself. Many Tibetan monks, nuns, and laypeople make a daily circuit on this wooded path, which includes numerous Mani stones carved with mantras, prayer flags, and prayer wheels.

The Criminalization of Tibetan Self-Immolations

Since 2009 there have been 133 self-immolations of Tibetans in Tibet whose common call has been for the return of the Dalai Lama and for freedom in Tibet. The Chinese Communist Party has responded with an intensified wave of repression, punishing those allegedly “associated” with self-immolators, including friends, families, and even entire communities.

According to guidelines announced in the state media in 2012, Tibetans can be sentenced on homicide charges based on their alleged “intent” and presumed ability to influence a Tibetan who has self-immolated. As a consequence, since 2012, at least 11 Tibetans have been sentenced to prison terms or even to death. There is no indication of a formal legislative process being observed by Chinese authorities.

This approach includes a considerable number of other sentences, detentions, and disappearances of Tibetans. The full version of this report available online lists 98 Tibetans who since 2010 have been subjected to such measures because of their alleged association to a self-immolation.

In a number of cases, there is no evidence that those convicted spoke to the self-immolator beforehand or even knew him or her. Often, there is no further detail available on the underlying legal

background. Given the systematic disregard for principles of due process in the People’s Republic of China, it must be assumed that effected Tibetans were not granted their right to a fair trial.

The Chinese authorities have also stepped up deliberate attempts to penalize families and the broader community when a Tibetan self-immolates.

Recommendations

- ICT calls for the release of those imprisoned for being associated with self-immolators, e.g. for allegedly “aiding” or “inciting” them.
- ICT calls on the international community to raise with Chinese officials the inconsistency of the measures with international and Chinese law.
- ICT calls upon the Chinese government to address the underlying grievances of Tibetans by respecting their universal rights and by entering into meaningful negotiations with the Tibetans.

Read the full report, including details on the cases of 98 Tibetans accused of associations with self-immolations, online at www.savetibet.org/acts-of-significant-evil

Spotlight on Golog Jigme

The respected Tibetan monk, teacher, and former political prisoner arrived safely in India in May after a perilous journey into exile. He worked with filmmaker Dhondup Wangchen on the powerful documentary *Leaving Fear Behind*.

Q: You were on the run from the Chinese for 20 months. Did you sometimes feel you would never make it?

A: Yes, sometimes I felt it was hopeless...[The Chinese] had tried to torture me to death...The treatment we received in prison was underpinned by a determination to defeat our spirits...they were literally trying to kill me...I thought it would be better not to die in prison but to escape Tibet. I decided that it was necessary to find another way to speak about what is happening inside Tibet. That is one of my motivations, and it provides me with strength.

Read the full interview at bit.ly/golog-jigme

Disappearances Spike Since 2009

On the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on August 30, ICT called for an end to a wave of enforced and extra-legal disappearances across Tibet, in particular following intensified repression after the self-immolations began in 2009.

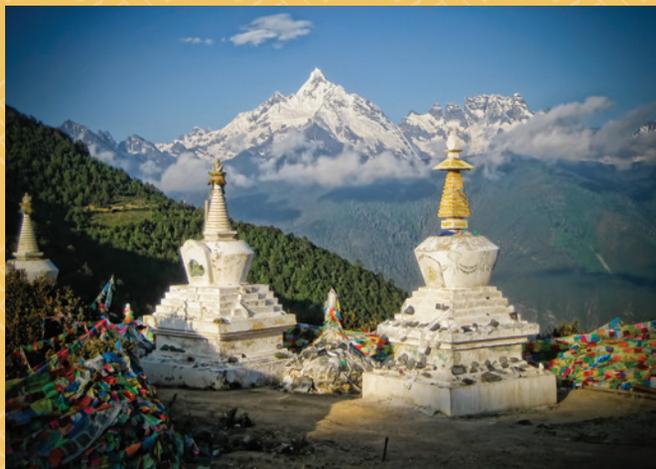
“Enforced disappearance has been used as a tactic by the Chinese authorities in Tibet to spread fear and attempt to ensure allegiance to the Party-state,” said Matteo Mecacci, President of ICT. “We are highly concerned about the ‘disappearances’ connected to self-immolations—such as friends, family, and individuals who may have simply witnessed a self-immolation.”

Read the full report online at bit.ly/enforced-disappearances

Arts & Culture

Sacred Places

Tibet is a land of sacred places—from its clear lakes to its high peaks. Pilgrimage to these holy sites is a deeply rooted tradition among Tibetans. The word for pilgrimage is “nekor,” while a “kora” is a revolution or circumambulation around a sacred site.

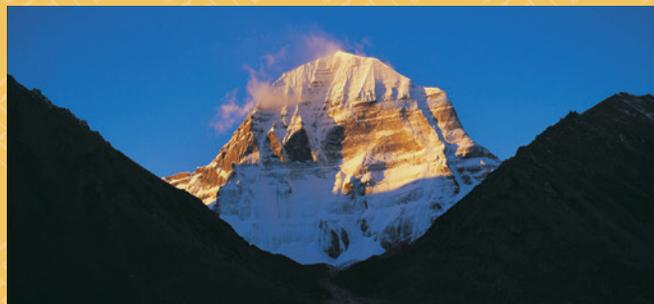


Mount Gang Rinpoche and Lake Mapham Yumtso

Early morning sunrays against holy Mount Kailash
Photo: Matthieu Ricard

Gang Tise, known as Mount Kailash internationally and as Gang Rinpoche (Precious Snow Mountain) to Tibetans, is located in Purang, in western Tibet. Lake Mapham Yumtso (Mansarovar) sits by its side. It is a holy destination for followers of four of Asia's religions—Bon, Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism—and the source of the four great rivers of Asia. Mount Kailash is estimated to stand at 6,638 meters and has never been climbed, but thousands have traveled there every year since ancient times. One complete circumambulation of Mount Kailash is said to atone for all the sins committed in one's lifetime. The journey takes three days.

After Chinese occupation, the pilgrimage stopped completely until 1980. Thereafter, the Chinese government allowed a limited number of pilgrims to make the trek. Authorities are upgrading roads and facilities to develop tourism, but Tibetans are raising concerns about the destruction of the sacred environment.



Mount Khawa Karpo

Mount Khawa Karpo viewed from Sungtseing Monastery near Gyalthang. Photo: James Wheeler

Rongtsen Khawa Karpo (6,740 meters), located in Dechen, Kham, is worshipped by Tibetans as the sacred abode of Khawa Karpo, a warrior god. A Tibetan pilgrim's journey along the rugged outer circuit takes up to twelve days scaling mountain passes as high as 4,880 meters.

Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the region is an ecological “hot spot” with an exceptional range of plant life from subtropical scrubs to coniferous forests, alpine meadows, and glaciers; and animal life from snow leopards to golden monkeys, giant pandas, red pandas, and even blue sheep. But grave changes are taking place. The Chinese government renamed the nearby town of Gyalthang as “Shangri-La,” bringing in a large influx of Chinese tourists. Unrestricted mining nearby is an issue of grave concern.

Lake Lhamo Latso

Lake Lhamo Latso shines like a turquoise stone at the base of surrounding mountains.
Photo: Aitar Sellig



Lhamo Latso is one of the most important “vision” lakes of Tibet, located southeast of Lhasa. It is said that Palden Lhamo, the female guardian spirit of the lake, promised to protect the lineage of the Dalai Lamas. Regents and senior monks go to the lake to seek guidance in choosing the next reincarnation of the Dalai Lama through visions attained while meditating there.

The lake sits at the base of a dramatic amphitheater-shaped mountain ridge. From the ridge (5,300 meters), it is a two- to three-hour trek to the lakeshore, and another hour to circumambulate the lake itself. Many Tibetan pilgrims continue to journey to Lhamo Latso, although it too has recently become an attraction for Chinese tourists.

Learn more about the sacred mountains and lakes of Tibet by purchasing a 2015 calendar at savetibetstore.org

Take Action



US President
Barack Obama

Calling All Supporters:

Urge President Obama to Prioritize Tibet

In 2014, China practiced policies of increasing repression in Tibet. These included incidents of indiscriminate use of force toward Tibetans who were peacefully protesting against the Chinese government as well as mass detention of family members, and in some instances, the detention of the entire adult male population of a village.

On August 12, troops opened fire on unarmed Tibetans protesting the detention of a popular village leader in Kham. Ten Tibetans were injured in that shooting of unarmed protestors—six of whom later died because they were denied medical attention in custody. The village leader, Wangduk, was detained because he objected when the local officials did not allow Tibetans to observe a prayer ceremony at the Denma Horse Festival. Following this

incident, the Chinese military proceeded to also detain Tibetan males over the age of 12 or 13 in the village.

In this context of increasing violence, it is vitally important that the United States continue to stand firm on its values and reiterate its concerns on the situation in Tibet. As President Obama looks to his legacy as the 44th President of the United States, we are requesting that he prioritize Tibet in his engagement with Chinese President Xi Jinping so that the US can partner with a People's Republic of China that is rooted in respect for human dignity and universal rights.

Please take a moment to clip this petition, sign it, and send it back to us in the attached envelope so that we can deliver your message along with the others. Thank you.

PLEASE CLIP HERE

President Obama:

At the prayer breakfast in Washington, DC, on February 6, 2014, you said that when you meet Chinese leaders, you stress “that realizing China’s potential rests on upholding universal rights, including for...Tibetan Buddhists...” We thank you for that statement. The Chinese continue to deny Tibetans the right to practice their religion freely by indiscriminately using force to stifle peaceful protest and denying medical attention to those injured by this use of force.

As you look to the legacy you will leave behind as the 44th President of the United States, I urge you to:

- Prioritize Tibet in your engagement with Chinese President Xi Jinping so that the US can partner with a People's Republic of China that is rooted in respect for human dignity and universal rights.
- Ask the Chinese leadership to respect the rule of law and ensure the rights of the Tibetan people.
- Take concrete steps to urge the Chinese authorities to resume talks with envoys of the Dalai Lama on the future of Tibet.

Respectfully,

(Sign Here) _____

Name _____ State _____



Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Via our websites and social media, you can keep informed about the Tibet movement and the work of ICT. "Like" us, "share" us, and help us spread the word.



Join us for the online conversation at our blog at weblog.savetibet.org

Visit our website in Chinese at liaowangxizang.net



"Like" us on Facebook.
International Campaign for Tibet



For up-to-the-minute news, follow

[@SaveTibetOrg](https://twitter.com/SaveTibetOrg) (ENGLISH)

[@SaveTibet_Tibet](https://twitter.com/SaveTibet_Tibet) (TIBETAN) རོ་བོ་ཡི་གེ

[@LiaoWangXiZang](https://twitter.com/LiaoWangXiZang) (CHINESE) 中文

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!

Small Gifts, Big Difference

The *Friends of Tibet* are a small inner circle of supporters of the International Campaign for Tibet who pledge to make a monthly automated gift. 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. Enroll online at www.savetibet.org/friends-of-tibet, or by contacting Lizzy Ludwig at lizzy.ludwig@savetibet.org or (202) 580-6767.



ICT Rowell Fund for Tibet Advisory Board members John Jancik and Terri Baker along with ICT staff and friends were received by His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Tsuglagkhang Complex in India. His Holiness offered words of gratitude for all the Rowell Fund has done to preserve Tibetan culture.

