

Weekly Tibet News Digest

Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi

21 September 2015

In the past, when nations went to war, they looked for their own victory and the destruction of their opponent. This kind of attitude is out of date because we have now become so interdependent. In defeating our neighbour we will defeat ourselves. In our increasingly globalized world, climate change and the global economy are not limited by national boundaries, they affect us all."

H. H. The XIV Dalai Lama, London Coliseum in London, England on September 20, 2015



His Holiness the Dalai Lama thanking a group of young Tibetan children who performed before his talk at the O2 Arena in London, England on September 19, 2015.

Photo/Ian Cumming

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[Glimpse of life in Tibet under China's rule](#)

AP, September 19, 2015

LHASA, China (AP) — Tibet is usually off-limits to the foreign media, but Chinese officials this week took foreign journalists on a visit to the region, almost two weeks after Beijing celebrated half-century control over the Himalayan territory.

[Thousands Gather in China's Qinghai For Tibetan Buddhist Ceremony](#)

RFA, September 18, 2015

Massive crowds converged this week at Kumbum monastery in northwestern China's Qinghai province for the start of a four-day period of advanced Buddhist rituals and teachings.

[Tibetan protesters detained less than a month ago identified](#)

TCHRD, September 17, 2015

New information received by TCHRD confirms the arbitrary detention of at least nine known Tibetans – among them are a 65-yr-old woman and a 29-yr-old mother of three – who had been detained in different incidents in the past weeks in Ngaba County town.

Restored 2,000-year-old Ashoka Stupa unveiled in Tibet

by Ananth Krishnan, Daily Mail, September 17, 2015

A restored 2,000-year-old Ashoka Stupa, that had fallen to ruin in China, was this week publicly unveiled for the first time in Nangchen, a remote Tibetan town in Yushu, with hundreds of worshippers paying their respects to a forgotten Indian Buddhist symbol in China.

Tibetan Woman is Detained in Fifth Solo Protest in Ngaba County

RFA, September 13, 2015

Authorities in southwestern China's Sichuan province have detained Dekyi Dolma, 22, a Tibetan woman after she launched a solo protest in the latest public challenge to Beijing's rule in restive Ngaba county on September 13.

IN EXILE

42 Scottish Members of Parliament Sign Tibet Petition

CTA, September 21, 2015

Forty-two members of the Scottish Parliament signed to support the 'I Stand with Tibet' petition on 15 September. The petition filed by Tibet groups in Europe on the human rights situation inside Tibet, would be presented to the European Parliament and other international bodies in November this year.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Greets Tibetans, Tibet Supporters and Addresses the Public at the O2 Arena

Dalailama.com, September 20, 2015

His Holiness's first meeting was with 700 Tibetans from Britain and other countries of Northern Europe. Entering the O2 Indigo theatre he was presented with a sea of proffered white silk scarves.

Tibetans in Switzerland Hold Rally on 30th UN Human Rights Council Meeting

CTA, September 19, 2015

A group of 70 Tibetans across five different Tibetan communities in Switzerland & Liechtenstein including Lausanne, Rapperswil-Jona, Rütli, Munchwilen and Rikon yesterday, held a peaceful rally during the ongoing 30th Human Right Council at the premises of the United Nations, Geneva.

Gandhi Peace Foundation Reaffirms its Support for Tibet Cause

CTA, September 18, 2015

A group of five delegates from Gandhi Peace Foundation attended a press conference hosted by the Tibetan Parliamentary Secretariat at Lhakpa Tsering hall, Gangchen Kyishong on September 18, 2015.

Tibetan Parliament Discuss Recommendations on Basic Education Policy for Tibetan Exiles

CTA, September 18, 2015

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile discussed at length the recommendations made by the education committee of the Tibetan parliament, with regards to a parliamentary resolution on the Basic Education Policy passed during the 8th session of the 15th Tibetan Parliament.

Ai Weiwei: To improve Tibet situation 'system must change'

Tibet Society, September 18, 2015

Chinese dissident and artist, Ai Weiwei, has said the political system in China needs to change in order for there to be an improvement in the situation in Tibet.

Visible signs of frailty as TYC hunger strikers enter first week of fasting

Phayul.com, September 17, 2015

As the indefinite hunger strike by three executive members of the largest pro independence group of the Tibetan Diaspora entered its eighth day today weakness and exhaustion have already gripped the three activists.

COLUMN

China is bringing sophisticated censorship to the US for president Xi's state visit

by Sophie Richardson, HRW, September 18, 2015

Xi Jinping's brutality is less well appreciated than that of other leaders like Russia's Vladimir Putin. But in his two years in power, Xi has reintroduced hardline rhetoric and retrograde tactics: stressing ideological purity for Communist Party members, reviving the practice of public confessions and sentencing rallies, and disappearing critics.

Yu's Claim of Stability in Tibet is Skin Deep, Says Rights Groups

VOA, September 18, 2015

While reports of protests and arrests continue in many parts of Tibet and over 140 Tibetans have self-immolated in recent years in protest of China's rule over Tibet, China's top political adviser Yu Zhengsheng said a "sustained" stability in Tibet has been achieved.

More Infrastructure on the Tibetan Plateau

by Claude Arpi, September 16, 2015

Beijing has decided to develop the infrastructure instead and bring more millions of Chinese tourists. This will not help removing Tibetan resentment.

The Tibet Question and Rise of China

by Jigme Yeshe Lama, IndraStra, September 15, 2015

It was primarily due to strategic and security concerns that the Chinese communists decided to incorporate Tibet into PRC in 1951. These are very much present in the current period with China having unresolved border issues with India. Till 1951, Tibet was the buffer zone between these two emerging Asian giants.

PRESS RELEASE

Tibetans, Uighurs, and Chinese call on Obama to confront Xi on Rights during U.S. – China Summit

SFT, September 16, 2015

Tibetan, Uighur and Chinese activists called on President Obama to speak out publicly against Xi Jinping's escalating campaign of repression in Tibet, China and East Turkestan.

STATEMENTS

Statement by Geshe Jamyang Nyima at the briefing for Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

September 17, 2015

Thank you. I would like to express my gratitude to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for this opportunity to update you on the case of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, my cousin and a Tibetan political prisoner. I am highly honored to be here to speak about Rinpoche, a revered Tibetan Buddhist leader, who died in Chinese prison on July 12, 2015.

After Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's death, his family and community asked the prison authorities how and why he died. They asked the authorities for the body of Rinpoche in order to perform Buddhist final rites as per Tibetan tradition. But the authorities withheld Rinpoche's body for several days, and finally, secretly cremated it. When Tibetans in Lithang, Rinpoche's hometown, organized a peaceful protest to demand Rinpoche's body for final rites, the Chinese police fired at them. Two of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's relatives were detained and interrogated for 5 hours. Rinpoche's sister Dolkar Lhamo and the community leaders submitted a 5-Point Appeal to the Chinese prison authorities, urging them to release the body for final rights and rituals.

However, the Chinese authorities not only withheld the body, they also prohibited any kind of religious prayers or gatherings in the region of Lithang, Rinpoche's hometown. Tibetans were banned from observing any prayers, or displaying his photographs, or lighting butter lamps, or any other religious rituals for several days.

After the secret cremation, Rinpoche's family was at first given the ashes of the body. While the family was transporting the ashes from Chengdu to Lithang, they were stopped by police in the middle of the night and the ashes were forcibly seized at gunpoint. The police then proceeded to detain Dolkar Lhamo and her daughter Nyima Lhamo. They were practically missing for 14 days, before finally being released.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was not involved in separatist activities at all. In fact, Rinpoche did not even engage in political activities. He was essentially a humanitarian and an educator who founded schools, established orphanages, and built elderly homes. He was a champion of women's rights and established nunneries to promote education for women. He established 8 monasteries to promote and protect Tibetan culture and Buddhism. His key goal was to improve Tibetan welfare and empower Tibetan people. China's accusations against him – separatism and terrorism – makes absolutely no sense.

Eventually, however, it is because of his growing influence in his region that the Chinese government targeted him and decided to take him down. As a result of Rinpoche's humanitarian work, he was become a leader with thousands of followers and China was threatened by that.

Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was arrested in 2002 by Chinese authorities for false charges of bombing in Chengdu. On January 26, Rinpoche and his nephew Lobsang Dhondup were given the death sentence. Lobsang Dhondup was executed immediately while Rinpoche's death sentence was given a two-year reprieve. In 2005, following sustained international advocacy on Rinpoche's behalf, his death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

This, then, is the plight of Tibetans who love Tibet, Tibetans who try to do something for their people. Look at the case of Shokjang, a writer in Siling who has been jailed for simply writing his opinions on paper. There is Dolma Kyab, the husband of a self-immolator. And now, to punish him for the self-immolation of his wife, Dolma Kyab has been sentenced to life imprisonment. And then there is Lolo, who is serving a six-year prison sentence for simply singing the wrong song.

Now another update I have for you is that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is paying close attention to finding the reincarnation of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, in keeping with the Tibetan Buddhist tradition of reincarnate lamas. But the Chinese government is saying that Rinpoche was not a "real reincarnate lama," thus trying to meddle in Tibetan religion. China's interference in Tibetan Buddhist tradition of reincarnation is not only cruel, it's made all the more ironic by the fact that the CCP is an atheist government. I hope that the US Congress will continue to pay attention to Tibetan efforts and processes through which the reincarnation of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche will emerge, and ensure that the Chinese government stays out of these religious traditions.

Now, as we all know, China's ruler Xi Jinping is coming to Washington, DC next week. I am taking this opportunity to urge the US Congress and the US government to publicly pressure Xi Jinping to stop the crackdown and repression in Tibet. The US has many leverages to make China change its treatment of Tibet.

For example, right now, the Chinese government does not allow any media or foreign leaders to travel to Tibet. They have put Tibet under lockdown. I believe that the US government can tell Xi that "if China does not allow us to go to Tibet, then we won't allow Chinese journalists and leaders into the US." China will respond only to this kind of reciprocity.

The US and EU are probably the two entities in this world that can have some impact on China today, especially the US. If the US remains silent right now, and if President Obama does not speak out publicly for freedom and rights during his meeting with Xi Jinping, then that means the US becomes complicit in China's repression. That would be tragic and unbearably sad for us. Therefore, I believe that the US Congress should and will urge President Obama to do the right thing.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for organizing this briefing, and for your important work in advancing freedom and human rights in Tibet and worldwide. I know from my own experience being in Tibet that every statement you put out, every resolution you pass, every letter you send, every hearing you organize, they all have a profound impact on the ground inside Tibet. These gestures and actions, no matter how symbolic, make the Chinese government more careful and restrained in its dealings with Tibet. And they also give a dose of relief to Tibetans struggling for freedom, creating more breathing room for them even if temporarily. This breathing room helps Tibetans to survive in spite of China's tyranny.

To Congressman McGovern, I would like to thank you in particular for your vision, genuine dedication and for your unstinting effort to support the Tibetan people's struggle for freedom and human rights. Every single Tibetan is indebted to you, and we all feel immensely grateful to you. I assure you that Tibetans inside Tibet are also aware of your efforts, and I venture to say that even Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, before his death in prison, was probably aware of your efforts to promote Tibetan freedom and human rights. On behalf of him, his family, and on behalf of all Tibetans, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you.

(Text Copied from TSG-L Email by SFT International)

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