

Weekly Tibet News Digest

Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi

19 January 2016

"The decision to extend this control program indefinitely in Tibet is nothing but a continuous violation of human rights. The new normal for Tibetans is the constant surveillance,"

Sophie Richardson,
China Director of Human Rights Watch



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Undersecretary Dr Sarah Sewall, the US government's Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. (Photo courtesy: @civsecatstate)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Inside Tibet:

1. Global warming could begin melting China's costly rail, oil lines in Tibet in 2020
2. China: No End to Tibet Surveillance Program
3. China Publishes List of 'Verified Buddhas'
4. Tibetan political prisoner released after 7 year jail term
5. Hotel restaurant closed down by authorities after staff threatened with fine for speaking Tibetan
6. Tibetan Language Made Equal With Chinese in County in China's Qinghai
7. Former Tibetan Prisoner in 'Critical' Condition Following Alleged Torture in Detention
8. China to double tourism revenue in Tibet's capital by 2020
9. China to build 20 showcase towns in Tibet in next 3 years

In Exile:

1. His Holiness to undergo prostate treatment
2. His Holiness the Dalai Lama Congratulates Taiwanese President-Elect
3. US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Sarah Sewall Visits Dharamshala

Columns:

1. Searching for Rinpoches...
2. Trouble in Tibet
3. Tibetan herders fight fences and floods
4. Why Are Tibetans Setting Themselves on Fire?
5. Notes from My Return Home

INSIDE TIBET

Global warming could begin melting China's costly rail, oil lines in Tibet in 2020

Tibetan Review, 19 January 2016

Some of China's huge infrastructure projects in Tibet built at massive costs due to their economic, political and strategic considerations after brushing aside warnings of environmental dangers could begin claiming catastrophic tolls as early as 2020 due to global warming.

China: No End to Tibet Surveillance Program

HRW, 18 January 2016

Chinese authorities have indefinitely extended an intensive surveillance program in villages across the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) that was due to end in 2014, Human Rights Watch said today.

China Publishes List of 'Verified Buddhas'

VOA, 18 January 2016

China has published a list of "authentic living Buddhas" of Tibetan Buddhism, saying the move is part of an effort to prevent fraudulent religious leaders from swindling money from believers.

Tibetan political prisoner released after 7 year jail term

Phayul, 15 Januar y 2016

Kelsang Khedrup, a Tibetan political prisoner was released from Mianyang prison in Wujia town in Sichuan on January 5 after completing his seven year sentence in a Chinese prison.

Hotel restaurant closed down by authorities after staff threatened with fine for speaking Tibetan

ICT, 14 January 2016

Following an outcry on social media, the local authorities in Rebkong (Chinese: Tongren), Tibet, have closed down Xiangyun Pinzhi Hotel after management threatened staff with a large fine if they spoke Tibetan.

Tibetan Language Made Equal With Chinese in County in China's Qinghai

RFA, 13 January 2016

The Tibetan and Chinese languages will now be given equal status in Rebgong (in Chinese, Tongren) county in Qinghai's Malho (Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture after a storm of protest erupted online following a local hotel's attempt to prevent Tibetan workers from speaking their native tongue.

Former Tibetan Prisoner in 'Critical' Condition Following Alleged Torture in Detention

RFA, 12 January 2016

Kelsang Tsering, former Tibetan protester was flown on Tuesday from Tibet's regional capital Lhasa to Sichuan for medical treatment for an injury sustained while being held in a Chinese prison.

China to double tourism revenue in Tibet's capital by 2020

Tibetan Review, 12 January 2016

China expects to earn 30 billion yuan per year from tourism in Tibet's capital Lhasa by 2020, nearly double the amount it did in 2015, reported China's official Xinhua news agency Jan 11. The report cited local authorities as saying this will account for over 40 percent of the local economic output.

China to build 20 showcase towns in Tibet in next 3 years

TibetanReview.net, 11 January 2016

China said Jan 9 that it will build 20 distinctive towns in the Tibet Autonomous Region over the next three years,

making them exemplary areas for comfortable living, work and tourism. With more than 80 percent of ethnic Tibetans in the region living in rural areas by official reports, the beneficiaries would be Chinese immigrants who define the TAR's urban population.

IN EXILE

His Holiness to undergo prostate treatment

Dalailama.com, 19 January 2016

His Holiness the Dalai Lama is departing Dharamshala today for the United States where he is scheduled to undergo prostate treatment at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota followed by a period of rest from the end of January 2016 for approximately one month.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Congratulates Taiwanese President-Elect

Dalailama.com. 17 January 2016

In a letter to Ms Tsai Ing-wen, President-Elect of Taiwan, His Holiness the Dalai Lama congratulated her on her remarkable victory in the Presidential election.

Related:

[Sikyong Congratulates Ms Tsai Ing-wen, first female President-elect of Taiwan](#)

[Tibetan Parliament Congratulates Ms Tsai Ing-Wen, President-elect of Taiwan](#)

US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Sarah Sewall Visits Dharamshala

Tibet.net, 15 January 2016

US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Ms. Sarah Sewall, arrived in Dharamshala today for a two-day official visit to discuss issues of importance to the Tibetan refugee community. She is accompanied by an eight-member US delegation.

COLUMN

Searching for Rinpoches...

by Claude Arpi, 19 January 2016

On January 18, a new search engine was launched, at the Guangji Temple in Beijing by officials of the United Front Work Department and the Buddhist Association of China. The State Administration for Religious Affairs affirmed that "anybody claiming to be a living Buddha who is not on the list should be considered a fake." The South China Morning Post checked and the Dalai Lama is not on it.

Trouble in Tibet

by Jane Qiu, Nature, 13 January 2016

Many researchers argue that available evidence shows the opposite: that the policies are harming the environment and the herders. "Tibetan grasslands are far from safe," says Wang Shiping, an ecologist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences' (CAS) Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research (ITPR) in Beijing. "A big part of the problem is that the policies are not guided by science, and fail to take account of climate change and regional variations."

Tibetan herders fight fences and floods

by Jane Qiu, SciDevNet, 13 January 2016

The disaster is accelerating with every warm year. Due to climate change, more and more meltwater from shrinking glaciers and defrosting soil is flowing into Siling Co, also known as Serling Tso, causing the lake to swell and drown surrounding land.

Why Are Tibetans Setting Themselves on Fire?

by Tsering Woesser, The NY Review of Books, 11 January 2016

Recent decades have brought increasingly extreme oppression to Tibet's third generation under Chinese rule. This oppression is primarily manifested in five areas of Tibetan life. First, Tibetan beliefs have been suppressed, and religious scholarship has been subjected to political violence. The dispute over the reincarnation of the tenth Panchen Lama in 1995, in which Beijing selected its own Panchen Lama and placed the Dalai Lama's chosen appointee under house arrest, created the world's youngest political prisoner and produced an irreparable break in relations between Beijing and the Dalai Lama.

Notes from My Return Home

by Khawa Nangchak, Translated by Sertso Kyi and Tsepa Namgyal, 06 January 2016

I returned home to the bank of Tso Ngonpo (Lake Kokonor) with hands empty like the blue sky. When it came to living, tears mattered little. I had to learn to be strong but I saw the fragility, love and sorrow deep down my heart. At that moment, I knew I'd never learn to be strong like the yaks. Life unfolded like steel in front of me; going backward was not an option but moving forward was similarly a dead end.

Quote of the Week

"It is indeed encouraging to see how firmly rooted democracy has become in Taiwan. It is a model and source of inspiration to those who aspire for freedom and accountable leadership. As someone dedicated to promoting democracy, I salute what the people of Taiwan have accomplished."

H.H. the Dalai Lama's congratulatory Message to Taiwanese President-Elect Ms. Tsai Ing-wen.

The Weekly Tibet News Digest is a collection of different articles, columns and Tibet related news published in websites. The views expressed are of the authors and do not necessarily reflect endorsement by Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi.

This Online News Digest is an initiative of
Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi.

To subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, write to media@tibetbureau.in

Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama
10-B, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar 4
New Delhi 24
Phone: +91-11-26474798 Fax: +91-11-26461914