



# Tibet News

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The Newsletter of the **Tibet Information Office** for Australia, New Zealand & South East Asia

## Dharamshala gathers to celebrate the 75th Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama



His Holiness the Dalai Lama (C) with the dignitaries of Central Tibetan Administration on the 75th birthday celebration on Tuesday, 6th July 2010. Photo / Namgyal Tsewang / Tibet.Net

Wednesday, 6 July 2010

**Dharamshala:** The mood at Tsuglakhang this morning was one of joyous celebrations. A motley crowd of Tibetans, local Indians and foreigners packed the main temple courtyard, braving the incessant rain to wish His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 75th birthday.

The celebrations began in the early hours of the day with a special prayer session for the long-life of His Holiness followed by an elaborate incense burning ceremony at Lhagyal-ri. Inside the residential gates, family members and top officials of the Central Tibetan Administration met His Holiness to wish him on the special day.

At 9 a.m. local time, answering the prayers of the thousands gathered to seek his blessings, His Holiness the Dalai Lama made a rare birthday public appearance. The crowd broke into a rapturous applause as His Holiness flanked by Gyalwa Karmapa and officials of the Central Tibetan Administration walked into the courtyard.

The official function began with the simultaneous rendition of the Tibetan

national anthem by the artists of the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) and raising of the Tibetan national flag by Kalon Tripa Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche.

Led by the Kalon Tripa, a ceremonial religious obeisance was offered to His Holiness by the representatives of the three pillars of Tibetan democracy.

As customary to the July 6 official functions, His Holiness honoured two Tibetan civil servants Mr Kelsang Gyaltzen, envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Mr Wangdu Tsering from the Department of Finance, CTA, with the distinguished award for their 25 years of dedicated service. Tibetan civil servants, Mrs Tsewang Dolma Shosur and Mr Guru Nyima from the Department of Home, CTA were honoured by His Holiness with the distinguished award for outstanding accomplishments in their respective fields of work.

Expressing the love and gratitude of the local Indian population for His Holiness, the Lion's club of Dharamshala and Amar Ujala Publications Ltd., which runs a popular Hindi newspaper, presented His

Holiness with birthday cards written by local Indian students and residents.

The presentations were followed by commemorative releases of a number of books by the Kalon Tripa, including 'The introductory book on Buddhism' published by the Namgyal Monastery and the English version of 'The great Uprisings of 2008' published by the Dhomey Alliance for Freedom and Justice.

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# Tibet News

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Kalon Tripa Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche then delivered the official statement of the Kashag and began with prayers for a long life of His Holiness on behalf of Tibetans inside and outside Tibet. Lauding the contributions of His Holiness in promoting human values and inter-religious harmony, Kalon Tripa said that His Holiness 'while developing a great sense of empathy and compassion for all sentient beings, has provided enormous service to humanity by catering to the needs of people with different mental dispositions.

'Kalon Tripa also thanked the central and state governments of India and her people for their 'assistance and co-operation' and specifically urged 'those overseeing the security of His Holiness' to 'intensify their assistance'.

Dismissing the accusations and slandering against His Holiness by 'a few leaders of the People's Republic of China' as baseless, Kalon Tripa stated that such behaviours have 'become a source for the people of the world to view the autocratic Chinese leaders as the ones who are unable to accept the truth and who rely only on lies and violence rather than seeking truth from facts.'

Following the Kashag's statement, Speaker Penpa Tsering delivered the statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile.

His Holiness then addressed the function and thanked his well-wishers and supporters all over the world for their unconditional love and support. His Holiness specially thanked the oppressed millions inside Tibet for their prayers and steadfast support.

"Although you cannot utter it from your mouths but I know that in your hearts you pray for me. I thank you for your prayers and unwavering faith," said His Holiness.

Looking at a large banner depicting a

collage of his own photos through the ages, His Holiness in a lighter vein remarked that 'his life perhaps was not a waste after all'.

"I am proud of being a Buddhist monk and in my 75 years of existence, I have studied and practiced the teachings of Lord Buddha and the great masters of Nalanda", said His Holiness. "Their teachings, translated into Tibetan in its pristine form, have helped me realise a deep conviction to serve the humanity at large till the very end".

His Holiness' speech was followed by cultural performances which began with the singing of a new song by TIPA, specially dedicated to His Holiness on his 75th birthday. A long and colourful list of dance and song routine followed, including Hindi, Nepali, Punjabi, Rajasthani and Tibetan songs and dances performed by Indian and Tibetans school students and artistes.

His Holiness, after presiding over a part of the performances, paid a brief visit to an exhibition of the traditional Tibetan art of making appliqué and embroidery thangka at the Namgyal Monastery before heading back to his residence.

The songs and dances continued into the afternoon with the Dharamshala Tibetan Shop's Association serving community lunch to all.

An impressive contingent of foreign dignitaries, guests and well-wishers were present at the function including a large group of Chinese expatriates from Australia who had especially travelled to Dharamshala to attend the ceremonies.

"He has touched the hearts of millions around the world with his simple message of happiness and brought the world closer together" said a student from Ireland. "It is an absolute honour to be blessed by his presence and may he celebrate many many more birthdays". ■



*String Serenade by Mozart played by Yang Yang, a Chinese friend from Sydney at the birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Canberra.*

# THE STATEMENT OF THE KASHAG

## on the Occasion of the Seventy-Fifth Birthday Celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

**On this auspicious occasion of the seventy-fifth birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people, the Kashag, on behalf of the Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, as well as all of his disciples and well-wishers across the globe, makes obeisance to him and prays that he may live for hundreds of years.**

Since his childhood until now, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, while developing a great sense of empathy and compassion for all sentient beings, has provided enormous service to humanity by catering to the needs of people with different mental dispositions while, at the same time, contributing to the maintenance and promotion of the entire teachings of the Buddha Sakyamuni, known in the Buddhist world as the "Fourth Guide". Particularly in this post-modern era, His Holiness has provided inspirational guidance to the believers (in all religions of the world) and non-believers alike. Transcending the bounds of religion, His Holiness has also given unprecedented and timely advice of what he calls "secular ethics", emphasising on the need to develop universal responsibility through the promotion of basic human values and inter-religious harmony and co-existence for the common good of the world we live in. Moreover, for resolving the issue of Tibet, His Holiness has come out with the mutually-beneficial Middle-Way policy and non-violent means to realise it. His Holiness has further transformed the nature of the exile Tibetan polity into a genuine democracy. There is no way we can repay our debts of gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. However, with a strong sense of the realisation of all that he has done for us, we would like to re-pledge ourselves today that we shall put into real practice the many valuable advice that he has given to us.

That nothing untoward has happened to the person of His Holiness the Dalai Lama thus far is mainly due to his altruistic feelings and karmic merits, the protection given by the guardian deities of Tibet, the collective merit of the Tibetan people, and particularly due to the assistance and co-operation

extended by the central and state governments of India and its great people. While expressing our heart-felt thanks to all of them, and especially to those overseeing the security of His Holiness, we would like to urge them to further intensify their assistance and co-operation in this respect.

With great compassion, His Holiness labours day in and day out for the benefit of all humanity. Inspired by this verse of Shantideva, the great Bodhisattva: "Like the earth and the other great elements [of nature] as well as the sky [above]//May [I] also remain eternally to serve as one who solves the infinite sentient beings' myriad problems," His Holiness immerses himself in their service. We have nothing but admiration for all his endeavours, but these are certainly taking a great toll on His Holiness' health. The physical wellbeing of His Holiness is very important for humanity in general, and for the short and long-term benefits of the Tibetan people in particular. Therefore, we would like to implore him to kindly see to it that his daily programmes do not come in the way of his good health.

A few leaders of the People's Republic of China, who are blind to choosing between right and wrong and who lack foresight due to their preoccupation with short-term personal and political power gains, are liberally spending both human and financial resources to issue baseless accusations against and to slander His Holiness. This is because of the jealousy arising out of their inability to match His Holiness' meritorious deeds all over the world. Their actions, which resemble spitting in the air that will fall back on themselves, has become a source for the people of the world to view the autocratic Chinese leaders as the ones who are unable to accept the truth and who rely only on lies and violence rather than seeking truth from facts. This has also become a condition for the Tibetans to remain more united. However, as stated in the Indian and Tibetan treaties on worldly affairs that the power of the opposition should not be underestimated or neglected, the Kashag would like to make some important appeals to the Tibetans in and outside Tibet at this

critical period.

As a result of the clear display of the united Tibetan spirit in 2008, the sympathy and support to the Tibetan cause by the people of the world, and due especially to His Holiness' achievements and great deeds, the other side is using all its political, financial and human powers to create discord among Tibetans and between Tibetans and the local communities where Tibetans live in exile. It is particularly using many deceitful means to erect obstacles on the way of Holiness' activities and deeds globally. The Kashag would like to make an emphatic appeal to the Tibetans in and outside Tibet that they should remain alert to these Chinese manipulations and always be careful in maintaining unity among ourselves and keeping good relations with the local communities.

Since the upcoming elections for the fifteenth Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and the third directly-elected Kalon Tripa are crucially important, the people at large are currently engaged in serious discussions and debates as to whom they should vote. At such a time, the people should be careful about the other side's evil designs and infiltrations. Moreover, each Tibetan must sincerely and courageously take part in the election processes by not shirking their democratic responsibilities and rights. It is very important to use one's own intelligence, rather than following what others say, in making the right choice of candidates in the ensuing elections. The Kashag would like to appeal to all the Tibetan people to give a serious thought over these.

For over fifty years, the Tibetans in and outside Tibet have been able to withstand the unbearable circumstances and emergencies with great courage and strength, and for over four generations the Tibetans have been able to maintain their religion, culture and tradition. This is solely due to the grace of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Furthermore, the fact that Tibetans have, in undiminishing spirit, been able to continue our non-violent movement is a matter of great pride for us. Looking at the changes that are taking in the world and within the country, the issue of Tibet is heading towards finding a solution.

Nevertheless, His Holiness often states that one must hope for the best and prepare for the worst. Hence if the issue of Tibet takes time to resolve, then it is important for the Tibetans in and outside Tibet to preserve their unique character of good moral conduct without losing their spirit. Good moral conduct is not only a symbol of the Tibetans but also a source for the Chinese and the people around the world to have affection for and to support our cause. Likewise, the young

Tibetans must make efforts towards their general studies, and particularly towards becoming professionals well-versed in both traditional and modern education.

The mutually beneficial Middle-Way policy, which has been adopted by the overwhelming majority of the Tibetans under the guidance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, is the sole way to resolve the issue of Tibet. The Kashag is currently pursuing this policy, based on the fact that it enjoys the overwhelming

majority support of the Tibetans and the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile has endorsed it unanimously. We believe that all of the Tibetan people will, after having relied on their respective intelligence to ascertain the merit of this policy, support it whole-heartedly.

Finally, the Kashag prays that His Holiness may live long and all his wishes be spontaneously fulfilled. May the truth of the issue of Tibet prevail soon! ■

*The Kashag, 6 July 2010*

## Australia Celebrates His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 75th Birthday

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama may describe himself as a simple Buddhist monk, but his 75th birthday was celebrated by his followers and admirers all over the world with great revelry. In Australia, his birthday was marked with festivities in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Tasmania.**

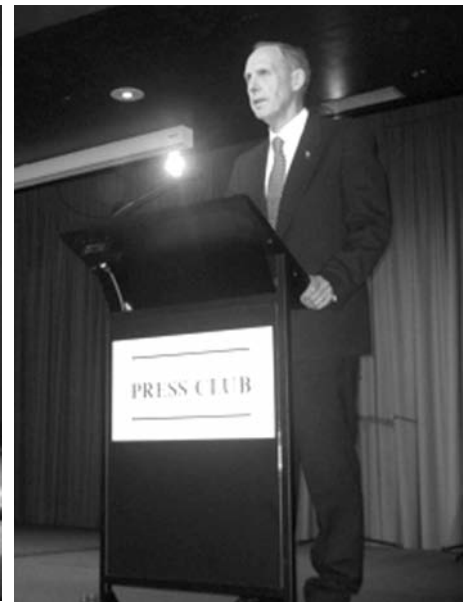
In Canberra, a special function was hosted by the Tibet Information Office (Canberra) and Tibetan Community of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in the National Press Club of Australia on 7th July, 2010.

Australian Greens leader Senator Bob Brown and senior Liberal Party member Hon Peter Slipper MP were among the distinguished guests who attended the function. Hon Peter Slipper MP, a co-convenor of the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, was also representing Hon Tony Abbott MP, Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of Australia. More than 200 guest including diplomats, officials, academicians, media, Tibet supporters, Chinese and Buddhist representatives and Tibetans participated in the function.

The celebration featured a rich and diverse cultural program including Tibetan musicians Tenzin Choegyel from Brisbane, Tenzin Yeshe from Melbourne, a Sri Lankan dance troupe, a Nepalese dancer, a Mozart virtuoso violin performance by Mr. Yang Yang of the Chinese Community and Tibetan



*Sri Lankan dance performance at the birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Canberra. Senator Bob Brown speaking on the 75th birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Canberra.*



dances performed by the Tibetan Community of New South Wales.

The evening began with a traditional aboriginal “welcome to country” performed by Mr. Shane Mortimer, an elder of the Ngambri people, the traditional owners of the Australian Capital Territory.

In his commemorative speech, Senator Bob Brown, the guest of honour, described His Holiness the Dalai Lama as a “great and inspiring human being” and “Tibet’s greatest gift to the world”.

“In a world driven by national interests, economic growth and short-term political games, the Dalai Lama and Tibet offer the inspiration that all humanity needs. There is no greater exponent of the alternative, long-term, compassionate and global view than the Dalai Lama. No one person has offered a more cohesive, optimistic yet practical vision for the future than His Holiness.”

As the host of the evening, Tibetan Community in ACT secretary Tsewang Thupten explained how Tibetans’ admiration of His Holiness was based “not just on blind faith but on

appreciation of his practical wisdom and compassion”.

Mr. Sonam Dago, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia gave a moving account of His Holiness’s life, achievements, and tireless work towards a peaceful resolution for the Tibetan people.

Tenzin Lhadhar, President of Tibetan Community of ACT gave a vote of thanks which was followed by a cocktail reception.

Australia is today home to over 900 Tibetans and has grown into a major centre of the global Tibetan Diaspora.

Australia’s celebrations of His Holiness’s 75th birthday continued on 10th July, 2010 with Sydney’s “Festival of Tibet”. The event featured another elaborate program of cultural performances and speeches, along with the launch of a unique photographic exhibition titled “*A Man of Compassion and Wisdom: The Dalai Lama’s Journey*”. ■

*Report filed by Dr. Simon Bradshaw & Tenzin Dolma Dago for TIO.*

# SYDNEY CELEBRATES THE 75th BIRTHDAY OF HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA ON 10 JULY 2010

As every city in the world celebrates the birthday of one of the most respected leaders in the world today, Sydney drew record numbers of friends and supporters to the Festival of Tibet on the Northern Beaches home of the Tibetan community.

THE DAY WAS HOSTED BY the NSW Tibetan community, in association with Dalai Lama in Australia Limited and the Tibetan and Chinese Friendship Association. The day commenced with prayers from the venerable Sangha members.

Guest speakers were Mr Sonam Dagpo, representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Justice John Dowd, Chancellor of Southern Cross University, Mr Bill Crews, Chairman of the Exodus Foundation, the Honorable Peter Slipper MP, Mrs Mei Leech, Tibetan and Chinese Friendship Association, Mr Paul Bourke, executive director of Australia Tibet Council, Lynn Bain, General Manager of Dalai Lama in Australia Ltd, and Mr Jigme Dorjee, President of the Tibetan community in NSW,

The day was also attended by other eminent visitors such as the Honorable Phillip Ruddock MP, Mr Brad Hazzard MP, the Mayor of Warringah, famous peace activist, Steve Killelea, and many Chinese friends and supporters from a diversity of Chinese groups.

The event ran in conjunction with a photographic exhibition, "A man of compassion and wisdom – The Dalai Lama's Life in Pictures" presented by Dalai Lama in Australia Limited.

Over a thousand well wishers attended the celebration, which included traditional Tibetan song and dance performances, poetry readings, performances by members of the Chinese community, and a rousing rendition of the "Happy Birthday To You" song with a Tibetan flavour, before the Tibetan style birthday cake was shared between attendees.

The afternoon saw the performance of everyone's favourite snow lion dance, and the draw of the raffle, which distributed the wonderful abundant gifts which were kindly donated by a very generous network of Tibetan friends and supporters.

From everyone in Sydney, we wish His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama heartfelt wishes for Happy Birthday and Long Life. ■

Report filed by Sue Bloom



*Sonam N. Dagpo, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Jigme Dorjee, President of Tibetan community, NSW cutting birthday cake on the birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Sydney.*



*Hon Peter Slipper MP speaking on the birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Sydney. Tibetan dance performance on the birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Sydney.*



*Mr. Yang Jun, a famous Chinese symphony player performing a Tibetan song Tashi Deleg at the birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Sydney, Australia*

# Statement by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi on the 75th Birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Washington, D.C. – Speaker Nancy Pelosi released the following statement on 6 July in recognition of the 75th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama:

“Today marks the 75th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, along with Tibetan supporters all around the world, will be celebrating this occasion and honoring a man of peace and wisdom.

“His Holiness often describes himself as a ‘simple monk, no more, no less.’ But His Holiness represents much more to many people around the world. For thousands, he is a source of spiritual refuge and a connection to inner peace and harmony. He has traveled the world,

building bridges between the different faiths. He has used his position to promote wisdom, compassion, and non-violence as a solution - not only in Tibet - but to other world conflicts.

“The Dalai Lama has made the human rights situation in Tibet an issue of international concern, and it is long past time to resolve it. A negotiated agreement would ensure internal stability in Tibet and bolster China’s reputation in the world.

“His Holiness has expressed a willingness to visit China and engage directly with high level officials. It is my sincere hope that Beijing will send a confident message by inviting His Holiness to China for substantive

discussions.

“His Holiness has asked for international support for his non-violent efforts to engage the Chinese government. I am proud to say the U.S. Congress has been a bedrock of support for the Tibetan cause. In 2007, I stood with President Bush to award the Congressional Gold Medal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his ‘many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights, and religious understanding.’

“On the 75th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, I offer my continued appreciation of his life’s work promoting compassion, peace, and human rights for all of the people of the world.” ■

## Statement by the Department of Religion and Culture on Recognizing the incarnations of Lamas/Trulkus

RECOGNISING THE INCARNATIONS of Lamas/Trulkus is a unique Tibetan practice related with Buddhism. It has nothing to do with politics. Using religious figures for political purpose, therefore, goes against religion. On 18 July 2007, the State Administration of Religious Affairs of the People's Republic of China issued the *Regulation on Management Measures for the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism* by transgressing the bounds of both religion and politics. The heads of the four religious schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the traditional Bon religion as well as the Department of Religion and Culture of the Central Tibetan Administration issued a seven-point joint declaration on 2 September 2007, repudiating this regulation. Likewise the Special Meeting of the heads of the four religious schools of Tibetan Buddhism and the traditional Bon religion held on 3 May 2008 passed a resolution, which not only rejected it but also declared that in future no reincarnated Lamas/Trulkus of the Tibetan Buddhist and Bon

religions shall be considered as true unless they have the final approval of the heads of the respective religious traditions.

Under the supervision of the Chinese Communist government, the so-called reincarnation of the Gyalrong Dedrug Rinpoche, belonging to Loseling of the Drepung Monastery in Tibet has apparently been recognised on 4 July 2010 through the 'golden urn procedure'. As well as going against religion, this action of the Chinese government is a politically-motivated one. Therefore, as mentioned in the above declaration and the resolution, no Tibetan will ever accept this.

The previous Dedrug Rinpoche was a prominent religious figure who had contributed much to the maintenance and promotion of Tibetan religion and culture. Therefore, his reincarnation should be recognised according to tradition with the consent of the Gaden Throne Holder, the head of the Gelug School of Tibetan Buddhism. ■  
*Department of Religion and Culture  
Central Tibetan Administration  
5 July 2010*

## Hague raises Tibet's human rights issues and autonomy during China visit

Wednesday, 14 July 2010

**Dharamshala:** Britain's foreign secretary has called for "autonomy and human rights in Tibet" during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi in Beijing on Wednesday, BBC reported.

Speaking on his first visit to China since becoming foreign secretary, Mr William Hague said London had long-standing concerns about human rights in Tibet.

"We want to see long-term stability for Tibet, which in our view implies work on human rights and greater autonomy," he added.

He has told his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi he wants to build a close working relationship between the two countries.

Mr Hague is due to meet Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao later on Wednesday, before travelling to Japan on Thursday. ■

# ISSUES RAISED BY ENVOYS OF H.H. THE DALAI LAMA DURING THE NINTH ROUND OF DIALOGUE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP

**The Envoys conveyed a three-point message to the representatives of the Chinese leadership.**

**Firstly**, a seven-point Note was presented that expanded on the Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for All Tibetans that was presented during the eighth round of talks. The Envoys reiterated our hope that the Chinese Central Government will give due consideration and have meaningful dialogue on this. The Chinese Central Government has made different comments and expression of concerns concerning the Memorandum and the Note was intended to address these and to offer some constructive suggestions for a way forward in the dialogue process. The Note was also intended to prevent the chance of misinterpretation and misconception by the general public. The seven points in the Note include respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of the PRC, respecting the Constitution of the PRC, respecting the "Three Adherences," respecting the hierarchy and authority of the Chinese Central Government, Concerns raised by the Central Government on specific competencies referred to the Memorandum, recognising the core issue, and offering His Holiness the Dalai Lama's cooperation for a mutually beneficial solution.

The Envoys suggested that through consultation if some of the issues in the Memorandum that are easier to be implemented are taken up in stages, it

would certainly help in the gradual implementation of the basic issues.

**Secondly**, the Envoys emphasised that His Holiness' sole concern is the wellbeing of the six million Tibetans in Tibet. They stated that we have never raised any personal issues of His Holiness the Dalai Lama or the welfare of the few people around him.

With regard to this, the Chinese Central Government contends that most of the Tibetan people are in a happy and satisfactory situation, and that there is no Tibetan issue. Our perception is that most of the Tibetans are in a situation where they face limitless suffering and where they do not have a satisfactory religious, political, economic, language and culture, and social situation. In the light of these two differing perspectives, the Envoys suggested that there be a study by the two sides to determine the reality of the situation. This study needs to be undertaken under a situation where all the Tibetans can have the opportunity to participate without fear or suspicion. The two sides could mutually decide the practical ways to implement this. If the outcome of this study is that most of the Tibetans feel there is no problem and their present situation is satisfactory, that is what His Holiness the Dalai Lama is calling for. But if the outcome confirms that most of the Tibetan people are not in a satisfactory situation, the Chinese Central Government then needs to recognise that there is a problem in the spirit of seeking truth from facts, and both

sides need to discuss and together find a solution.

**Thirdly**, the Envoys stated that during the informal session in Shenzhen in May 2008, we had rejected the allegation that His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the leadership in exile have instigated the demonstrations throughout the Tibetan areas since March 10, 2008 as they were without basis. Therefore, during the seventh round of talks, the Chinese Central Government accepted the reality by altering the "Three Stops" (which include asking us to stop activities for independence or instigating Tibetans in Tibet) to "Four Not to Support".

However, in recent times we find that the same allegations are being repeated. Therefore, the Envoys conveyed our feeling that the Chinese Central Government needed to clarify whether its position is what that was stated to us in the seventh round of talks. If there is a change, then the Chinese Central Government needs to undertake a thorough scientific investigation, in Tibet as well as in the Tibetan community in exile, into the veracity of their charge. The Envoys stated our readiness to extend every support to this investigation. If it is confirmed that the Central leadership's charge has a basis, then we will confess for the past action and commit not do so in the future. If there is no confirmation then the Central Government should rectify and halt the leveling of these allegations. ■

## Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile Expresses Gratitude to British Govt for Support

*Tuesday, 13 July 2010*

**Dharamshala:** The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile today expressed gratitude to British government led by Prime Minister David Cameron for their support for a lasting and peaceful solution to the problems in Tibet.

The press released issued by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile said: "In response to the felicitation to the newly elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom His Excellency David Cameron by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, His Excellency expressed that:

"This Government will continue to urge the Chinese to make progress towards meaningful autonomy for Tibet. We will continue to impress upon the

Chinese the importance of substantive dialogue with the Tibetan representatives in good faith. This is the only way to bring about a lasting and peaceful solution to the problems in Tibet.

The Government considers that underlying issues can only be resolved through meaningful dialogue between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese authorities. Our interest is in long term stability, which can only be achieved through respect for human rights and greater autonomy for the Tibetans."

On behalf of all the Tibetan people inside and outside Tibet, the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile extends its sincere thanks for the supportive response." ■

### TEACHING DATES ANNOUNCED FOR HIS HOLINESS' 2011 AUSTRALIAN VISIT

His Holiness will be returning to Australia in June 2011. The 2011 visit will commence in Melbourne, where the Teachings, *A Bodhisattva's Way of Life* by Shantideva will be held over the Queen's birthday long weekend. In the whole of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, there is no single treatise more deeply revered or widely practiced. Over the course of the weekend, His Holiness will explore the six perfections that provide the basis for the Bodhisattva's way of life; generosity, ethics, patience, zeal, meditative concentration and wisdom. His Holiness has stated, "*If I have any understanding of compassion and the practice of the Bodhisattva's path, it is entirely on the basis of this text that I possess it*".

**Saturday 11th through to Monday 13th June 2011** - Venue to be announced. His Holiness will also be visiting Brisbane and Perth. Further details to be announced in the coming months.

# Many Faiths, One Truth

WHEN I WAS A BOY IN TIBET, I felt that my own Buddhist religion must be the best — and that other faiths were somehow inferior. Now I see how naïve I was, and how dangerous the extremes of religious intolerance can be today.

Though intolerance may be as old as religion itself, we still see vigorous signs of its virulence. In Europe, there are intense debates about newcomers wearing veils or wanting to erect minarets and episodes of violence against Muslim immigrants. Radical atheists issue blanket condemnations of those who hold to religious beliefs. In the Middle East, the flames of war are fanned by hatred of those who adhere to a different faith.

Such tensions are likely to increase as the world becomes more interconnected and cultures, peoples and religions become ever more entwined. The pressure this creates tests more than our tolerance — it demands that we promote peaceful coexistence and understanding across boundaries.

Granted, every religion has a sense of exclusivity as part of its core identity. Even so, I believe there is genuine potential for mutual understanding. While preserving faith toward one's own tradition, one can respect, admire and appreciate other traditions.

An early eye-opener for me was my meeting with the Trappist monk Thomas Merton in India shortly before his untimely death in 1968. Merton told me he could be perfectly faithful to Christianity, yet learn in depth from other religions like Buddhism. The same is true for me as an ardent Buddhist learning from the world's other great religions.

A main point in my discussion with Merton was how central compassion was to the message of both Christianity and Buddhism. In my readings of the New Testament, I find

myself inspired by Jesus' acts of compassion. His miracle of the loaves and fishes, his healing and his teaching are all motivated by the desire to relieve suffering.

I'm a firm believer in the power of personal contact to bridge differences, so I've long been drawn to dialogues with people of other religious outlooks. The focus on compassion that Merton and I observed in our two religions strikes me as a strong unifying thread among all the major faiths. And these days we need to highlight what unifies us.

Take Judaism, for instance. I first visited a synagogue in Cochin, India, in 1965, and have met with many rabbis over the years. I remember vividly the rabbi in the Netherlands who told me about the Holocaust with such intensity that we were both in tears. And I've learned how the Talmud and the Bible repeat the theme of compassion, as in the passage in Leviticus that admonishes, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

In my many encounters with Hindu scholars in India, I've come to see the centrality of selfless compassion in Hinduism too — as expressed, for instance, in the Bhagavad Gita, which praises those who "delight in the welfare of all beings." I'm moved by the ways this value has been expressed in the life of great beings like Mahatma Gandhi, or the lesser-known Baba Amte, who founded a leper colony not far from a Tibetan settlement in Maharashtra State in India. There he fed and sheltered lepers who were otherwise shunned. When I received my Nobel Peace Prize, I made a donation to his colony.

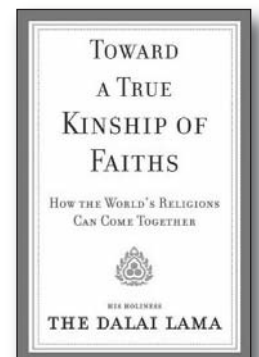
Compassion is equally important in Islam — and recognizing that has become crucial in the years since Sept. 11, especially in answering those who paint Islam as a militant faith. On

the first anniversary of 9/11, I spoke at the National Cathedral in Washington, pleading that we not blindly follow the lead of some in the news media and let the violent acts of a few individuals define an entire religion.

Let me tell you about the Islam I know. Tibet has had an Islamic community for around 400 years, although my richest contacts with Islam have been in India, which has the world's second-largest Muslim population. An imam in Ladakh once told me that a true Muslim should love and respect all of Allah's creatures. And in my understanding, Islam enshrines compassion as a core spiritual principle, reflected in the very name of God, the "Compassionate and Merciful," that appears at the beginning of virtually each chapter of the Koran.

Finding common ground among faiths can help us bridge needless divides at a time when unified action is more crucial than ever. As a species, we must embrace the oneness of humanity as we face global issues like pandemics, economic crises and ecological disaster. At that scale, our response must be as one.

Harmony among the major faiths has become an essential ingredient of peaceful coexistence in our world. From this perspective, mutual understanding among these traditions is not merely the business of religious believers — it matters for the welfare of humanity as a whole. ■ His Holiness the Dalai Lama's latest book is "*Toward a True Kinship of Faiths: How the World's Religions Can Come Together*."



## Tibet News

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