



EP Adopts Resolution Calling for Rights of the Tibetan Community to be Respected in Nepal

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2011

BRUSSELS: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON 07 April 2011 with the support of all the major political parties of the house adopted a resolution calling on the government of Nepal to respect the democratic and human rights of the Tibetan community living in the country.

The European Parliament calls on High Representative of the EU Catherine Ashton through its delegation in Kathmandu to closely monitor the treatment of the Tibetan refugees and respect for their rights in Nepal and to urge the Nepalese authorities to abide by its international human rights obligation and refrain from preventive arrests, policing restrictions on demonstrations and gatherings during

festivals marked by the Tibetan community. The resolution highlights the ban on the elections of the Kalon Tripa (Chairman of the cabinet) and Members of the Parliament of the Central Tibetan Administration on March 20, 2011, in Kathmandu, the Nepali capital which is home to over 10,000 of the estimated 20,000 exiled Tibetans in Nepal owing to growing pressure from the government of the Peoples' Republic of China.

Members of the Parliament expressed their concern and condemned the growing influence of China in the internal affairs of Nepal. They urged the Chinese Government and its representatives in Nepal to refrain from exerting any further pressure on the Nepalese authorities. ■



Central Tibetan Administration Appeals for Help to Diffuse the Kirti Monastery Crisis in Tibet

THE KASHAG OF THE Central Tibetan Administration is deeply concerned over the security clampdown on Kirti Monastery in northeastern Tibet since last month, which came about after Phuntsog, a monk of the monastery set himself on fire to remember those who participated in the wide-spread and peaceful protests that shook Tibet in 2008.

The Chinese government has sealed off Kirti Monastery by deploying armed security forces to crackdown on Tibetans following the monk's suicide on 16 March.

Since then a large group of Tibetans stood guard at the Kirti monastery to prevent the Chinese police from taking away monks for detention. The Tibetans gathered at the monastery, who were mostly elders, were severely beaten by the police as they attempted to resist the police from taking away around 300 monks in

around 10 military trucks on the night of 21 April. The crowd was dispersed by the police who indulged in indiscriminate beating. Two elderly Tibetans, Dongko, aged 60, and Sherkyi, 65, died due to severe beating. The latest report we have says that 300 monks have been removed from the monastery and are detained at unknown locations.

Moreover, the Chinese government has enforced ban on foreigners from entering the Tibetan areas of Kanze and Ngaba. The order issued by provincial public security authorities on 21 April said foreigners already in the aforementioned areas must leave.

Judging from the information available, the situation is very tense and critical. In the absence of outside monitoring teams and lack of adequate legal protection and free media we are concerned that the



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situation might grow into one of genocide.

In view of the grim situation in Kirti Monastery, the Kashag strongly and urgently appeals to the international community, governments and parliaments around the world to persuade China not to use force to resolve the crisis that is facing the monks of Kirti Monastery in Ngaba, northeastern Tibet. We also urge them to make an appeal to the Chinese government to release the detained monks at once.

It is also the sincere hope of the Kashag that the crisis prevailing in Kirti Monastery and Ngaba town will be raised and discussed during the annual meeting

on human rights between the United States and China next week. We make the same appeal to other countries to raise this issue in their bilateral dialogues with China.

Kashag in its considered judgement thinks that force is not the answer to correctly address the genuine grievances of people.

We believe that the monks of Kirti Monastery have genuine grievances that require willingness on the part of the Chinese authorities to address these with tolerance and broadmindedness. ■

The Kashag, Dharamsala, 23 April 2011

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Ratifies Amendment to Charter of Tibetans



The emblem of the Central Tibetan Administration

In his message to the Tibetan Parliament in March this year, His Holiness said he is devolving his political responsibility to the elected leadership in order to fully democratise the Tibetan polity.

"The essence of a democratic system is, in short, the assumption of political responsibility by elected leaders for the popular good. In order for our process of democratisation to be complete, the time has come for me to devolve my formal authority to such an elected leadership," His Holiness said in his message.

"My intention to devolve political authority derives neither from a wish to shirk responsibility nor because I am disheartened. On the contrary, I wish to devolve authority solely for the benefit of the Tibetan people in the long run. It is extremely important that we ensure the continuity of our exile Tibetan administration and our struggle until the issue of Tibet has been successfully resolved," he said in the message.

"It is necessary that we establish a sound system of governance while I remain able and healthy, in order that the exile Tibetan administration can become self-reliant rather than being dependent on the Dalai Lama. If we are able to implement such a system from this time onwards, I will still be able to help resolve problems if called upon to do so," he said.

"As one among the six million Tibetans, bearing in mind that the Dalai Lamas have a special historic and karmic relationship with the Tibetan people, and as long as Tibetans place their trust and faith in me, I will continue to serve the cause of Tibet," he said. ■

MONDAY, 30 MAY 2011

HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA has ratified the amendment to the charter of Tibetans delegating his administrative and political authorities to the democratically elected leaders of the Central Tibetan Administration.

By approving the amendment on 29 May 2011, His Holiness the Dalai Lama fully vests the Central Tibetan Administration and in particular its democratic leadership organs with the powers and responsibilities formerly held jointly by him and the CTA to represent and serve the whole people of Tibet.

The preamble in the charter enshrines "safeguarding the continuity of the Central Tibetan Administration as the legitimate governing body and representative of the whole Tibetan people, in whom the sovereignty resides."

The administrative and political powers vested with His Holiness the Dalai Lama were devolved to the three organs of Tibetan democracy.

UN Expert's Intervention in Marginalisation of Tibetan Language

THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2011

DHARAMSHALA: FOUR HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS from the UN Human Rights Council on 22 October 2010 issued a joint urgent appeal to China regarding allegations relating to restrictions imposed on the use of the Tibetan language in schools in northeastern Tibet.

The experts of the Council were the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance and independent expert on minority issues and the independent expert in the field of cultural rights.

The experts told the Chinese government: "Such alleged restrictions on the use of the Tibetan language in schools would have a negative impact on those of Tibetan origin and the preservation and promotion of the Tibetan language generally."

They also said concerns related to the impact of the education reforms on the education outcomes as well as to access to their cultural heritage of children whose mother tongue language was Tibetan. Those children had benefited from bilingual education that had enabled them to become proficient in both languages, ensuring access to their own cultural heritage.

The Chinese authority denied such



allegations claiming that there had not been any detentions of students connected to the protests and stated that they listened to their grievances.

Last year, the Tibetan students in Rebkong and Chabcha protested against the Chinese government policy restricting the use of Tibetan language.

In a petition written by Tibetan teachers to the authorities, the Tibetan teachers write that they support a genuine bilingual language policy, in which the teaching of the Chinese language is strengthened, but subjects are taught through the Tibetan language medium.

But the Chinese authorities are setting in place what they also characterise as a "bilingual" policy but which appears to mean in practice an education imperative which is designed to transition minority students from education in their mother tongue to

education in Chinese. New measures to "forcefully develop 'bilingual' pre-school education in the farming and pastoral areas, strengthen teaching of the Chinese language in the basic education phase, [and] basically resolve nationality students' fundamental ability issues in speaking and understanding Chinese" were outlined as part of a ten-year plan for 2010-2020 in Qinghai in June.

In a response dated 18 November, 2010 to the UN human rights experts, Chinese government asserts that they respect the views and opinions from the teachers and students. They assured that the matter has been resolved and the situation in the schools has returned to normal.

Mr Githu Muigai, Special Rapporteur, stated that it wishes to emphasise paragraph 82 of the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, which affirms that "The existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities shall be protected, and the persons belonging to these minorities should be treated equally and enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind."

The 17th session of the UN Human Rights Council will be held from 30 May to 17 June, 2011 at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. ■

Tibetans Elect Dr Lobsang Sangay as Kalon Tripa



Dr Lobsang Sangay/File Photo

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2011

DHARAMSHALA: A 43-YEAR-OLD SENIOR FELLOW of Harvard Law School has been elected Kalon Tripa of the Central Tibetan Administration.

Dr Lobsang Sangay won 27,051 votes (55 percent) in the final round of polling held on 20 March. Out of 83,990 registered voters, 49,184 cast their ballots.

The other two candidates – Kalon Trisur Tenzin Namgyal Tethong and Kasur Tashi Wangdi – got 18,405 (37.42 percent) and 3173 (6.44 percent) votes, respectively.

In a thank you message, Dr Sangay said: "With profound humility I accept the Tibetan people's support and the post of

Kalon Tripa. It is sobering to realize that nearly 50,000 people in over 30 countries voted in the recent Kalon Tripa and Chitue elections. Your overwhelming support is humbling and I will do my utmost to live up to your expectations."

"I view my election as an affirmation of the far-sighted policies of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and another important step towards the realization of his vision of a truly democratic Tibetan society. I believe the success of the recent Kalon Tripa and Chitue elections and the active participation of the Tibetans in the elections is a significant moral victory," he said.

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"I want to express my sincere appreciation and extend my deepest support to the people in Tibet who continue to show tremendous courage even in the most difficult of situations. Our hearts and minds are steadfastly with them," he said.

"I urge every Tibetan and friends of Tibet to join me in our common cause to alleviate the suffering of Tibetans in occupied Tibet and to return His Holiness to his rightful place in the Potala Palace," he added.

Dr Lobsang Sangay grew up in Lama Hattat Tibetan settlement and attended the Central School for Tibetans in Sonada and Darjeeling. He completed his B.A. (Honors) and LLB from St Joseph's College and Delhi University respectively. In 1992, he was elected as the executive member of the Tibetan Youth Congress. He regularly visits Dharamsala and

interacts with officials of the Central Tibetan Administration.

In 1996, as a Fulbright Scholar, he obtained Masters degree and in 2004, Doctorate in Law from Harvard Law School, the first Tibetan to receive this degree and his dissertation, Democracy and History of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile from 1959-2004 was awarded the Yong K. Kim' 95 Prize for Excellence.

As expert on international law, democratic constitution, and contemporary China, Dr Sangay he has spoken at various international conferences. He became a key figure for the well-known media organisations such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The BBC, Time Magazine, Newsweek etc. Moreover, he organised seven major conferences among Chinese, Tibetan, Indian and Western scholars including two

historic meeting between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese scholars in 2003, and in 2009 at Harvard University.

In 2007, he was selected as one of the twenty-four Young Leaders of Asia by the Asia Society and a delegate to the World Justice Forum in Vienna, Austria, where top legal experts and judges from around the world congregate.

In 2008, he testified as an expert before the US Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs, along with the United States Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte.

As a gesture of his gratitude to the Central Tibetan Administration under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, he supports over 2,000 Tibetan children in CTSA schools through Tibetan Nutritional Project. ■



Tibetans and friends wish and pray His Holiness the Dalai Lama a long life on his 76th Birthday on 6 July.

EU High Representative Lady Ashton Expresses Concern on Kirti Monastery Situation



18 MAY 2011

BRUSSELS: EU HIGH REPRESENTATIVE for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy, Lady Ashton, has expressed

concern over the situation at Kirti Monastery in Ngaba region of Tibet in her letter to MEP Provera who had called on her last month urging to promptly condemn the crackdown in order to prevent further human rights violations in Tibet.

"I am very much concerned by the reports of deaths, beatings and mass detentions of monks at the monastery. The European Union Delegation in Beijing has attempted to gather facts concerning this incident, but has been unable to do so as it appears that the Chinese authorities have sealed off the monastery and all foreigners have been expelled from the area. The delegation will nevertheless continue to attempt to obtain more information about the situation on the ground," she said.

"The European Union has repeatedly

urged the Chinese authorities to allow Tibetans to exercise their religious, educational and cultural rights," EU High Representative further noted.

"The European Union will raise the situation at Kirti monastery in its future contacts with the Chinese authorities, and will urge them to refrain from the use of force in dealing with the situation at Kirti monastery and to allow Tibetans to exercise their cultural and religious rights without hindrance," Lady Ashton said.

Kirti Monastery in Ngaba region has been under undeclared martial law situation since 16 March following to the self-immolation of Phuntsog, a 21-year-old monk from the monastery in protest against the Chinese Government's repression. Two elderly Tibetans have died as a direct result of severe beatings by Chinese police as they, along with other senior citizens attempted to stop Chinese police from taking around 300 monks to an undisclosed location. A wave of arrest has taken place in the recent days. ■

Danish Parliament Calls for Protection of Human Rights in Tibet

TUESDAY, 31 MAY 2011

DHARAMSHALA: THE PARLIAMENT OF DENMARK has adopted a motion on Tibet calling on the Chinese government to resume dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's representatives and protect the Tibetan people's unique cultural and religious traditions.

The motion was passed after an extensive debate on the issue of Tibet on 27 May.

"The Parliament expresses its continuing concern over the human rights situation in China and the situation in Tibet and calls on the Government to continue to work for improvements and to protect the Tibetan people's unique cultural and religious traditions," the motion said.

"The Parliament calls for the dialogue between representatives of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exile community and the Chinese government to be resumed and to lead to a result that ensures genuine autonomy for the Tibetans within the framework of the Chinese constitution, with cultural and religious freedom and respect for human rights. The Parliament notes that the Dalai Lama's representatives have not demanded independence," it said. ■

Australian MP Expresses Concern over Repression at Kirti Monastery in Tibet

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2011



DHARAMSHALA: MR MICHAEL DANBY, a member of Australian Parliament, has expressed his deep concern over the ongoing military

crackdown on Kirti Monastery in northeastern Tibet and urged the Chinese authorities to refrain from using force to resolve the genuine grievances of Tibetans in the region.

"I, Michael Danby, Member of Parliament, Australia, convey my deep concern over the recent China's military crackdown on Kirti Monastery in Ngaba, Amdo Province of Tibet," Mr Danby said in a press release issued during his visit to Dharamsala on 26 April.

The crackdown on Kirti Monastery was caused by self-immolation by Phuntsok, a young monk of Kirti Monastery who set himself on fire on 16 March this year in protest against the Chinese government's brutal crackdown on the widespread peaceful demonstrations which shook Tibet in 2008. The Tibetans gathered at Kirti monastery, who were mostly elders, were severely beaten by the police as they attempted to resist the police from taking away around 300 monks in around 10 military trucks on the night of 21 April. The crowd was dispersed by the police who indulged in indiscriminate beating. Two elderly Tibetans, Dongko, aged 60, and Sherkyi, 65, died due to severe beating. The

latest report we have says that 300 monks have been removed from the monastery and are detained at unknown locations.

"I express sympathy to the family members of the Tibetans who were killed by the Chinese police beating on 21 April," Mr Danby said.

"I strongly urge the Chinese government to exercise restraint and resolve the crisis that is facing the monks of Kirti Monastery. I also urge the Chinese government to release the detained monks at once," he added.

During his three-day visit to Dharamsala, Mr Danby met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Kalon Tripa and Speaker and Deputy of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile.

Mr Danby interacted with schoolchildren at the Tibetan Children's Village and met newly arrived refugees at the Tibetan Reception Centre. He also visited Norbulingka Cultural Institute to witness efforts made by the Tibetans to preserve their unique and precious art and culture.

In July 2009, Mr Danby visited Dharamsala by leading a six-member delegation of the Australian All Party Parliamentary Group.

The delegation spoke to Tibetan and Indian media on their experience of meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and about their getting first hand information on the preservation and promotion of Tibetan cultural heritage and democratic system of governance in exile.

They expressed their strong support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Middle-



Mr Michael Danby, a member of Australian Parliament (standing 2nd left in 2nd row), with other delegates during his visit to the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, in Dharamsala, India, on 26 April 2011. Photo by Tenzin Gyaltsen/TPiE

Way proposal for a peacefully negotiated settlement of the Tibetan situation. The delegation said they would continue to encourage the Chinese government into sincere and substantive discussions with His Holiness the Dalai Lama or his representatives to resolve Tibet's problem based on the *Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People*. ■

Australian Senate Passes Motion on Tibet

CANBERRA: A MOTION FROM SENATORS Bob Brown and Nick Xenophon supporting the wishes of the Tibetan people to have His Holiness the Dalai Lama return to Tibet was passed in the Senate on 15 June.

The motion "expresses disappointment that neither the Prime Minister (Ms Gillard) nor the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Mr Rudd) were available to meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama" during his recent visit to the Parliament House.

It "endorses the meetings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the Coalition leaders Messers Tony Abbott,

Warren Truss, and Australian Greens Leader Senator Bob Brown."

It "notes that the last Prime Minister to meet His Holiness was Mr John Howard in 2007."

The motion "wishes the people of Tibet well in their aspiration to have His Holiness the Dalai Lama return home to Tibet's capital Lhasa."

"This recognition of the lost freedom of Tibetans to have their spiritual leader at home will be welcomed by seven million Tibetans, including those in exile around the world," Greens Leader Bob Brown said in Canberra. ■



HH the Dalai Lama with Senators Bob Brown and Nick Xenophon, 15 June, Canberra.



His Holiness the 14th DALAI LAMA'S JOURNEY | Australian Visit 9 - 20 June 2011 A MAN OF COMPASSION & WISDOM

HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA'S visit to New Zealand and Australia in June, 2011 was a great success. His Holiness spent a day in Christchurch before beginning his 11-day tour to four Australian cities from 9 – 20 June.

Around 65,000 people attended His Holiness' public events in Melbourne, Canberra, Perth, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. In the first live webcast of His Holiness' public events in Australia, over 100,000 went online to listen to his talks.

His Holiness' eighth visit to Australia took place in the wake of his landmark decision to devolve his political authority to elected leadership in exile. A photo exhibition depicting his life story travelled across the country to tie in with the visit's theme titled "*The Dalai Lama's Journey, A Man of Compassion & Wisdom*".

The highlight of the visit was a three-day teaching in Melbourne on *Shantideva's Guide to Bodhisattva's Way of Life*. 4,500 people attended the teachings and a further 38,000 joined live on the web. His Holiness spoke at "public conversations" in the four national capitals, attended by over 35,000 people. In addition to the teaching and the public talks, His Holiness took part in a wide range of events, including an inauguration of a Vietnamese temple, community forums with disadvantaged youth, a conference with scientists on mind science, business luncheons, media conferences, an interfaith prayer service, an appearance on a reality TV show and meeting with Tibet support groups.

In Canberra, His Holiness visited the Australian Parliament and met with members of All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, attended a parliamentary reception and visited the House of Representatives during Question Time. In each city, His Holiness took the opportunity to meet with members of Tibetan, Bhutanese and Mongolian communities.

New Zealand visit (8 June)

A day in Christchurch

On 8 June His Holiness the Dalai Lama conducted prayers followed by public talk to 5000 people at the CBS Canterbury Arena to comfort the families of those who



Top: His Holiness speaking to an audience of over 14,500 at his public talk in Perth, Australia, 19 June 2011. Middle: His Holiness during his public talk in Canberra, 14 June 2011. Bottom: At the parliamentary reception hosted by All-Party Parliamentarians for Tibet. Photos/Rusty Stewart/DLIAL

have suffered so much during the February earthquake in Christchurch. He also visited the Christchurch Hospital and met the amputees and other earthquake victims who were still in the hospital. The whole hospital staffs, doctors and patients lined and received His Holiness in the corridors of the hospital. His Holiness spoke on the importance of developing self-confidence and inner strength as they rebuild their new lives. Earlier in the day he met the media and local Tibetan community. The New Zealand visit was organized by Dalai Lama Visit Trust.

Australian Visit (9-20 June)

Day 1-5 in Melbourne, 9-13 June

On his first day of his Australian trip, His Holiness addressed a packed media conference at which he discussed Tibetan democracy, his commitment to promoting human values and the changing socio-political trends in China among a range of issues. He also gave a series of one-on-one interviews to some of Australia's leading media organisations.

On the morning of his second day, His Holiness inaugurated Quang Minh Temple of Melbourne's Vietnamese Buddhist community and addressed a rally for disadvantaged youth supported by Youth worker Les Twentyman and his 20th Man Foundation. A donation was made from the Dalai Lama Trust to support the charity organisation. Later in the day, His Holiness participated in a forum with a group of refugees to share their inspiring stories and attended a private reception hosted by federal Greens MP of Melbourne, Adam Bandt.

The highlight of the Melbourne visit was the Buddhist teachings for the following three days. Over 4,500 came to listen to His Holiness' teachings on *Shantideva's Guide to a Bodhisattva's Way of Life*. He also conferred Bodhisattva's vows during the teachings.

During those three days, His Holiness also gave a public talk on "*Happiness, Life & Living*", met with members of Tibetan, Mongolian and Bhutanese communities and appeared on top-rating Australian reality TV show *Masterchef*. His Holiness was taken on a tour of the

set and was served meals by the show's seven contestants.

Another noteworthy event in Melbourne was Holiness's meeting with a large group of Chinese youth, Buddhists and democracy activists organized by the Chinese Tibetan Friendship Association of Melbourne. His Holiness explained his position on seeking autonomy within China and the evolution of Tibetan democracy, adding it is now the Chinese Communist Party's turn to retire.

His Holiness completed his teachings on 13 June and left for Canberra in the evening.

Day 6 in Canberra, 14 June

His Holiness visited the Parliament in Canberra at the invitation of All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet and met members from all of Australia's major political parties. He held private meetings with Greens leader Senator Bob Brown, Mr Tony Abbott MP, Leader of Opposition, and Mr Warren Truss MP, Leader of the Nationals. He later met with members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, chaired by Mr Michael Danby MP and co-chaired by Mr Peter Slipper MP, Senator Bob Brown and Senator Nick Xenophon.

His Holiness addressed a parliamentary reception, attended by around 90 MPs and Senators ambassadors from five countries. This was a rare opportunity for parliamentarians and diplomats to hear His Holiness speak on the situation in Tibet and China. His Holiness told the meeting that the free world can help China to become a good member of the international community. He said, however, China must also understand its own responsibilities.

Prior to his meetings with the politicians, His Holiness addressed a media conference and participated in an interfaith prayer service for world peace with representatives of major religious groups.

A brief visit to the House of Representatives during Question Time and the acknowledgement of his presence by the Speaker was an interesting highlight of His Holiness' day in the Parliament.

Apart from the events in Parliament House, His Holiness gave a public talk on "Happiness, Life & Living" to a packed audience and met members of the local Tibetan, Bhutanese and Mongolian communities. Mr. Peter Garrett, Minister for Education came to meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama to convey greetings from the Prime Minister.

Day 7-9 in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, 15-17 June

His Holiness spent three days in Queensland, travelling between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. On his first day in Brisbane, he met with members of the local Tibetan, Mongolian and Bhutanese communities and gave a talk on the spirit of never giving up at a youth forum.

The next day, His Holiness visited Chenrezig Institute on the Sunshine Coast, one of the first Buddhist centres in the western world. He consecrated the extended Gumpa and spoke to the centre's 500 monks, nuns and lay members. He was also invited to inaugurate the Garden of Enlightenment, an ornamental garden with eight stupas depicting the Eight Great Deeds of Buddha's life. Over 3500 students and teachers flocked to the Buddhist centre, nestled in the foothills of the Sunshine Coast hinterland in Queensland, to see and hear His Holiness on "Developing Compassion for Self and Others".

On his last day in Queensland, His Holiness participated at Science of the Mind Forum as part of the *Happiness & Its Causes* conference, held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Now in its sixth year, the conference brings leading scientists and thinkers in spirituality, science and the arts from all over the world on a common platform. His Holiness was joined by Dr Paul Ekman, a pioneering emotions researcher from the US, Prof Marco Iacoboni from University of California and Prof Pat McGorry, an advocate for mental health and last year's Australian of the Year.

At his public talk later in the afternoon, over 8,000 people flocked to the Riverstage at Brisbane's Botanic Gardens to hear His Holiness speak on "Finding Happiness on Life's Journey and Overcoming Loss". He addressed a business luncheon and spoke on values in leadership and environmental thinking.

Day 10-11 in Perth, 18-19 June

His Holiness flew to Perth on the morning of 18 June for the final leg of his Australian visit. After a five-hour flight from Brisbane, His Holiness headed straight to Freemantle Town Hall for a public reception hosted by Senator Scott Ludlam, Member of



His Holiness consoles an audience member at the Brisbane Public Talk, 'Happiness on Life's Journey, Compassion & Overcoming Loss.' Photo/Rusty Stewart/DLIA

Parliament Melissa Parke and Mayor Brad Petitt. Senator Ludlam and Ms Parke are members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet and have visited Dharamsala as part of the first Australian parliamentary delegation in 2009. The proceeds from the event have gone towards supporting the work of Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala.

The next day, His Holiness addressed a sold-out crowd of 14,500 people at the Burswood Dome on "Spirituality in the Modern World".

At lunch, His Holiness met with a group of business leaders in West Australia, the state with the strongest trade ties with China. He also took an opportunity to meet with the local Tibetan, Mongolian and Bhutanese communities.

The day concluded with the "Songs for the Dalai Lama" concert. Some of the big names in the music industry have given their time to celebrate His Holiness' journey and support Tibetan charities. They include Tim Rogers, Tex Perkins, Baby Animals, Katie Noonan's Elixir Trio, Lior with String Quartet, Adalita, Old Man River, Luka Bloom, Lyrics Born and The Nobel Funk Off. Tibetan musician Tenzin Choegyal and the Gyuto Monks of Tibet also performed during the 6-hour concert. Luka Bloom, the Irish folk singer who has been travelling on His Holiness tour, sang his song "As I Waved Goodbye" with a group of musicians. His Holiness left Australia early morning on 20 June. The Australian visit was organized by Dalai Lama in Australia Ltd. ■

(Report filed by Tsering Kyinzom Dhongdue, Research & Government Relations Manager, Australia Tibet Council, for TIO and DLIA)

Frequently Asked Questions on Tibet

1. Why has no progress been made at the formal meetings between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Government since contacts between the two sides restarted in 2002?

Despite all the efforts made by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), the Chinese Government has not shown any willingness to resolve the Tibetan issue.

2. Is His Holiness the Dalai Lama seeking a political role in Tibet?

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has said publicly and repeatedly he is not seeking and would not accept such a role as soon as the Tibetan issue is resolved (see Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People, section VII). In addition, the CTA would be dissolved once an agreement had been reached since its objective is to represent the interests of the Tibetan people and speak on their behalf.

3. Is His Holiness the Dalai Lama asking for the removal of non-Tibetans from Tibet?

The Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People clearly states (section IV, para 11) that it is not the intention of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to expel non-Tibetans who have permanently settled in Tibet and have lived and grown up there for a considerable time. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the CTA's concern is the induced massive movement of primarily ethnic Chinese into many areas of Tibet which contributes to the marginalisation of the Tibetan population.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the CTA do not say that Tibet should be occupied by Tibetans to the exclusion of all other nationalities.

4. Why do His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration talk about cultural and environmental destruction in Tibet but not mention the enormous increase in wealth and infrastructure in Tibet?

Although China has developed Tibet, urban Tibetans only benefit marginally and rural Tibetans hardly benefit at all. It is the Chinese settlers who are the main beneficiaries of the new wealth. Tibetans without Chinese language skills and connections are left to fend for themselves and so become increasingly marginalized in their own homeland. China's own statistics show Tibet's per capita income falls below that of all Chinese provinces, and vast areas of rural Tibet lack basic healthcare and education. It is true that China is spending huge amounts of money on infrastructure but this is predominantly to secure control, mobilise the military and export resources. The new railway to Lhasa, for example, has cost Beijing more than what it put towards healthcare and education for Tibetans in the more than 50 years it has occupied Tibet.

5. Why doesn't His Holiness the Dalai Lama just agree to go back to Tibet without any preconditions?

Although China's policy on the possible return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet states he would be welcome, the

Chinese position is far from clear and confusing. The basic conditions for his return, on which the Chinese will not compromise, are that he accept Tibet as an inalienable part of China since historical times and defend the unity of the motherland. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has consistently insisted that the question of his return is not a matter of his personal welfare or status, as the Chinese authorities maintain, but that of finding a political solution acceptable to Tibetans.

6. What is meant by 'Greater Tibet'?

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has never used the term 'Greater Tibet' either verbally or in a written document. It was coined by the People's Republic of China after 1979 to refer to the total areas inhabited by the Tibetan people, currently divided into the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), ten Tibetan autonomous prefectures (TAP) and two Tibetan autonomous counties (TAC). The Beijing government uses the term either to make people believe His Holiness the Dalai Lama's aspiration is unreasonable, as it represents one quarter of the PRC's total territory, or to imply that he is asking for certain areas that are not already declared as Tibetan autonomous areas to be included in his demand. Currently, just over two million Tibetans live in the TAR whereas approximately four million live in the ten TAPs and two TACs in the neighbouring four Chinese provinces.

The essence of the Middle Way Approach is to secure genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within the scope of the Constitution of the PRC. ■

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