



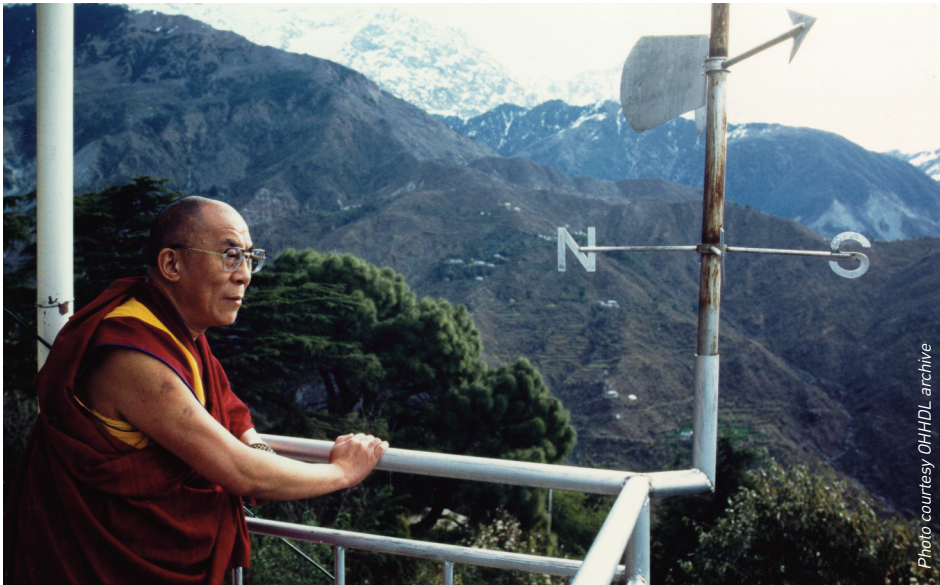
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REPORT

Party Boss in Tibet Plans to Separate The 14th Dalai Lama from Tibetan Buddhism



28 November, 2013

By Tsering Wangchuk

RECENTLY, JUST PRIOR TO THE THIRD PLENUM, Chen Quanguo, the current Party Secretary of the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), published an article in Qiushi ("Seeking Truth") titled 'Ensuring the Security of Tibet's Ideological

Realm with the Spirit of Daring to Show the Sword'. He pledges to "thoroughly carry out the educational activities of comparing old Tibet with the New Tibet, instructing people of various ethnic groups to be grateful to the Party, listen to the Party and follow the Party". Ironically, he is expressing the kind of

imperialist mentality that the Communist Party criticizes and claims to fight against.

In dealing with Tibetans, he vows to "educate and guide cadres and ordinary people of various ethnic groups to separate Tibetan Buddhism from the fourteenth Dalai Lama, and separate the fourteenth Dalai Lama from the title of Dalai Lama..."

This statement shows that after 60 years of rule in Tibet, some CCP leaders are yet to understand Tibet's intrinsic spiritual and cultural aspects. Tibetans believe His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the manifestation of Avalokiteshvara (the Buddha of Compassion). This reverence exceeds any political leverage and is not born out of greatness of the title, but the greatness of the person. It represents the Tibetans' active participation in serving the sacred duties of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This act of service is at the center of the Mahayana tradition of Buddhism, which predates the Communist Party in China, as well as the Marxist ideology.

During the last few decades, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been proposing dialogue

Continued page 2



Self-immolation protests in Tibet reach 123 under China

Central Tibetan Administration urges China to address grievances of Tibetans
4 December, 2013

DHARAMSHALA: THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED SECURITY clampdown in Ngaba in northeastern Tibet after a Tibetan set himself on fire to protest against its repressive rule in Tibet, reports coming out of Tibet say.

Kunchok Tseten, 30, set fire to himself in the main market of Meruma town in Ngaba on Tuesday (3 December). After setting himself on fire, he raised slogans for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the return of His

Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet and the early reunion of Tibetans in Tibet.

Eyewitnesses say police and security forces immediately arrived at the spot to take the self-immolator into their custody. But the local Tibetans prevented them from doing so, resulting in clashes between the two sides. The police took away the self-immolator after arresting several Tibetans, including the wife and relatives of the self-immolator, whose well-being and whereabouts remain unknown.

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Photo: Kunchok Tseten/File photo/Phayul



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Tibet Information Office, Canberra

Address

Tibet Information Office
8/13 Napier Close,
Deakin, ACT 2600
Australia

Phone: 61-2-6285-4046

Fax: 61-2-6282-4301

Email: tiboff@bigpond.com

Website: www.tibetoffice.com.au

Representative of

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Sonam N. Dagpo

Editors

Sonam N. Dagpo and Karen Collier

Production

Karen Collier and Tenzin Norzom

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Continued from feature Report

with the Chinese communist leaders, in order to find a mutually beneficial solution. Along with the Tibetan people, he has peacefully sought genuine autonomy for Tibet within the scope of the constitution of the People's Republic of China, while advising against violence that drive other movements to militant struggles worldwide.

However, Chen Quanguo's article will further antagonize Tibetans in Tibet. This is because his article disregards Tibetan values and imposes his perceived superior ideology. Such leftist opportunism played out in Tibet will derail any lofty proclamation like 'Chinese Dream'.

Chen Quanguo's hardline pronouncement on Tibet are encouraged by two main reasons. One is the example shown by Hu Jintao who was catapulted from Party Secretary in TAR to the highest position in China after series of violent repression carried inside Tibet in late 80s.

More than often, Party's hardline mood in Beijing overdrives local leaders into employing repressive means. Last April, the Central Committee of the Communist Party's General office in China circulated a confidential memo to its Party leaders, now leaked and known as Document 9. The document details "Noteworthy Problems Related to the Current State of the Ideological Sphere" and aims to impose a "unwavering adherence to the principle of the Party's control of media".

The document calls on Communist leaders to "persist in correct guidance of public opinion, insisting that the correct political orientation suffuse every domain and process in political engagement, form, substance, and

technology". It lists seven perils that could unsettle the Communist Party monopoly in China and directs its cadres to engage in an "intense struggle" against constitutional democracy, civil society, "nihilistic" views of history, "universal values," and the promotion of "the West's view of media", among others. Such a hardline tendency will empower provincial leaders to carry out unwarranted repression of ethnic groups who have different values and views than the Communist Party. For instance, in Tawu (Ch. Daofu), Yulshul (Ch. Yushu) in eastern Tibet and Driru (Ch. Biru) under TAR earlier this year, local People's Armed Police had their hands free to violently suppress Tibetans without slightest provocation. This was obviously encouraged by the mood in Beijing.

Chinese leaders in Beijing should be mindful of the implications of such policies in Tibet. His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the most authoritative person for Tibetans, with a reconciliatory intent and a path to solve the issue of Tibet. He is constantly guiding Tibetans towards nonviolence and compassion. Tibetans inside Tibet risk grave punitive actions by the police just in order to procure his portrait. In light of such conducive factors, the failure to reach a peaceful resolution to the Tibetan issue while the 14th Dalai Lama is healthy and active would be a devastating mistake on the part of contemporary Chinese leadership. ■

Tsering Wangchuk is the Press Officer of Department of Information and International Relations, Central Tibetan Administration. Reach him at: tibetpressofficer@tibet.net

All the shops and restaurants remained shut and mobile phones of Tibetans were confiscated as the Chinese government stepped up security across the region.

Sources said Kunchok Tseten had told a relative this summer that he would set himself on fire to protest against the Chinese atrocities on the Tibetans. The relative advised him not to take his own life. Kunchok Tseten is a native of Chukhama village in Machu county (incorporated into China's Gansu Province). He has two children.

"Tibetans inside Tibet are living under heavy repression. There is a total clampdown on any conventional means to express their grievances. These conditions have led to the growing number of self-immolations inside Tibet. We implore Chinese leadership to address the grievances of Tibetans immediately," said Mr Tashi Phuntsok, Secretary for Information and International Relations of the Central

Tibetan Administration.

Political repression, cultural assimilation, social discrimination, economic marginalisation, environmental destruction and lack of religious freedom are the primary factors driving Tibetans to self-immolation. According to Human Rights Watch, two million nomads were resettled in ghetto-like accommodations without their full consent and proper consultation. The repressive policies have also resulted in recent incidents of violence in several mining areas in Tibet. The only way to end this brutal and grave situation is for China to change its current hardline Tibet policy by respecting the aspirations of the Tibetan people.

The Central Tibetan Administration has consistently appealed to and discouraged Tibetans from drastic action, including self-immolation, as a form of protest. The blame as well as the solution for the self-immolations lies with the Chinese government. ■

Tibet Issue Raised in Australian Senate on Rights Day

Raising the issue of Tibet in the Senate on World Human Rights Day on 10 December, Australian lawmaker from Tasmania, Lisa Singh, urged the international community to commit to act on behalf of Tibetans suffering human rights violations under the Chinese rule. Below are excerpts from Senator Lisa Singh's statement:

10 December, 2013

DHARAMSHALA: MY COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS from work and activities before becoming a senator and my time in this place have continued my resolve to stand up for a just and humane world free of discrimination and for equality. One example of that comes from my involvement with the Australia Tibet Council. I had the privilege last year of travelling to Dharamshala in India, which is the exiled capital of Tibet. This experience gave me an undeniable insight into the desperate plight of Tibetans and to understand more fully the human rights abuses taking place in our global community. I had the pleasure this evening of joining some of the Tibetan community here in Australia in Parliament House to recognise the struggles that continue for their families and friends living in Tibet.

It was on 22 October 2013 that the UN Human Rights Council reviewed China's human rights record as part of their universal periodic review. This was the second review for China and it allowed for a review of the recommendations and pledges made by China during the 2009 session as well as encompassing a review of the overall human rights record of China. Sadly, from all reports the overall human rights situation in China, particularly in Tibet and also against the Uygur people, has continued to deteriorate over the last four years. I take this opportunity to highlight the important region of Xinjiang in China where the native Uygurs continue to fight religious intolerance and discrimination. Labelled as terrorists, their plight has become increasingly difficult.

Repressive policies and the continuous suppression of fundamental human rights are causing immense suffering. Tibetans have peacefully struggled and held hope of

obtaining freedom of religion, freedom to celebrate their culture and language, and freedom of expression. Since China's first UPR in February 2009, Tibet witnessed its very first self-immolation by a young 20-year-old monk by the name of Tapey. This act of desperation was Tibet's first in its 60-year continuous suppression of human rights. Tapey should never have lost his life. He should never have had to resort to such an act. In 2009 the loss of his life was already one too many, and since that time there have been many more.

I wish I could report that his life was the only one taken by self-immolation, but they have continued to increase since 2009 and a confounding 122 cases have been confirmed to date. This is no small number and it clearly shows the desperation and repression of those in Tibet. In what is another constraint to human rights, recent reports confirm friends and relatives of self-immolators are now being subject to sentencing by Chinese authorities for alleged association with the self-immolators.

Tibet's spiritual leader, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, has travelled the globe seeking compassion and peaceful solutions for his country in exile. This year I once again had the privilege to meet His Holiness here in Australia. His struggle for liberation of Tibet has always strongly opposed the use of violence. His Holiness understands the power of universal responsibility for all things and through his leadership he has actively pursued peaceful solutions to human rights abuses.

Today is the 24th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness. In 1989 the Norwegian Nobel Committee declared His Holiness worthy of this prestigious prize. I believe, and I am sure many will agree, that his leadership through



non-violent action and spiritual guidance to the Tibetan people is most commendable and worthy of global recognition. During his acceptance speech the Dalai Lama spoke of cultivating a universal responsibility and said: I believe all suffering is caused by ignorance. People inflict pain on others in the selfish pursuit of their happiness or satisfaction. Yet true happiness comes from a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood. We need to cultivate a universal responsibility for one another and the planet we share.

These words are valuable and worth reflecting on, particularly today as we mark Human Rights Day and celebrate the anniversary of the establishment of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Today as we acknowledge Human Rights Day we should acknowledge the ongoing struggle of those living in Tibet.

We should not only acknowledge but also commit to act on their behalf. ■

His Holiness Expresses Condolences at the Passing Away of Nelson Mandela



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Nelson Mandela during their first meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1996.

6 December, 2013

NEW DELHI: IN A LETTER TO THE FAMILY OF NELSON MANDELA, His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed his deep sadness on learning of the passing away of Nelson Mandela.

His Holiness wrote: "In his death the world has lost a great leader, whose steadfast and unflinching determination played a key role in securing peace and reconciliation during South Africa's transition from apartheid rule. Under his leadership South Africa was transformed through peaceful means, in the spirit of reconciliation."

His Holiness said that he will personally miss a dear friend, who he had hoped to meet again

and for whom he had great admiration and respect. In his letter, His Holiness continued, "He was a man of courage, principle and unquestionable integrity, a great human being, someone of whom we can truly say, 'He lived a meaningful life.' I pray for him and offer my heartfelt condolences to you, the members of your family and the entire people of South Africa."

Finally, His Holiness expressed that although Nelson Mandela had physically departed, his spirit will go on. He expressed that the best tribute we can pay to him is to do whatever we can to contribute to honoring the oneness of humanity and working for peace and reconciliation as he did. ■ **Source: tibet.net**

Tibetans celebrate the Anniversary of His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Nobel Peace Prize Award with Australian Parliamentarians

10 December, 2013

Canberra, Australia: TIBETAN EXILES AND SUPPORTERS all over the world marked the 24th anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize and the 65th International Human Rights Day. Tibetan communities and supporters organized various events in different cities of Australia to mark the occasion.

Tibet Information Office and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Tibetan Community, organized a celebration event at the Parliament House on 10 December, 2013. Members of the local Tibetan community opened the function by singing the Nobel Peace Prize song in praise of His Holiness

the Dalai Lama. This was followed by speeches by Mr. Sonam Daggio, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia, Hon Mr. Warren Entsch, MP, Chair of the Australian Parliamentary Group (APGT) Co-Chairs Hon Mr. Michael Danby, MP and Senator Sarah Hanson-Young and Mr. Qin Jin, China Democratic Forum. They highlighted the grim human rights situation in Tibet and China and expressed support for the rights of the Tibetan people and the resolution of the issue of Tibet through dialogue and non-violence. They also shared their determination to keep working to ensure that the Tibet issue was not forgotten during Parliamentary debates. Yang

Yun, a young Chinese friend of Tibet performed a melodious rendition of the Nobel Peace Prize song on his violin.

On behalf of the Tibetans, Tibet Information Office and ACT Tibetan Community felicitated the re-elected and new members of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Tibet at the recent Federal election. They were offered traditional Tibetan scarves in gratitude for their wholehearted support for the just cause of the Tibetans. The celebration was attended by 15 APGT members, Australian and Chinese friends and Tibetan Community members. ■

Report filed by Tenzin Dolma Daggio



Amnesty International Statement on Driru Shooting

9 October, 2013
PRESS RELEASE

CHINA: End "outrageous" police violence against Tibetan protesters

CHINESE AUTHORITIES MUST END excessive use of force against peaceful Tibetan protesters, Amnesty International said after police fired on and injured dozens of demonstrators.

Reports emerged today that Chinese police had opened fire on Tibetan protesters in the town of Driru in the Tibet Autonomous Region on 6 October, injuring at least 60 people, some seriously. It is unclear if the police used live ammunition or tear gas.

"It is outrageous for the police to start firing on a peaceful gathering. This latest incident shows that the Chinese authorities have done nothing to reign in excessive use of force by their security

forces or to increase respect for Tibetans' right to freedom of peaceful assembly," said Corinna-Barbara Francis, Amnesty International's China Researcher.

There have even been reports that some of those seriously injured were denied medical care for several days, at least one of whom is still in very critical condition.

The protesters had gathered to demand the release of a local Tibetan who had been detained on 29 September after speaking out against authorities' efforts to force local families and monasteries to fly the Chinese flag.

According to the International Campaign for Tibet 40 others were detained on the same day, some of whom remain in detention and the whereabouts of the others remains unknown.

The 6 October incident is the second time in recent months that security forces have fired on a peaceful gathering of

Tibetans. On 6 July, in Tawu, Sichuan province, at least ten Tibetans who had gathered to celebrate the Dalai Lama's birthday were injured.

Since the Tibetan mass protests of 2008 against Chinese rule, the Chinese authorities have stepped up repression in Tibetan areas and imposed intrusive, pervasive, military and security controls on the local population.

The authorities also continue to subject Tibetans to humiliating "patriotic education", which forces them to denounce the Dalai Lama and express support for the Chinese Communist Party.

"Across the Tibetan region the situation remains tense, and the Chinese authorities are doing nothing to improve it by continuing to deny Tibetans their most basic human rights. The daily harassment and humiliating treatment have to end," said Corinna-Barbara Francis. ■

4 TIBETANS SHOT DEAD, 50 INJURED

13 October, 2013

BEIJING: FOUR TIBETANS WERE KILLED AND 50 WOUNDED after Chinese security forces fired on a crowd of protesters at Driru in the Tibet Autonomous Region on Tuesday, according to Washington-based Radio Free Asia (RFA).

Reports said Driru villagers were demanding the release of a local leader,

who had led an anti-government demonstration recently to protest orders issued last month to fly Chinese flag from homes and offices.

"On Tuesday morning, three Tibetans from Sengthang village and one Tibetan from Tinring village were killed when the Chinese opened fire on protesters," the RFA quoted a Tibetan source in exile as saying.

"Around 50 Tibetans from Yangthang village were also injured," he said,

speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Driru is now flooded with Chinese paramilitary police, and Tibetans are being stopped from traveling with no reason given.

Tibetans in other Chinese provinces like Sichuan and Yunnan regularly protest but authorities usually manage to keep protesters under strict control in the Tibetan autonomous region. ■

By Saibal Dasgupta

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

UN Member States Urge China to Improve Human Rights in Tibet



23 October 2013

PRESS RELEASE

CHINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WAS REVIEWED AT the 17th session of Universal Periodic Review in Geneva on 22 October, with several UN member states urging the Chinese government to take necessary measures to improve the human rights situation in Tibet.

Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Switzerland, the US, the UK and Iceland raised their concerns on the deteriorating human rights situation in Tibet.

They pressed China over its systematic attempts to undermine the rights to freedom of religion, culture and expression and recommended China take necessary measures to ensure that the rights of Tibetans and other ethnic minorities are fully observed and

protected. Furthermore China, they said should facilitate visits of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Procedures to assess the real situation in Tibet.

Both New Zealand and the US referred to the Sino-Tibetan dialogue process, New Zealand recommended China resume meaningful dialogue to address the interest of all communities in Tibet, while the US submitted a written question asking "will China resume unconditional direct dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama or his representatives?"

On behalf of all Tibetans, the Central Tibetan Administration based in India, expresses gratitude towards the UN member states as cited above for their efforts to hold China

accountable with regards to its human rights record in Tibet.

"The white paper issued by the Chinese government on 22 October is replete with information about Chinese state investment towards development in Tibet. Yet, the 121 self-immolations that have taken place in Tibetan areas since 2009 as a form of political protest send an unequivocal message to the world that the policies in Tibet have failed to address the aspirations of the Tibetan people," said Kalon Dicki Chhoyang of the Department of Information and International Relations for the Central Tibetan Administration. ■

Visit: <http://tibet.net/2013/02/02/cta-releases-white-paper-on-self-immolations-in-tibet-2/> to read CTA's

White Paper on self-immolations in Tibet.

CTA concerned over China's plan for information blackout in Tibet

4 November, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

IN LIGHT OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED Universal Periodic Review of China's human rights record by the United Nation Human Rights Council and China's upcoming election to the seat of UNHRC, the Central Tibetan Administration deplores the China's recent hardline stance vis-à-vis His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

In an article published in China's Communist Party's journal Qiushi on 1 November, Chen Quanguo, the Party Secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Region,

openly stated plans to reinforce information blackout about His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Tibet by censoring television, radio broadcast and closely monitoring internet and telephone communications.

As China seeks to defend its human rights record, such statement clearly contradicts the spirit of the UN Human Rights Council for which China is seeking membership.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has been a staunch supporter of the Middle-Way Approach, which seeks to resolve the long-

standing problems in Tibet by remaining a part of China. This position is also shared by the Central Tibetan Administration based in India.

"Such counter-productive measures by the Chinese government to stifle free flow of information in Tibet will only further exacerbate the resentment of Tibetans inside Tibet. We are deeply concerned that such measures will give Chinese authorities free hand to intensify crackdown on Tibetans," said Kalon Dicki Chhoyang of the Department of Information & International Relations. ■

China's New White Paper on Tibet – Another Whitewash

26 October, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

THE ULTIMATE JUDGE OF CHINA'S RULE IN TIBET should be the Tibetan people. Even after 60 years of China's invasion of Tibet and more than 50 years after Tibet came under the complete control of Beijing in the aftermath of the repression which crushed that year's popular uprising against Chinese rule, today large parts of Tibet are still under martial law like control. The alarming escalation in desperate forms of protest, including self-immolations, in Tibetan areas, is a clear judgment made by the Tibetan people of China's sixty years rule of Tibet.

Since 2009, over 121 Tibetans have set

themselves on fire to protest against the Chinese government's continued occupation of Tibet. The self-immolators have called for freedom for Tibetans and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

The white paper issued by China's State Council on Oct. 22, it is clear economic and material development have failed Tibetans in their struggle to survive as a people with a distinct culture.

In fact, the latest white paper is an attempt to cover up the darkest period experienced by the Tibetan people after China's invasion of Tibet. No less a figure than Hu Yaobang, the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, who visited Lhasa in 1980,

apologized to the Tibetan people and said the conditions in Tibet were worse than pre-1959 Tibet. The late Panchen Lama, said in 1989, a few days before his untimely death, that China's rule in Tibet brought greater suffering than benefit for the Tibetan people. Over 1.2 million Tibetans died as a direct result of Chinese communist rule and more than 6,000 monasteries were razed to the ground.

Interestingly, no other minorities in China have been the object of so many white papers. In light of growing public awareness and sympathy for the Tibetan cause, China is constantly challenged to justify the legitimacy of its presence in Tibet. ■

17 Tibetans arrested as crackdown continues in Driru county



From Left: Thupchen, Kundrak and Tempa.

November 11, 2013

DHARAMSHALA: WITH THE CONTINUING CRACKDOWN ON TIBETANS in Driru county in Tibet Autonomous Region's Nagchu Prefecture, the Chinese authorities have arrested over 17 Tibetans who have been demanding the release of two fellow villagers.

The Tibetans in Tenkhar village near Shamchu town in Driru county held a peaceful protest on Sunday (3 November), demanding the release of Tibetan writer, Tsultrim Gyaltzen and his friend Yougyal. Tsultrim and Yougyal were picked from their homes by the police during a night raid in October. Tsultrim was charged with engaging in separatist activities and disrupting social

stability by spreading rumours.

Those arrested include Sarkyi, 49; Tsophen, 47; Yangkyi, 25; Tsering, 22; Tsering Phuntsok, 21; Tador, 21; Kundak 17; Gabuk, 41; Tenpa, 22; Thupchen, 27; Soeta, 25; Tsering Jangchup, 21; Jigme Phuntsok, 23; Lamsang, 24 and Tsewang Lhakyab, 19.

The arrests of Tibetans took place amid the ongoing Chinese government's campaign of political indoctrination and re-education, which force Tibetans to swear allegiance to the Chinese communist party and denounce their revered spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama. A huge number of Chinese officials arrived in the village on Sunday to enforce the campaign.

The situation in Driru county remains tense after the Chinese government strengthens measures forcing Tibetans to hoist Chinese flags in their homes in early Oct. The Tibetans have shown strong opposition against this measure. On 6 Oct, the Chinese police opened fire on peaceful Tibetan protesters in Dathang township, which left over 60 Tibetans injured. The protesters were demanding the release of Dorjee Dragtsel, a Tibetan who was arrested from Nagchu township, apparently for his persistent advocacy of freedom and truth on the issue of Tibet.

The police firing drew condemnation from Amnesty International, a prominent human rights group. "It is outrageous for the police to start firing on a peaceful gathering. This latest incident shows that the Chinese authorities have done nothing to rein in excessive use of force by their security forces or to increase respect for Tibetans' right to freedom of peaceful assembly," Corinna-Barbara Francis, Amnesty International's China Researcher, said in a statement on 9 October.

"Across the Tibetan region the situation remains tense, the Chinese authorities are doing nothing to improve it by continuing to deny Tibetans their most basic human rights. The daily harassment and humiliating treatment have to end," said Francis. ■

This is what happens when Tibetan villages refuse to fly the Chinese flag

7 October, 2013

By Max Fisher, The Washington Post

ONE OF CHINA'S CREEPIER POLICIES in the Tibetan Autonomous Region is a 2011 initiative known as the "nine haves." Some of the nine are about development ("to have roads, to have water, to have electricity"), but one is less about helping Tibetans and more about entrenching Beijing's control in a region that doesn't seem to want it: "to have a national flag." Every house and monastery building would be required to fly the crimson, five-starred flag of China. (Monasteries are also required to display portraits of Chinese leaders.) It was to be a show of submission to Chinese rule and a continuation of Tibet's slow cultural dilution.

The rural Tibetan county of Driru, though, has defied the rule, with villagers refusing to fly the flag. On Sept. 27, Chinese authorities responded by sending in "thousands" of Chinese troops to force up the flags, according to Tibetan exile outlets

and Radio Free Asia, a U.S. government-backed outlet that's among the few foreign media organizations regularly reporting on Tibet. Now, a week later, Chinese flags are still not flying.

Some Tibetans initially clashed with the troops when they arrived, precipitating a tight security clampdown. "Groups of seven paramilitary policemen have been stationed at each house and are watching the Tibetans," an unnamed Tibetan local told Radio Free Asia. "Villagers are not being allowed to tend to their animals, and any Tibetan found loitering in the town is being taken away."

Earlier in the week, hundreds of Tibetans reportedly gathered in the Driru county seat, a village called Mowa, to protest on behalf of the civilians who had been taken away by the Chinese troops. It's estimated that 40 locals have been taken.

The most significant moment may have been on Tuesday, Oct. 1. That was China's National Day, the equivalent of America's July

4, a major national holiday – and one in which the flag is particularly important. It seems likely that the troops had arrived to ensure that all Chinese flags would fly in Tibet by the National Day. They didn't – and photos of Driru, taken clandestinely by locals, make it appear as akin to a military occupation.

Tibetans in Driru have held a number of protests against Chinese rule. In August 2012, demonstrations against Chinese mining expansion there ended when Chinese troops shot and killed one of the protesters. Locals held more anti-mining protests in May.

The nature of China's rule has changed dramatically over the past four decades, easing with remarkable speed from the indoctrination and totalitarianism of Mao Zedong's era to the market reforms and flexible civil rights of today. But these sorts of stories from Tibet – portraits of political leaders required to be displayed in monasteries, national flags forced up over the homes of villagers – are a reminder that some of the old habits still remain. ■

Statement of Kashag: on 24th Anniversary of Conferment of Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama of Tibet

Photo: His Holiness the Dalai Lama being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, 10 December 1989.



10 December, 2013

The Kashag

ON BEHALF OF THE 6 MILLION TIBETANS, the Kashag pays its deep reverence and humble respects to His Holiness the Great XIV Dalai Lama of Tibet on this special occasion of the 24th Anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The Kashag also extends its warmest greetings to fellow Tibetans, friends and well-wishers all over the world.

On this day in 1989, His Holiness the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his consistent resistance to the use of violence in his people's struggle for basic freedoms. The Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama catapulted the Tibetan struggle to greater international visibility. His Holiness the Dalai Lama's global stature directly and positively impacted on the image of the Tibetan people and fundamentally strengthened the Tibetan cause. Tibet became synonymous with non-violence and justice.

This day is also observed as World Human Rights Day, to celebrate the proclamation and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948 as the common standard to measure the freedoms to which all peoples and nations should live.

Unfortunately, even after 65 years of proclamation there is not much for Tibetans to celebrate given the deteriorating human rights condition in Tibet.

China continues to negate the principle of the universality of human rights by violating the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Tibet is still under occupation. It continues to suffer from political repression, economic marginalisation, social discrimination, environmental destruction and cultural assimilation. Worst is the mass Chinese migration to Tibet which has turned Tibetans into second-class citizens in their own homeland.

Living under such a repressive environment, with no space for conventional methods of protest, Tibetans from all walks of life are forced to take drastic measures to express their outrage and despair. Just a week ago, Mr. Kunchok Tsetan, only 30 years old, self-immolated and died. Despite our repeated appeals not to do so, 123 Tibetans have self-immolated in Tibet since 2009. 123 is neither simply a number nor a list of names. They are human beings just like any one of us who will wish to live a complete life, if given a choice. China cannot deny the blatant human rights violations which are the causes for the

self-immolations.

Recently in Driiru, Nagchu, Tibetans refused to hoist the Chinese national flag. They were shot at and 4 of them were killed. Many were detained. The situation in the area continues to remain tense.

Instead of seeing His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the solution, he is labeled an arch enemy. Chen Quanguo, the Party Secretary of the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), threatened to silence His Holiness the Dalai Lama's voice and ban his own people inside Tibet from hearing his message. Similarly, the voice of their own Nobel Peace Prize winner, Liu Xiaobo, is silenced as he is currently imprisoned in China.

The deteriorating human rights situation inside Tibet is being criticised and castigated in the US State Department Human Rights Report, Amnesty International Report and Human Rights Watch Report. The Freedom House ranked Tibet among the 'worst of the worst' in civil rights and political liberty in its Freedom in the World Report 2013.

In the recent United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of China, 12 nations including Japan, Australia, Iceland and Canada expressed their concern over China's human rights violations. Among others, New Zealand called on China to resume two-way dialogue to resolve the issue of Tibet.

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) remains committed to the Middle-Way Approach and reiterates that dialogue is the most realistic approach and the only way to find a mutually beneficial solution to the Tibet issue. The Middle-Way Approach neither seeks separation from the People's Republic of China nor "high degree of autonomy", but Genuine Autonomy for all Tibetan people under a single administration. This is consistent with both the National Regional Autonomy Law and the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

The CTA does not use the term "Greater Tibet." The three traditional provinces of U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo have always been essential parts of Tibet that covers the entire Tibetan plateau. They share not just the same geography and topography but also culture, language and religion. Division of Tibet into several provinces of China is a clear violation of Chinese laws and of Article 4 of the Constitution which recognises the right of minority nationalities to practice regional autonomy "in the areas of where they live in concentrated communities" and to "set up organ of self government for the exercise of power of autonomy." 99% Uyghurs live in

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and 95% of Zhuangs live in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Tibetans living in one concentrated community are divided into different provinces with less than 50% in the TAR while the majority is incorporated into neighbouring Chinese provinces as Tibetan autonomous prefectures and counties.

Tibet constituting one-fourth of China is not a recent political creation but a natural outcome of Tibetans inhabiting the Tibetan plateau for thousands of years. The fact that Tibet constitutes one-fourth of China should not be a concern for the Chinese government because one-fifth of China is already established as Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and one-eighth as Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Moreover, Genuine Autonomy for all Tibetans is not geographically specific, but administratively specific, aiming for actual implementation of Chinese laws in the areas to empower Tibetans to become masters of their own affairs.

Having all Tibetans with the same tradition, economy and even geography in a single administrative unit will be an efficient and effective form of governance rather than dividing them into TAR and four Chinese provinces with Chinese majority, i.e. Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan. The Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People has clearly explained that it is not our intention to expel "all Chinese" from the Tibetan areas as alleged by the Chinese authorities. But the Tibetan areas should have Tibetan majority for the preservation and promotion of the unique Tibetan identity.

For all these reasons, the moderation and pragmatism of the Middle-Way Approach has attracted support and recognition among intellectuals, parliamentarians, leaders and individuals, including Chinese scholars, writers and Chinese Buddhists. Since 2011, more than 6 different countries have passed resolutions and motions in support of resumption of dialogue between envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the new leadership. More than 16 foreign ministries, spokespersons and individual parliamentarians have urged China to resolve the Tibet issue.

On this occasion, the Kashag would like to thank all these countries and others for supporting our cause.

We take this opportunity to thank, above all, the Government and people of India for their generosity and hospitality all these years. Our words of thankfulness cannot fully express our

profound feelings of gratitude towards India for its generosity.

We also thank the Tibet Support Groups and individual supporters all over the world for their voluntary and steadfast support for all our endeavours.

In his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, His Holiness the Dalai Lama stated, "The prize reaffirms our conviction that with truth, courage and determination as our weapons, Tibet will be liberated." Furthermore, His Holiness the Dalai Lama on September 22, 2013, reassured all Tibetans by categorically

stating that he would live a very long life and see the day when the Tibet issue is resolved through the Middle-Way Approach.

We must all remain united and dedicate ourselves to fulfill the auspicious words of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Tibet's cause and its struggle for human rights will triumph. The strength and perseverance of the Tibetan people will never diminish. Non-violence and peace are a universal aspiration not only for us, but for all humanity. The success of the Tibetan struggle will be a success of non-violence and peace.

So, our beloved brothers and sisters in Tibet, though your suffering is unbearable and seems endless, the only certainty in life is change. Things never stay the same forever. Though we remain separated by political force, we will never stop working to be reunited with basic freedoms and with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Tibet.

Finally, the Kashag and Tibetans everywhere wish His Holiness the Dalai Lama continued good health. May all his wishes be fulfilled. Thank You! ■

The Kashag

2013 US CONGRESSIONAL REPORT DOCUMENTS DETERIORATING SITUATION IN TIBET

11 October, 2013

DHARAMSHALA: THE US CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA on Thursday released its 2013 Annual Report on human rights and rule of developments in China, including the situation in Tibet.

The Commission documented the status of Sino-Tibetan Negotiations, Tibetan self-immolations and the Chinese government's repression on fundamental human rights of Tibetans in Tibet, including religious freedom and Tibetan political prisoners.

On the Sino-Tibetan negotiations, the Commission noted with optimism the views of a senior official of the Central Party School, Professor Jin Wei, who said the Chinese government should resume talks with the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. "In June 2013, Professor Jin Wei, with the Central Party School, stated in an interview that, if the Party "can use creative ideas to break the impasse" in dialogue, it would "promote social stability and prevent the creation of long-lasting nationality wounds." Jin noted that the Party "cannot simply treat [the Dalai Lama] as an enemy," recommended "restarting the talks," and suggested discussing that the Dalai Lama visit Hong Kong "in his capacity as a religious leader," the report said.

There was a significant rise in the number of self-immolation protests by Tibetans in the

reporting year, the report said, adding that the Chinese government failed to address the grievances of Tibetans and its policy of repression and blame games worsened the prevailing situation. "Instead of addressing the grievances, the Chinese authorities strengthened a security crackdown based on the premise of "stability maintenance" that infringed on Tibetans' freedoms of expression, association, and movement, and curtailed their ability to communicate or share information," the report said.

The report noted the efforts made by the then US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues Maria Otero, who urged the Chinese government to "engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives without preconditions." Ms Otero, in December 2012, pointed out that severe government controls on Tibetans, undermining of the Tibetan language, intensive surveillances and forced disappearances of peaceful Tibetan protesters and intellectuals, as some of the reasons for Tibetans' resentment.

The report also documented the forced resettlement of Tibetan nomads and the exploitation of Tibet's natural resources through illegal mining. It said the Tibet Autonomous Region government would settle 460,000 farmers and herders in 2013, and that "nearly 2.1 million" had been settled (or resettled) during 2006-2012. It pointed out illegal mining activities carried out in Tibet

resulting in disastrous consequences like the landslide disaster at a gold mine near Lhasa in March 2013.

Assessing the situation of Tibetan political detention and imprisonment, it noted that as of September 1, 2013, the Political Prisoner Database (PPD) contained records of 642 Tibetan political prisoners believed or presumed currently detained or imprisoned. Of these, 314 are Tibetan Buddhist monks, nuns and teachers or Trulkus. About 88 percent of the Tibetan political prisoners are male, 7 percent are female, and the remaining are of unknown gender.

"The report noted ongoing and tragic self-immolations in Tibetan areas of China and some of the most severe unrest in Xinjiang since 2009 and urged Chinese officials to adopt a more inclusive, democratic approach that fully takes into account the views of Tibetans and Uyghurs and respects their culture, language, and religion," Commission Chairman Sherrod Brown and Cochairman Christopher Smith said in a statement.

"The report recommended that Members of Congress and the Administration urge China to commit to a specific timetable to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to raise this issue at the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of China's human rights record on October 22, 2013." ■



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