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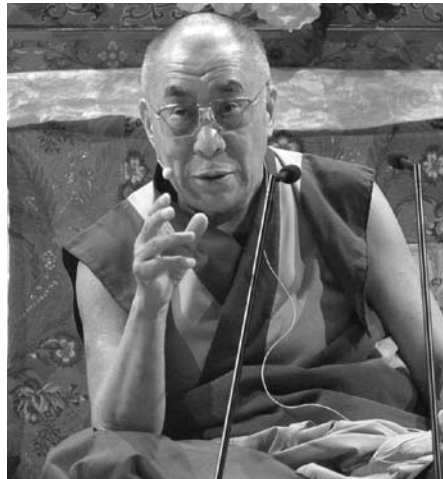
Statement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to all Tibetans on 6 April- International Prayer Day organised by Tibetan Solidarity Committee

While extending my warm greetings to all the Tibetans in Tibet, I would like to share some of my thoughts.

1) Since March 10 this year, we have witnessed protests and demonstrations in almost all parts of Tibet, even in a few cities in Mainland China by students, which are the outburst of long pent-up physical and mental anguish of the Tibetans and the feeling of deep resentment against the suppression of the rights of Tibetan people, lack of religious freedom and for trying to distort the truth at every occasion, such as saying that Tibetans look towards the Chinese Communist Party as the “Living Buddha”, is an ultra leftist statement and smacks of Han chauvinism. I am very much saddened and concerned by the use of arms to suppress the peaceful demonstrations of Tibetan people’s aspirations that have resulted in unrest in Tibet, causing many deaths, and much more casualties, detention, and injury. Such suppression and suffering are very unfortunate and tragic which will reduce any compassionate person to tears. I, however, feel helpless in the face of these tragic incidents.

2) I pray for all the Tibetans as well as Chinese who have lost their lives during the current crisis.

3) The recent protests all over Tibet have not only contradicted but also shattered the People Republic of China’s propaganda that except for a few “reactionaries”, the majority of Tibetans enjoy a prosperous and contented life. These protests have made it very clear that Tibetans in the three provinces of Tibet, U-tsang, Kham and Amdo, harbor the same aspirations and hopes. These protests have also conveyed to the world that the Tibet issue can no longer be neglected. These protests highlight the need to find a way to resolve the issue through “finding truth from facts”. The courage and



His Holiness the Dalai Lama addresses the International Prayer Day, organised by the Tibetan Solidarity Committee on 6 April 2008, at the Tsuglagkhang (main temple) in Dharamshala, India.

determination of those Tibetans who have, for the greater interests of Tibetan people, demonstrated their deep anguish and hopes by risking everything is very commendable as the world community has acknowledged and supported the spirit of these Tibetans.

4) I deeply appreciate the acts of many Tibetan government employees and Communist Party cadres who have, without losing their Tibetan identity, shown grit and sense of what is right during the present crisis. In future, I would appeal to the Tibetan Party cadres and government employees not to look always for their personal benefit, but to work for safeguarding the larger interests of Tibet by reporting the real sentiments of the Tibetan people to their superiors in the Party and try to give unbiased guidance to the Tibetan people.

5) Presidents, Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, Nobel Laureates, Parliamentarians, and concerned citizens from every part of the world have been sending clear and strong messages to the Chinese leadership to stop the present ongoing harsh

crackdown against the Tibetan people. They have all been encouraging the Chinese government to follow a path where a mutually beneficial solution could be reached. We should create an opportunity for their efforts to bring out positive results. I know you are being provoked at every level but it is important to stick to our non-violent practice.

6) The Chinese authorities have been making false allegations against myself and the Central Tibetan Administration for instigating and orchestrating the recent events in Tibet. These allegations are totally untrue. I have made repeated appeals for an independent and respected international body to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter. I am sure this independent body will uncover the truth. If the People’s Republic of China has any basis and proof of evidence to back their allegations, they need to disclose these to the world. Just making allegations is not enough.

7) For the future of Tibet, I have decided to find a solution within the

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Tibet News

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framework of the People's Republic of China. Since 1974, I have sincerely remained steadfast to the mutually beneficial Middle-Way Approach. The whole world knows this. The Middle-Way Approach means that all Tibetans must be governed by similar administration that enjoys meaningful National Regional Autonomy and all the provisions in it, self-rule and full decision-making, except for matters concerning foreign relations and national defense. However, I have said it from the beginning that the Tibetans in Tibet have the right to make the final decision for the future of Tibet.

8) The hosting of the Olympic games this year is a matter of great pride to the 1.2 billion Chinese people. I have from the very beginning supported the holding of these Games in Beijing. My position on this remains unchanged. I feel the Tibetans should not cause any hindrance to the Games.

9) It is the legitimate right of every Tibetan to struggle for their freedoms and rights. On the other hand, it will be futile and not helpful to anyone if we do something that will create hatred in the minds of the Chinese people. On the contrary, we need to foster trust and respect in our hearts in order to create a harmonious society, as this cannot be built on the basis of force and intimidation.

10) Our struggle is with a few in the leadership of the People's Republic of China and not with the Chinese people. Therefore we should never cause misunderstanding or do something that will hurt the Chinese people. Even during this difficult situation, many Chinese intellectuals, writers and lawyers in Mainland China and other

parts of the world have sympathized and shown us their solidarity by issuing statements, writing articles and offering pledges of support that is overwhelming. I have recently issued an appeal to the Chinese people all over the world on 28th March, which I hope you will hear and read.

11) If the present situation in Tibet continues, I am very much concerned that the Chinese government will unleash more force and increase the suppression of Tibetan people. Because of my moral obligation and responsibility to the Tibetan people, I have repeatedly asked the concerned leadership of the PRC to immediately stop their suppression in all parts of Tibet and withdraw its armed police and troops. If this brings result, I would also advise the Tibetans to stop all the current protests.

12) I want to urge my fellow Tibetans who live in freedom outside Tibet to be extra vigilant as they voice their feelings on the developments in Tibet. We should not engage in any action that could be even remotely interpreted as violent. Even under the most provocative of situations we must not allow our most precious and deeply held values to be compromised. I firmly believe that we will achieve success through our non-violent path. We must be wise to understand where the unprecedented affection and support for our cause stems from.

13) As Tibet is currently virtually closed and no international media is allowed there, I doubt my message will reach the Tibetans in Tibet. But I hope through media and by word of mouth, it will be passed on to the majority of you.

Briefing on Demonstrations In Tibet, 2008

Since March 10, the world has witnessed widespread uprising against the Chinese authorities' repressive policies on the Tibetans. Till today, demonstrations have taken place in three provinces of Tibet called U-Tsang, Kham and Amdo and in 170 different locations covering around 56 counties in addition to some areas even within mainland China. From various slogans, the two most commonly used through out the demonstrations were: Long Live His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Want His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Return to Tibet.

Who is Behind the Unrest in Tibet and Why?

Since the onset of the demonstrations, Beijing has made allegations accusing "the Dalai clique of masterminding" the recent protests. However China is yet to provide any evidence that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is responsible

for the recent unrest.

Instead, the peaceful demonstrations can only be understood as the Tibetan people's uprising stemmed mainly from many decades of deep seated resentment, repression, and basic denial of human rights under Chinese policies & tyranny. The unyielding of any concrete result from six rounds of

the Sino-Tibetan dialogue conducted since 2002 also caused the recent outburst of Tibetans.

Tracing the seeds of the present crisis

Seeds of the present crisis can partially be traced back to the ultra leftist policies adopted by People's Republic of China (PRC) which immediately resulted in the 1959 uprising. The policy remained unchanged for many years and got worsened and further strengthened in the Third Work Forum in Tibet, which took place from July 20 to 23, 1994. This forum basically recommended the total destruction of an entire civilization flourishing on the Tibetan plateau for thousands of years and was convened by the top Chinese leadership and was presided over by the then President Jiang Zemin.

The Third Work Forum recommended four key elements and they are

- i) China stepped up the scale of repression in Tibet on Tibetan Buddhism (seed of Tibetan Nationalism).
- ii) External propaganda work was escalated.
- iii) The pace of economic development in Tibet increased rapidly, and
- iv) Encourage more Chinese to settle in Tibet.

The significance of the Third Work Forum lies in the fact that it overturned the more liberal policies laid out for Tibet's "development" by the First and

Second Work Forums held in 1980 and 1984. The first two work forums were initiated by the late Hu Yaobang, then Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party. This liberal leader is credited with masterminding a series of measures to improve the social, economic and political conditions in Tibet. The brief spell of liberalization markedly improved the living conditions of the majority of Tibetans and contributed to a more relaxed intellectual and social climate.

Bewildered Tibetans were then told that just as there cannot be two suns in the sky, so there could not be both Buddhism and socialism in Tibet. Inevitably Buddhism had to give way to Socialism. Likewise, a law was passed on reincarnation of Tibetan lamas. A major thrust is underway to break the bond of loyalty between the clergy in Tibet and His Holiness the Dalai Lama in India.

The recent protests serve to remind us once again that the dazzling new infrastructure and marketplaces in Tibet, has certainly neither weakened the power of religion and traditional culture, nor won the hearts and minds of Tibetans. One would be too naive to believe that China's investments in Tibet are benefitting Tibetans.

If China truly wants stability, then the underlying causes of the public protests must be addressed, and policies that address the interest of both the Tibetan people and the Chinese government should be considered. In

almost every single protest since March 10, Tibetans inside Tibet have been calling for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It is imperative that the Chinese set forth a timeline and framework for evaluation of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue. A practical solution for the Tibet question through official negotiations that include measurable results favours both the Tibetan people and the Chinese government. The Middle-Way Approach was proposed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to peacefully resolve the issue of Tibet. It is a non-partisan and moderate position that safeguards the vital interests of all concerned parties - for Tibetans: the protection and preservation of their culture, religion and national identity; for the Chinese: the security and territorial integrity of the "motherland"; and for neighbours and other third parties: peaceful borders and international relations. Any resolution of the issue of Tibet during the lifetime of His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be lasting and mutually beneficial to both the Tibetan and Chinese peoples.

As of April 25, 2008, number of Tibetans killed, arrested, and injured since March 10 clampdown on the Tibetans by the PRC follows below:

- Number of Tibetans killed: 203
- Number of Tibetan injured: above 1,000
- Number of Tibetan arrested: more than 5,714

Exiled Tibetans offer Prayers to China Quake Victims

Exiled Tibetans all over the world offered prayers for victims of the recent earthquake that struck south-west China on 12 May. In the aftermath of the earthquake, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration have extended deep sympathy and heartfelt condolences and prayers to those families who have been directly affected by the strong earthquake. His Holiness the Dalai Lama said, "Let us pray and express our condolences to the Chinese people". "Let us share this sadness of thousands and thousands of Chinese who suffer due to the earthquake."

The Department of Religion and Culture of the Central Tibetan Administration on 14 May, organised a special prayer

session led by monks of the Namgyal Monastery at the Tsuglagkhang (main temple) in Dharamsala.

In light of this natural catastrophe, the Tibetan Exile Government on 15 May issued guidelines to all the Offices of Tibet to join our effort to express solidarity by organising prayer meetings and rising donations for the quake victims. The guidelines also advice Tibetans across the world to shun staging demonstrations in front of the Chinese embassies in the respective host countries they live in at least till about the end of May.

Mr. Karma Chopel, speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile in his address said: "The Central Tibetan

Administration and all the Tibetan people in exile convey their heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of the devastating earthquake and stand in solidarity with the Chinese people in this hour of grief and sadness." As a mark of respect, the speaker appealed to all Tibetans to put off protests in front of Chinese embassies until the end of May.

Over two thousand Tibetan refugees in Nepal prayed for earthquake Victims' Solace. Similar prayer sessions are also held simultaneously in all the Tibetan settlements across India, Nepal, Bhutan, Canada, USA, Taiwan, Japan, etc under the aegis of local Tibetan solidarity committees.

China-Tibet talks held in ‘frank and candid manner’

Envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama said recent crisis in Tibet is a clear symptom of deeply felt grievances and resentment of the Tibetans with China’s policies. They said both sides have expressed strong and divergent views on the nature as well as the causes of the recent tragic events in Tibet in a ‘frank and candid manner’. The envoys also stated that despite major differences on important issues both sides demonstrated a willingness to seek common approaches in addressing the issues at hand and made some concrete proposals, which can be part of the future agenda. A date for the seventh round will be finalised soon after mutual consultations. They on their part rejected categorically the accusation

made against His Holiness the Dalai Lama of instigating the demonstrations and unrest in Tibet and sabotaging the Olympic Games.”

The envoys said they have stressed the importance of ending the current repression throughout Tibet and called for the release of prisoners, to allow those injured to be given proper medical treatment and give unfettered access to visitors, including the media. They urged the Chinese authorities to put an end to the “patriotic re-education” campaign, which is deeply resented by the Tibetan people.

The representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and their Chinese counterparts held informal talks in China’s southern city of Schenzen on 4 May.



HH Representatives

His Holiness The Dalai Lama’s Foreign Tours

His Holiness Dalai Lama returns to Dharamshala on 26th April after successfully concluding his visit to the United States.

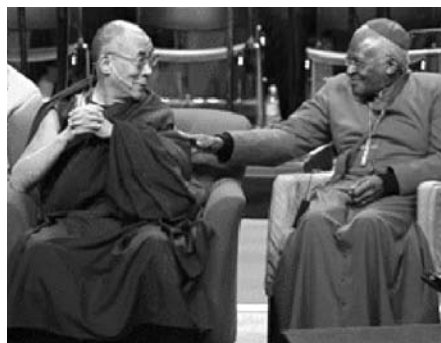
During his visit, His Holiness engaged in a series of conferences and delivered lectures on “Seeds of Compassion” - which includes discussions on scientific research into compassion, business philanthropy, interfaith dialogue and nurturing kindness in children.

His Holiness discussed spirituality and compassion with fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and leaders of different religious faiths. His Holiness was also conferred with an honorary degree by the University of Washington.

Crucial to his visit, His Holiness was able to express his firm commitment to the Middle-Way Approach in resolving the issue of Tibet and support for Beijing Olympics by meeting in person with various Chinese reporters.

While meeting with Chinese students in Rochester, His Holiness sought to clarify the wrong impression that Tibetans are anti-Chinese. His Holiness underlined the need for more face-to-face meetings between Tibetans and Chinese, rather than staying distant with unnecessary suspicion, negative feeling and harmful atmosphere on both sides.

On 21 April, US Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky called on His Holiness the Dalai Lama for a private meeting at the University of Michigan.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, left, sits with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, of South Africa, on 15 April 2008 prior to speaking at the University of Washington in Seattle

On 24 April, His Holiness the Dalai Lama met with a group of Chinese language media, including Xinhua, in Colgate Inn in New York and released his appeal to all Chinese spiritual brothers and sisters.

In his appeal, His Holiness said that he is making this special appeal “as a Buddhist monk and a student of our most revered teacher, the Buddha”. His Holiness added that: “I have already made an appeal to the general Chinese community. Here I am appealing to you, my spiritual brothers and sisters, on an urgent humanitarian matter”.

His Holiness said: “With no international observers, journalists or even tourists allowed to Tibet, I am deeply worried about the fate of the Tibetans. Many of those injured in the crackdown, especially in the remote areas, are too terrified to seek medical treatment for fear of arrest.

According to some reliable sources, people are fleeing to the mountains where they have no access to food and shelter. Those who remained behind are living in a constant state of fear of being the next to be arrested”.

His Holiness said he is deeply pained by this ongoing suffering and worried where all these developments might lead to ultimately. His Holiness said: “I do not believe that repressive measures can achieve any long-term solution. The best way forward is to resolve the issues between the Tibetans and the Chinese leadership through dialogue, as I have been advocating for a long time.”

“I have repeatedly assured the leadership of the People’s Republic of China that I am not seeking independence. What I am seeking is a meaningful autonomy for the Tibetan people that would ensure the long-term survival of our Buddhist culture, our language and our distinct identity as a people”, His Holiness said.

His Holiness added that “the rich Tibetan Buddhist culture is part of the larger cultural heritage of the People’s Republic of China and has the potential to benefit our Chinese brothers and sisters”.

In the light of the present crisis, His Holiness said, “I appeal to all of you to help call for an immediate end to the ongoing brutal crackdown, for the release of all who have been detained, and to call for providing immediate care to the injured”.

British PM meets His Holiness, pledges support for Tibet-China talks

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was in United Kingdom for an 11-day visit from 20 to 31 May 2008. He gave a series of public talks and teachings in London, Nottingham and Oxford.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown pledged Britain's support for a meaningful constructive dialogue between China and representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, during a meeting with His Holiness at Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury's official residence in London.

PM Brown's office said he held "warm and constructive" discussions with the Tibetan spiritual leader in a 30-minute closed-door meeting. A Downing Street spokesman said the "warm and constructive" talks covered a range of issues, "including the importance of the dialogue between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese authorities and the PM's strong commitment to the human rights of the Tibetan people." The PM expressed his determination to work with both sides

to encourage reconciliation."

His Holiness also met with Prince Charles, Opposition Conservative Leader, Mr. David Cameron, Liberal Democrats, Mr. Nick Clegg, leaders of various religious and faith leaders and more than 20 Chinese journalists, ranging from those representing the official Chinese Xinhua news agency and those working for Chinese media operating freely in the UK.

His Holiness meets Chinese People, Wraps Up Australia Visit

The highlight of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's five-day to Australia visit was the meeting between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and some 300 Chinese people, including some former officials from the Chinese embassy in Australia and mediapersons on Sunday, Voice of America reported Monday.

The meeting was coordinated by the office of Tibet, at the request of China Freedom and Democratic Party based in Australia.

Expressing happiness over the meeting with Chinese people, His Holiness said on various occasions, the Chinese people, especially those from Mainland have implored him to come to China to give teachings on Buddhism.

His Holiness underlined that Chinese people living outside China must have a clear understanding about the situation of Tibet, emphasising that the issue of Tibet has to be ultimately resolved only between the Tibetans and Chinese without depending on a third party.

In this regard, I have been making efforts to reach out to the Chinese friends and happy indeed to be able to meet and talk to them, His Holiness added.

During an open and interactive discussions, His Holiness reiterated that he is not against the Chinese people, and that he "totally support Beijing Olympic Games and the torch relay".

On the same day, His Holiness wrapped up a five-day teaching on

the Kamalashila's stages of meditation with a message of human compassion. His Holiness told a packed house at The Dome at Sydney Olympic Park that human compassion begins with honesty, forgiveness and tolerance. Compassion is a case of commonsense, His Holiness said, not religion. His Holiness also conferred the initiation of Chenrezig, the Buddha of compassion.

The members of the organising committee also offered long life prayers to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and requested him to visit Australia again next year.

Later in the afternoon, His Holiness left Australia for Jordan, where he will attend a conference of Nobel Peace Laureates.

His Holiness meets Australia's acting Prime Minister Chris Evans

Australia's acting prime minister Chris Evans held a low-key meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Friday despite a warning from Beijing of its strong opposition to any support for the Tibetan spiritual leader.

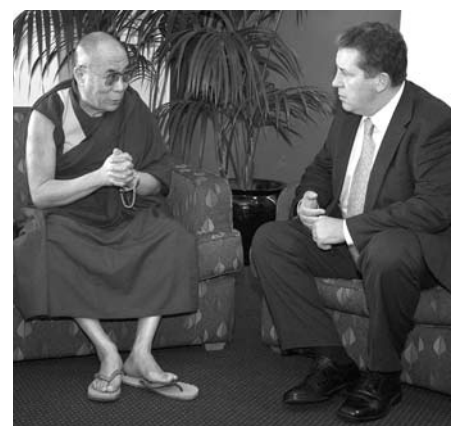
Senator Chris Evans met His Holiness the Dalai Lama in a hotel in Sydney, where His Holiness is conducting a series of meditation seminars.

In Sydney, His Holiness the Dalai Lama reiterated his call for "meaningful autonomy" for Tibet, saying he supported China's desire for a stable society and hoped talks between his envoys and Chinese officials will resume soon, possibly next month.

"Stability and unity must come from the heart, not the gun," His Holiness told reporters on Thursday. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has called his visit to Australia, a spiritual not political tour.

He has met federal Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson this week, as well as Greens leader Bob Brown and is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Stephen Smith.

Prime Minister Rudd, away this week on a visit to Japan and Indonesia, said he would have gladly met with the Dalai Lama had he been in Australia.



Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama, left, talks with Australia's acting leader Senator Chris Evans in Sydney, Australia, Friday, June 13, 2008. (AP Photo/Dalai Lama official, Rusty Stewart, HO)

China must live up to the human rights promises: Amnesty

London: Amnesty International

(AI) in its 2008 report said ‘severe restrictions remain on freedom of religion, freedom, and association in Tibet while peaceful expressions of support for the Tibetan spiritual and political leader the Dalai Lama were “harshly punished”’.

“I think it will be important to maintain the pressure on and engagement with China post-Olympics. That will be a real challenge as it slips off the (news) agenda,” the rights group’s secretary general Irene Khan said in an interview to AFP to mark the report’s publication.

Earlier on 10 March, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has appealed to the international community to explore ways of investing their collective energies in producing a continuous positive change inside China even after the Olympics have come to an end. His Holiness also stated that China should prove herself a good host by upholding the principles of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, equality and friendship.

The annual Amnesty report said China must live up to the human rights promises it made around the Olympic Games and allow free speech and

freedom of the press and end “re-education through labour.”

Abuses, including the torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, use of the death penalty, censorship, restrictions on assembly and repression of minorities are still commonplace in China, the report mentioned.

Chinese moves to support African Union and United Nations peacekeepers in Darfur and its help in Myanmar, after a military crackdown on pro-democracy campaigners last year, were “glimmers of hope”, Irene Khan said.

Report compiled from Amnesty International’s Report 2008 and AFP

Reports emerged of aftermath of demonstrations

A 38-year old man named as Kusang Sonam gave a media interview from a refugee centre in India, where he told of troops killing Tibetan protestors in Kardze prefecture with “long knives” and guns and hurling the bodies like “carcasses” into police vans. The New York Times (NYT) interviewed a monk in Labrang monastery who told of systematic beatings during which Chinese troops jeered: “The Dalai Lama, Western countries and the United States aren’t protecting you now. Tell them to come and save you!” One monk told the NYT: “There won’t be any more protests before the Olympics; people are just too scared. The pressure is too great”. The testimony of a Tibetan youth who was arrested in the aftermath of the Lhasa unrest was obtained by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). The interviewee described the use of extreme torture in prison and victims of serious violence, including those with gunshot wounds, being thrown in jail and denied access to medical treatment. He also spoke of the unwavering hope of support from the outside world.

First sentences since Tibet protests began: monks to serve life, 20 years

The Chinese authorities have announced the first sentences of Tibetans, ranging from three years to life, since the protests and unrest began on the Tibetan plateau on March 10. Thirty sentences were handed down yesterday in connection

with the riots in Lhasa on March 14, according to a Xinhua report, citing the Intermediate People’s Court of Lhasa. One monk was sentenced to life, and two others to 20 years. Guilty or innocent, these Tibetans are entitled to a fair trial. Instead, they were tried on secret evidence behind closed doors and without the benefit of a meaningful defence by lawyers they’d chosen.

A report by Human Rights Watch stated that actual trial proceedings, in which evidence from the prosecution was introduced, had been conducted covertly on undisclosed dates earlier in April, and that the Tibetans were denied access to a meaningful defense with lawyers they had chosen.

There are serious concerns and fears among people in Lhasa for Tibetans who have been detained since March 10 and following raids on people’s homes on March 14. Conditions in detentions centres and prisons are known to be severe, and prisoners are deprived of food and water. According to numerous reports received by ICT, Tibetans in custody face severe beatings. Many Tibetans have been taken out of Lhasa in truckloads or by train to prisons or detention centres in the Chengdu or Xining area.

The United States said it was “concerned” about reports that China has sentenced 30 Tibetans to between three years and life imprisonment for their involvement in the recent unrest inside Tibet. White House spokeswoman Dana Perino told “we are concerned. We don’t think that

anyone should break the law. But we also believe in freedom of expression and assembly. We think that it is in China’s interest that they continue to have these, because the Dalai Lama is a man of peace and someone that, I think, that if they were open to, could help calm the tensions in the area.

Monks in Tibet pray for quake victims

Tibetan monks in monasteries across all Tibetan areas within the PRC also held ceremonies, for those who died in the Sichuan earthquake. Monks have also donated money to relief efforts. Many of their monasteries are still under lockdown in the crackdown that followed the protests that began in March. Monks at Kirti monastery in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, where at least 10 Tibetans were shot dead during protests, applied for special permission to hold a ceremony for the dead and injured with the earthquake. They also sent a message from inside their monastery expressing compassion for those who died, and explaining that their protests had not been aimed at the Chinese people, but at the government. Kirti Monastery has been surrounded by Chinese security forces since 16 March, and the local community has not been allowed access after large public demonstrations were held there. About 500 monks attended a service at the Drepung monastery in Lhasa, which was also under tight restrictions.

Members of Parliament meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was greeted by nearly a dozen federal and state members of Parliament at the start of his Australian tour in Sydney today, the Sydney Morning Herald reported Wednesday.

The report said, Federal Labor MP Michael Danby and federal Liberal MP Peter Slipper were among the politicians who met with His Holiness.

On his arrival in Sydney, His Holiness held a three-hour meditation course for about 5000 followers at the Sydney SuperDome at Homebush Bay.

He later revealed to a private audience of about 100 political media and religious figures that he hoped to resume dialogue with the Chinese Government about the end of the month.

“We will see what kind of result will come,” His Holiness was quoted as saying. “Too early to say.”

China announced it would resume its on-off dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s representatives after a wave of international protests during the

Olympic Torch relay over its handling of protest inside Tibet.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama said he still supported the holding of the Olympic Games in Beijing, due to open on August 8, and urged protesters to remain non violent.

“We are one of the rare freedom struggles [to stick] strictly to non violence,” His Holiness said.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be running the meditation course until Sunday.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama blesses monks from Sydney’s Tibetan community moments after arriving in Sydney/Photo: Rusty Stewart

Australia’s Opposition Leader to Talk with His Holiness

Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson says he will discuss various international and religious issues with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at a meeting in Sydney this afternoon, ABC News Online reported Wednesday.

His Holiness arrived in Australia Tuesday for a five-day visit.

His Holiness is expected to meet with Senator Evans and Foreign Minister Stephen Smith later this week. Senator Evans will be acting Prime Minister while Kevin Rudd and Deputy Julia Gillard are overseas.

Dr Nelson says it is important for the Opposition Leader to meet His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

“I think it’s important that as the alternative prime minister of Australia, I meet with the Dalai Lama who is one of the world’s most significant spiritual leaders,” he said. “I will be discussing a number of international and religious affairs with him.”

Besides, meeting with the leaders, His Holiness will give a five-day discourse on the Middle Stages of Meditation (gomrim barpa) at The Dome, Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, beginning 11 June. The teachings will be translated into English, Chinese, Vietnamese and Indonesian.

His Holiness will also confer an initiation of Avalokiteshvara (Buddha of Compassion).

AUSTRALIAN SENATE PASSES MOTION ON TIBET

Australian Greens Leader Senator Bob Brown and Vice Chairman of All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet on 15 May moved the following motion on Tibet in the Senate. The motion was passed without any dissent.

The motion welcomed the informal talks between the two envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese representatives and the agreement to hold further formal talks. It encouraged both parties to work sincerely towards peaceful and mutually agreeable resolution on the Tibet issue. It also praised Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s stand taken on Tibet during his recent visit to Beijing, which calls for a constructive dialogue on Tibet. It calls on the Government to “support and monitor progress. This is the second motion passed in the Senate since 10th March Uprising.

TORCH RELAY IN CANBERRA



Senator Bob Brown of the Australian Greens Party said: “It was highly organised. Chinese government officials had paid travel and meal expenses for ethnic Chinese to travel to Canberra from other cities. Australians will feel a little bit uncomfortable by the fact that communist China came to town and just showed it can buy anything.”

Tibet protesters included Canadian singer K D Lang - a Buddhist who interrupted her Australian tour to travel to Canberra for the torch relay said “Tibet is a global heritage. It’s something we want to protect; it’s something that enriches the entire universe.”

South Australian town Unley to fly Tibetan Flag

The Unley Council voted seven to three in favour of the Tibetan flag to be flown until the closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, in support of freedom for Tibet. A local council in the South Australian town of Unley says it is confident there will be no backlash from the community for the raising of the Tibetan flag

The flag will sit between the Australian and Council flags outside the Unley Road chambers.

Councillor, Bob Schnell, says people have a lot of sympathy for the Tibetan issue, and he has received great support from the community. “They feel there is great sorrow for what has happened and perhaps more importantly what might happen in Tibet” he said.

HELEN CLARK, NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER

The New Zealand Government is deeply concerned at the violence in

Tibet and is monitoring the situation deeply. We have made this clear in public statement calling for restraints on all sides; reiterate our support for the right of people to protest peacefully and urging a careful and proportionate response from Chinese authorities. I can assure you that New Zealand will be monitoring the legal proceedings which follow. We are also urging China to engage in meaningful dialogue with representatives of the Tibetan people in order to achieve a lasting resolution of problems in Tibet.

Kalon Chope Paljor Tsering Visited Australia from 13th to 23rd April

The Minister of Health, Tibetan Exile Government, Dharamsala, INDIA Mr. Chope Paljor Tsering visited Australia to brief on the emergency situation on Tibet and to appeal to appropriate authorities to assist Tibet at this crucial period. During the visit, he met with Foreign Ministry, Shadow Foreign Minister Andy Robb, the Chairman and member of All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet's, the Leader of Green Party of Australia Senator Bob Brown and other parliamentary member. Two extremely important meetings with Think Tanks in Sydney and Melbourne, two Tibet Support Groups meetings in Sydney and Melbourne were held with the help of Australian Tibet Council (where Kalon received standing ovation

after the speech). The exile Tibetan minister also made three briefings and appeals to the Tibetan Communities of Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne and to Tibetan Women's Association of Australia.

LETTER OF SOLIDARITY TO CHINESE CONSULATE IN SYDNEY:

The President of Tibetan Community of Australia(NSW)wrotetoHisExcellency Qui Shaofang, Consulate General of People's Republic of China in Sydney on 21st May to offer solidarity with the victims of devastating earthquake in Sichuan province in China. In order to show their solidarity, they put forward to the Consulate General's attention of forming a Chinese Tibetan Friendship group which will work jointly towards fund raising for the earthquake victims. They also mentioned about the cancellation of Tibetan events to dedicate themselves in prayers for those who died and speedy recovery of those who were wounded.

The President of Tibetan Community in Melbourne had also sent similar letter of solidarity to Chinese Consulate in Melbourne. The Tibetan Community of Melbourne organized prayers and offered flowers and cards at the gate of Chinese Consulate Office in Melbourne to express their condolence to the victims of the China's earthquake. Tibetans in Canberra also gathered at

Tibet Information office, Canberra on 31 May 2008, to hold special prayers for all those who died in the recent earthquake in China and the cyclone in Burma. The Representative of H.H the Dalai lama in Australia Mr. Tenzin P Atisha attended the prayer.

Tibetan Solidarity Alliance

Please join the Tibetan Peace struggle by becoming a member of the Tibetan Solidarity Alliance. Your generosity will be recorded across time by placing an official stamp in your blue book to the value of your donations. Whatever contribution from you large or small would greatly benefit the Tibetan Community in Exile in its ongoing effort to:

- Preserve Tibetan Culture and National Identity
- Educate Tibetan Children
- Develop and promote democracy
- Assist 100s of 1000s of refugees

The Blue Book is a project of Tibetan Government-in-Exile and is administered by Social and Resource Development Fund (SARD) under the Department of Finance, Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamsala, INDIA.

Please send your donation directly to Tibet Information Office, Canberra. We accept cash, Bank draft or cheques. Please ensure you supply your full name and contact details. For more info, please visit our website www.tibetoffice.com.au

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