



# TIBETAN BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

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MARCH - APRIL 2016

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Election Commission Declares Final Results of Sikyong and Tibetan  
Parliamentary Elections

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for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah

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Anti-Dalai Lama Group Disbands After Chinese Role is Exposed

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His Holiness the Dalai Lama with graduates after the College for Higher Tibetan Studies (CHTS) at Sarah's graduation ceremony in Dharamsala, HP, India on April 26, 2016. Photo/ Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

His Holiness the Dalai Lama looking at the 'Thank You Dalai Lama' Photo Exhibition by Mr Vijay Kranti at the All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society in New Delhi, India on April 10, 2016. Photo/Jeremy Russell/OHHDL



Speaker Penpa Tsering of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile Congratulates Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay following the latter's victory in the Tibetan general election, 28 April 2016. DIIR Photo/ Tenzin Phende

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## TIBETAN BULLETIN

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**MARCH - APRIL 2016**

## Sikyong Releases Book by Former Tibetan Parliamentarian



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay at the book release on Friday, 29 April 2016.*

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay released a new two-volume book by Late Mr Gonpo Dorjee, a former member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives on Friday, 29 April.

The book titled ‘The Old and New Century of Tibet’ documents the history of Tibet from Nyatri Tsenpo, Tibet’s first king in recorded history, till 1986.

Addressing the book release, Sikyong first expressed his profound condolences at Mr Gonpo Dorjee’s demise and prayed for his swift rebirth. Mr Gonpo Dorjee, passed away on 26 April, just three days before the launch of the book.

Recommending the younger generation of Tibetans to read the book, he said: “Some of my staff at the Kashag Secretariat have read the book and they told me that the book is very well written, easy to understand and contains a lot of vital information on Tibetan history. Therefore, I applaud the hard work put in by the writer as well as by the staff of the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives to publish this book,” Sikyong said.

The two-volume book is a culmination of a decade-long effort by the writer to record Tibetan history as well as his personal experience of escaping into exile, following His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s advice.

Late Mr Gonpo Dorjee had served as a Member of the Tibetan Parliament from U-Tsang province in 1972. However, he resigned and returned to Darjeeling after two years due to health issues.

## China Releases Buruna Rinpoche From Imprisonment

Chinese authorities released Buruna Rinpoche, a senior Tibetan spiritual leader, in uncertain health on Sunday, 17 April, according to media reports.

Buruna Rinpoche, imprisoned since 2009 for refusing to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama, was escorted secretly to his home by the Chinese prison authorities.

“Buruna Rinpoche, who was detained in 2008 and sentenced to jail in 2009, was released a few days ago and has returned home,” a source was quoted as saying in the media reports. “In the past few years, Rinpoche’s health was reportedly very poor due to torture and a poor diet,” the source has added.

Buruna Rinpoche, also known as Tulku Phurbu Tsering, is the spiritual leader of Buruna nunnery in Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (incorporated into China’s Sichuan province).

Chinese authorities have raided the nunnery in May 2008 and have forced the nuns, as part of the Chinese government’s so-called patriotic education campaign, to criticise His Holiness the Dalai Lama and their teacher, following which the nuns have staged a protest refusing to sign the document.

As a result, Buruna Rinpoche along with 54 nuns of the nunnery was detained and sentenced to imprisonment in 2009, on charges of inciting separatism.

Buruna nunnery, located on a hilltop in Kardze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, was completely destroyed by Chinese artillery during the 1959 Tibetan national uprising. However, it was rebuilt in 1983 and expanded in 2000 under the leadership of Buruna Rinpoche.

The nunnery belongs to the Gelugpa school of traditional Tibetan Buddhism. It houses over 89 nuns and is a well-known centre of Buddhist philosophy for Tibetan nuns.

## DIIR Secretary Speaks to Nagrota College Students

Secretary Tashi Phuntsok of the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) spoke to a delegation of students of Political Science and two professors from the Government College Nagrota Bagwan, Himachal Pradesh, on 26 March.

The student delegation have come on an educational trip to learn about the Central Tibetan Administration and the non-violent Tibetan movement.

In his address, the Information Secretary Mr Tashi Phuntsok spoke briefly about the Tibetan history, contemporary Tibetan political approach and the organisational structure of the Central Tibetan Administration vis-a-vis the functions of the various departments under the administration.

He explained in detail the harmony of the three pillars that determine the success of Tibetan democracy, i.e. Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission (Judiciary), Tibetan Parliament (Legislative) and the Kashag (Executive).

He further highlighted the evolution of the Tibetan democratic polity since the establishment of Commission of Tibetan People’s Deputy in 1960 and the transition of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s political authority from a semi-retirement in 1991 to the entire devolution of political authority, to the democratically elected Tibetan leadership in 2011.

Following the talk, the students visited the Kashag Secretariat, the Parliament and the departments of Central Tibetan Administration.



*DIIR Secretary Mr Tashi Phuntsok explaining the organisational structure of CTA at DIIR hall.*

## China Releases Tibetan Political Prisoner in Critical Condition

A Tibetan political prisoner was released in critical condition following eight years in prison on Sunday, 20 March, according to the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD).

Ngodup Phuntsok aka Ngog-ga, 61, was arrested for participating in a peaceful protest against the Chinese government in 2008 in Kardze (now incorporated into China's Sichuan Province).

He was brought home two days after his actual release date of 18 March. He was unable to walk during his release, with crippling injuries to his back, a source was quoted as saying by TCHRD. At home, Ngodup needed constant attention and support from his family members to get up from bed or move around, it added.

According to Radio Free Asia, a radio service with extensive contacts in the region, local Tibetans and family members missed the opportunity to accord him a warm reception during his release as no announcements were made about the release. However, hundreds of Tibetans from Kardze and nearby areas are now reportedly pouring in to welcome Ngoega with continuous receptions, RFA added.

Even before his participation in the peaceful protests that swept Tibet in 2008, Ngodup Phuntsok had a history of resistance to Chinese authorities. In 1990, Ngoega had distributed religious scriptures and photos of exiled spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the monks of a local monastery and to the lay community, RFA report

He was also one of the principal organisers of a long-life offering to His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Kardze in 2001.

Chinese police discovered seventy photos of His Holiness the Dalai Lama when they raided Ngoega's room following his arrest in 2008.

## Central Tibetan Administration Commemorates 57th Anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay addressing the commemoration of 57th Tibetan National Uprising Day at the Tsuglakhang on 10 March 2016.*

Thousands of Tibetans and supporters gathered at the Tsuglakhang to mark the 57th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising day on 10 March 2016.

Members of the Kashag and Members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, Tibetan Justice Commissioners and staff of the Central Tibetan Administration attended the memorial ceremony.

The crowd observed a minute of silence to remember the Tibetan brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the 1959 uprising.

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Mr Penpa Tsering, Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament read the statements of the Kashag and the Tibetan Parliament.

Speaker Mr Penpa Tsering sternly rebuked the Chinese government's claims of prosperity and freedom in Tibet and said, "Today, in every part of the three Provinces of Tibet, the Tibetan people endure the severest of controls and restrictions on their routine life on a daily basis. In particular, the situation in the Driru County of Kham remains among the most serious, with numerous orders having been issued by different local Chinese government departments and units, rendering the area as most severely restricted one for its resident."

He appealed to all Tibetans and supporters of the Tibetan struggle to direct especially strong attention by direct and

indirect means to help free the Tibetan people inside Tibet from their current severe hardship.

Addressing the ceremony, Sikyong said, "All the areas inhabited by the Tibetan people are bereft of basic freedoms and continues to remain under strict control and surveillance. This fact is clearly evident from the prevailing grid system imposed on the Tibetan people's travel and movements."

Criticising Chinese repressive policies as the cause for Tibetan self-immolations, he said, "The recent self-immolation by two youths from within and outside Tibet in addition to 142 self-immolations in the past is further evidence of the lack of freedom in Tibet. The Kashag will endeavor to fulfill their aspirations and solely blame the repressive policies in Tibet as the cause of self-immolation."

Sikyong reasserted Kashag's commitment to the middle way policy and expressed optimism at the realistic approach of the policy, which is based on dialogue and non-violence rather than confrontation or complete independence from China. "We remain fully committed to the Middle Way Approach, which clearly seeks genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within China. It is hoped the leaders in Beijing will see reason with the Middle Way Approach, instead of distorting it, and step forward to engage in dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's envoys."

## Two Self-Immolations in March Shook Tibet and Tibetans



*Kelsang Wangdu (left) and Dorjee Tsering, the two self-immolators*

Two Tibetans, one in exile and one inside Tibet, set themselves on fire in two separate incidents in an apparent protest against the Chinese government's repressive rule in Tibet. Both succumbed to their burn injuries.

Kalsang Wangdu, a monk of Retsokha Aryaling monastery in Nyarong county, Kardze (incorporated into China's Sichuan Province) set himself on fire near his monastery on 29 February.

"He raised slogans calling for Tibet's complete independence," media reports quoted a source as saying. "Passersby tried to douse the fire and rushed him to a hospital. However, he died on the way," sources from the area have said.

In a separate incident, Dorjee Tsering, a sixteen-year-old Tibetan boy set himself on fire at Herbertpur near Dehradun in Northern India on 29 February to protest against the Chinese government and highlight the Tibet issue.

He was hospitalised for a few days at the Safdurjung hospital in Delhi, before passing away on 3 March 2016.

Dorjee Tsering set himself ablaze around 8:30 am on 29 February at the Home for elderly in Doegu-Yugyalling Tibetan settlement in Herbertpur. His family hails from Manali and was a tenth standard student at Tibetan Homes Foundation in Mussoorie. He was the youngest among his five siblings.

## Indian School Holds Solidarity Rally for Tibet

Shiva Ganga Vidya Mandir, a CBSE-affiliated Senior Secondary School in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, held a massive solidarity rally for Tibet on 9 April. The rally was held to express solidarity for the sufferings of the Tibetan people under the oppressive and inhumane Chinese rule in Tibet, according to Shri R P Pandey, principal of the school.

The chief guest at the rally was Dr Ramesh Chandra Negi, a Professor at the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Sarnath. He addressed the rally explaining the Tibet issue and handed over Tibetan flags to the students.

Thousands including the students and the staff of the school attended the rally. The students shouted slogans calling for a free Tibet during the rally and condemned the atrocities committed by China in Tibet. They also expressed their adulation to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the peaceful Tibetan movement led by Central Tibetan Administration.

The rally was facilitated with the help of the India-Tibet Coordination Office (ITCO) based in New Delhi and Shri Sundar Lal Suman, regional coordinator and Pradesh head of ITCO.

## Home Kalon Meets Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir

Home Kalon Gyari Dolma met Shri Chering Dorjay, Minister of Cooperative, Govt. of J&K at State Secretariat office on 27 April at Jammu.

Home Kalon introduced the Ladakh Changthang project and the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy (TRP) 2014 to him, also submitted a petition to the Minister requesting him to look after the problems faced by Tibetans residing at Leh and Changthang. The Hon'ble Minister

for Cooperative assured his assistance and support on the implementation of the policy formulated by the Central Govt. of India.

Thereafter, Home Kalon met the Chief Minister of J&K, Hon'ble Smt Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed at her office along with the Cooperative Minister. Kalon greeted the CM with Tibetan traditional scarf and presented a statue of Buddha as souvenir. Kalon briefed on the rehabilitation policy formulated by the Government of India in 2014 and also submitted a petition on strengthening of Changthang areas and implementation of TRP-2014 in J&K State. Kalon also requested the CM to look into the allotment of BPL ration card to the Tibetans in Ladakh. The Minister for Cooperative also introduced the Changthang project that has been sanctioned from Government of India to the CM.

On 28th, Kalon met Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Kumar Singh at his residence, during the meeting Kalon briefed on Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy-2014 and requested him to look after the implementation of policy in the J&K state.

The Kalon was accompanied by Mr Palden Dhondup, Additional Secretary of Department of Home, Mr Tseten Wangchuk, Ladakh Chief Representative Officer (CRO, Leh) and Mr Ngodup Waser, Under Secretary of Department of Home.

## Finance Kalon Tsering Dhundup Takes Additional Charge of Department of Security

Mr Tsering Dhundup, Kalon for the Department of Finance, Central Tibetan Administration, took additional charge of Department of Security on 6 April.

The additional charge for Kalon Tsering Dhundup was necessitated by the resignation of Mr Drongchung Ngodup, Kalon of the Department of Security on the morning of 6 April.

## Final Round of Election for Sikyong and Members of Parliament Held

The final round of election for the post of Sikyong (political leader) and members of the 16th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile of the Central Tibetan Administration was held on Sunday, 20 March 2016.

Tibetan exiles across the world from the United States in the west to Taiwan and Japan in the Far East turned out in large numbers to cast their ballots and exercise their universal suffrage.

In Dharamshala, the capital of the Tibetan diaspora community, polling stations were set up at 10 different locations across the town including one at Gangchen Kyishong, the official seat of the Central Tibetan Administration.

“The final round of election took place peacefully without any reports of untoward incidents and malpractices,” an official from the election commission of the central Tibetan Administration said, following the completion of the election.

The two final candidates vying for the post of Sikyong are incumbent Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Mr Penpa Tsering, the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. Whereas, as many as 94 candidates are in the fray for the 45-seat Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile who represent the three traditional provinces of Tibet, the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism and Bon religion, and the Tibetan communities of North America, Europe and Australasia.

The local results of the election were declared by the local election commissions after thorough counting of the ballots within the next 48 hours.

The 2016 general election for Sikyong of the 15th Kashag and members of the 16th Tibetan Parliament is the second direct election of the Tibetan leadership since the complete devolution of political authority by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 2011.

## US Congressmen Urge Secretary John Kerry to Raise Issue of Tibetan Political Prisoners

Eleven members of the United States Congress have written a letter on 31 March to Mr John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, to raise the issue of Tibetan political prisoners with the Chinese government. They have particularly specified three Tibetan political prisoners namely Khenpo Karma Tsewang, Lobsang Kunchok and Thapke Gyatso.

“We write today to express our deep concern about three Tibetan political prisoners, while noting that there are hundreds of other documented Tibetan political prisoners currently being held in Chinese prisons similarly worthy of our concern and attention. We urge you and others at State Department, the U.S Embassy in Beijing and the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu to raise their cases with the Chinese government, make every effort to obtain information about their whereabouts and health status, press for necessary medical treatment, and prioritize their release,” the letter states.

“The imprisonment of these individuals, who have so much to contribute to Tibetan society and who did nothing other than exercise their fundamental human rights is a grave tragedy and injustice. Again, we urge you to prioritize their cases in your discussions with Chinese officials and press for their immediate release,” they wrote.

Khenpo Karma Tsewang also known as Khenpo Kartse, Lobsang Kunchok and Thabke Gyatso were all arrested under politically motivated charges by the Chinese government.

The eleven members of the US Congress are Micheal E Capuano, Christopher H Smith, James P McGovern, James F Sensenbrenner Jr, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Donald S Beyer Jr, Yvette D Clarke, Mark Pocan, Dana Rohrabacher, Peter Welch and David Rouzer.

## First International Conference of Sino-Tibetan Friendship Associations Held

The first-ever international conference of Sino-Tibetan friendship associations was held at the fortunehiya hotel in Taiwan from 22 - 24 April.

Finding Common Ground – the First International Conference of the Sino-Tibetan Friendship Associations was a major project of the China Desk of the Department of Information and International Relations.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in a video message to the conference, reiterated that historically the Tibetans and Chinese have maintained friendly relations for thousands of years. His Holiness expressed his hope that the conference will provide a forum to conduct a frank and thorough discussion on the possible ways to resolve the collective problem in a realistic manner.

In his welcome note during the opening ceremony, DIIR Secretary Sonam Norbu Dagpo presented a broad overview of the evolution of the past engagements between Tibetans and Chinese people.

Mr Dagpo said that the growing level of Sino-Tibetan interaction in the post-Tiananmen era has created better awareness and understanding about the situation in Tibet, which in turn has rejuvenated the quest for finding a common ground for the peaceful resolution of the Tibet issue.

Among those who addressed the opening ceremony of the conference were also three Taiwanese legislators: Mr. Freddy Lim, Ms Kolas Yotaka and Ms Yu Mei-nu. Former DPP Legislator Chen, Chieh-Ju, who has been a strong supporter of Tibet, was also present and addressed the ceremony.

The 3 day conference features presentations and discussions on a whole gamut of issues related with Tibet and China by scholars, intellectuals, and writers.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Graces Men Tsee Khang's Centenary Celebration



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama with HP Forest Minister Sri Thakur Singh Bharmouri and the Ayurveda Minister Sri Karan Singh at Men-Tsee-Khang's centenary celebration at Tsuglakhang.*

The Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute, also known as Men-Tsee-Khang, celebrated its centennial anniversary with a special ceremony at the Tsuglakhang on 23 March.

The event also marked 320 years of establishing the Chagpori Medical College in Lhasa, Tibet by His Holiness the fifth Dalai Lama and 55 years of re-establishing Men-Tsee-Khang by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama in Dharamshala.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama joined the celebration as the guest of honour. Other guests included the Forest Minister Sri Thakur Singh Bharmouri, Ayurveda Minister Sri Karan Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly Sri Ravi Thakur, Russian Deputy Mr Irinchev Matkhanov with wife Ms Darima Matkhanova, Chairman of Friends of Men-Tsee-Khang Dr P K Sandell, Executive Director of Save Tibet Foundation in Russia Ms Julia Zhironkina and representatives of the Central Tibetan Administration were also present at the event.

The guest of honour, His Holiness the Dalai Lama acknowledged the progress and achievement of the institute in the last 55 years. He stressed the need for more research based discussions and debates between the Tibetan and western medicine science, "Tibetan medicine is one of the greatest traditions, deeply influenced by Buddhist practice and the principle of compassion. An integration of Tibetan medicine with western medicine can build a holistic system that can

be of immense benefit to the world."

His Holiness urged the health officers to address the lack of precaution and preventive measures in Tibetan health facilities and called for serious efforts in improving public health.

Ayurveda Minister Sri Karan Singh applauded Men-Tsee-Khang's contribution in promoting accessible healthcare and services. "Men-Tsee-Khang has been working dedicatedly in providing health services to the poor and needy. Men-Tsee-Khang has been practicing therapies that arose from practical experience and gradually formed the basis for the art of healing over the years," he said.

The Health kalon Dr Tsering Wangchuk apprised the gathering about the collaborative efforts of the Department of Health with the Men-Tsee-Khang in facilitating a holistic medical environment in the Tibetan communities.

The centenary is also being celebrated with several outreach and commemorative events, both in India and outside, commented the Director Mr Tashi Tsering Phuri.

Men-Tsee-Khang also known as the Tibetan Medical and Astrological institute was founded by the 13th Dalai Lama, in Lhasa in 1916. In the aftermath of the Chinese occupation of Tibet, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama came to India where he re-established the institution on 23 March, 1961. The Institute initially started with a doctor and an astrologer with ten students in two separate campuses in Dharamshala. In 1967, the two schools were merged together as Men-Tsee-Khang, Tibetan Medical & Astrological Institute in Mecleod Ganj and shifted to the present location in 1982 where the Headquarter of the institutes operates. At present Men-Tsee-Khang is a full-fledged institute with a work force of 140 doctors, 17 astrologers, 274 staff members.

## Budget Session of Parliament Held from 21 March - 1 April

The eleventh and the final session of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile which was the budget session for the financial year 2016-2017 was held from 21 March - 1 April.

The parliament passed resolutions to mourn the demise of the two latest Tibetan self-immolators, Kelsang wangdu and Dorje Tsering during the session. It also passed resolutions of condolences to His Eminence Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche, the head of the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism, who passed away on 23 December, and Late Mr Karma Chopel, former Speaker and a serving member of the 15th Tibetan Parliament, who passed away on 29 January.

The parliament also discussed and approved the budget of the Central Tibetan Administration for the year 2016-17, proposed by the finance department in consultation with the Kashag.

The 11th session concluded on 1 April with a strong resolve to promote and practice unity, cooperation and harmony among the various groups and sections of Tibetan society.

In his concluding remarks, Speaker Penpa Tsering gave a brief overview of the proceedings that took place during the 11th session, and appealed everyone to respect the verdicts passed by the parliament based on democratic principles.

Expressing solidarity with the Tibetans inside Tibet, he said, "I take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility towards the tens of thousands of Tibetans brothers and sisters inside Tibet. I solemnly urge everyone to sustain the spirit and momentum of our struggle, upholding the values and morals of our culture."

For detailed news visit:  
[www.tibet.net](http://www.tibet.net)

## International Parliamentarians Praise Competitive Tibetan Elections in Exile



*Representatives of the International Parliamentary Network on Tibet at the press conference, 21 March.*

The International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet (INPAT) issued today the following statement in Dharamshala, India on the Tibetan Elections in exile, which took place on March 20 in over 30 countries for the election of the Sikyong (head of the Central Tibetan Administration) and for 45 Members of the Parliament in exile.

The INPAT said:

We are pleased to see how Tibetans all over the free world have once again strongly embraced democracy as the best way to achieve the aspirations of a better future for the Tibetan people, which unfortunately continues to be denied to 6 millions Tibetans in Tibet.

We wish to praise the Tibetan people for their commitment and enthusiasm in participating both in the campaign and in the voting process.

Voting in these elections, Tibetans in exile are reaffirming their support for a political solution, while the Chinese Government continues to impose severe authoritarian policies, which undermine the very existence of Tibetan identity.

We call on the international community, national Parliaments, Governments and NGOs to stand behind and support an exiled community who seeks a political solution to a six decades long conflict, through the means of nonviolent actions and negotiations.

The Tibetan elections in exile were organised by the Central Election Commission in two rounds over the course of 6 months in over 30 countries (the first round was held on October 18) and were conducted peacefully and overall in an orderly and calm manner on election day, despite logistical challenges.

The election of the Sikyong was competitive and Tibetans had the opportunity to choose between the incumbent, Lobsang Sangay, and the Speaker of the Parliament, Penpa Tsering. The two candidates became more active after the primaries held in October 2015 and campaigned extensively in India and all over the world, where Tibetan communities are located, until the very end of the campaign period.

Supporters of both candidates have been vocal during the campaign with an extensive use of social media and the organisation of large public events. Although the campaign was hard fought and at times personal, both candidates told us that the elections took place on a levelled playing field and that no major irregularities of the elections rules took place.

We welcome that independent groups, including Tibetan language media services, which broadcast them both online and via satellite and organised three debates between the two candidates during the last three weeks of the campaign.

We wish to stress the critical role played

by independent and free media to effectively empower the public to make an informed choice at the time of the elections; this is particularly true for an exiled community dislocated in so many nations.

The elections of Parliamentarians also saw competition with an increased number of candidates for the different regions. We observed no major irregularities of the election rules.

During the course of the campaign some issues were raised both by candidates and NGOs, concerning the transparency and adequacy of some of the election rules as enacted by the Central Election Commission.

In our final report, to be published after the announcement of the final results on April 27, we will provide an assessment with recommendations on issues including the following.

- campaign finance regulation with a particular focus on cap limits for electoral expenses;
- participation of women;
- regional voting system and the representation of religious sects in the Parliament;
- the need to ensure all Tibetans in the free world are able to vote;

We wish to thank the Indian Government for the generous hospitality it provides to the Tibetan people enabling them to preserve and promote their culture and way of life.

The International Network of Parliamentarian on Tibet stands ready to conduct further elections observation missions outside Tibet and we look forward to the opportunity to undertake such a role within Tibet itself.

Finally, we thank Central Tibetan Administration and in particular the Tibetan Parliament in exile and the Central Election Commission for enabling us to conduct this Tibetan Election Observation Mission.

## Election Commission Declares Final Results of Sikyong and Tibetan Parliamentary Elections 2016



Mr Sonam Choephel Shosur, Chief Election Commissioner accompanied by the two additional election commissioners Ven Tempa Tashi (left) and Mr Tenzin Choephel (right).

Mr Sonam Choephel Shosur, the chief election commissioner, accompanied by Ven Tempa Tashi and Mr Tenzin Choephel, the two additional election commissioners, declared the consolidated results of the final Tibetan general election on 27 April 2016.

Speaking at the press conference, Mr Sonam Choephel Shosur said: “Although there are approximately 150,000 Tibetans in exile, a total of 90,377 Tibetans registered for the final election. However, only 59,353 people actually turned up to vote in the final

Sikyong elections and 58,615 turned up to vote in the final elections of the 16th Tibetan Parliament.”

“Out of the total 59,353 actual voters in the Sikyong election, 613 votes were disqualified while 591 votes from the total of 58,615 actual votes cast for the Tibetan parliamentary election were disqualified,” he added.

Announcing Dr Lobsang Sangay as the winner of the final Sikyong elections, he said: “As per article 67(5) of the electoral rules and regulation, the Sikyong

candidate with the largest number of secret ballots cast by the public will be declared the winner.”

“Therefore, Dr Lobsang Sangay, the incumbent Sikyong, is re-elected as the Sikyong for another five year term. Dr Lobsang Sangay has got a total of 33,876 votes (57.08 % of the total vote share) as against the 24,864 votes (41.89% of the total vote share) in the name of Mr Penpa Tsering, the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament,” he explained.

“Similarly, as per article 51(1) of the electoral rules and regulation, a total of 45 members are elected for the 16th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. The 45-member Tibetan Parliament is composed of 10 members each from the three traditional provinces of Tibet; two each from the five religious constituencies, two each from the Tibetan communities in North America and Europe and one from the Tibetan community in Australasia (excluding India, Nepal and Bhutan),” he noted.

“The Election Commission heartily congratulates the winners of both the Sikyong and Tibetan Parliamentary election,” the election commissioner said.

### Final Results of Sikyong Election 2016

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts	Remarks	Picture
1	Lobsang Sangay	Lithang, Kham	Dharamshala	33876	Selected	
2	Penpa Tsering	Nangra, Domey	Dharamshala	24864		

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
U-Tsang

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts	Remarks	Percentage
1	Tenzin Dhardon Sharling	Tsang Drumpa	Dharamshala	16543	Selected	60.03
2	Dhondup Tashi	Ngari	Ladakh	13618	Selected	49.41
3	Acharya Yeshi Phuntsok	Ngari	Delhi	13132	Selected	47.65
4	Dolma Tsering	Drakney	Dharamshala	11900	Selected	43.18
5	Pema Jungney	Ngari	Dharamshala	11476	Selected	41.64
6	Namgyal Dolkar Uhagyari	Lhokha	Dharamshala	9970	Selected	36.18
7	Samten Choedon	Ngari	Bylakuppe	9930	Selected	36.03
8	Dawa Phunkyi	Tsang Gampa	Dharamshala	9352	Selected	33.93
9	Dawa Tsering	Toe Rachu	Dharamshala	9240	Selected	33.53
10	Migyur Dorjee	Ngari	Dharamshala	8977	Selected	32.57

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Nyingma

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Khenpo Sonam Tenphel	Rekhe	Dharamshala	676
2	Khenpo Jampel Tenzin	Mingyak	Kollegal	592

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Kagyue

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Ven. Kunga Sotop	Dege	Bodhgaya	455
2	Ven. Tenpa Yarphel	Chamdo	Dharamshala	401

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Dotoe

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts	Remarks	Percentage
1	Kunchok Choedon Juchen	Dege	Chauntra	8132	Selected	59.22
2	Yangchen Dolkar	Dege	Shillong	6913	Selected	50.34
3	Serta Tsultrim	Serta	Dharamshala	6563	Selected	47.79
4	Dorjee Tsetan	Nangchen	Dharamshala	6539	Selected	47.62
5	Youdon Aukatsang	Chamdo	Delhi	5872	Selected	42.76
6	Kunchok Yarphel	Markham	Delhi	5408	Selected	39.38
7	Pema Delek	Lingsang	Bylakuppe	5103	Selected	37.16
8	Lobsang Dakpa	Lithang	Dharamshala	4829	Selected	35.16
9	Ngawang Tharpa	Sokzong	Dharamshala	4702	Selected	34.24
10	Lobsang Yeshi	Tsawarong	Bylakuppe	4370	Selected	31.82

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Sakya

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Lopoen Thupten Gyaltzen	Markham	Puruwala	300
2	Khenpo Kadrak Ngodup Sonam	Tehor Kanze	Gopalpur	239

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Geluk

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Atruk Tsetan	Lithang, Kham	Mundgod	3340
2	Gopo Lobsang Phende	Bawa	Mundgod	2621

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Domey

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts	Remarks	Percentage
1	Thupten Lungrik	Rebkong	Dharamshala	1943	Selected	73.74
2	Tashi Dhondup	Serta	Nepal	1647	Selected	62.50
3	Tsering Lhamo	Ngaba	Dharamshala	1569	Selected	59.54
4	Yeshi Dolma	Hortsang	Dharamshala	1467	Selected	55.67
5	Gyarik Thar	Tsolho Mangra	Dharamshala	1437	Selected	54.54
6	Lobsang Choejor	Rebkong	Dharamshala	1386	Selected	52.60
7	Dhondup Tashi	Labdrang	Dharamshala	1229	Selected	46.64
8	Dratse Sonam Norbu	Sharkhok, Amdo	Delhi	1224	Selected	46.45
9	Karma Gelek	Jakhyung	Bandhara	1078	Selected	40.91
10	Tsering Youdon	Choney	Hunsur	953	Selected	36.17

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Yungdung Bon

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Geshe Monlam Tharchin	Kyungpo	Solan	152
2	Bara Tsewang Tashi	Drachen	Solan	121

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
America & Canada

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Pema Chakzoetsang	Kongpo	Utah	3979
2	Tsewang Rigzin	Tsang Jhepa	Minnesota	2947

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Europe & South Africa

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Thupten Wangchen	Kyidong	Spain	4078
2	Samdho Jampa Tsering	E-Lhagyari	Switzerland	2102

**Final selected candidate list of General Election 2016**  
Asia & Australasia (excluding India, Nepal & Bhutan)

S.No.	Name	Native	Present Residence	Total Vote Counts
1	Kylnzom Dhondue	Gyantse	Sydney	406

## Joint Press Conference by Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Penpa Tsering



*Speaker and Sikyong at the end of the joint press conference.*

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay and Speaker Penpa Tsering of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, the two final candidates for Sikyong election 2016, held a joint press conference on 7 April, expressing apologies and reaffirming their commitment to ensure unity and harmony in the Tibetan community.

Addressing the conference first, Speaker Penpa Tsering said: “During the centenary celebration of Mentseekhang on 23 March, His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed concern on the declining morality of Tibetans. Similarly, the state oracle Nechung and Tsering Chenga issued an advisory recently, admonishing the election-related activities of the two candidates and their supporters which had a tone of regionalism and groupism, thus causing deep sorrow to His Holiness the Dalai Lama.”

“Therefore, I offer my profound apology to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the same,” he said.

He also appealed the public with folded hands to stop all election-related negative activities which are causing serious distress and disunity. “Whatever has happened in the lead-up to the election has already happened. We can’t change it anymore. What we can do now is think of the future,” he said.

The Speaker also added that ‘there are no personal grudges or differences between the two final candidates and called on the public to do the same and exert concerted effort to achieve harmony in the entire community’.

Recalling an advice from His Holiness the Dalai Lama to both of them recently, he said: “Holding both of us in his hands, His Holiness the Dalai Lama told us recently that it is the responsibility of both of us to harness unity among the three traditional provinces of Tibet following the election.”

“Now that the election is over, we urge you to stop all election-related negative activities. It is your democratic right to support your preferred candidate during the election. However, now we should stop leveling baseless allegations including editing the Nechung oracle video to disrepute people. It is unfortunate that we couldn’t leave even the gods and oracles out of this,” he said, urging once again to his supporters to shut down the various chat groups on social media and elsewhere.

Speaking in the same vein, Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay also called for unity and urged everyone to cease all election-related negative activities to reaffirm harmony and fulfill the vision of His

Holiness the Dalai Lama.

“As per the recent advisory of the oracles, there is a strong need for unity and guarantee of faith in the community. When there is unity and bonding, our collective merit increases, which has a parallel impact on His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s lifespan. Therefore, as I have said before, it is of extreme importance that we maintain our unity and the sacred bond of affection for all,” he said.

“The election is over now. I agree, that in the lead up to the election, there were a few unfortunate instances, which have caused sadness among the public. For that, I offer my sincere apologies,” he said.

“Most important of all, I offer my deep apology for causing sorrow to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and pledge that the Kashag would move forward with resolute conviction and bearing His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s advice in our hearts, we will fulfill those noble ideals and aspirations,” Sikyong said.

Sikyong also promised vigorous health and welfare measures to uplift the poorer section of the Tibetan community. “According extreme importance to His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s advice, we are formulating a series of programs in health and poverty reduction to create a robust and vibrant Tibetan community. The next Kashag would implement it in earnest,” he said.

“We don’t have a more valuable and precious leader like His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The unity of the Tibetans inside and outside Tibet and the success of the Tibetans in exile are all due to His Holiness. Even if you look at history, there is not a single individual more important and resourceful than His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the Tibetan people,” Sikyong added.

“Therefore, I promise that I would do my best to fulfill the aspirations and vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and urge the public to do the same,” he said.

## Sikyong Outlines Kashag's New Measures for Preventive Healthcare and Public Welfare

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay held a press conference on 25 April, announcing the formation of two assessment committees and compilation of a draft guideline to amend electoral laws as part of the Kashag's initiative to enhance preventive health care and public welfare to uplift the poorer sections of the Tibetan community.

These announcements come on the heel of Sikyong's earlier pledges to launch a vigorous health and welfare campaign following His Holiness the Dalai Lama's public expression of concern at the declining health condition and morality of the Tibetan people.

"We have formed two committees to address the issues of concern as noted by His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the centenary celebrations of Mentseekhang on 23 March," Sikyong said.

"The first committee that we have formed is the preventive healthcare committee," Sikyong announced. "Mr Ngawang Phelgyal Gyechen, former Chief Justice Commissioner, will head the committee along with former Secretary Mr Tsering Dorjee. Both of them have extensive work experience in Tibetan public health through their service

in the Department of Health," he said.

"The other committee that we have formed is the welfare committee, which will be headed by former Kalon Ven Tsering Phuntsok and former Secretary Mr Tashi Phuntsok," Sikyong said.

"These two committees will assess the root causes of the declining health situation and the economic condition of the Tibetan people. Following which, they will compile a comprehensive report on how to effectively address these issues with concrete results and allay the economic woes of the Tibetan public," Sikyong explained.

Sikyong further informed about a draft guideline to amend the existing election laws, formulated by the Kashag in consultation with relevant authorities to ameliorate the sense of declining morality in the Tibetan community.

"As per the advisories issued by the oracles regarding the conduct of the Tibetan people in the lead-up to the final election, the Kashag held numerous internal meetings as well as joint meetings with the Tibetan Parliament, and its Speaker and Deputy Speaker," Sikyong explained.

"We also held meetings with the Chairman and the staff of the Election Commission as the issue of declining morality came into particular prominence during the election campaign. During these meetings, we deliberated on the negative campaigns employed during the election and discussed ways to avoid such occurrences in the future. One thing that we agreed upon was that the duration of the campaign was too long and needs to be shortened," Sikyong said.

Sikyong also explained that because the campaign duration was too long, a lot of issues were raised. However, he lamented the fact that most of the campaign duration was spent on clarifying baseless allegations and explaining unfounded criticisms instead of talking about the real issues and speaking about the candidates' visions and policies.

Sikyong further assured the public of his deep commitment to implement the promises that he has made to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan public, and said that the two committees will commence its work by middle of May 2016. The recommendations of the two committees will be implemented in earnest by the Kashag.

### His Holiness the Dalai Lama Greets Queen Elizabeth on her 90th Birthday

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has conveyed his greetings to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her 90th birthday, which occurred on 23rd April.

In his letter, His Holiness wrote:

"Her Majesty is someone I have admired since I was a small boy in Tibet. I remember reading about her and seeing newsreels of various members of the royal family visiting and comforting people in war torn London. I understand that befitting celebrations of her status as Britain's longest serving monarch are taking place while many tributes are being paid to her from across the world. I would like to add my own congratulations and wish Her Majesty a happy birthday."

Describing Queen Elizabeth as "a steadfast source of inspiration to many, a model of strength and dedication", His Holiness concluded:

"On this auspicious occasion I offer my prayers for the happiness, prosperity and long life of Her Majesty and the peoples of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth."

## Skoll World Forum Honours His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Global Treasure Award



*The Skoll World Forum honouring His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the Global Treasure Award on 14 April 2016, at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, England.*

The Skoll World Forum, hosted by Skoll Foundation on 14 April conferred its prestigious Skoll Global Treasure award upon His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in recognition of his efforts to promote compassion and human values around the world.

Mr Chonphel Tsering, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Northern Europe, accepted the award on behalf of His Holiness. Dr Barry Michael Kerzin, His Holiness' personal physician and a Buddhist monk, also joined the ceremony.

The ceremony was held at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, England attended by a galaxy of world's most influential social entrepreneurs and thinkers.

"This year the forum explores the notion of fierce compassion. We had hoped to bestow our Global Treasure Award on someone who exemplifies fierce compassion like no other," said Jeff Skoll, Founder and Chairman, Skoll foundation.

"This is a man who calls himself just

a simple Buddhist monk but is in fact a world leader, a nobel laureate and an inspiration to millions, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso."

The Skoll chairman applauded His Holiness' contribution to promoting warmheartedness and embedding moral values in the economic system. Identifying His Holiness' message and wisdom as best suited and effective for social entrepreneurship, he quoted from His Holiness' book *The Leaders' Way*, the art of making the right decisions in our careers, our companies and our world at large: "It is the task of a leader to create an organisation with strong and warm heart and to see things as they really are."

In a personal letter to the forum, His Holiness expressed regrets for not

being able to participate in the Skoll World Forum, "I have been looking forward to participating in the Skoll World Forum because I feel the vision and intent of the meeting resonate with my basic commitment to promoting human values. I am deeply committed to the promotion of human values such as compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, contentment and self discipline."

"Today growing numbers of people are coming to recognise that such values are not confined just to religious practices, but also to making human life happier. Therefore if we are to create a happier, more peaceful world, it is essential that all of us are not only aware of these basic human values but also take steps individually to make them part of our lives," the letter reads.

Past recipients of Global Treasure Award are Mohamad Yunis, Archbishop Tutu, Malala Yousafzai and Graca Machal.

The Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship is the premier international platform for advancing entrepreneurial approaches and solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Their mission is to accelerate the impact of the world's leading social entrepreneurs by uniting them with essential partners in a collaborative pursuit of learning, leverage and large-scale social change.

Forum delegates represent nearly 65 countries and participate in a range of interactive events in which delegates can openly share, collaborate, innovate, and, ultimately, advance social entrepreneurship



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## His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu Joins 270 Religious Leaders to Sign Interfaith Climate Statement

Nobel Peace Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu joined over 270 leaders of the world's major religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Judaism to express support for a strong climate action on Monday, 18 April.

The petition was submitted in New York to the United Nation's climate action Chief Ms Christiana Figueres.

The interfaith statement came ahead of the gathering of national leaders which was scheduled at the United Nations on Friday, 22 April.

World leaders gathered to sign and ratify the landmark climate pact agreed in Paris – a necessary step towards its entry into force.

“Caring for the Earth is our shared responsibility. Each one of us has a “moral responsibility to act,” as so powerfully stated by the Pope’s Encyclical and in the climate change statements by Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and other faith leaders,” the interfaith statement reads.

“Humanity is at a crucial turning point. We as faith communities recognize that we must begin a transition away from polluting fossil fuels and towards clean renewable energy sources. It is clear that for many people significant lifestyle changes will have to be made. We must strive for alternatives to the culture of consumerism that is so destructive to ourselves and to our planet,” it says.

“We must reflect on the true nature of our interrelationship to the Earth. It is

not a resource for us to exploit at our will. It is a sacred inheritance and a precious home which we must protect. United with the shared hope that arises from faith, we the undersigned believe that the means, desire, and will to care for Earth and all life can and will become action as our political leaders ratify the promises made in Paris – and thus safeguard the greater promises of this generation and of all those to come,” the statement concludes.

The interfaith statement further added six call-to-actions urging governments to reduce heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions, use of 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 and funding to help developing nations adapt to the hazards of a changing climate such as drought, extreme heat, dangerous storms, and rising sea levels.

## Sikyong Congratulates Mr Htin Kyaw, New President of Myanmar

Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay congratulated Mr U Htin Kyaw who was sworn in as the new President of Myanmar on 30 March 2016.

Greeting the new President, Sikyong said: “I, on behalf of the Central Tibetan Administration and the entire Tibetan people, heartily congratulate you on being sworn-in as the new President of Myanmar.”

“You represent the democratic progress, heroic perseverance and the noble

reconciliation of the people of Myanmar under the peaceful leadership of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. It is indeed a sign of Myanmar’s tremendous resilience and a source of strength and inspiration for the entire world including the Tibetan people,” Sikyong said.

“I wish you success in your efforts to make Myanmar a better and happier place as the new President. At the same time, I hope that you will raise your vital voice to forge a quick resolution of the Tibet issue. Tibet, besides sharing

a common Buddhist heritage, is unified with the people of Myanmar by their deep commitment to democracy, the universality of human rights, religious harmony, and the brotherhood of all peoples,” Sikyong added.

Mr Htin Kyaw became the first-elected civilian president of Myanmar in 50 years following Daw Aung San Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy (NLD) party’s massive victory in the Burmese general election in November 2015.

## Tibetan Parliament Congratulates New President of Myanmar

Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, Deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile expressed his greetings and congratulated Mr Htin Kyaw, the new President of Myanmar who was sworn in on 30 March 2016.

“On behalf of all the Tibetans in and outside Tibet, the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile would like to heartily congratulate you for being elected as the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,” he said.

“We are sure that under your Excellency and Hon’ble Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi’s dynamic leadership, Burma will have peace and prosperity. We look forward to witness a new chapter in the history of Burma under your dynamic leadership and guidance of Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi. The Tibetan People shall always stand by you in your future endeavors,” he added.

Mr Htin Kyaw is a close friend and confidant of Nobel peace prize laureate,

Aung San Suu Kyi. He was hand-picked by her to run Myanmar’s government because a constitution drafted by the former junta bars the democracy champion from the top office.



## Statement of Sikyong on the 57th Anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day



*Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay delivering the statement on the 57th Tibetan National Uprising Day*

Today marks the fifty-seventh anniversary of the Tibetan people's peaceful uprising of 1959 against People's Republic of China's invasion and occupation of Tibet. On this occasion, my colleagues in the Kashag and I would like to pay tribute and pray for all those brave men and women who laid down their lives for the just cause of Tibet. We express our solidarity with those who continue to suffer repression under Chinese rule.

Though decades have passed by with Tibet controlled by China, the Tibetan people have been able to maintain their identity and spirit despite living under difficult situation. New generations, inspired by the sacrifices made by their elders, have taken the responsibility to strive for the cause of Tibet. The courage and conviction of our compatriots inside Tibet deserves deep admiration.

Chinese government routinely claims there is happiness and prosperity with the development of a new Tibet. But the truth is otherwise. All the areas inhabited by the Tibetan people are bereft of basic freedoms and continues to remain under strict control and surveillance. This fact is clearly evident from the prevailing grid system imposed on the Tibetan people's travel and movements. The Human Rights Watch reports extension of intensive surveillance program in the villages across Tibet. The recent self-immolation by two youths from within and outside Tibet in addition to 142 self-immola-

tions in the past is further evidence of the lack of freedom in Tibet. The Kashag will endeavor to fulfill their aspirations and solely blame the repressive policies in Tibet as the cause of self-immolation.

I stand here to apprise you that the situation inside Tibet is grim. Anyone speaking up for religious freedom and environmental rights are often charged on political grounds and are given harsh punishments. Mere possession of the image of His Holiness the Dalai Lama leads to arrest and imprisonment. Repositories of Buddhist culture are tightly monitored, monks and nuns face expulsion for not denouncing their spiritual leader. The Freedom House Report 2016 has listed Tibet as the second least free place in the world after Syria. Similarly, the European Parliament in its Report on EU-China Relations, December 2015 has clearly expressed concern for lack of religious freedom and travel restrictions in Tibet. Thus the Tibetan people live in fear and insecurity.

The Chinese authorities continued treatment of national minorities, including Tibetan people, have sparked disaffection and alienation. The action of a Chinese owned and operated hotel in Rebkong (Ch: Tongren), Qinghai province drew strong opposition and protest when it banned employees from speaking Tibetan language. On 22nd Dec 2015, a senior communist party leader of Tibetan origin expressed concern at

the prevalence of discrimination at a meeting during which he referred to the recurring instances where people with ethnic backgrounds were discriminated against or denied access to certain services. He said this problem has generated unwanted social impact and caused strong public reactions from ethnic regions. Similarly, the Chinese government's policy in general and the remarks of few leaders in particular have dubbed a whole ethnic group as "splittist". Such remarks have drawn sharp reactions within China from many scholars and intellectuals who have written hard-hitting responses.

Global environmentalists and scientists have taken cognizance of the importance of Tibetan plateau as it contains the third largest ice reserve and is the source of ten major rivers flowing downstream to several neighboring countries. However it must be reiterated that incessant mining of natural resources, deforestation, extensive damming of rivers, retreating glaciers, etc. have doubtless caused irreparable damage to Tibet's environment, which in turn is affecting the environment of the Asian continent. Sensing the necessity of protecting Tibet's environment, we have time and again consistently raised the issue at various international climate change conferences. Last year, Central Tibetan Administration presented facts and figures along with Ten Point Action document to the participants of COP21 held in Paris, arguing why Tibetan plateau matters to the world and clearly urging United Nations, Chinese government and international community to urgently initiate measures to protect it.

We the Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration firmly believe that the longstanding issue of Tibet can be resolved through dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Chinese government. We remain fully committed to the Middle Way Approach, which clearly seeks genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within China. It is hoped the

leaders in Beijing will see reason with the Middle Way Approach, instead of distorting it, and step forward to engage in dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's envoys.

On this subject, US President Barack Obama, holding a Joint Press Conference with President Xi Jinping at Rose Garden on September 25, 2015 said: "We continue to encourage Chinese authorities to preserve the religious and cultural identity of the Tibetan people, and to engage the Dalai Lama or his representatives." The US government's concern and support for the Tibetan people is demonstrated by the visits to Dharamshala in 2014 and 2016 by Ms Sarah Sewall, Special Coordinator for Tibet Issues and Under-Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights of the Department of State. The Kashag deeply thank the US government for its support and solidarity as it provides hope and encouragement to the Tibetan people.

China claims the right to identify reincarnation of the Tibetan spiritual leader. This is a blatant lie as the claim is based on doctored history. The power and authority to decide the reincarnation of the Buddha of Compassion, Tibet's protector and savior, manifested in the human form, rests solely with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Nobody else has the right to do so. Regarding recognition of the reincarnation, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has given clear advice and direction in his statement issued on Sep 24, 2011 which reads as follows: "When I am about ninety I will consult the high Lamas of Tibetan Buddhist traditions, the Tibetan public, and other concerned people who follow Tibetan Buddhism, and re-evaluate whether the institution of the Dalai Lama should continue or not. On that basis we will take a decision. If it is decided that the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama should continue and there is a need for the Fifteenth Dalai Lama to be recognized, responsibility for doing so will primarily rest on the concerned officers of the Dalai Lama's Gaden Phodrang Trust. They should consult the various heads of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions and the reliable oath-bound Dharma Protectors who are linked in-

separably to the lineage of the Dalai Lamas. They should seek advice and direction from these concerned beings and carry out the procedures of search and recognition in accordance with past tradition. I shall leave clear instructions about this. Bear in mind that, apart from the reincarnation recognized through such legitimate methods, no recognition or acceptance should be given to a candidate chosen for political ends by anyone, including those in the PRC."

We were greatly overjoyed to witness the deep respect, reverence and enthusiasm with which the Tibetan people inside and outside Tibet, friends and supporters world-wide celebrated the 80th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The most recent mammoth Delhi event was attended by India's former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Deputy Prime Minister Shri L. K. Advani, former Ministers Dr. Karan Singh, Dr. P. Chidambaram and several other luminaries representing the people of India. At the time, Dr. Manmohan Singh reverentially referred to His Holiness the Dalai Lama as a gift of God to the world.

The infinite deeds or accomplishments of His Holiness the Great XIVth Dalai Lama are not stated here as these are known to the people worldwide. Yet, at a time when Buddhism is passing through a difficult period, the faithful followers and practicing Buddhists must feel grateful for the precious opportunity of receiving the 18 Great Stages of the Path (Lamrim) teachings imparted successfully by His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the past few years. Such a feat unheard of in the history of Tibet must be penned in golden letters. We are happy to share the good news that His Holiness will return to Dharamshala in the next few days after having successfully completed medical treatment in the United States.

After the devolution of political and administrative authority to the people's elected leadership, the 14th Kashag headed by me is nearing completion of our tenure. Sincere effort has been made to create international awareness and support for Tibet, bring improvement in the education of Tibetan children and sustainability of Tibetan

settlements, among others. Awarding Tibetan Buddhist nuns Geshema Degree is a historic decision. An overwhelming response was witnessed to our call for helping earthquake affected people in Nepal which deserves appreciation and acknowledgement. The Kashag would like to deeply thank and express our gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for continuously showering us with his invaluable words of wisdom and kind advices. We must wholeheartedly thank the Tibetan people inside and outside Tibet for supporting us in so many ways.

The Tibetan people in exile are following the great path of democracy and have thus far taken keen interest and active participation in the election processes. Very soon the final round for election of Sikyong and Members of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile will be held. Therefore, the Tibetan electorate is encouraged to participate on the election day in order to exercise the democratic rights as specified in the Charter for Tibetans in Exile.

The Kashag would like to take this opportunity to remember the kindness of the leaders of various nations that cherish justice, parliamentarians, intellectuals, scholars, human rights organizations and Tibet Support Groups, who have been steadfast in their support for the Tibetan people. In particular, we will always remember the kindness and consistent support of the people and government of India and state governments for generously helping us preserve and promote our religion and culture and ensuring the welfare of the Tibetan people in exile. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to all of them.

Finally, we sincerely pray for a healthy and long life of our most esteemed leader His Holiness the Great XIVth Dalai Lama. May all his wishes be fulfilled. May there be immediate resolution to the issue of Tibet. Above all, may the day for the union of Tibetans inside and outside Tibet emerge swiftly.

SIKYONG  
Central Tibetan Administration

March 10, 2016

## Statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the Occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day



*Speaker Penpa Tsering delivering the statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the 57th commemoration of Tibetan National Uprising Day, 10 March 2016.*

Today is the 57th anniversary of the great uprising in Tibet's capital Lhasa in 1959 carried out by people from all The Three Provinces of Tibet in protest against the evil deeds and designs of the communist Chinese. Likewise, it is also the day we remember our heroic fellow-Tibetan men and women of patriotism. On this momentous occasion, therefore, I, speaking on behalf of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, offer my commemoration and shared sense of well being and destiny through the vicissitudes of good and bad times as well as solidarity with the heroic men and women of Tibet who, driven by patriotism, have sacrificed their lives and conditions of livelihood for the sake of Tibet's religious, national, and public causes. Also, to all those Tibetans left behind in Tibet who still continue to endure hardship under the brutal persecution of the government of China, I offer our shared sense of well being and destiny through the vicissitudes of good and bad times and solidarity.

In this respect, what is today referred to as the People's Republic of China, which is considered as one of the great powers in the modern world, has, since the very time of its founding, been nothing but a perpetrator of violent and imperial dominion over many of its neighbouring countries and territories, including Tibet. Besides, the People's Republic of China

could never be recognized as a country at par with those that are founded on a history of respect for freedom, equality, and democratic principles. It was in a scenario of this background that China began its armed invasion of Tibet from the east. Finally, when it was close to fully annexing Tibet and taking over its sovereignty and had created a critical situation whereby it posed a direct threat to the life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the supreme temporal head and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, there was a spontaneous, united uprising against communist China by people from all The Three Provinces in Tibet's capital Lhasa on 10th March 1959. The memory and effects of this great uprising can never go into eclipse from the vast firmament of this globe. This campaign movement against the government of China also remains a historic event of such importance that it will never be forgotten by our future generations for as long as this eon endures.

Subsequent to its annexation of Tibet, the government of China set out to gain full control of the territory and its entire human and material resources. And on that basis, it split up a contiguous Tibetan territory into different administrative divisions, naming them variously as Tibet Autonomous Region, Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures, Tibetan Autonomous Counties, and

so on. It thereby scattered everywhere an ethnically homogenous Tibetan population, putting them under diverse kinds of administrative units. In addition, it has, to this day, never changed its policy of brutal and violent persecution of the Tibetan people, showing absolutely no care and concern for their wishes and aspirations. Generations of the people of the Snowland of Tibet have been relentless in protesting against the policies being implemented by the government of China also because of the ways and means by which China has acted against them with coercion and force. During the entire period of its occupation rule, China has continued to trample on the human rights of the Tibetan people, denied them their religious freedom, disregarded the need to protect their linguistic heritage, set out to destroy their natural environment, and implemented a vicious policy of colonial domination. With policies such as these, China threatens to transform the historically Tibetan territory into one controlled and dominated by Chinese people. And this has now reached a stage whereby China is poised to decimate the integrity of the Tibetan nation and people out of existence. It was because of developments leading up to this danger that the Tibetan people have persisted without respite in protesting against the Chinese rule. But the government of China has, far from entertaining any inclination to address their wishes and aspirations, cracked down on the Tibetan people with merciless repression, using nothing but violence and torture. More than 1.2 million Tibetans have died as a result of such brutal repression. In particular, since 2009, and up to 29 February 2016 – when monk Kalsang Wangdu-la of the Tsokha Aryaling Monastery in Nyarong County of the Tibetan territory of Karze Prefecture martyred himself – some 143 Tibetans in Tibet have been driven to carry out peaceful protests by means of setting themselves on fire. But far from giving any consideration to these acts of peaceful protest driven by desperation,

China responded by issuing a series of so-called white papers on Tibet, holding a series of work forums on Tibet, and so on. But no matter how numerous these kinds of actions taken by the Chinese government were, which have been imposing in form but devoid of any substantive meaning at the practical level, they will only contribute to widening the gulf between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples, with no hope of ever bringing them closer towards each other. The Chinese government's actions in driving this wedge between the two sides is a reality so stark that denying it is as futile as trying to conceal the glare of the sun with a cupping of one's palm. Over the past more than half a century, China has kept on proclaiming that it had liberated millions of Tibetan serfs who stood up and that the Tibetan people have ever since been basking in full enjoyment of every conceivable kind of freedom in what it calls their great Chinese motherland. In reality, however, the Tibetan people are forbidden to even put on display a photo of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, their single-minded object of devotion. Permanently resident so-called work teams have been stationed in monasteries and residential neighbourhoods to exercise strict control and supervision over every aspect of religious and day to day life activities of the Tibetan people. Thus, the people in Tibet are subjected to 24-hour surveillances on their day to day activities, including when they are eating or sleeping, resting or moving. Looking at this existing state of affairs, one can only deduce that the situation in Tibet today is devoid of any peace and stability but remains, on the other hand, a battleground in a continuing struggle, or, rather, like a vast prison camp. China has thereby ensured that Tibet remains a territory where people cannot be seen to remain in genuine full enjoyment of their freedoms.

Tibetans living in exile too have persisted in carrying out on continuous basis campaigns of numerous kinds against China's persistent hardline policy of violent repression on Tibet. And there have been not a small number of Tibetans in exile who took recourse to the peaceful protest method of setting

themselves on fire. Most recently, on 29th February 2016, Dorje Tsering-la, a 16-year-old boy of the Tibetan Homes Foundation school in Mussoorie, set himself on fire for the sake of the fundamental cause of Tibet. He succumbed to his burn injuries on 3rd March. Incidents like these show that Tibetans in Tibet and in exile are of one mind in their aspiration. Besides, they show on a persistent basis that Tibetans will never give up their struggle so long as there is no final settlement of their just cause.

That there has not been any improvement in the human rights situation in China as a whole and especially in Tibet over the past one year has been made clear in the annual reports issued by a number of international organizations recently. In particular, the reports issued by a delegation from the United States Congress and the Federal German Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid after their separate visits to Tibet make clear this conclusion. China has rendered obscure the situation of a large number of Tibetan political prisoners, including that of the young Panchen Lama reincarnate. However, among the political prisoners who have been tried and given sentences, and who continue to endure unimaginable ill-treatment and torture, the case of the Lithang Tulku Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and the circumstances surrounding his sudden death in prison has become only one of the clearest known examples. Today, in every part of The Three Provinces of Tibet, the Tibetan people endure the severest of controls and restrictions on their routine life on a daily basis. In particular, the situation in the Driru County of Kham remains among the most serious, with numerous orders having been issued by different local Chinese government departments and units, rendering the area a most severely restricted one for its residents. We appeal to all Tibetans and supporters of the Tibetan struggle to direct especially strong attention to this situation by direct, indirect and other means to help free the people there from their current severe hardship.

The secrets of the body, speech and mind deeds of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama are, from all their aspects, being greatly complimented and revered to unimaginable degrees by people in countries across the world. In particular, they especially marked His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday and also honoured him in numerous other ways, basking themselves in the glory of this momentous occasion with joy, faith, and contentment. However, on the other hand, with regard to the government of China and, especially, in the so-called Autonomous Region of Tibet, there has been a campaign of issuing a continuing stream of defamatory and blasphemous remarks against him, bans on putting on display his photos and so on. In addition, in the course of investigating corruption, which is seen as the biggest problem in China today, a requirement has been included to find out if officials have any kind of links with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and so on. Likewise, China recently launched an online database of what it called authentic Living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism. There is no way we can accept any such action by the government of China. Besides, there is no mentioning that these are contrary to the principle of atheism on which the communist ideology of the Chinese government is founded. As a matter of fact, with regard to all matters pertaining to the reincarnation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a clarification has already been issued during the 11th conference of the four great schools of Tibetan Buddhism and of the Yungdrung Bon tradition. Besides, recently, when a Chinese actor was sought to be recognized and enthroned as a tulku, or a reincarnate lama of Tibetan Buddhism, and he became exposed as a fraudulent tulku, the actions and remarks of Chinese leaders such as Zhu Weiqun and Ye Xiaowen on the issue of "living Buddhas" were refuted and exposed by Tibetologists based in Beijing as well as by many scholarly lamas and tulkus living in Tibet, with demands these leaders come clean on their questionable conducts. It is our position that the behaviours of a section of the Chinese leadership such as Zhu Weiqun contribute nothing but only to creating obstacles to the development of fraternal

interethnic relations between the two peoples and remind the government of China that it too took cognizance of this fact.

That the Tibetans living in Tibet have to this day continued to carry out campaign actions against the Chinese occupation rule in their homeland is a fact all too well known across the world. In particular, during the past more than one year, many young Tibetans have come out on the market streets to carry out lone protest actions, holding up in their hands portraits of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and shouting slogans. The Chinese authorities have clamped down on each of them by arresting and prosecuting them, and this situation continues today. Everyone should pay close attention to this development, for it is a duty fallen on our shoulders to take up and further the hopes and demands raised by these fellow-Tibetans as well as to make utmost efforts to see them released from Chinese prisons as soon as possible. Besides, by way of showing respect to the selflessness and courage of the Tibetans living in Tibet, and as a matter of keeping utmost in our minds the imperative to prioritize loyalty to the generality of the Tibetan national and religious causes, we the Tibetan people living in exile too should refrain from being preoccupied with our differences in the independence versus Middle Way tussle. Rather, it is of fundamental importance that Tibetans in Tibet and in exile steer a common cause and be clear about knowing who our enemies are and who our fraternal compatriots are. Likewise, at this time, when the process of the elections of the Sikyong and of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile is underway, it bears reminding that the candidates for these elections are all aspirants for the highest offices of the Central Tibetan Administration. So, rather than engaging in baseless talks, rumour mongering and the like, which might render one an unwitting tool in the hands of our enemies, we would like to remind everyone that the vital right to stand as candidates and to vote in the elections should be exercised by adhering to the highest standards of democratic principles and practices.

We are all refugees for political reasons and our primary task is to strive to accomplish the just cause of Tibet. During the term of the 15th Tibetan Parliament in Exile, which is about to come to an end, motions expressing solidarity, condolences and mourning in keeping with the criticality of the situation in Tibet during each of its sessions were adopted. A major Tibet solidarity campaign action was jointly carried out by the Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan public. A Flame of Truth relay rally for Tibet was carried out. Campaigns to lobby for action on Tibet were carried out through meetings with both members of the Indian parliament at the centre and with lawmakers in the state legislatures. Lectures to announce and explain political matters and on related subjects concerned with the issue of Tibet were held in the Tibetan settlements and other places inhabited by communities of Tibetans. The Indian government and parliament at the centre as well as the state governments and legislatures, the different Tibet support groups, as well as governments and parliaments in other countries, and non-governmental organizations have been extremely kind and generous towards the Tibetan people. They have conferred high honours and respect to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the irreplaceable leader of the Tibetan people; held discussions on the issue of Tibet; given support to the approach of peaceful Sino-Tibetan dialogue; and offered material and other kinds of much needed assistance to the Tibetan people. These supports and assistances are ongoing and to all of them we offer immense heartfelt gratitude. In particular, we take note of the fact that a delegation of members of the United States Congress led by Nancy Pelosi, who is a former Speaker of the US House of Representatives and the current Democratic Leader in the House and who is a staunch supporter of the Tibetan people, was able to especially visit Tibet. And the delegation was able to witness and publicize a report on the actual situation there. The fact that a high-level official delegation from a foreign country was able to visit Tibet and witness the situation there was a historical record. On behalf of the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in

exile I offer heartfelt thanks to her and her colleagues. At the same time, we would like to point out that the issue of Tibet still remains to be resolved. The situation in Tibet continues to remain critical. We therefore appeal to everyone to bear this in mind and urge nations and peoples everywhere who covet peace and justice to offer us ever greater and continued support.

On our part the Central Tibetan Administration remains committed to striving to reach a peaceful settlement with China on the basis of the mutually beneficial middle way approach. This being the case, if the leaders of China are unequivocal in words and deeds in their stated aim of doing something beneficial to the people of Tibet, it should grant our historical region a meaningful autonomy in keeping with the provisions of its law on regional autonomy for ethnic minority regions. In this connection we would like to point out to the government of China that it should know that this is the timely, appropriate thing to do and will only be in keeping with the requirements of the time.

Finally, we pray countless times that during the hundred eons he continues to live among us, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the irreplaceable leader of the Tibetan people, forever remain in occupation of his eternal Yungdrung Throne, that the just cause of Tibet prevail in all speediness.

The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile

Dharamsala, 10th March, 2016

This is my simple religion.  
There is no need for temples;  
no need for complicated  
philosophy. Our own brain, our  
own heart is our temple; the  
philosophy is kindness -

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Attends Graduation Ceremony at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama waving to well-wishers on his arrival at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies (CHTS) at Sarah in Dharamsala, HP, India on April 26, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

It was a bright spring morning on 26 April as His Holiness the Dalai Lama drove down through Dharamsala town and on through the neat tea gardens below Chiligari. Jacaranda trees were in bloom and flocks of brilliant green parakeets swooped across the road on the way to the College for Higher Tibetan Studies (CHTS) at Sarah. His Holiness was met on arrival by Institute of Buddhist Dialectics (IBD) Director, Ven Geshe Kalsang Damdul and Principal of the College, Ven Geshe Jampal Dakpa, who escorted him into the assembly hall.

After praises had been recited to Manjushri and the Seventeen Masters of Nalanda, Secretary Passang Tsering thanked His Holiness for acceding to the College's request that he preside over this year's convocation ceremony. Geshe Kalsang Damdul welcomed the guests and dignitaries and acknowledged His Holiness's kind leadership of the Tibetan people. He noted that the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics was founded on His Holiness's birthday 6th July in 1979 and proceeded to give a short report about what has happened since then.

To begin with 29 students began to study the Perfection of Wisdom and the view of the Middle Way in a course intended to last 10 years. Eventually this curriculum was extended to include aspects of

the Nyingma, Sakya and Kagyu traditions as well. Teachers were invited from Namdroling Monastery in Bylakuppe. Meanwhile students also attend Dzong-sar Institute in Chauntra and Palpung Sherabling in Bir. In addition to study of the classic Indian Buddhist texts, students also study tantra in a course that now lasts 16 years.

Having taken responsibility for preserving and promoting Tibetan culture with the establishment of the Institute, in 1991, Founding Director Gyen Lob-sang Gyatso bought land here in Sarah to set up the College for Higher Tibetan Studies. His Holiness blessed the site and inaugurated the institution once it was built. The Department of Education of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) gave its recognition. Educational programmes include an undergraduate course in Tibetan Studies and graduate courses in Tibetan History and Tibetan Literature as well as an effective teacher training programme.

Minister for Religion & Culture in the CTA, Pema Chinjor was invited to award degrees of Rimey Geshe. Of 14 successful candidates only 11 were able to attend today. Minister for Education, Ngodup Tsering was then requested to award BA degrees in Tibetan Studies to 28 graduates, of whom 2 had taken the corre-

spondence course, seven MA degrees in Tibetan History and six in Tibetan Literature. Those receiving academic degrees wore academic gowns and mortar boards. His Holiness was requested to release a journal of papers and articles translated into Tibetan and a science DVD. Finally, Kalon Pema Chinjor gave 9 members of staff tokens of appreciation for completing more than 20 years service.

When Education Kalon, Ngodup Tsering was invited to address the assembly he congratulated all the graduates on their achievements. He described these as going some way toward fulfilling His Holiness's advice to Tibetans to develop real expertise. He said the Department of Education had supported the undergraduates and would continue to support those who wanted to study further. He compared what they had done to Jetsun Milarepa who told his Lama, Marpa, "I have no wealth to give you, but offer you instead my practice." He added, "We should not be satisfied with what we've achieved so far, but should press on. As they say in English 'the sky's the limit'".

He mentioned that Tibetan schools have taken up traditional debate since 2012 and that a handbook for teaching it is in preparation. He also noted that the secular ethics curriculum recently prepared in draft form at Emory University is being tried out at the Peton School. He ended his speech with a wish that His Holiness the Dalai Lama live long.

Setting the achievements of the IBD and CHTS in the context of Tibetans' life in exile, His Holiness began his talk by recalling his departure from Lhasa in 1959.

"It was 17th March when we fled Lhasa. I left the Norbulingka at 10 pm. We had to make it past the Chinese garrison and when we left we didn't know if we would see the next day. It wasn't until we reached the top of the Che-la pass that we began to feel out of immediate danger. Local people had brought us horses. We mounted them and then turned to take one last look at Lhasa.

Then we left.

“A member of the Indian Cabinet later told me that when the Cabinet received news that I had left Lhasa, the then Defence Minister Krishna Menon expressed the view that the Dalai Lama should not be allowed to enter India for fear of upsetting relations with China. Nehru retorted that that would not be proper, saying, ‘We must let him come.’

“Once we reached Lhuntse Dzong we were out of danger, but we still didn’t know if we would be able to enter India. We decided that one group of us would approach the Bhutanese border and the other the Indian border. As we reached closer to India we came to know that Indian officials were waiting for us. We also heard that Lhasa was being shelled. We had no idea that we would be in India for decades; we thought we’d soon be going back. We were strangers for whom the only certainty was the sky above and the earth below. We requested the Indian government to help our people.

“I arrived in Mussoorie at the end of April 1959. Shortly afterwards Nehru came to see me. We’d known each other since we first met in Beijing in 1955. However, when I pointed out inconsistencies in what he said he would bang the table in irritation. We discussed not only how Tibetans could make a living, but the setting up of separate settlements and separate schools for Tibetans. Nehru took personal responsibility for seeing that this was done. Since then we Tibetans have kept alive that spirit of needing to survive.”

His Holiness explained that from the start Tibetan exiles received a lot of help and support. They had a unique language and a Buddhist tradition that came from Nalanda, thanks to the efforts of Shantarakshita and Kamalashila, to keep alive. The classic Indian texts by Buddhist masters of Nalanda were available in Tibetan, again due to the kindness of Shantarakshita, who initiated their translation.

He remembered that when he was about to embark on his first visit to Europe in 1973, the BBC’s Mark Tully asked him why he was going and he replied



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama arriving at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies (CHTS) at Sarah’s assembly hall in Dharamsala, HP, India on April 26, 2016. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

that he considered himself a citizen of the world. He said he was interested to know more about different people and places. After all, Tibetans pray for the welfare of all sentient beings. He said he had made a lot of friends and had seen a great deal of material development, but despite that, not everyone was happy.

“As a child I was interested in science,” he went on. “I had a telescope that belonged to the 13th Dalai Lama. Through that I saw shadows cast by the mountains on the moon, from which I concluded that the moon was not self-illuminating. I first talked about science with Heinrich Harrer, but I’ve kept up discussions with scientists for more than the last 30 years. I was interested to know what scientists had to say about the world. I could have left it at satisfying my own curiosity, but I thought what they had to say could help others. Although scientists have mostly paid attention to the physical world, they knew little about the mind or the system of the emotions – an area about which ancient Indian psychology had a great deal to say.

“Like us, Chinese Buddhists follow the Nalanda tradition, but they don’t study logic and epistemology. They don’t have access to the works of Dignaga, Dharmakirti and Sakya Pandita as we Tibetans do. We study Buddhist philosophy with logic and reason. We also know about the mind and emotions. This is something we can share with others. Scientists have an interest in this and I have found my training has equipped me to hold my own in such discussions.”

A key point His Holiness clarified is

that to achieve peace of mind we have to employ our minds, not rely on drugs or alcohol. He said that the traditions Tibetans have kept alive for 1000 years or more are not just to benefit Tibetans, but can be a source of other people’s welfare. He mentioned that Buddhist literature can be categorized into science, philosophy and religion. The religious part is a matter of personal interest, but the science and philosophy can be examined as academic subjects. They can be studied by anyone regardless of their personal beliefs. He remarked that volumes have been prepared containing such scientific and philosophical material from Buddhist sources that are being translated into English, Chinese, German and other languages.

His Holiness said those who have studied the classic texts can share what they know with others with no reference to past or future lives, strictly in the context of this life.

“I’ve asked the Abbots to pass on this message to others and when I’m in South India in July, we’ll discuss it further. By sharing this knowledge we can be of service to others. It seems there are monks at Sera jey who have learned other languages. We also have nuns who are about to become Geshe-mas. And about 50 years ago I urged monks of Namgyal monastery to extend their studies beyond rituals to include the study of Buddhist philosophy through logic and reason. This follows the Buddha’s own advice to his followers not to accept what he taught at face value, but to examine and test it as a goldsmith tests gold.

“We need to be 21st century Buddhists. We need to study and understand. If we do this Buddhism will go on for centuries more. We can do this in our own language, which is something to be proud of. Besides this, Tibetans are generally known for being honest, ethical and good mannered. Since IBD and CHTS are contributing to the preservation and promotion of Tibetan culture, there is no limit to the progress we can make. I congratulate those of you who have graduated today.

“We talk about the 3000 world systems,

but it's the 7 billion human beings in this world who are our brothers and sisters. As human beings we have a marvellous intelligence, but we have to use it constructively. We're all at peace here, but elsewhere, right now, people are being killed and others are dying of starvation."

His Holiness said that sometimes the way we use our human intelligence increases our negative emotions. Unlike tigers and lions with sharp fangs and claws we human beings have smooth round fingers, yet we can do great harm to others. He said that if we want peace in the world, we need to achieve peace within. If we're filled with anger and fear we will not achieve world peace. He declared that if we would like to see global demilitarization, we first need inner disarmament.

"Knowledge of mind and emotions should be taught in secular schools. Understanding the workings of the mind and our system of emotions we can build healthy, happy individuals, families, communities and societies. Emory University has recently helped prepare a draft curriculum for teaching secular ethics. We are trying to develop activities on the basis of that draft.

"As I said, I congratulate those who have graduated today, but if your minds are not disciplined, mere knowledge will not be of much help. We need to use our intelligence to extend our basic compassionate nature. Children are good natured and open to others, but as they grow up they pay more attention to secondary differences between themselves and others and their self-centredness grows. On the other hand, with mental training we can help others sincerely and effectively. This gives rise to trust and trust is the basis of friendship, which as human beings is what we all need."

Geshe Jampal Dakpa offered words of thanks, the 'Prayer for the Flourishing of the Dharma' was recited to conclude the occasion and His Holiness left to return to his residence.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Speaks with Tibetan School Prefects



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama speaking to a group of Tibetan students on 16 April 2016.*

His Holiness the Dalai Lama spoke to a group of Tibetan school captains from India and Nepal on Saturday, 16 April 2016. The students are in Dharamshala as part of a six-day leadership workshop organised by the Education Department to foster leadership qualities among Tibetan students.

In his address to the students, His Holiness the Dalai Lama emphasised the need to develop warm heartedness and compassion, and called on the students to work towards creating a more peaceful and non-violent 21st century. His Holiness also spoke about the rich religious and cultural traditions of Tibet and the responsibility of the younger generations to preserve it.

"You are all representatives of your schools, so you have the responsibility to pass on the unique Tibetan traditions in the 21st century and also into the 22nd century. That is your duty. Our aim is to educate the 7 billion human beings, whether believer or non-believer, into contributing to a compassionate humanity. If that happens, then the 21st century will eventually become a century of compassion, of dialogue, of non-violence. And that can be done by Tibetans alone," His Holiness told the students.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed sorrow at the indiscriminate killing of thousands and the wars that are supposedly being fought in the name of religion

in different parts of the world.

Speaking on Tibetan Buddhism, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said that Tibetan Buddhism is the "wealth of the Tibetan people". "Politically, Tibet has had to go through a tremendous loss. However, the Tibetan tradition, its language and Buddhist studies have held us together. And nowadays the learned intellectuals from the entire world are increasingly showing interest in the concepts of Tibetan Buddhism. Therefore, we must preserve this unique culture since it has the potential to contribute positively to the whole of humanity," His Holiness said.

Responding to a question on the reincarnation issue, His Holiness explained that the sustenance and advancement of Tibetan Buddhist culture is not dependent on one person. He recalled that ancient Indian masters like Gonpo Ludup and Lord Buddha did not have any reincarnation. Yet, their teachings have lived through practice and study for centuries.

The students have earlier met Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay, Speaker Penpa Tsering as well as other senior leaders of the Central Tibetan administration and NGOs as part of the program.

The delegation consisted of 60 students and faculty from 19 Tibetan schools based in India and Nepal, including three staff from the education department.

## Exiled Tibetans Reelect Lobsang Sangay as Leader

- AFP



*Tibetan Prime Minister Lobsang Sangay favours the "middle way" approach of the Dalai Lama that advocates a peaceful campaign for greater autonomy for the Tibetan people, rather than all-out independence from China ©HO (Central Tibetan Administration/AFP)*

Exiled Tibetans have reelected Lobsang Sangay as their leader, the election commission said Wednesday, five years after the Dalai Lama ceded political power in a bid to foster democracy and secure his succession.

The 48-year-old former academic won 57 percent of the vote in the second round held last month, easily retaining the role that he first took on in 2011 when the Dalai Lama announced he was stepping back from political life and devolving his responsibilities.

After the result was announced, he vowed to continue the "freedom struggle" of the Tibetan people until they won genuine autonomy.

"We will continue as long as it takes till basic freedom is restored in Tibet. Till genuine autonomy is granted to Tibetan people inside Tibet," he told journalists in Dharamsala.

Around 90,000 Tibetans in 13 countries from Australia to the United States had registered to vote in the elections for a Sikyong, or political leader.

Sangay had been widely expected to win the elections, the second to be held among Tibetan exiles across the world. But he took fewer votes than his rival

Penpa Tsering in the northern Indian hill town of Dharamsala where his government-in-exile is based, and where some voters said he had achieved little in his first five-year term.

Both he and Tsering, 49, favour the "middle way" approach of the Dalai Lama that advocates a peaceful campaign for greater autonomy for the Tibetan people, rather than all-out independence from China.

The Tibetan spiritual leader remains revered in the exile community and many consider challenging his views to be heresy — even though he has himself urged people to do so.

### Dalai Lama's Health Sparks Fears

But Lukar Jam Atsok, a third candidate who was eliminated in the first round of voting, won significant support for his argument that exiles should fight for Tibet's independence, and some were angered when his name was not included on the ballot for the second round.

Unlike his rivals the 44-year-old writer was born in China, where he was imprisoned for his political activities before he managed to escape into India.

Thousands of Tibetans have fled their Himalayan homeland since China sent in troops in 1951, and many have settled in India.

Sangay said he would create a new government after two of his ministers resigned during the lengthy and at times fractious election campaign.

"I will put extra effort to maintain and restore unity and civility among Tibetans in the light of the recent election," he added, decrying what he called "negative campaigning".

The Dalai Lama was widely reported to have been unhappy with tactics deployed during the election campaign after he used a recent speech to lament a "decline in morality" in Tibetan society, prompting the two final candidates to apologize.

Sangay said the success of the polls showed the "consolidation of democracy" among Tibetan exiles and urged the world to recognise the legitimacy of the government in exile, which is not recognised by any foreign state.

But many Tibetans still worry about what will happen to the movement after the death of the 80-year-old Dalai Lama, a Nobel peace laureate who enjoys an unparalleled status on the world stage.

The globe-trotting Buddhist monk raised concern among his millions of followers last year when he scrapped a tour of the United States for health reasons.

We can live without religion and meditation, but we cannot survive without human affection -

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

## Through Dalai Lama, One Rediscovered Buddhism

- Krishna Kumar, Hindustan Times

Many school textbooks of the 1950s referred to the Himalayas as a wall. This metaphor reflected both the state of common knowledge about the Himalayan world at the time and popular indifference to the region. The situation suddenly changed in 1959, when the Dalai Lama, then a young man of 24, escaped from Lhasa and sought refuge in India. Thousands of Tibetans followed him and the influx continued for decades. China's steadfast disapproval of India's stand and role matched the Dalai Lama's resolve to maintain a government-in-exile to serve his people. Five years ago, he decided to hand over the task of active governance to an elected head, the Sikyong or the prime minister. Last month, the Tibetan community in exile participated in this election for a second time, retaining the incumbent. The election process aroused worldwide interest, and some criticism too as one might expect in our era of social media, which permits every single image and comment to gain significance by going viral.

The Tibetan presence in India has made a deep impact on our perception of the Himalaya region and its relationship with us. From being a wall that only an adventurer scholar like Rahul Sankrityayana could penetrate, the region has become a resource, both for economics and imagination. His commitment and energy enabled him to transport thousands of Buddhist manuscripts into India, saving them from the fury that the Cultural Revolution had released in China. A great Hindi writer and scholar of history and ancient languages, Sankrityayana was a Marxist who believed in freedom to seek the truth. The manuscripts he salvaged are now serving as a precious resource for research at the Tibetan University in Sarnath, Varanasi. This institution is one of the many academic enterprises that the Tibetan government in exile has successfully nourished despite the countless constraints under which it works.

No matter which area of public policy we look at, the Tibetan administration has pursued an agenda of community welfare with remarkable clarity. The financial resources available are limited to the small tax members of the community pay, in addition to the grants received from donors. The Tibetans have set an example of frugal, efficient use of money without a hint of corruption. Their schools in the recent past initiated a major project to improve pedagogic practices in key areas such as reading. A long-term project to enable nuns to achieve the highest levels of education in Buddhist philosophy has been pursued at the Dolma Ling nunnery in Dharmasala. The first batch of nuns, who have completed a 17-year course in Buddhist philosophy, will receive the Geshema degree, i.e. a doctorate, later this year. This will mark a new era in the history of Buddhism. The vocational education programme at Norbulingka Institute is one of the best I have seen anywhere in the area of heritage crafts. In health, the administration has revived the ancient Tibetan medical system, making its curative powers available to the wider public within India and in several other countries. One could go on and on, because the list is long and its contents largely unsung and, therefore, unknown in our age of loud-mouthed propaganda.

It goes without saying that the Dalai Lama's presence in India as the leader of the community provides an explanation for the coherent and purposeful life it has led for over half a century without frustration. His vision of non-violent struggle for dignity and justice forms a key factor of the positive side of the Tibetan story. Sadly, China does not agree and uses an exclusively nationalist political frame to view the Dalai Lama's work. As a unique story of our times, the Tibetan refusal to dissolve and merge will undoubtedly unfold further. Those who see it in purely political terms, nationally or internationally, miss the deeper ripples it has caused. Religion is a

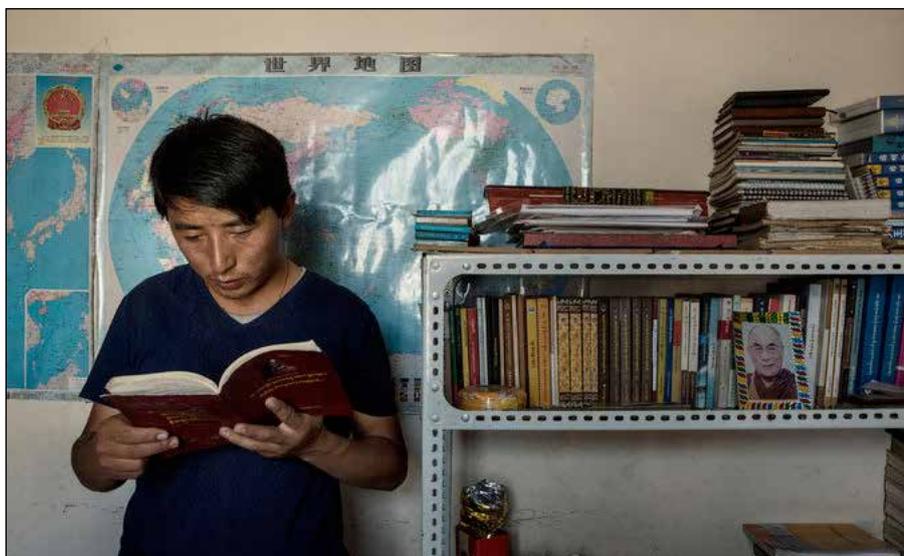
major site of conflict in the world today, and the Dalai Lama has gently reduced the pitch and volume of religious debates. His personal scholarship permits us to separate the Buddha from Buddhism. This is a pedagogic revolution. One can now learn from a great teacher who lived more than two millennia ago without getting stuck in the doctrinaire debates that virtually shrouded his method of analysing the problems of life. China is currently rediscovering Confucius; if it can control its political instincts, it can rediscover the Buddha too by paying attention to the Dalai Lama's scholarly work.

This may not be such a fantasy as it looks, for every nation today needs a larger perspective to contemplate the problems it is facing. As a stateless leader and thinker, the Dalai Lama stretches the prevailing notions of citizenship. I am not referring to the schlock of global citizenship, but rather to the gap that has developed between the idea of a human being and a citizen. The French philosopher Rousseau had noted the likelihood of this gap growing with the spread of education under the state's control. We can see in almost any corner of the world, including ours, how major a contribution education makes to the nourishment of general cussedness and indifference to the common good. The small presence of the Tibetan people in India, held together by a splendid teacher, has demonstrated that collective life can be sustained without contest and strife. It is not merely patience and extreme parsimony that the Tibetans have practised amidst us; they have also practised dignity without power. It has been a strange phenomenon to witness. It can offer unexpected insights if we, and other nations — including those in our neighbourhood — agree to study it with interest and humility.

*(Krishna Kumar is professor of education at Delhi University and former director NCERT)*

## China Charges Tibetan Education Advocate With Inciting Separatism

- By Edward Wong, The New York Times



*Tashi Wangchuk, a Tibetan entrepreneur and education advocate, at his home in Yushu, China, in July. Mr. Tashi was detained in January and held in secret until his family was notified this month. Credit Gilles Sabrie for The New York Times*

A detained Tibetan entrepreneur who advocated for bilingual education in schools across Tibetan regions of China has been charged with inciting separatism, according to an official police document.

The entrepreneur, Tashi Wangchuk, 30, is being held at the main detention center in Yushu, the town in Qinghai Province in western China, where he lives with his elderly parents. Mr. Tashi could face up to 15 years in prison if found guilty, depending on the specifics of the allegations against him.

Mr. Tashi was detained on Jan. 27 and held in secret for weeks. His relatives said they were not told of his detention until March 24, though Chinese law requires that a detainee's family be notified within 24 hours. A document stating the charge against Mr. Tashi, which a police officer gave the family, and a photograph of which was seen by The New York Times, was dated March 4.

Before his detention, Mr. Tashi had written on his microblog that Tibetans needed to protect their culture and that Chinese officials should aid them in doing so. He has argued for greater Tibetan autonomy within China, but

none of his known writings have called for Tibetan independence, which he has said he opposes.

The family said it has not been able to find a local lawyer to represent Mr. Tashi. Officials have not yet announced a trial date.

Mr. Tashi's case has attracted international attention. Officials at the State Department are aware of his detention, and a representative of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression said the group was starting a petition to call for his release. President Obama may raise human rights issues with his Chinese counterpart, President Xi Jinping, when Mr. Xi visits Washington this week for a summit meeting on nuclear issues.

As an advocate for Tibetan culture, Mr. Tashi has been most vocal about language education, saying that schools should adopt a true system of bilingual education so that Tibetan children can become fluent in their mother language.

Mr. Tashi has said that the dearth of effective Tibetan language education, and the fact that the language is not used in government offices, violates the

Chinese Constitution, which guarantees cultural autonomy for Tibetan and other ethnic regions.

Mr. Tashi runs a shop in Yushu and sells goods from the region to buyers across China on Taobao, an online platform run by Alibaba, the e-commerce giant. In 2014, Alibaba chose Mr. Tashi to be featured in a video for the company's investor roadshow before a high-profile initial public offering. The founder and executive chairman of Alibaba, Jack Ma, was the video's main narrator.

Late last year, Mr. Tashi was quoted in two articles in The New York Times on Tibetan language and culture. He was also the main subject of a documentary video by The Times about his attempts to use the legal system to compel officials to improve Tibetan language education.

In an interview last year, Mr. Tashi said he did not support Tibetan independence because he believed that Tibet could continue to develop economically as a part of China. He said he wanted true autonomy for Tibetan regions as guaranteed in the constitution, which he said would help preserve Tibetan language and culture.

Mr. Tashi also said in the interview that he was thankful to "all the Chinese people who truly protect minorities," and he praised Mr. Xi for having "promoted a democratic and law-abiding country these last few years."

Mr. Tashi had been detained briefly twice before, he and his family members have said. Once was for trying to go to India, a common destination for Tibetans who want to see the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader. The other detention, in 2012, was for posting online comments that criticized local officials over land seizures.

*(This article was published on 30 March 2016)*

## Protests as China's Xi Arrives in Prague

- Mail Online

Protests greeted President Xi Jinping as he arrived in Prague on Monday on the first visit by a Chinese head of state to the Czech Republic.

Along the road leading from the airport, dozens of pro-Tibetan demonstrators scuffled with well-wishers who had turned out to welcome the Chinese leader on a visit which has seen Czech President Milos Zeman come under fire for his pro-China policies.

On Monday, in a park on the road from the airport, demonstrators put up a giant picture of the Dalai Lama with the late Czech president Vaclav Havel, a former dissident and human rights activist, with the words: "These gentlemen are at home here", recalling the Tibetan spiritual leader's frequent visits during Havel's presidency (1989-2003).

And at the weekend, dozens of Chinese flags hung up along the boulevard were defaced.

Although the ruined flags were replaced, dozens of demonstrators on Monday tried to hang Tibetan flags in their place, sparking scuffles with pro-Beijing supporters, the Czech news agency CTK reported.

Police said they had arrested 12 people.

Shouting also erupted in the park as Xi's supporters covered up the Dalai Lama billboard with giant Chinese flags, sparking a heated argument with the pro-Tibetan demonstrators, the agency said.

After Xi's arrival on a 48-hour visit focused on business cooperation, the Chinese leader met with Zeman at his official residence just outside Prague where the two leaders also planted a ginkgo biloba tree, holding watering cans adorned with Czech and Chinese flags, CTK said.

### A New Start

In the city centre, another 150 people, mostly Chinese, gathered outside the Hilton Hotel to welcome the president, waving Chinese flags and banners and banging on drums, the agency added.

Zeman has hailed the visit as a "new start" in Prague's relations with Beijing, saying China could invest up to 45 billion koruna (1.66 billion euros/\$1.86 billion) in the Czech Republic.

"It's a new start since we used to have terrible relations with China and the previous government gave in to pressure from the United States and the EU," Zeman told China's CCTV channel in an interview quoted on Monday by CTK.

"Right now we are once again an independent country and we formulate our foreign policy based on our own interests. We do not meddle in the interests of any other country," he added.

Chinese group CEFC has recently invested about 20 billion koruna (740 million euros/\$828 million) in the country, buying stakes in a charter airline, a brewery,

"His statement basically rejects the long-term foreign and security policy of the Czech Republic," he said, accusing the president of "bootlicking authoritarian and unfree regimes."

"We are ashamed of President Zeman and the government, who exchanged human rights for collaboration with the totalitarian and communist China," read a petition presented by the director of the Czech national gallery, Jiri Fajt.

Another rally against Beijing's policy on Tibet is scheduled for Tuesday outside the Czech presidential seat, the Prague Castle.

Beijing, which has ruled Tibet since 1951, says it has brought economic development to the Himalayan region and has questioned the sincerity of the Dalai Lama, who fled for India after a failed



*A protestor wears a mask of Chinese President Xi Jinping during protests against Xi Jinping's visit in Prague, Czech Republic, 29 March 2016*

two media groups and a top football team.

Zeman, a 71-year-old pro-Russian left-winger, was the only European head of state to attend a military parade in Beijing last September that commemorated Japan's surrender at the end of World War II.

### Presidential Bootlicking

But his recent remarks on the visit drew an angry reaction from opposition figures, with former finance minister Miroslav Kalousek, an MP for the rightwing TOP 09 party, denouncing them as "repulsive".

uprising in 1959.

Beijing accuses the Nobel Peace Prize winner of supporting separatism and violence in the region.

The Dalai Lama, who has been invited to attend an international forum in Prague later this year, remains the rallying figure for Tibetans, both at home and in exile, seeking greater autonomy and rights for Tibet.

After visiting Prague, Xi will travel to the United States to attend a nuclear security summit which begins on Thursday.

## Anti-Dalai Lama Group Disbands After Chinese Role is Exposed

- Reuters



*Members of the International Shugden Community rally against the Dalai Lama, who they accuse of religious intolerance, across the street from the site of the National Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton in Washington, February 5, 2015.*

The Buddhist group leading a global campaign of harassment against the Dalai Lama has called off its demonstrations and disbanded, according to a statement on its website.

The announcement comes after a Reuters investigation revealed in December that China's ruling Communist Party backs the Buddhist religious sect behind the protests that have confronted the Dalai Lama in almost every country he visits. Reuters found that the sect had become a key instrument in China's campaign to discredit the Tibetan spiritual leader.

The directors of the International Shugden Community (ISC) had decided to "completely stop organizing demonstrations against the Dalai Lama," said the statement on the website of the Buddhist group. From March 10, the ISC and its websites would dissolve, the statement added, without giving any explanation.

The undated message was in the name of Len Foley, an ISC spokesman. The telephone number for Foley listed on the group's earlier publicity material is now disconnected.

Nicholas Pitts, a Hong Kong-based spokesman for the ISC, did not respond to a request for comment.

The Dalai Lama said he was aware of the decision by the ISC to disband. "I don't know," he said, when asked what was behind the group's announcement.

"Your article was something complete, holistic sort of presentation, it was very helpful," he added, referring to the Reuters investigation.

The Tibetan spiritual leader spoke to a Reuters reporter on the sidelines of a media briefing in Geneva today.

More than five decades after he fled into exile in India following a failed uprising against Chinese rule, the Dalai Lama still exerts considerable religious authority over many of the six million ethnic Tibetans living within China's borders. This infuriates Beijing, which routinely denounces him as a separatist, accusing him of attempting to split Tibet from China.

In the United States, the ISC is registered as a charity in California. Since 2014, its spokespeople have said they are responsible for organizing the protests but denied any link with Beijing or the Chinese Communist Party.

The protesters are members of a sect that worships Dorje Shugden, a deity in Tibetan Buddhism. The Dalai Lama discourages this worship, warning his followers that the deity is a harmful spirit.

Dorje Shugden devotees accuse the 80-year-old Nobel Laureate of persecuting them and dividing Tibetan Buddhism.

"I myself also worshipped that," the Dalai Lama said, referring to the deity. "Out of ignorance."

But he came to the realization that the deity was "very negative, very harmful," he said.

### Western Protesters

This had been an obscure, internal religious dispute, but it has been exported to the West. The protests have followed the Dalai Lama on his regular speaking tours to cities in North America, Europe and Australia.

Most of the protesters have been Western recruits. They joined forces with a smaller group of ethnic Tibetan devotees in chanting slogans and beating drums, sometimes disrupting the Dalai Lama's speaking and teaching engagements. They accuse the Dalai Lama of being a bigot and a fake.

The Dalai Lama's most recent engagements have been largely free of protest. There was a small demonstration earlier this week during his visit to Madison, Wisconsin, according to people close to the Tibetan spiritual leader.

While hundreds gathered today with drums and Tibetan flags opposite the United Nations building in Geneva to listen to the Dalai Lama, there was no sign of protests against the Tibetan spiritual leader.

Sonam Rinchen, an ethnic Tibetan based in the United States who was a spokesman for the ISC during protests last year, said he was unaware of the group's reasons for calling off the demonstrations.

Rinchen, who denies any links with

China, said he was undecided if he would continue to protest. He and some other Shugden followers claim the Dalai Lama's call not to worship the deity has led to ostracism for devotees and their families in Tibet and abroad. Reuters could not confirm this claim.

"The people really suffering are Tibetans living as refugees and Tibetans inside Tibet," said Rinchen.

The Dalai Lama said in Geneva that it was his duty to explain why he had stopped worshipping the Dorje Shugden deity. "Whether people listen or not is up to them," he said.

### Struggle with the Dalai Clique

In December, Reuters reported that an internal Communist Party document distributed to Chinese officials in 2014 described the Shugden issue as "an important front in our struggle with the Dalai clique."

A monk and former member of the Shugden movement who was based in India and Nepal, Lama Tseta, told Reuters that China's powerful United Front Work Department directed the campaign against the Dalai Lama.

Tseta, who now lives in the United States, said China paid him and other Shugden monks to plan and coordinate these activities. He didn't provide documentary evidence of Chinese financing of the protests.

The Reuters investigation also revealed an internal briefing document that said the protests had become so strident that the U.S., Indian and other intelligence services had alerted the Dalai Lama to the threat they posed to his safety. The security assessment was prepared for the Dalai Lama's official representative in the United Kingdom ahead of the Tibetan religious leader's two trips there last year.

In response to questions from Reuters about the Communist Party's support for the Dorje Shugden sect, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the Dalai Lama was practicing "religious tyranny."

## Big Audience for Panel with Dalai Lama Despite Beijing Protest

- Reuters



*A view of the auditorium during the panel discussion on 'Nobel Laureates on Human Rights - A view from civil society' in Geneva, Switzerland on March 11, 2016. Photo/Olivier Adam*

The Dalai Lama took part in a panel of Nobel Peace Prize laureates in Geneva on Friday, addressing a full auditorium about Chinese repression in his native Tibet despite Beijing having urged people to shun the event.

China wrote this week to diplomats and U.N. officials calling on them not to attend the panel at Geneva's Graduate Institute, saying it opposed the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader's appearance at all venues due to his "separatist activities".

"One part of the human brain usually develops common sense. Some of these (Chinese) hardliners, that part of brain is missing," the crimson-robed Dalai Lama, 80, told the audience of students and diplomats.

Earlier he told reporters: "Wherever my name is there they usually criticise and protest. That's quite now routine, normal, nothing special."

China's Foreign Ministry said in statement it had lodged a protest with the United States, which along with Canada had sponsored the event, and that it had expressed its "strong dissatisfaction" with Washington.

The Dalai Lama is not a purely religious figure, but somebody who has engaged in "anti-China separatist activities" for a long period, the ministry said.

"He was the biggest serf owner in old Tibet, and has no qualifications at all to talk about human rights," it added, referring to the period before what China calls its "peaceful liberation" of the remote Himalayan region in 1950.

The United Nations also needs to respect the principles of its own charter and respect and support efforts of member states to maintain their sovereignty and territorial integrity, it added.

The two-hour panel was moderated by U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kate Gilmore, along with laureates from Yemen and Iran.

The Dalai Lama fled into exile in India in 1959 after an abortive uprising against Communist rule.

Beijing blames him for unrest in Tibetan areas and self-immolations that have taken more than 140 lives since 2011, and says he seeks independence for his homeland.

He denies the charges, and says he only wants genuine autonomy for Tibet.

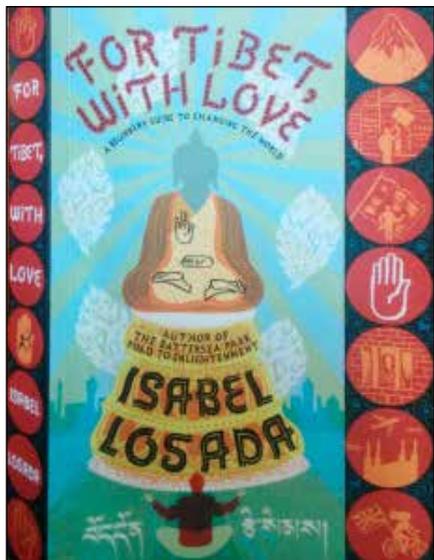
A Buddhist group leading a global campaign of harassment against the Dalai Lama has called off its demonstrations and disbanded, according to a statement on its website.

A Reuters investigation revealed in December that the International Shugden Community (ISC) was backed by China's ruling Communist Party.

The Dalai Lama told Reuters on Friday he was aware of the decision by the ISC to disband. He also told journalists he had not yet received an official invitation to visit Taiwan, but it was up to the government of the self-ruled democratic island which Beijing claims is an integral part of China.

## Voice of Sanity: Why the Tibetan Cause is a Deeper Search for Self

by Thubten Samphel



### Book :

### **For Tibet with Love: A Beginner's Guide to Changing the World**

**Isabel Losada**

**Bloomsbury**

Isabel Losada is a writer in search of a cause. She finds it in Tibet, 'the greatest lost cause on the planet', according to some. In finding Tibet, she hints to the readers that she finds something of herself.

The world Losada surveys from her London street is in turmoil. The Middle East is breaking up and is streaming into Europe, stoking old fears of race and religion. The war on terror is roaring ahead, sparking flames of angry revenge in the streets of Europe and America. Terror and the war on terror are badly rocking the boat of the tenuous world order.

In such a world, Losada asks, "What can you and I do about the war on terror? I'll tell you: We can observe that terror is not the way that we want to go. So we ask 'Who is the world's leading proponent of non-violence?' Most people, when

asked this question say, 'the Dalai Lama. He asks for what he wants for Tibetans but insists on non-violence. He's the man for me.

"Why is the world fighting terror with terror and yet not supporting a man who has spoken for non-violence for fifty years? Why are we ignoring the sanest voice on the planet? And can one crazy, misguided woman that lives on Battersea Park Road in London do anything about it?"

Having found her cause and framed it in a form of a question, the reader at first suspects that she wants to do a Lawrence of Arabia act. But the author draws on a far older and better known and better loved European wisdom to act on behalf of Tibet. She becomes our modern-day Don Quixote, tilting her writerly lance at the windmills of economic might, narrow national interest and un-budging prejudice. This unlikely white female knight in shining armour sets out to change the world, to undo the great injustice and right the mighty wrong on Tibet. To Losada, accepting the world as it is should be tilted with all the force of her lance. The world should be re-arranged in the name of justice and truth. One big re-arrangement in this is restoring Tibet to Tibetans, according to Losada.

Like the faithful Sancho Panza, we, her readers, follow her in her adventures around the world. Her adventure begins in the streets of London where a small but noisy protest demonstration erupts into slogan shouting and Tibetan flag waving before the Chinese embassy. Losada writes, "I glanced at the Embassy. The might of China was unmoved. The closed eyes of the shuttered windows didn't blink."

If individual anger at China in the streets of London wasn't enough, what about showing it in Lhasa itself? Would that do the trick? Would that un-nerve China?

Hardly, as the author discovers. In fact, the experience un-nerves her. Losada recounts, "We turned into the Dalai Lama's Throne Room. This is the room where official guests have been received for generations. A large photo of the Thirteenth Dalai Lama was up on the wall. A matching photo of the current Dalai Lama was conspicuous by its absence. As indeed he was. This was all stolen property. It didn't belong to them and I began to seethe under the injustice of it all... I was one more tourist seeing what the government wanted me to see.

"Then I walked out on the roof and was suddenly transported again to another time and place; the roofs were untouched, the hills were still there, the air was cold and the sky was as blue as it always had been. This was the confusion, rage one minute and exhilaration the next. It was stunningly beautiful and I couldn't get out of there soon enough."

Back in Dharamsala and with an audience with the Dalai Lama, something triggers in her. Losada writes, "I am not one given to describing people's 'energy fields'. I don't see auras. I'm not psychic. But here is an energy that even I can feel. The man is huge. Physically I see an elderly Tibetan... He isn't particularly tall and his face is, well, it is just as we've all seen it smiling from a million pictures. No surprise there. And he is warm and modest, just as I'd expected. But this energy... what is this? I feel myself lost."

In the end Losada hasn't changed the world. But she is able to tell what's wrong with the world with humour and her love for Tibet. And her word has got around the world.

*(Thubten Samphel is an author and Director of Tibet Policy Institute, the think-tank of the Central Tibetan Administration)*

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## QUOTES

*“We need to be 21st century Buddhists. We need to study and understand. If we do this Buddhism will go on for centuries more. We can do this in our own language, which is something to be proud of. Besides this, Tibetans are generally known for being honest, ethical and good mannered. Since IBD and CHTS are contributing to the preservation and promotion of Tibetan culture, there is no limit to the progress we can make,” His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah, 26 March 2016.*

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*“We the Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration firmly believe that the longstanding issue of Tibet can be resolved through dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Chinese government. We remain fully committed to the Middle Way Approach, which clearly seeks genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within China. It is hoped the leaders in Beijing will see reason with the Middle Way Approach, instead of distorting it, and step forward to engage in dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s envoys,” Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay in the Kashag’s statement on the 57th commemoration of Tibetan National Uprising Day, 10 March 2016.*

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*“If the leaders of China are unequivocal in words and deeds in their stated aim of doing something beneficial to the people of Tibet, it should grant our historical region a meaningful autonomy in keeping with the provisions of its law on regional autonomy for ethnic minority regions. In this connection we would like to point out to the government of China that it should know that this is the timely, appropriate thing to do and will only be in keeping with the requirements of the time,” Speaker Penpa Tsering in the statement of the Tibetan Parliament on the 57th commemoration of Tibetan National Uprising Day.*

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*“China’s harsh policies in Tibet are clearly mired in the prejudices and misconceptions of the past. In our conversations with senior Chinese officials, we were saddened by the disrespect expressed toward Tibet’s unique and precious cultural, linguistic and religious heritage — not to mention the government’s scorn for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. China should not fear greater openness and engagement in Tibet. The United States must emphasize this idea at the highest levels,” Ms Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker and currently Minority Leader in the US House of Representatives, and Mr Jim McGovern, Member of the US House of Representatives, following their visit to Tibet in 2015.*

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