

# TIBETAN BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

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Proud to Welcome World's Great Champion for Peace:  
San Diego Mayor on His Holiness the Dalai Lama

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The United States is a Global Leader for World Peace:  
His Holiness the Dalai Lama

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President Trump, Meet the Dalai Lama

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# FROM THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

The most important event in recent times featuring His Holiness the Dalai Lama was his commencement speech at the University of California San Diego. As usual, China objected to the event. However, this time the mantle of the protests were carried by a section of Chinese students from the University who cited “diversity” and “inclusion” as the basis for their protests.

As absurd as it may seem to protest the presence of a Nobel laureate and a global icon of peace in a school of learning, these protests - yet again - helped garner more publicity to the event. According to the University, 25,000 commencement tickets available for sale were sold within just two hours. Once again, the law of unintended consequences seems to apply here as it did with His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh in April this year. China’s protests only seem to help build the towering stature of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his visits rather than obscuring it, as is China’s intention.



However one thing we should be wary of is the possibility of a sinister twist to these relentless assertions of pressure from the Chinese government. These protests not only employ strategic and tactical measures but also seem wickedly clever as they unfold slowly, steadily and stealthily, unsparing of every event featuring His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It is reminiscent of the old Chinese adage ‘death by a thousand small cuts’. Such protracted efforts by the Chinese government do engender the normalisation of protests against His Holiness, thus making opposition or resentment against these protests much harder, needless to mention expression of outrage against it has become stale and rancid.

Moreover, there is another reason why the protests by Chinese students at UCSC represent a new benchmark in deployment of Chinese government tactics. As more and more Chinese students enroll in American and European universities, they bring with them the watchful eyes and the propaganda rhetoric of the Chinese government. These find easy execution through the umpteen number of the Chinese Students and Scholars Associations. It is also leading to an increased interference of Chinese propaganda and politics in University campuses across the world thus causing a travesty of academic freedom.

Amid such a scenario, outright opposition, objection or confrontational measures seem like a foolhardy measure. The only solution that could have a lasting impact would be building bridges based on trust, dialogue and reconciliatory methods with these students. These are the basic tenets of the principles of the Middle Way Approach. His Holiness’ wise advice tell us that ‘differences are inevitable even within families, but these are embraced because ultimately it is what is shared that matters.’

Academia is one unique place that takes pioneering efforts in championing the cause of diversity and inclusion. Such opposition from students who parrot official communist party lines is reminiscent of the underlying intolerance and the knack for intimidation that was seen during the Cultural Revolution era.

Moreover, it is noteworthy that the key theme of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s keynote address at the USCD commencement ceremony was on compassion. It was His Holiness who said ‘the oppressor needs compassion more than the oppressed.’ It is the potential of the innate human self that His Holiness emphasises, not the sins of the past or the economics of making money.

I am sure if the protesting Chinese students had the wisdom and the goodwill to listen to His Holiness, an attitudinal shift is inevitable. By not listening to him, they have deprived themselves of a lifetime opportunity to see and hear the wise words of the world’s greatest champion of peace and compassion.

These are few of the many issues we have covered in this edition of the Tibetan Bulletin.

Jamphel Shonu  
Editor

## Tsedup Kyi Released after Serving Four Years in Chinese Prison



*Tsedup Kyi in a recent photo taken after her release.*

A Tibetan woman named Tsedup Kyi, 32, was released from Mianyang Prison, located near Chengdu city, on 5 April after serving her full prison sentence. Tsedup Kyi was arrested and sentenced to four years in prison for protecting the body of a self-immolator from the Chinese police during a self-immolation protest in December 2012.

According to TCHRD, “Kyi was imprisoned in connection with the self-immolation of Lobsang Gendun, a monk who died of self-immolation on 3 December 2012 in Pema County, Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in the Tibetan province of Amdo (incorporated in China’s Qinghai Province). To save Gendun’s body from falling into the hands of Chinese authorities, Kyi and other Tibetans had engaged in a scuffle with local security forces during which Kyi held on to the charred body and shouted, “Freedom in Tibet!” and “Return of Dalai Lama to Tibet!”. She was then detained and eventually sentenced on 5 April 2013 after about four months of pretrial detention.”

Tsedup has been released in poor health after serving her full sentence. Her health had severely deteriorated throughout the detention that she served the first year in prison hospital.

News of Tsedup’s release was delayed due to heavy communication clamp-down imposed by Chinese authorities in the region.

## Hectic Campaign amid Chilly Drizzle at European Parliament

Six Tibetan families from Switzerland launched a solidarity campaign at Place du Luxembourg, in front of the European Parliament amid a chilly drizzle. But the series of visits from Members of European Parliament ensured a substantive, busy and breezy campaign.

MEP Csaba Sogor inaugurated the campaign by addressing on the subject of Tibet’s freedom as a step towards freedom for Chinese in general. Mr Sogor is a prominent Tibet supporter and member of Tibet Interest Group (TIG). He has visited Dharamsala and is very close to Bureau du Tibet. He has also taken so far three Tibetans in his office as interns.

Ms Zsuzsana Ferenczy, Assistant to MEP Laszlo Tokes came to the site of



*MEP Panzeri, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament accepting the letter from Solidarity Campaign leader Ms Chodon Thaktsang.*

the campaign on behalf of Mr Tokes. She said the issue of Tibet is very close to her heart and that the European Parliament is fully behind Tibetans.

Another important visitor was MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri, Chair of Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament. He was accompanied by his Assistant who will soon be traveling to Dharamsala with Zsuzsa and other seven Assistants.

Mr Panzeri received the letter from the head of the organiser, Ms Chodon Thaktsang. The letter urged for immediate action by European

Parliament on the issue of Tibet. Mr Panzeri also said that he was fully behind the issues being raised by the organiser of the campaign.

MEP Thomas Mann, Chair of Tibet Interest Group, also visited the site to express his and TIG’s support for the campaign. He especially mentioned that they are fully behind the Middle Way Approach (MWA). He was accompanied by his two Assistants.

The final visitor was Mr Tunne Kelam, MEP from Estonia. He visited the campaign site in front of the European Union (EU).

He shared an epochal moment in the history of his country’s (Estonia) experience during its struggle under Soviet subjugation. In early 1990’s Swedish Parliamentarians undertook similar campaign on every Monday. At that time, nobody expected that it would make any impact. However, Estonia today is a free country and therefore the Tibetan campaign should also be looked positively.

The campaign was facilitated by OOT Brussels.

## Education Kalon Meets Honourable Secretary, MHRD

Honorable Education Kalon, Mr. Ngodup Tsering accompanied by Mr Karma Singey, Secretary, DoE, Mr. Namgyal Yemphel, Director, STSS, Mr. Dorjee Tsering, Deputy Director, STSS and Mr. Kelsang Gonpo, Deputy Secretary, DoE met with Shri Anil Swarup, Honorable Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and Mr. Sanjay Kumar, JS & Chairman of CTSA.

The meeting agenda was to discuss the issues concerning transfer of remaining 14 schools of CTSA. The Secretary, MHRD, Govt of India, assured that the transfer of remaining 14 schools of CTSA will be expedited at the earliest.

Earlier in the morning, Education Kalon along with the above DoE officials attended a special meeting convened by Shri Sanjay Kumar, JS & Chairman of CTSA where reports of the recent visit of review committees to the CTSA transferred schools were briefed and various issues concerning the transfer of remaining 14 schools were discussed.

Since the Union Cabinet, Government of India took decision to transfer the CTSA schools to the Department of Education,



*Education Kalon Ngodup Tsering with Honourable Secretary, Shri Anul Swarup, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, 3 May 2017.*

CTA Dharamshala on 18 January 2013, so far 33 Pre-primary schools, 9 Primary schools and 5 Middle schools have been transferred in the first and second phase of transfer. Prior to execution of the final phase of school transfer, the CTSA in its 82nd Governing Body meeting held on 17 February 2017 made a resolution to review the progress of the CTSA schools so far transferred to STSS.

In compliance to the above resolution, joint review committees comprising members from both CTSA, MHRD and DoE, CTA visited CTSA transferred schools located in Karnataka and Odisha States. Mr Karma Singey, Secretary, Department of Education, CTA and Mr A.S. Rawat, Education Officer, CTSA jointly visited the CTSA transferred schools in Bylakuppe and Kollegal from 10 -14 April 2017 to review the progress.

Mr. Kelsang Gonpo, Deputy Secretary of Education Department, CTA was joined by Mr. T. Pritam Singh, Education Officer of CTSA to review the schools in Odisha from 17 – 19 April 2017. The schools in Mundgod were jointly reviewed by Mr. Karma Singey, Secretary, DoE, CTA and Dr. Renu Pant,

Education Officer of CTSA from 17 – 21 2017.

The education department remains hopeful that the transfer issues of the remaining 14 schools of CTSA will be resolved very soon.

## President of CTA Dr Lobsang Sangay Inaugurates 40th International Museum Day Event

President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay initiated a two day event organised by DIIR's Tibet Museum to celebrate the 40th International Museum Day on 18 May 2017.

The inauguration was attended by Tibet Museum Director, Mr Tashi Phuntsok, former political prisoner, Ven. Bhagdro along with class 8 students of the Tibetan Childrens Village and representatives of Tibetan non-governmental organisations based in Dharamshala.

President Dr Lobsang Sangay inaugurated the two day event being held from 18 to 19 May with the lighting of the Tibetan butter lamp. The two



*President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay initiates 40th International Museum Day Event at Tibet Museum, Dharamshala on 18 May 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

day event include guided tour of the museum, talks and lectures on Tibetan history, culture, global significance of the Tibetan Plateau, gender equality and the 11th Panchen Rinpoche. The two day event also featured documentary movie screenings on Tibet.

President Lobsang Sangay said that the Tibet Museum remains one of the most powerful mediums in preserving the rich cultural heritage and political narrative of the Tibetan struggle and called on Tibetans, particularly those still in schools and colleges to call on others, tourists, to visit the Tibet Museum to gain a deeper insight into the Tibetan political struggle and life of Tibetans in



*Speaker and participant for 40th International Museum Day at Tibet Museum, Dharamshala on 18 May 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

exile.

“The Chinese Government is trying hard to eradicate the Tibetan Culture and preventing Tibetans from returning to their homeland. The Tibet Museum therefore provides proof, spreads awareness and reminds us of the existence of our culture and the plight of Tibetans under the Chinese rule”, President said.

Director of the Tibet Museum, Mr Tashi Phuntsok in his address talked about the Tibet museum being a treasury of information and photos which depict Tibet's culture, religion, history and the plight of Tibetans under Chinese rule. He mentioned the significance of the Tibet Museum, being, to spread awareness, to the tourists who visit and the Tibetan public, and to enhance their knowledge on the Tibet issue and also to amplify the Tibetan political narrative.

The two day event concluded on 19 May with Tibetan Cultural Performance by the students of Mewoen Tsuglag Peteon Model School and closing address by Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok, Deputy Speaker of 16th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile.

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

## CTA President Expresses Concern Over Latest Self-immolation in Tibet

The President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay expressed concern over the death of Jamyang Losel, a Tibetan monk in 20's who died after carrying out a self-immolation protest on 19 May this year in Chentsa, Manlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture incorporated into China's Qinghai Province.

It is reported that the Chinese police arrived at the scene and forcibly took away his charred body. At the time of filing this report, it is not clear whether the Chinese authorities have returned the body to the family.

On 2 May, Chakdor Kyab, a 16-year-old Tibetan student from Amdo Bhora, Sangchu County in Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture incorporated in China's Gansu province set himself on fire in protest against the Chinese Government's repressive policies. He was heard calling for freedom in Tibet and the Return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

The number of self-immolations till date stands at a staggering 149 including four this year.

Responding to the self-immolation, President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay said: "It deeply concerns us to see young Tibetans self-immolate. Such sacrifices by Tibetans in Tibet evidences that repression in Tibet under the Chinese rule is making lives unlivable. Therefore it is time the Chinese Government heed to the calls of Tibetans in Tibet who long for freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama back to Tibet. China must address the legitimate grievances of people in Tibet. The issue of Tibet can be best resolved amicably through the middle way approach, by resuming dialogue with the Tibetan representatives."

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Meets Staffers of Senior Members of European Parliament

The Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama met with a seven-member delegation of Assistants to European parliament at the Dharamshala airport, 21 May 2017, before departing for Bangalore.

The seven-member delegation included:



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the seven-member delegation from European parliament at Dharamshala airport, 21 May 2017.  
Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

Mr Francesco Giorgi, Assistant to Mr Pier Antonio PANZERI, MEP, Chair of the Human Rights Subcommittee and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Ms Dalila Bernard, Assistant to Mr Cristian Dan PREDA, MEP, Vice-Chair of Human Rights Subcommittee and Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Ms. Zsuzsana Ferenczy, Assistant to Mr László TÖKÉS, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Subcommittee; Mr Flavien Deltort, Assistant to Mr Fabio Massimo CASTALDO, MEP, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Ms Harriet Clayton, Assistant to Mrs Molly SCOTT CATO, MEP; Ms Gyongyver Forro, Assistant to Mr Csaba SÓGOR, MEP; Ms Margareta Kovacova, Assistant to Mr József NAGY, MEP.

"It is a great honour today to meet His Holiness and we are grateful to be able to start our trip with such an encounter. Some of us have already had luck to meet him in the past. But every time we meet him, it's a great source of inspiration. We are happy to take back the message of hope and peace that His Holiness inspires in us," Ms Zsuzsana Ferenczy,

Assistant to Mr László TÖKÉS, MEP told Tibet TV.

"We are really blessed to have met His Holiness right now because we are starting our mission in the best way. The European parliament have always supported the Tibetan cause and we are here not only to understand how it is to live the Tibetan condition in the diaspora but really to support to the Tibetan cause, hoping for a better future for all the Tibetans around the world," Mr Francesco Giorgi, Assistant to Mr Pier Antonio PANZERI, MEP said.

Ms Rigzin Choedon Genkhang, EU Advocacy Officer, Bureau du Tibet is accompanying the delegation of Assistants to European parliament.

In the following days, the delegation will visit the Department of Information & International Relations (DIIR), Tibet Policy Institute, Sherab Gatsel Lobling, Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute, Tibet Museum, Tibetan Children's Village and various Tibetan NGOs.

## CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay Visits Washington DC

President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr. Lobsang Sangay's visit to DC was packed with meetings at the capitol hill, media interviews and other engagements.

President Dr. Sangay gave an hour-long live interview at VOA studio, which was followed by in-depth discussions and interactions with scholars at the American Enterprise Institute, a public policy think tank dedicated to defending human dignity.

President Dr. Sangay later attended a meeting with the US House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representative Jim McGovern, Representative Eliot Engel and Representative Joyce Beatty at the Leader's office. The President presented eight-point fresh appeal to the lawmakers, which received sympathetic

hearing and an affirmation to extend all support at their disposal.

At the Heritage Foundation, an influential think tank to the new US administration, President Sangay spoke on “One China Policy and Middle Way Approach of the Tibetan People”. Over fifty scholars and intellectuals attended the talk.



*CTA President Dr. Lobsang Sangay in a meeting with leader of the US house of representatives Nancy Pelosi, representative Jim McGovern, representative Elliot Engel and representative Joyce Beatty*

“China should grant genuine autonomy for Tibet within the framework of the Chinese Constitution. If the Chinese government implement their own laws listed in the Constitution and minorities nationalities act, we could take that as genuine autonomy,” President Sangay said.

Reprimanding China’s groundless fear of the Dalai Lama, President Sangay said, “His Holiness the Dalai Lama is not an obstacle to the solution of Tibet. He is the solution. We do believe that the Tibetan cause would prevail.”

President Sangay described the grim political situation prevailing inside Tibet, which has led to 149 Tibetans to self-immolate in protest. “We all know the human rights condition in Syria and Tibet is ranked just above Syria according to Freedom House report. Reporters without Borders has a report which again stated that going to Tibet is more difficult than gaining access to North Korea. We all read headlines about North Korea but getting into Tibet is more difficult than getting into North Korea. This is the situation in Tibet.”

The president said the urgency of situation inside Tibet is further expressed by the discovery of Tibet as water tower

of Asia and the Earth’s third pole.

“Hence Tibet is not just an issue of six million Tibetans and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It is a vital issue for Asia.”

He expounded on the environmental importance of Tibet as the maker of the Asian monsoon and as the retainer of the largest concentration of glaciers outside of the two Poles that feed the life-giving waters of the 10 major river systems that sustain millions downstream. He also said that the effects of global warming is more prominent in Tibet than in the south and north poles.

President Sangay in his op-ed piece, in *The Hill*, entitled *President Trump, meet the Dalai Lama*, mentioned that while President Trump has reached out to the adherents of the world’s interconnected and monotheistic religions – Islam, Christianity and Judaism – he should also meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama who is an important Buddhist leader in the world and has throughout his life been a proponent of the highest ideals of Buddhism, including non-violence, compassion, equanimity and kindness. “Such a meeting would assist in bringing these principles to bear on issues of world peace and nonviolence”, he said.

“Each and every U.S. president since George H.W. Bush has met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Each of these presidents reported the meeting provided a fresh and unique view on political and spiritual issues that currently confront us as a global community. President Trump and His Holiness the Dalai Lama would certainly find much to discuss as we see the world torn by violence and conflict”, President Sangay said on his op-ed piece.

President Sangay told Reuters earlier this month that the Dalai Lama had planned to visit the United States in April but had delayed the trip until June because a hectic schedule had left him exhausted. He also said Washington was not part of the June itinerary.

“Donald Trump ...has been to all three major sacred places of three major

traditions. If he can meet with all leaders of major traditions, I think it’s just logical that he meet with the most prominent Buddhist leader”, he said.

The day-long program concluded with a dinner reception hosted by Capital Area Tibetan Association.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Inaugurates Arun Shourie’s Two Saints

he Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama inaugurated a book titled *Two Saints*, speculation around and about Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Ramana Maharshi authored by former BJP leader and journalist, Arun Shourie at C.D Deshmukh auditorium, India International Centre, New Delhi on 25 May 2017.

The event was witnessed by noted personalities including former Deputy Prime Minister of India Shri L.K. Advani, Fali Sam Nariman, an Indian jurist, Shyam Saran a former foreign secretary to Government of India and media personalities like Barkha Dutt.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama and veteran author Arun Shourie exchanging greeting at the launch of *Two Saints*, New Delhi, 25 May 2017. Photo/ Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

Fali S. Nariman, Shyam Saran and Dr Ambarish Satwik spoke at the event, sharing their views and comments on the book. Commenting on the book, Dr Ambarish Satwik said the book is holy work based on neurotheology. While Shyam Saran, termed it ‘profound’ and ‘erudite’, Fali S. Nariman called the book a loving service to mankind.

“Today, when I meet my Indian friends

I am struck by the sense that although this body of mine is Tibetan, in terms of study and knowledge, I may be more Indian than you. This is because of what I've learned from ancient India and the Nalanda tradition about tackling negative emotions and strengthening inner values," said Tibet's spiritual leader, highlighting his commitment to revive ancient Indian knowledge.

Pointing to senior BJP leader L K Advani, who was present on the occasion, the Dalai Lama said, "Advani once told me, according to Indian understanding, secular means to respect all religions and also to respect non-believers. Since I heard that from you, I want to consider you my teacher."

His Holiness further informed the audience that the drafting of curriculum based on secular ethics will be finalized within this year.

"Then we will see what effect this curriculum (has) after one year, two year, three year. In America, two cities. I can't remember the name but the city they developed as city of kindness, city of compassion. Within the city, more activities referring kindness and compassion. As a result, the schoolchildren become more compassionate. It is quite pity, in this country, ahimsa and karuna is always said, but no city with the name of karuna," he said.

His Holiness further said, "Ancient Indian knowledge is not just to close eyes and pray, rather it is to do more of analysis and reasoning. That's why only in India it is possible to combine ancient knowledge with modern technology."

His Holiness captivated the packed hall of 250-strong audience and eminent scholars with his incisive views punctuated with playful humor.

He concluded by appealing the Indian members to "pay more attention to your longstanding traditions in the spirit of the Buddha's advice to examine, investigate and experiment with what you hear before making it your own. In the earlier 20th century scientists only ac-

knowledged the function of the brain, now they are more interested in knowing about the workings of the mind."

Arun Shourie, veteran journalist said the Dalai Lama is the only religious leader who has said Buddhism must face facts so that if there are new discoveries in science and they contradict something that is written in the ancient scriptures, the part of description is to be either re-interpreted or cast away.

He also said, "The number of Tibetans in exile is smaller than the population of Karol Bagh, the fact that Tibet is a matter of world concern is due to his efforts."

## UN Mandate Holders question China on Tashi Wangchuk and Nyima Lhamo

In yet another fresh development for Tibetan advocacy at the United Nations, a group of United Nations human rights mandate holders published a joint communication made to the Chinese government on the case of Tibetan human rights defenders: Tashi Wangchuk, a language rights defender and Dolkar Lhamo and Nyima Lhamo, relatives of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

### The case of Tashi Wangchuk:

Five Special Procedures mandate holders: the mandates of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment made communication to the Chinese government on the case of Tashi Wangchuk on 10 February 2017.

According to the report, the experts expressed serious concern at the "arrest, the initial incommunicado detention and the continued detention of Tashi Wang-

chuk as well as his limited right to counsel, the denial of presenting the evidence against him and the irregularities in the criminal investigation". Also have expressed "equal concern at the use of separatist charges to criminalize the legitimate exercise of freedom of expression and his defense of cultural rights, as well as to target legitimate human rights activities" and "physical and psychological integrity while in detention".

The experts sought the Chinese government's response in the seven areas of concern including the legal grounds for the arrest and detention of Tashi Wangchuk, his physical and psychological integrity and compatibility with the international norms and standard. And also asked about measures in place to ensure Tibetans' rights to learn mother tongue freely.

The Case of Dolkar Lhamo and Nyima Lhamo:

Three Special Procedures Mandate holders relating to Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief sent joint communication to the Chinese government on the case of Dolkar Lhamo and Nyima Lhamo, relatives of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

According to the communication sent to the Chinese government in December last year, and was kept confidential till today, the experts expressed concerns at the "arrest and detention of Nyima Lhamo and Dolkar Lhamo, which appear to be directly related to their advocacy and imparting of information concerning the death of Tenzin Delek. We express equal concern at the threats, intimidation and surveillance of the two women human rights defenders as well as the use of force against peaceful protestors in Lithang". And further expressed concern at the "broader measures taken in Lithang and Nyakchuka, including internet shut downs and the issuance of the communiqué on banned activities, limiting the right to freedom of information, expression as well as the rights to

freedom of religion and peaceful assembly in ways that are incompatible with international human rights law”.

The experts asked the Chinese government’s response in the eight areas of concern including the legal basis of arrest and detention of Nyima Lhamo and Dolkar Lhamo, use of force by the police against peaceful protestors, and breaking up religious ceremonies, for the closure of the prayer hall as well as for the communiqué on banned activities and sought explanation on how these actions are compatible with international human rights law.

The mandate holders’ communication came in the lead up to the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council that began from 6 June 2017. This covers communications sent from 1 December 2016 to 28 February 2017 and their reply received until 30 April 2017. The report was made public on May 26.

## CTA’s Five-Fifty Vision is Hoping for the Best and Preparing for the Worst: CTA President

The three-day meeting of Consultants for Central Tibetan Administration’s (CTA) film project, convened by the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR), kick-started at DIIR’s Lhakpa Tsering Hall.

The meeting scheduled from June 6 – 8, began with President of CTA Dr Lobsang Sangay also holding the portfolio of Minister for DIIR delivering the opening remarks.

President Dr Sangay addressed the attendees on importance of establishing a narrative for the Tibet story and showcase that CTA will carry forward the struggle. He also stressed on the importance of branding component in communications strategy that could sustain and illicit interest in Tibet and CTA in the long run.

He said that the film on CTA should be able to convey to the Tibetans in Tibet that the Tibetans in exile have a well-

functioning administration that works to restore freedom for Tibetans inside Tibet

Speaking on the ‘Five-Fifty Vision,’ President said the vision is premised on His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s advice to “Hope for the Best and Prepare for the Worst”. The vision calls for maximizing efforts to resolve the Tibet issue in five years based on the Middle Way Approach while ensuring CTA’s resilience to sustain the Tibetan freedom struggle and preserve Tibetan culture for the next fifty years if needed.



*President of CTA Dr. Lobsang Sangay addressing the attendees of the meeting. Photo/Jayang Tsering/DIIR*

He further said “our plan is not to stay in exile for fifty years, but our plan is to plan for fifty, if needed.”

“The film on CTA under the larger framework of the Five-Fifty Vision should depict that Tibetans can run their own government, economy, health systems. It should be able to instill a sense of hope in the Tibetans in Tibet and make them rise on their own feet, inspire them to take advantage of the Chinese education system, join the Chinese system, assert their own authority and hence assert their identity.”

Five experts in film making: Tsering Rhithar (Filmmaker based in Nepal), Tashi Tobgyal (Indian Express Journalist based in Delhi), Bhuchung D. Sonam (Writer based in Dharamsala), Sonam Tseten (Film Maker based in Delhi) and Tenzin Kalden (Filmmaker based in Dharamsala) attended the meeting. The meeting also saw the participation of Kaydor Aukatsang (Advisor for Film Project), Namgyal Tsewang (Director, Tibet TV), Tenzin Saldon (Reporter, Tibet.net) and Kelsang Dolma (CTA Media Relations intern).

Tsering Rhithar said, “I am here to attend the meeting on 5/50-vision and how a very big scale film can be made about the 5/50 vision. The film on CTA can play a very important role in increasing the visibility and also sharing information on its functionality, its exciting work environment and also on it being a big job provider for Tibetan youth and Tibetan people. Internet is a very strong tool which has a very vast reach especially among the youth. So Tibet TV can play a very important role in sharing the information about issues related to Tibet.”

Tashi Tobgyal said, “The purpose of my attending the meeting is to come about with a set of young talented people so that we can somehow chart a good future relating to media productions, ideating and about how we can exploit the web based situations currently running so that we can secure a good future in terms of audio visual media for the Tibetan exiled people. The 5/50 documentary itself is a point where there is a unison of all the agendas, all the polices, all the campaigns and necessary resources being pulled into one and so it is a unified version of an audio visual presentation which will surely have a larger impact rather than having each agenda go alone on its own path. Smartphones nowadays are the simplest of mediums and through the web Tibet TV can connect to the farthest and the most grass roots of people and places as far as Tibetan news and programing is concerned and also its outreach is very much easier when it comes to Tibetans inside Tibet accessing any content related to their society.”

Bhuchung D. Sonam said, “I came here to take part in the 5/50 documentary film and my responsibility is to perform a background research on the documentary. Any documentary is important for creating awareness and especially 5/50 being a vision of what could possibly done in the future is really important because any vision that the government has, has to be known not only to the public but also to the international communities. In a 35 minutes documentary you can share to the people not only about the 5/50-vision but also about the history of Tibetan



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay, DIIR Secretary (Equivalent) Dhardon Sharling and Kaydor Aukatsang, Chief Resilience Officer at the opening of the Film Consultants Meeting. Photo/Jayang Tsering/DIIR

struggle and the people itself.”

Sonam Tseten said, “This meeting is to talk about how we are going to go about with the making of this documentary and what kind of audience we are targeting for this film. The 5/50 film could be described as a medium through which we could connect to the Tibetan people and provide them with hope and instill unity among the Tibetan people. Tibet TV so far are doing very good but as a suggestion Tibet TV could do better with a bigger studio and better equipment. We could use the Web TV which was recently introduced as a tool to broadcast Tibet TV and do more programming on Tibet issues, culture, and identity and so on.”

Tenzin Kalden said, “I have been given the role of director of photography for the 5/50-film. Media plays an extremely important role these days and through the media, being the strong channel it is, we can communicate to the people. Therefore, I think this film is important in being the bridge that connects the Tibetan people. Tibet TV also holds a great future in being that bridge which provides us with more reason to make Tibet TV better.”

Dhardon Sharling, Secretary (Equivalent) of DIIR said that the main focus of the meeting is to make a large scale, first-of-its-kind film on CTA under the framework of “Five-Fifty Vision” that will personify and humanize CTA as the nerve of Tibetan freedom struggle and as the custodian of Tibetan cultural identity. She further said that DIIR would solicit expert advice on Tibet TV’s programming section.

## Home Kalon Attends Golden Jubilee Celebration of Paonta Cholsum

In the on-going 35th UN Human Rights Council session that began earlier this month, countries including the US, UK and Germany expressed concern over the worrisome situation in China especially in Tibet and Xinjiang.

In a side event on “Human Rights Situation: Seeking Solution (Case of Palestine and Tibet)”, Kelsang Gyaltsen, former Special Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Europe briefed the current situation in Tibet under China’s repressive policies, and explained how the Middle Way Approach continues to remain a viable solution to resolve the issue of Tibet amicably with China.



Mr. Dawa Tsultrim, UN Advocacy officer delivering oral statement in the UNHRC

“The Middle Way Approach is nothing but a call for genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people within the frame work of the People’s Republic of China’s constitution. The approach is not seeking complete independence as misinterpreted by the Chinese officials”—said Kelsang Gyaltsen.

The event has been jointly organized by International Fellowship & Reconciliation, American Association of Jurists, BADIL-Resource Centre for Palestine Residency & Refugee Rights and Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy.

Delivering member state’s statements under Item 4 -General Debate, the delegate of the United States of America expressed its concern over lawyers and

activists in China who are being arbitrarily detained, tortured and forced to confess to political charges on the state media. The delegation further stated, “conditions akin to martial law have been imposed in Xinjiang and some Tibetan areas”.

The delegation from Germany called China to release all detained human rights defenders including Tashi Wangchuk, and urged China to allow the High Commissioner and Special Rapporteurs to visit Tibet. “Germany remains deeply worried about widespread human rights abuses in China, especially in Tibet, Xinjiang and neighboring regions including infringements of the freedom of religion as witnessed in Larung gar” said the delegation.

The delegate of the UK expressed concerned over China’s unabated restriction to civil and political freedoms, including minority rights, and freedoms of expression and religion.

Dawa Tsultrim, UN Advocacy officer, representing the Society for Threatened People urged China to acknowledge and address the underlying causes of current deplorable situation particularly faced by Tibetans, Uyghurs and Mongolians. Speaking on behalf of Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Melanie Blondelle urged the council to push China “to grant independent and impartial monitors unfettered access to Tibet, as agreed to by China following its 2013 Universal Periodic Review”.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, an international organization that advocates for religious freedom drew the council’s attention China’s crackdown on Tibetan Buddhist institutes that has been demonstrated in the demolition of Larung Gar, one of the largest Buddhist centers in the world.

In addition to delivering oral statements on Tibet, Society for Threatened Peoples, International Fellowship of Reconciliation and Nonviolent Radical Party, Transitional and Trans-party have submitted written statements detailing the abysmal human rights situation in Tibet.

## Chorig Kalon Visits Norbulingka Institute in Dharamshala

Promoting language, identity, culture and traditional history through digital storytelling, the Department of Education, CTA released its first ever animated film on all-time favourite fable, དན་ས་བརྗེད་སྤྲོ་བའི་ཨ་ཁུ་ལ་ལག་སྟོན། (the Forgetful Agu Phagpa) and a Tibetan dubbed version of Buddha's Sutra, Life of Buddha.



*Kalon Ngodup Tsering, Department of Education, CTA along with Secretaries Nanga Chodon and Karma Singhe, Tsering Samdup, Head of Education Council releasing Tibetan animated film and Tibetan dubbed version of Buddha Sutra, 21 June 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

The ceremony was attended by Kalon Ngodup Tsering, Department of Education, Secretaries Nangsa Chodon and Karma Singhe, Tsering Samdup, Head of Education Council, staff of Education department and children of class III, Mewoen Tsuglag Petoen School.

Chief guest Kalon Ngodup Tsering said at the launch, "This groundbreaking initiative, on behalf of the Education department, represents our commitment and service towards preserving Tibetan language and culture; revitalising awareness and appreciation for one's language in schools and at home."

"With animation becoming the most effective pedagogical technology to engage children's imagination and learning capabilities, the Education department will continue to explore this opportunity to further our efforts."

Kalon appealed Tibetans settled across India and abroad, especially parents to encourage their children/young members to converse in Tibetan, read

Tibetan literature and watch visual materials including the Agu Phagpa.

The animated film དན་ས་བརྗེད་སྤྲོ་བའི་ཨ་ཁུ་ལ་ལག་སྟོན། (the Forgetful Agu Phagpa) is produced by the Department of Education and created by Jampel Animation. Buddha's Sutra, originally in Hindi was dubbed in Tibetan and translated by Acharya Karma Monlam, Chair of the High level Standardising Board.

The project was funded by Global Affairs Canada.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama Appoints 104th Gaden Tripa

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has appointed Jangtse Choeje Kyabje Jetsun Lobsang Tenzin Palsangpo as the 104th Gaden Tripa, the head of Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism, according to information received from Ven Atuk Tseten and Ven Gowo Lobsang Phendey, members of Tibetan Parliament representing Gelug school. The appointment was announced through an official letter dated 24 June.

The appointment was necessitated by



*104th Gaden Tripa Kyabje Jetsun Lobsang Tenzin Palsangpo*

the sudden demise of 103rd Gaden Tripa Jetsun Lobsang Tenzin Rinpoche who passed away on 21 April before completing his full seven year term.

The Gaden Tripa 'Holder of the Gaden Throne' is the title of the spiritual head of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism. Je Tsongkhapa (1357-1419), who founded the Gelug school was the first Ganden Tripa. The lineage has, since, been held by the Gaden Tripas.

The Gaden Tripa is an appointed office, not a reincarnation lineage. It occurs

once every seven years (completion of term) or earlier (due to unforeseen events like death). The title is bestowed alternately on one or the other of the two Chojeys – Sharpa Choje or Jangtse Choje. The appointment is based on academic merit which is the basis of the hierarchical progression.

Although the appointment of Gaden Tripa is automatic, it is usually confirmed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama who publicly announces the appointment or nomination at the time of changeover.

### Biography of 104th Gaden Tripa Jetsun Lobsang Tenzin Palsangpo

Kyabje Jetsun Lobsang Tenzin Palsangpo was born in Tibet in 1934, Rinpoche was ordained as a monk at the age of seven. Following His Holiness the Dalai Lama into exile in 1959, he entered Sera Je Monastery where he was enrolled into Tsangpa Khangtsen at the age of seventeen.

Following a rigorous study of the Buddhist philosophies, he obtained the highest honor of Geshe Lharampa degree in 1979 after debate examinations attended by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other senior Buddhist scholars.

Ater receiving the Geshe Lharampa degree, he entered Gyume Tantric University and two years later became a master of discipline. Rinpoche also studied the esoteric teachings of the Mahayana tradition extensively while he was there at Gyume Tantric University.

In 1985, His Holiness the Dalai Lama appointed him as the abbot of Gyume Tantric University, a position he held for 6 years.

Since then he has taught widely in India and the West. He was also the Spiritual Director at Do Ngak Kunphen Ling dharma center based in North America.

He was appointed to the position of Jangtse Choje in 2010, which placed him second in line for the position of Gaden Tripa after former Sharpa Choje late Jetsun Lobsang Tenzin at that time.

## Is China's Ascension To Global Dominance Inevitable?

Tenzin Kunga

Should we be mindful of China's growing economic prowess? The sudden emergence of China as an economic powerhouse has caused a stir in the international political and economic arena since the new millennium. A number of countries have expressed awe and fear of the emergence while others have welcomed it with much admiration. Those who are fearful believe that cheap labor in China will inevitably wipe out their industries and reduce their market shares in the international market. Those who welcome its rise emphasize on China's sheer size of domestic market as ample opportunities for their exploitation and its potential role as another engine of economic growth in the region after Japan. For instance, the influx of cheap China steels is crushing steel makers and iron ore exporters like Vale, Rio Tinto and Tata steel.

The West have continuously underestimated the extent to which the world has changed because of China's transformation. China's economy should not be the only highlight of the story. Global politics seem to exert a positive influence on China. The OBOR (One Belt One Road now known as Belt and Road), British exit from the European Union (Brexit), the French elections, relations with South Africa and Australia and divisive politics befalling the United States are some of the platforms that are propelling China on to global dominance.

### The BR initiative

Take into account Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious project the BR (Belt and Road initiative). The initiative focuses on improving connectivity and co-operation among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe. The emphasis is on enhancing land as well as maritime routes. The policy is significant for China as it aims to boost domestic growth in the country.

According to some Asian Diplomats, China invaded Tibet after portraying a similar motive of economic

development throughout the region of Tibet. The Tibetans welcomed the infrastructural development taking place within their country but little did they know of China's intentions of using the same roads they built to invade Tibet. In this way the BR initiative may bear similar resemblance to the true hidden intentions of China in attaining Global power.

### Brexit

Brexit as the term entails, refers to British-exit from the EU. The British government led by David Cameron held a referendum on the issue on 23 June 2016; a majority voted to leave the European Union.

The UK is one of China's top three trading partners. It needs the UK to buy as many goods that China produce. If demand is hampered in the UK, that is not going to happen. China needs the global economy as strong as it can be, and the UK just gave it a roundhouse kick to the face. "China is apparently going to lose an ally within the EU council," says Song, managing partner at PRC Marco Advisors in Beijing. "That could threaten China's pursuit of free market status designation from the EU."

There are also some bright spots, however. The most obvious opportunity stems from the immediate decline - as much as 18% by the end of October - in the value of the pound. "This makes Britain very attractive to investors," says Pinner (Managing Director and Partner at Interel China), "Tourism from China is booming and investment in real estate has jumped very significantly, too".

### US Blocks UN family planning agency funding

Trump's agency withheld 32.5 million dollars from the UNFPA that saved 2,340 women worldwide from dying during pregnancy and childbirth, prevent 9,47,000 unintended pregnancies,

prevent 2,95,000 unsafe abortions and fund 1,251 surgeries for fistula, a devastating condition resulting from obstructed labor that causes a woman's urine or feces to leak out of her body in 2016. The UN agency was in denial when the administration said that the agency helps to support a Chinese government family planning program that forces people to get abortions and sterilizations. The ramifications would mainly be felt in countries other than China since UNFPA's spending there has actually dwindled to minimal levels in recent years.

### US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement

With the United States off radar from the Paris agreement, world leaders may look forward to China as the world's new leader on environmental affairs. Earlier this year, the Chinese President Xi Jinping called the 2015 climate accord in Paris "a hard-won achievement" and urged other signers to stick to their pledges instead of walking away — "as this is a responsibility we must assume for future generations."

This year, it is the Chinese government that continues to embrace bold climate action, while President Trump on Tuesday moved to roll back a signature U.S. climate program aimed at capping emissions from coal plants and other sources — even as his administration is also seeking to slash government funding for research into better renewable technologies.

"The Chinese are stepping up, taking a greater leadership role. They get to forge closer ties with lesser developed countries to whom they very happily are going to export lots of their equipment," said Ethan Zindler, head of America's research for Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

### French Elections

Institute of International Studies said

Macron's victory was a welcome defeat of Marine Le Pen, the fair fight, anti-European union firebrand who consistently challenged China on their Campaign trail. After winning the French elections Macron pledged to "forge a very strategic alliance with our Chinese partner" to combat global warming if the US rolled back its climate change commitments which they did.

Oliver Rui, from the China Europe International business school, said a stable Europe was important to China as it pushed ahead with the belt and road plan. "Stability is vital to investors and with Macron's victory, fears of instability raised by Brexit have been alleviated and confidence can be rebuilt," Rui said.

### Panama-China

Panama recently cut ties with Taiwan on the 13th of June, 2017 and established relations with China instead. The government said it recognized there was "only one China" and that it considers Taiwan part of it. Taiwan now maintains diplomatic ties with only 20 nations, 12 of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean. This move by Panama mostly aptly explains China's rising influence on other countries who would rather be on the good side of China than on the bad side.

### South-Africa and China relations

South Africa's relationship with China has undergone a profound transformation in a remarkably short period of time. In less than 20 years, the two countries have gone from barely acknowledging one another to developing a deep partnership that transcends economics, politics and ideology.

### Australia-China relations

Strong trade bonds characterize Australia-China relations. China is Australia's largest trading partner, while Australia is a leading source of resources for China. Politically the relationship has had its ups and downs.

In recent years, there have been concerns over Chinese investment in Australia,

Beijing's establishment of an air-defense identification zone in the East China Sea, and the arrest of ethnically Chinese Australian citizens in China, among others. But there have also been high points to the political relationship. In 2013, China and Australia agreed to establish a prime-ministerial level dialogue between the two countries, which makes Australia one of only a handful of countries to have such a dialogue.

In a recent interview conducted by Charlotte Wigram-Evans (guest writer at Freetibet.org), President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr. Lobsang Sangay reminded and urged the world leaders to stop being benighted to the rising Chinese politicization on a global level.

President Sangay said, "When Europe is distracted China gets a free ride. During the Iraq and Afghan war, for example, America was preoccupied and China got a decade to do whatever it wanted. It consolidated its own power, getting the money without democracy. Now, for the next five years the EU will be distracted with Brexit and will focus less on human rights. You can be certain that China will once again take advantage of it."

"World leaders must be reminded that money isn't everything; there is also a moral imperative. The basic principles of the UK's constitution, of the EU's, of America's, are based on freedom and justice. So they should stand up for freedom and justice around the world, including in China and Tibet."

China, India, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, and other emerging countries are seizing the opportunity for growth provided by globalization, rapidly augmenting their national power and exerting greater international influence. Westerners are purportedly remarking that "The East has growth, while the West has debt" and that "History's torch is passing from West to East."

China has experienced the most rapid development of any emerging economy, such that its demands on external resources and markets have reached considerable proportions. Additionally,

as a socialist state under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, a great deal of attention has come to focus on what role China will fulfill in the process of the shift in international power and wealth.

A closer look at history of diplomacy and international relations evinces that when a new great power emerges, it destroys the existing balance of power, dealing a blow to global stability and provoking international conflict. There are those who believe that China's rise will prove no exception to this rule and this does herald confrontation and collision between China and the leading superpower United States is inevitable. But after backing out from the Paris agreement, the US does seem to leave room for China to don the mantle of leadership as the world's new leader on environmental matters and other global affairs.

China will not hesitate to use this as a stepping-stone towards asserting its global dominance and catapulting its position to world's leading super power. Needless to say China's ascension as a global leader is inevitable.



*Tenzin Kunga is currently working as an intern for the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), Department of Information and International relations (DIIR), Dharamshala. He was born in Kurseong, Darjeeling. He did his schooling from St. Josephs' School, North Point, Darjeeling, and Bachelors in Pure Science degree from St. Josephs College of Arts and Science, Bangalore.*

## No longer violence, No longer this huge division, You can do that: His Holiness the Dalai Lama

His Holiness the Dalai Lama delivered the keynote address at the commencement ceremony of University of California San Diego's class of 2017 on Saturday, 17 June.

At least 6000 students and 15000 guests attended the ceremony held at the University's RIMAC field.

In his keynote address, His Holiness spoke about world peace as originating from inner peace and happiness. He described the younger generation as future leaders of the world and urged the graduating students to shun violence and create a more peaceful world.

"We are at the beginning of the 21st century now. And you have the opportunity and also the responsibility to create a better world, a happier world," he said. "No longer violence. No longer this huge division. You can do that," His Holiness told the crowd.

His Holiness referred to the problems



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the commencement ceremony of UC San Diego.*

currently prevailing in the world such as climate change as man made and said it can only be resolved when we undertake a common effort to combat a common problem.

"Human beings are social animals and heavily interdependent. Climate change threatens us all. Its one of those natural challenges that teach us that we must work together, making a common effort to reach a common goal. A more peaceful



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the commencement ceremony of UC San Diego.*

world and a more peaceful century require that we rely not on weapons but developing a widespread inner peace," His Holiness said.

His Holiness also spoke about secular ethics and how the ancient knowledge passed down through generations has an important place in today's world. He extolled the rich philosophical knowledge of ancient India and how universities should incorporate these secular ethics in modern education.

"Irrespective of whether you are a believer or a non believer, emotional intelligence and secular ethics affects us all. Our national or religious identities are secondary differences. We are all human beings first. And as human beings, knowledge about emotion, about mind, is crucial," His Holiness said, adding that a proper knowledge of emotions help tackle our destructive tendencies.

His Holiness further called for a compassionate cultural revolution in China and explained why China should pay more attention towards inner development along with economic development.

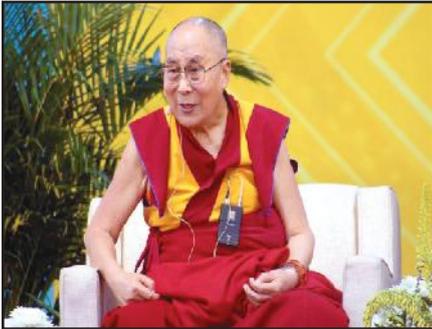
Mr Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor of the University, said the messages of compassion and betterment of humanity espoused by His Holiness the Dalai Lama aligns with the university's mission, as the school attracts like-minded humanitarians.

"His wisdom inspires us to be better, and better caretakers of the world and better caretakers of each other," Khosla said. "This is a noble message, and one that is needed now more than ever. As we wrestle with instability in our world, his message transcends borders and languages."

Mr Khosla also presented His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the UC San Diego Medal, which he described as the school's highest honour, with only 12 awarded since 1987.



## Proud to Welcome World's Great Champion for Peace: San Diego Mayor on His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the public address at RIMAC field of UC San Diego, 16 June 2017.*

His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave a public address to 25,000 people gathered at the RIMAC field of UC San Diego on 16 June.

His Holiness spoke about diverse topics particularly dwelling on the importance of peace and compassion. He noted that modern education is falling short on its responsibility to teach compassion and urged educational institutions like UC San Diego to teach emotional intelligence as they would science or literature.

“Once we have fuller knowledge of the full system of emotion, then it’s much easier to tackle the destructive emotions such as anger, hatred,” His Holiness said.

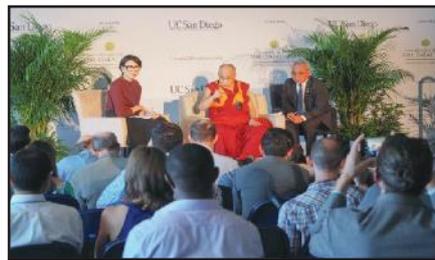
His Holiness further emphasised compassion as a powerful tool of countering divisiveness in the world and called for the need to abandon violence, anger and hatred, and instead approach

people of all creeds and nations with respect.

“Genuine compassion and loving kindness can be extended even toward your enemy,” he said.

“Their attitude or view could be negative, but still they are human brothers and sisters. They deserve our love, our kindness. Their negative attitude is due to negative emotion, and emotion is always changing. By showing them love and kindness, certainly there’s a possibility of change,” His Holiness remarked.

His Holiness also extolled the power of dialogue and reconciliation and how



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama meeting members of the media before his public address at UC San Diego on 16 June 2017.*

these ideas are crucial to make the 21st century a more peaceful one.

“This century should be a century of dialogue in order to create a century of peace,” he said.

“And you, the younger generation, have the responsibility to solve this, not

through prayers but through action,” His Holiness said, encouraging people to work towards putting a stop to division and violence throughout the world.

Prior to the public talk, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer introduced His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the public. The mayor said he was proud to welcome the world’s greatest champion of peace His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the city of San Diego.

“As a city that celebrates its diversity, spirit of collaboration and environmental leadership, we are proud to welcome one of the world’s great champions for peace and understanding to San Diego,” Faulconer said after the meeting.

“His Holiness the Dalai Lama is an inspiration to people across the globe and we are honored to have him return to our city,” Falconer added.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama also met a group of about 110 reporters and members of the media before his public talk. His Holiness spoke about his three main commitments in life following the complete devolution of political authority in 2011.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama will tomorrow deliver the keynote address at the commencement ceremony of UC San Diego. The address is titled “The Value of Education, Ethics and Compassion for the Well-Being of Self and Others.”



[www.tibetonline.tv](http://www.tibetonline.tv)

## Revised Seating Arrangement Protocol for CTA Dignitaries at Official Ceremonies and Functions



*CTA dignitary seating arrangement at official functions prior to the revised arrangement*

The Kashag issued a circular dated June 21 announcing a revised seating arrangement for the President, Chief Justice Commissioner, Speaker of Tibetan Parliament and other senior officials of the Central Tibetan Administration during official ceremonies and functions.

The circular stated: “Since the complete devolution of political authority by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to a democratically-elected Kalon Tripa on 8 August 2011, the entire political and administrative affairs are being handled by an elected leadership. As a result, due amendments to that effect were made to the Charter of the Tibetan people in exile.”

“Similarly, changes in the seating arrangement protocol for members of the Tibetan leadership during official ceremonies and functions were also found necessary. However, except for suggestions and discussions on the same,

a formal change was not mandated till now.”

“Recently, the Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration on 17 April 2017 instituted a three-member committee composed of one secretary and two former Secretaries to review the existing seating arrangement system. Following an in-depth assessment, the committee came out with a report on 8 June 2017 recommending certain changes in the existing seating arrangement protocol during official ceremonies and functions.”

“The Kashag accepted the recommendations and formally announced the changes, urging all concerned authorities to raise awareness about the same.”

Speaking to Tibet TV, Secretary of Kashag Topgyal Tsering Zongkha explained the changes and said that the amendment in the new seating

arrangement was imperative since the devolution of political authorities of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to an elected political leadership. The change evinces the seminal role and importance of President’s position.”

“Irrespective of who comes to hold the post of CTA President (Sikyong) in the future, as the head of the Central Tibetan Administration he/ she will be deemed holding the pivotal position and shouldering of responsibilities.”

Protocol According to New Seating Arrangement:

1. President of Central Tibetan Administration
2. Chief Justice Commissioner
3. Speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile
4. Deputy Speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile
5. Justice Commissioners
6. Kalons

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 8. Former Sikyong and Kalon Tripa                                      | Commission   |  |
| 9. Former Chief Justice Commissioners                                  | 38. Secretary of Office of the Auditor General   | Joint Secretaries along with serving and retired staff of CTA to be seated according to designation. Settlement officer of Dharamshala to be seated here with staff.   |
| 10. Former Speaker of Tibetan Parliament                               | 39. Other Secretaries according to seniority   |  |
| 11. Former Deputy Speaker of Tibetan Parliament                        | 40. Offices of Tibet   |  |
| 12. Former Justice Commissioners                                       | 41. Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, New Delhi   | Principals and Rectors of Schools under Department of Education  |
| 13. Former Kalons  | 42. Office of Tibet, Washington DC   |  |
| 14. Lha Gyari Trichen (when not in costume)                            | 43. Office of Tibet, Nepal   | Note:  |
| 15. Yabshi family members  | 44. Office of Tibet, Switzerland   | Chancellor of CUTS, Director of Tibet House, Delhi, Dapon (brigadier) of SFF, General Secretary of THF Mussorrie, are not included in the list as they are based outside Dharamshala. However, if they are present, they will be seated with members of Tibetan Parliament. TCV Upper and Lower are included as they are based in Dharamshala.   |
| 16. Election Commissioner  | 45. Office of Tibet, Tokyo   |  |
| 17. Commissioner of Public Service Commission                          | 46. Office of Tibet, Brussels  |  |
| 18. Auditor General  | 47. Office of Tibet, Russia  |  |
| 19. Additional Election Commissioners                                  | 48. Office of Tibet, Australia   |  |
| 20. Members of the Public Service Commission                           | 49. Office of Tibet, South Africa  |  |
| 21. Former Heads of the Autonomous bodies                              | 50. Office of Tibet, Taiwan  |  |
| 22. Members of Tibetan Parliament                                      | 51. Office of Tibet, South America   |  |
| 23. Former members of Tibetan Parliament                               | 52. Guests (to be seated along with members of Tibetan Parliament)   | During ceremonies, CTA president, Chief Justice Commissioner and Justice Commissioners, Kalons and senior officials will be seated on the right.   |
| 24. Parliament   | 53. Retired Secretaries  |  |
| 25. Medium of Nechung oracle   | 54. Additional Secretaries   |  |
| 26. Secretary of Gaden Phodrang office                                 | 55. Personal physicians of His Holiness the Dalai Lama (to be seated along with Members of Tibetan Parliament) |  |
| 27. Kashag Secretary   | 56. Medium of Gadhong oracle   |  |
| 28. Parliamentary Secretary  | 57. Medium of Lamo Tsangpa oracle  | On the left will be seated Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Tibetan Parliament, Medium of Nechung oracle, serving members of Tibetan parliament, Guests, Medium of Gadhong oracle, Medium of Lamo Tsangpa oracle, Medium of Tsering Chenga Oracle, Medium of Nyenchen Thangla oracle, Chancellor of CUTS, Director of Tibet House, Dapon of SFF, General Secretary of THF, Principals and Rectors of Schools under DoE, manager of Sherig Parkhang, CEO and Chairman of FTCI, Chairman of local Tibetan assemblies, special guests. |
| 29. Secretary of Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission                    | 58. Medium of Tsering Chenga Oracle  |  |
| 30. Secretary of Department of Religion and Culture                    | 59. Medium of Nyenchen Thangla oracle  |  |
| 31. Secretary of Department of Home                                    | 60. Chairman of Tibetan Sowa Rigpa Association   |  |
| 32. Secretary of Department of Finance                                 | 61. Director of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society   |  |
| 33. Secretary of Department of Education                               | 62. President of TCV   |  |
| 34. Secretary of Department of Security                                | 63. Director of Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute   |  |
| 35. Secretary of Department of Information and International Relations | 64. Director of LTWA   |  |
| 36. Secretary of Department of Health                                  | 65. Director of TIPA   |  |
| 37. Secretary of Public Service  | 66. Administrator of Delek Hospital  |  |
|  | 67. Chairman of Norbulingka  |  |

## Obituary: Kalsang Lhamo, Official Medium for Lhamo Youdonma



*Kalons and officials of the Central Tibetan Administration at the prayer service for Kalsang Lhamo, the official medium for Lhamo Youdonma.*

The Central Tibetan Administration expressed its profound condolences at the demise of Kalsang Lhamo, the official medium for Lhamo Youdonma.

She passed away on Wednesday, 17 May at Gyuto monastery after a prolonged illness.

The Central Tibetan Administration held a prayer service from 04:00 to 05:00 pm in honour of the deceased.

All the offices of the various departments were shut as a mark of respect after the prayer service.

Lhamo Youdonma was born in 1933 at Lhokar in U-tsang province of Tibet. She came to exile in 1959 and settled in Phuntsokling Tibetan settlement in Odisha for a year and Norgyeling Tibetan settlement for several years.

She later moved to Dharamshala.

## US Congressional Delegation Visits Tibetan Communities in Nepal



*The US delegation with representatives of Tibetan community in Kathmandu, Nepal.*

The high level US Congressional delegation led by Representative Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader in the US House of Representatives, visited Jwalakhel Tibetan settlement based in Kathmandu, Nepal on 8 May 2017. Tibetan coordinator of Nepal and members of Tibetan Parliament residing in the country welcomed the delegation.

Representative Nancy Pelosi described the main purpose of visiting Nepal as assessment of the problems and challenges facing Tibetan refugees in Nepal particularly over the issuance of refugee and resident certificates to Tibetans.

The delegation visited the Tibetan monastery and the Tibetan handicraft center of the settlement.

This was the first official visit by members of the US Congress to Tibetan communities in Nepal since Donald Trump took over as President of the United States.



## High Level US Congressional Delegation Meets with His Holiness the Dalai Lama

A bipartisan U.S. Congressional delegation led by U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, arrived in Dharamshala, the seat of the Central Tibetan Administration, today for a two-day official visit from 9 -10 May 2017.

The visit is part of the delegation's visit to India, Nepal, Germany and Belgium 'focusing on national security, the global economy, bilateral and multilateral relations, and human rights'.

On their arrival at Dharamshala airport, the delegation was received by Mr Topgyal Tsering, Kashag Secretary, Mr Sonam Norbu Dagpo and Ms Tenzin Dhardon Sharling, Secretaries of Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR), and Mr Kaydor Aukatsang, Chief Resilience Officer, CTA.

The eight-member congressional delegation met with Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, afterwards, in a private audience held at His Holiness' residence.



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the U.S. Congressional delegation led by U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, at the residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, 9 May 2017. Photo/OOHHDL/Tenzin Choejor*

They were also received by the President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay at the Kashag Secretariat in Gangchen Kyishong.

"The CTA is honoured to welcome the second visit by a high-level bipartisan delegation of the U.S. Congress led by leader Nancy Pelosi to Dharamshala after nine years," CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay said.



*U.S. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi meets Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the residence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, 9 May 2017. Photo/OOHHDL/Tenzin Choejor*

Pelosi last visited Dharamshala in 2008 as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, leading a ten-member bipartisan congressional delegation to express solidarity for the Tibetan people in the aftermath of the pan Tibet uprising of that year.

Other day engagements of the delegation include meeting with Tibetan women leaders at the Cabinet Secretariat and visit to Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts.

The Central Tibetan Administration also organised a grand public felicitation in honor of the congressional delegation's visit to Dharamshala on 10 May 2017.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama graced the public felicitation at the Tsuglagkhang courtyard which was streamed live on Tibet TV from 9 am onwards on 10 May.

Other members of the delegation are Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (Republican, Wisconsin), Representative Eliot Engel (Democrat, New York), Representative Jim McGovern (Democrat, Massachusetts), Representative Betty McCollum (Democrat, Minnesota), Representative Judy Chu (Democrat, California), Representative Joyce Beatty (Democrat, Ohio) and Representative Pramila Jayapal (Democrat, Washington).

## Tibet TV Exclusive: Press Interaction with the High-Level U.S Congressional Delegation

The media team of Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR): Jamphel Shonu (Editor, Tibet.net and CTA Press Officer), Ngawang Thogmed (Editor, Bod.Asia), Tenzin Saldon (Reporter, Tibet.net), Tenzin Rigden (Tibet TV) and Lobsang Jigme (Tibet TV) secured an exclusive press interaction with the U.S. Congressional delegation led by Leader Nancy Pelosi in Dharamsala.

### Below is the transcript of the interview

**Press Officer Jamphel Shonu:** Leader Nancy Pelosi, you have been one of the strongest and most steadfast supporters of the Tibetan people in the US Congress and a true friend of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people. This is the second US congressional delegation led by you to Dharamshala with the earlier visit in March 2008. What is your message to the Tibetan people especially to Tibetans inside Tibet? Why is Tibet close to your heart and how do we ensure that Tibet and respect for human rights continues to be a top priority in US-China relations?

**Leader Nancy Pelosi:** I think I'd speak for all Americans when I say that we share the values of His Holiness. The initiative to preserve the Tibetan culture, religion and language is not just about Tibetans. It's about the dignity of every person in the world and that is His Holiness' message that has attracted so many of us. Thank you.

**Press Officer Jamphel Shonu:** Representative Eliot Engel, you helped introduce a resolution in 2015 calling for substantive dialogue between Tibetan and Chinese representatives. Since 2010, the Sino-Tibetan dialogue has stalled after nine rounds of official talks. What can the U.S. Government do to encourage resumption of the dialogue process?

**Representative Eliot Engel:** The



*The high level US Congressional delegation with DIIR's media team during the exclusive interaction at Norbu House, Mcleod Ganj. Photo/Tenzin Phende/ DIIR*

American government can do what we have done so many times in the past is that raise these concerns with Chinese officials. I think it is important that we introduce legislation and we let the Beijing government know that we are not going to turn our backs on the Tibetan people. Our president has proposed some cuts in USAID. I am opposed to those cuts and there are many reasons but one of the big reasons is just looking around here and seeing so many Tibetan people that are relying on the partnership with United States. So I just want to, in closing, that all of us here are totally committed to strengthening the relationship and sending a message to those who run the People's Republic of China that we are never going to forget the Tibetan people.

**Press Officer Jamphel Shonu:** Representative McGovern, as the Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and an ardent defender of international human rights you have been one of the most vocal and strong supporter of Tibet and the Tibetan people in the US Congress. You were also part of the congressional delegation that visited Tibet in 2015. Moreover, you have introduced the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act in the House aimed at reciprocity from China allowing US citizens including Tibetan-American access into Tibet, which otherwise is off limits for American citizens, including

diplomats, politicians, non-governmental organizations, and journalists. In light of that, I want to ask you do you foresee another congressional visit to Tibet in the near future?

**Representative Jim McGovern:** We all would love to go back to Tibet. I am not sure that Chinese government would give us a visa. But the bottom line is I introduced the legislation because I believe there has to be a consequence to Chinese repressive policies against Tibetan population. I am happy to be here with my colleagues. We are here because we stand with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We stand with what he believes in and we stand with all Tibetans.

**Press Officer Jamphel Shonu:** Representatives McCollum, Chu, Betty and Jayapal, a very warm welcome to you all to Dharamshala. I wanted to ask you in what ways can the U.S. government invest in Tibetan leadership, particularly with regard to encouraging women achieve new heights in Tibetan governance, leadership and politics?

**Representative Betty McCollum:** We were just so impressed to see all the young girls at the school we went to yesterday; the three-year-old to the young women who were seniors. So education and work that is happening here to make sure that girls and boys have good quality education is paramount to the success

support that as much possible and I think many Americans would.

**Representative Joyce Beatty:** I join my colleagues and yesterday widened my appreciation for how we can have women in media, women in education and also one of the things we talked about this morning with USAID was how we can be more helpful with technology so they can not only see women like leader Pelosi and us, but it can be a hope for them.

**Representative Pramila Jayapal:** We are so fortunate to have the first women speaker in the history of the United States Congress with us on this delegation as our leader. She always does make it a point to make sure that we are bringing women with us on these delegations but also that we meet with women representatives because one of the things we have to do is just continue to raise the prominence of women's issues in our overall dialogue and to remind all women out there that there is no path that's not possible and that we want to do everything we can do to continue to strengthen human right of women but also the ability of people to forge any path they dream for themselves.

**Leader Nancy Pelosi:** We were very impressed by the proposal and look forward to working with the women here as they have sent us a letter to that effect.

**Press Officer Jamphel Shonu:** Thank you very much Leader Pelosi and the representatives for making time for Tibet TV.

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

## CTA Provides Outstanding Leadership to an Incredible Democracy: Nancy Pelosi

The members of the bipartisan U.S. Congressional delegation led by Ms Nancy Pelosi, leader of the Democratic Party in the US House of Representatives, visiting Dharamsala held a meeting with the Kashag (cabinet) led by President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr. Lobsang Sangay at the Kashag meeting hall.

President Dr. Sangay welcomed the delegates and thanked Leader Pelosi for fulfilling the eight promises, that she made to him on an earlier meeting in Washington DC, two of which were to visit Tibet and Dharamsala.

Dr Sangay spoke of Kashag's five-fifty vision that draws upon His Holiness the Dalai Lama's advice to 'hope for the best and prepare for the worst,' and calls for maximizing efforts to resolve the Tibet issue in five years based on the Middle Way Approach while ensuring CTA's resilience to sustain the Tibetan freedom struggle and preserve Tibetan culture for the next fifty years if needed.

Leader Pelosi lauded the Kashag for providing an outstanding leadership to the Tibetan people and termed the exile Tibetan democracy as an "incredible democracy."

While recalling her visit to Tibet in November 2015 along with six other members of the U.S. Congress, leader Pelosi explained how she had told the Chinese leaders that their assumption that things will die along with His Holiness' death is a strategically flawed calculation because His Holiness will be stronger in death.

She had also told the Chinese leaders that His Holiness is not a person but a phenomena. She further said His Holiness' compassionate leadership reinforces the belief that "goodness of others will give us hope."

Representative Jim McGovern lauded the courage of Leader Pelosi who during the delegation's visit to Tibet and China,



*The US Congressional delegation along with Speaker of TPIE and members of Kashag at Kashag meeting room.  
Photo/ Tenzin Phende/ DIIR*

looked into the eye of the Chinese leaders and told them upfront that His Holiness the Dalai Lama has millions of admirers around the world and that we are here as a friend of His Holiness.

Leader Pelosi responded to Kashag's five-fifty vision saying it is premised on hope, optimism and success. Speaking on President Dr Sangay's leadership, Leader Pelosi said "President Dr. Sangay is a respected leader and a source of pride for all of us who care for Tibet." She also added "his intellectual association with United States given his years of academic training at Harvard makes the bond even more special."

Representative Jim McGovern thanked the Kashag for good diligence under Dr. Sangay's presidency in successfully steering the issue of Tibet.

Representative Judy Chu congratulated the Kashag for putting together an "incredible democracy."

Representative Pramila Jayapal said that the leadership of CTA in this difficult time in Tibet's history has helped carry forward the struggle with "love and generosity."

Leader Pelosi thanked President Dr. Sangay for providing her with guidelines to ensure stronger congressional advocacy for Tibet. "Dr. Sangay told us to go to Tibet, visit Dharamsala and do hearings on Tibet. We will continue to seek your guidance," she told Dr. Sangay.

## The United States is a Global Leader for World Peace: His Holiness the Dalai Lama

His Holiness the Dalai Lama graced the public felicitation organised by the Central Tibetan Administration in honor of the high-level bipartisan US Congressional delegation visiting Dharamshala. The delegation, led by US House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, is on a two-day visit to Dharamshala to reaffirm the United State's continued support on the Tibet issue.

The felicitation was attended by thousands of Tibetans and Tibet supporters who thronged the Tsuglagkhang temple to express their joy and appreciation to the visiting eight-member congressional delegation.

Expressing his gratitude to the delegation for coming to Dharamshala, His Holiness the Dalai Lama described the United States as the global leader



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama escorting House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Representative Jim Sensenbrenner with members of the bipartisan US Congressional Delegation, 10 May 2017, Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

for world peace. "America is a leading nation of the free world and plays a pivotal role in the promotion of peace around the world. U.S. Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi has been one of the longest friend and supporter of the Tibetan people, who has stood with us in the most critical of times and situations. I thank all of you today for expressing your genuine support for the Tibetan cause and solidarity for Tibetans inside Tibet," His Holiness said.

"It is important to remember that Tibet supporters are not merely supporting us because of attachment; they are supporting the spirit of truth and justice,



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the public felicitation for the high level US Congressional delegation's visit to Dharamshala at Tsuglagkhang, 10 May 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR*

which is the core strength of our struggle. We have not gathered here against China but for truth and justice. We consider China as our friend and strongly believe in principle of give and take and mutual benefit. The Tibetan struggle represents that of truth, justice, non-violence and Tibetan people's determination to preserve this culture has generated intense support for Tibet from all corners of the world, including Chinese," His Holiness explained.

His Holiness further emphasised his commitment to nonviolence and said that the challenge before us is to make the new century, a century of non-violence and dialogue.

"Today, it is a conviction in these values that gives me the powerful motivation to promote basic human values. Even in my own struggle for the rights and greater freedom of the Tibetan people, these values continue to guide my commitment in pursuing a non-violent path," His Holiness added.

"My sincere hope is that the future of Tibet and China will move beyond mistrust to a relationship based on mutual respect, trust and recognition of common interests."

"In our newly emerging global community, all forms of violence, including war, are totally inappropriate means of settling disputes. According to my personal experiences the best way to overcome conflicts is to bring about mutual understanding through dialogue and not violence," His Holiness noted.

Leader Nancy Pelosi, addressing the august gathering, paid tribute to His Holiness the Dalai Lama as a man of compassion, vision and hope. She said: "Anytime anywhere a person can be in the presence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a special occasion. I am proud to be here with the delegation from across America."

"We came to see you as you have inspired us with your hope. I am more hopeful than ever that we will meet the challenges that face us. My hope springs from His Holiness' message of compassion. Hope exists right where His Holiness tells us, right between deep faith in the goodness of others, belief and compassion," she said.

"When we see the spark in the eyes of the children yesterday at the Tibetan Children's Village, the children's vision, we saw hope that they will one day return home to Tibet. When we saw the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts last night and today, we saw the hope that they would bring the authenticity of the Tibetan art home to Tibet. When we heard the leadership of President Dr Sangay, we saw hope for the progress of freedom for Tibet," she explained.

In an emotional recollection of the US Congressional visit to Tibet in November 2015, Leader Pelosi said, "We went to the Potala Palace and we saw the room where His Holiness lived. We promised each other then and there that we would do everything in our power to make sure he would return to that place." Rep Jim McGovern, Betty McCollum and Joyce Beatty were also part of the Congressional delegation to Tibet.

She also spoke about a particular exchange the delegation had with Chinese government officials, in which Leader Pelosi called on the Chinese officials for confining the minds of the children, freedom, culture and religion in Tibet.

Leader Pelosi further said the free world



Artistes from Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts presenting CTA's women empowerment song, 10 May 2017, Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

would have lost its moral authority to speak about human rights anywhere in the world, if it did not speak up against the repression in Tibet and in rest of China.

“To some in China, the authentic autonomous Tibet is inconceivable; to us it is inevitable. We must shorten the distance between the inconceivable to them and inevitable to us. I am sure with your devotion, determination and commitment to Tibetan values, culture, language and religions and under leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama who will live to be at least 113 years old, I am certain we will succeed.”

President of Central Tibetan Administration, Dr Lobsang Sangay, in his address described His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the life and soul of Tibet. “His Holiness the Dalai Lama, we believe, is the manifestation of the Buddha of compassion (Chenresig). Chenresig and Tibetans are inseparable. Dalai Lamas and Tibetans are also forever connected. Therefore, as long as there is Tibet and as long as there is Tibetan people, His Holiness the Dalai Lama will return to this world to alleviate the sufferings of the Tibetan people,” he said.

Reaffirming the CTA's emphasis on women empowerment as per His Holiness the Dalai Lama's wishes, he said: “His Holiness the Dalai Lama is a big time advocate for women rights.

In 1963, just a few years after we came into exile, we had the first women representatives in Tibetan Parliament. Since then, His Holiness is the biggest advocate of women's rights earning the epithet ‘the feminist Dalai Lama’.”

Expressing gratitude to the delegation for visiting Dharamshala, President Sangay said: “the congressional delegation sends a message of hope, justice and freedom for Tibetans inside Tibet and the world. As you entered the ceremony, you have seen the smiles of the Tibetan children and public, these smiles reflect the smiles of the six million Tibetan people,” Sikyong said.

Sikyong also thanked Leader Nancy Pelosi for implementing almost all the promises that she has made to him during their meeting at Washington DC three years ago.

“I met Leader Pelosi and Representative McGovern at DC three years ago. During the meeting, she gratefully promised me eight things. Seven of the promises were already implemented. This is a symbol of your dedication and support. Unlike other politicians, you not just talk the talk, but also walk the walk. One of the promises was a visit to Tibet and the other was to visit Dharamshala. And in 2015, Leader Pelosi led a congressional delegation to Tibet and had a frank discussion with Chinese leaders,” Sikyong exclaimed.

Sikyong further described the grim political situation prevailing inside Tibet, which has led 147 Tibetans to self-immolate in protest.

“Freedom House has come out with a freedom index report, which showed China at the bottom. Two years ago, Freedom House showed Tibet right at the bottom just above Syria. Similarly, reporters without borders have said that it's more difficult to visit Tibet than North Korea. This only confirms our worst fears about the situation inside Tibet,” he said and requested the US government to continue supporting the Tibetan movement based on the Middle Way Approach.

President Dr. Sangay stated that just as Nelson Mandela had eventually walked free and restored democracy to South Africa, just as Aung San Suu Kyi had eventually walked free in Burma and just as the Good Friday agreement had



President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay speaking at public felicitation for bi-partisan US Congressional delegates at main Tibetan temple, Dharamshala, HP, India on 10 May 2017. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

eventually been signed in Northern Ireland, he remains convinced that Tibet's day too will come because Tibetans have friends like those in the delegation. He looked forward to His Holiness the Dalai Lama walking free in the streets of Lhasa and giving the Kalachakra Empowerment before the Potala Palace, where Tibetan and Chinese Buddhists alike will receive it.

“On that happy day, when the dreams of the Tibetan people are fulfilled and the bell of freedom chimes in Tibet, we will invite you to join us again. Justice and freedom will prevail in Tibet thanks to our friends' support. Long live His Holiness the Dalai Lama,” he said.

Representative Jim Sensenbrenner, the lone Republican in the delegation, assured the bipartisan support of the US Congress on Tibet and love and respect for His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

He also expressed his solidarity with the sufferings endured by the Tibetan people inside Tibet. "Today there is no justice for Tibet and Tibetans in the practice of their religion, language and in expression of devotion to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Only when there is justice in all of these areas, will there be freedom in Tibet. And that is what we, in the United States Congress, is firmly committed to."

"You have seen the US government step up and help fund Tibetans in keeping their culture and traditions alive here in Dharamshala and elsewhere in the world. And the United States will continue to stand by Tibet until Tibet is free and justice is served."

Sikyong thanked the US government's continued support to the Tibetan people and further urged the delegation to make efforts towards the appointment of US special coordinator for Tibetan issues, a post left vacant at the moment.

Representative Eliot Engel in his speech

urged China to let Tibetans practice their faith without governmental interference. "Let the people of Tibet practice their faith. Let the people of Tibet determine their own future," he said. He further expressed his continued support to the Tibet issue and announced: "We will never stop until Tibet is free."

Towards the end he assured that, being on the Foreign Affairs Committee in the US Congress, he would make sure to talk about his experience here in India and also look into how helpful they can be to the Tibetan people.

Representative Jim McGovern, in his speech, pledged to make the return of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and Tibetan people to Tibet possible. He called upon the Chinese government to respect human rights and release all Tibetan prisoners of conscience including the 11th Panchen Lama. Condemning China for interfering in Tibet's traditional reincarnation system, he said China does not have the authority nor the right to name reincarnated religious leaders of Tibet.

He further made a call to like-minded people from all over the globe to work together for peace and Justice. "We need to be the wind at the back of His

Holiness the Dalai Lama. We need to be the wind at the back of President Dr. Lobsang Sangay. We need to be the wind at the back of all the Tibetan people all over the world but especially in Tibet," he added.

Representative Pramila Jayapal also expressed her support for the Tibetan issue and recalled her childhood spent in India. She also thanked her birth country India for providing refuge to the Tibetan people. She emphasised the importance of preserving Tibetan religion, language and arts.

Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel of the Tibetan Parliament, in his statement, thanked the delegation for coming to Dharamshala to express support for the Tibet cause. "This gesture will send a strong message to the Chinese that Tibetans are never alone," he said.

Secretary Dhardon Sharling thanked the delegation especially leader Nancy Pelosi for making this visit as requested by President Dr Lobsang Sangay of the Central Tibetan Administration.

She also thanked them for their insightful and powerful remarks packed with positivity.

## Obituary: Namgyal Wangdu, Former Parliamentarian and Former Settlement Officer of Dehradun



*Namgyal Wangdu (1935 – 2017)*

Mr Namgyal Wangdu, former member of Tibetan Parliament and former settlement officer of Dehradun, passed away in the early hours of Saturday, 11 March 2017.

Mr Namgyal Wangdu was born in the

year 1935 at Gyantse in central Tibet. He was educated in Tibet and was trained at the Tibetan military base in Gyantse in 1946.

He was involved in the Tibetan resistance against Chinese onslaught from the east in 1949 and was one of the Tibetan fighters guarding the Potala at Lhasa during the 1959 Chinese military suppression.

He came into exile through Gangtok following the brutal military suppression of Tibet in 1959 and was sent to the US for guerilla warfare training. In 1964, he was appointed as one the first trainers of the Tibetan regiment based in Dehradun, serving for more than 14 years.

In 1976, he penned a book on the resistance and military history of Tibet, which was published by the Central Tibetan Administration.

In 1978, he was appointed as the settlement officer of Dehradun, manager of the Rajpur handicraft center and Dekyiling development committee.

Namgyal Wangdu was a distinguished figure who served for over ten years in the erstwhile Tibetan army, 29 years in various positions of the Tibetan administration and as member of the Tibetan parliament for three terms.

## Auckland Tibetan Community Welcomes CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay

President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay arrived in Auckland on 30 April to begin his four-day tour of New Zealand along with Representative Lhakpa Tshoko.



*Sikyong poses for a photo with members of the Tibetan community on arrival at Auckland airport, New Zealand.*

Sikyong was welcomed with traditional Tibetan scarves at the airport by Mr Thuten Kesang, Liaison Officer for New Zealand Govt. and Parliamentarian under the Tibet Information Office, Mr Rinchen Dhondup, President of New Zealand Tibetan Community, Geshe Sangye and members of the Sangha and the local Tibetan Community. Sikyong's arrival at New Zealand was also covered by the national TV Channel 1 with a brief interview aired nationwide later in the evening.

While in Auckland, Sikyong met with members of the Tibetan community and addressed the gathering for one and half hour followed by Q&A. Almost all the residents of Auckland and nearby cities were present at the gathering.

In his address, Sikyong spoke about the 15th Kashag's five-fifty vision and the importance of investing in education of Tibetan children. He spoke about unity as the underlying factor that will secure and strengthen the survival of the Tibetan movement in the long run. He further updated the gathering on the status of Sino-Tibetan dialogue, the latest political developments in Tibet and China's ongoing repressive measures in Tibet aimed at annihilating the rich linguistic, cultural and religious tradition of the Tibetan people.

He also reaffirmed the Central Tibetan Administration's commitment to resolve the issue of Tibet based on the Middle Way Approach.

Sikyong will fly to Dunedin on Tuesday and to Wellington on Wednesday.

In Wellington, Sikyong is scheduled to visit the Parliament and will be hosted by Gareth Hughes (Green MP). All members of New Zealand Parliament have been invited to meet Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay during the visit. Sikyong will also deliver a public talk on 'Tibet in the 21st Century: Political, Environmental and Cultural Challenges' at Victoria University of Wellington.

### CTA President Meets Tibetans and Tibet Supporters on Second Day of New Zealand Visit

President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay spoke to over 250 people who have gathered to listen to him at Beach Haven Hall, Auckland. The audience consisted of people from all walks of life including Tibetans, Tibet supporters as well as several Chinese friends.



*Sikyong speaking to Tibetans and Tibet supporters at Auckland, New Zealand.*

During the interaction, Sikyong focused his talk on the topic 'China-Tibet Relations: Past, Present and Future' and explained that a proper understanding of China is a must to understand Tibet and the Tibetan situation.

Sikyong also spoke about the Middle Way Approach of the Central Tibetan Administration and its strategic relevance to solve the issue of Tibet, as well as the self-immolation protests that have rocked Tibet since 2009.

Sikyong emphasised the preservation of Tibet's Buddhist culture and the fragile ecology of the Tibetan plateau referred to as the water tower of Asia for its rich resource of fresh water. Sikyong further highlighted education of Tibetan children as a priority and affirmed his Kashag's renewed emphasis to ensure a robust development of Tibetan education.



*Sikyong being interviewed by Tristram Clayton of New Zealand Herald.*

Concluding his talk, Sikyong called on New Zealanders to express support towards the Tibetan struggle for a genuine autonomy within the Chinese state.

Following the talk, the audience expressed their appreciation to Sikyong for coming to New Zealand to meet Tibetans and Tibet supporters. Sikyong also presented souvenirs to a group of long time Tibet supporters.

Sikyong was accompanied by Representative Lhakpa Tshoko and Mr Thuten Kessang, Regional Liaison Officer, New Zealand.

In the morning before the public interaction, Sikyong spoke to Guyan Espiner, Radio Presenter on RNZ National (Radio New Zealand), Lincoln Tan, Senior Reporter-Diversity of The New Zealand Herald and Tristram Clayton of New Zealand Herald TV.

## CTA President Seeks New Zealand's Support for Middle Way Approach in Resolving Tibet Issue

The President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay, in his maiden visit to New Zealand, sought support for the Tibetan administration's Middle Way Approach to resolve the Tibet issue.

"The situation inside Tibet is tragic. So, I am here to seek the support of the people of New Zealand," Sikyong said, while speaking to reporters in Auckland.

"Even as we speak, cultural institutes such as Larung Gar are being destroyed. There is no religious freedom, no political freedom, and not even environmental rights," Sikyong said.

"In such a grim political situation, many feel it is better to commit self-immolation and die than suffer for a long, long time in Chinese prisons," Sikyong explained, referring to the wave of fiery protests that have swept Tibet since 2009.

Sikyong further called on New Zealanders to rally behind the Tibetan people in their quest for freedom and dignity. Sikyong emphasised the CTA's firm commitment to the Middle Way Approach, a mutually beneficial solution that seeks genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people under the framework of Chinese constitution.

Sikyong expressed optimism in the strength of this proposal and stated that a resolution to the Tibet issue is imminent within the lifetime of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Dr Sangay is in the Kiwi country for four days. He will be continuing his efforts to shore up support for the Middle Way Approach in the cities of Dunedin and Wellington in the next few days through public engagements and media interactions.

## CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay Touches Down in Dunedin, New Zealand

President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay, arrived in the city of Dunedin for the second leg of his New Zealand visit along with Representative Lhakpa Tshoko and Mr Thuten Kesang, Liaison Officer for New Zealand Govt. and Parliamentarian, Tibet Information Office.



*Sikyong addressing students and faculty at the University of Otago.*

Ven Lhagon Tulku along with other resident Geshes, students, and local Tibetan Community paid a warm welcome to Sikyong at the airport.

Upon his arrival, Sikyong visited Dhargey Buddhist Centre based in the city and addressed the local Tibetan Community and New Zealand friends of Tibet. He spoke on the CTA's Middle Way Approach to resolve the Tibet issue explaining the advantages and benefits of the proposal which ensures the survival of our struggle in exile and enhances the appeal of the Tibetan movement to the world.

Sikyong also gave a brief interview to a local media about his first visit to New Zealand.

In the late evening, Sikyong addressed gathering of around 100 people including students of University of Otago and their family members. He spoke on the topic 'Tibet in 21st Century: Political, Environmental and Cultural Challenges'.

In his address, Sikyong described the

prime purpose of his visit as an effort to meet long time friends of Tibet and seek the support of the people of New Zealand for the non violent Tibetan movement led by Central Tibetan Administration.

Sikyong also talked about the Middle Way Approach of the Tibetan administration to resolve the Tibet issue and why a proper understanding of China is a must to understand Tibet and the Tibetan situation. He explained the tragic situation inside Tibet where 147 Tibetans have set themselves on fire in protest against the Chinese government's repressive policies.

Sikyong also emphasised the preservation of Tibet's Buddhist culture and the fragile ecology of the Tibetan plateau referred to as the water tower of Asia for its rich resource of fresh water. He further highlighted education of Tibetan children as a priority and affirmed the Kashag's renewed emphasis to ensure a robust development of Tibetan education.

Following the talk, Sikyong presented a memento to Mr Kevin Clements,



*Sikyong with members of Tibetan community and friends of Tibet at Dunedin, New Zealand.*

Director of the department of National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, in appreciation of his support. Sikyong also presented a traditional white scarf to Mr Joe Llywellen, a Phd Student on Non-Violence and Conflict Resolution, for organising the event.

Sikyong, along-with Representative Lhakpa Tshoko, Thuten Kessang, Regional Liaison Officer, New Zealand will fly to Wellington.

## President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr Lobsang Sangay Talks Tibet in Wellington

The President of Central Tibetan Administration Dr. Lobsang Sangay, on his arrival at Wellington yesterday, was greeted by the local Tibetan residents and Friends of Tibet based in the city. International award winner and Program Presenter of Radio New Zealand National, Kim Hill interviewed Sikyong which will be broadcasted this Saturday.



*Meeting with the Members of the Parliament*

Sikyong visited the New Zealand Parliament house where he was received by Member of Parliament Gareth Hughes of Green Party, followed by few active members of Friends of Tibet, based in Wellington. He interacted with several other Members of Parliament from three different political parties of New Zealand, at one of the conference halls of the Parliament.

Sikyong in his interactions highlighted the current situation in Tibet, one of them being the demolitions at Larung Gar and Yachen Gar. He also stressed on the endangerment Tibet's environment is facing and its importance to the world, especially Asia.

He talked about the population transfer into Tibet which threatens the very existence of Tibet's culture, religion and identity. He briefly touched on China's invasion of Tibet and appealed to the Members of Parliament to support the "Middle Way Approach". He expressed his gratitude to the Government and people of India for hosting Tibetans for close to 60 years.

Sikyong also observed the Parliamentary proceedings.

Sikyong attended the public talk at the Faculty of Law at Victoria University. About 150 students along with friends of Tibet, including some Chinese students attended the talk. One Chinese, in particular, from Mainland China who had visited Tibet, shared her concerns regarding the current situation in Tibet. Sikyong responded sharing his own experience of visiting Tibet.

Sikyong talked about the intention of his visit, which was to meet and thank Tibetan supporters and the Tibetan community and also to appeal to the people of New Zealand for their genuine support towards the Tibetan struggle. He mentioned, in order to understand China one must understand Tibet and the Tibetan situation. He talked about the "Middle Way Approach" and its importance in solving the issue in Tibet. He spoke about the recent spate of self-immolations in Tibet and about Tibet's environment: the Tibetan plateau being the source of many of Asia's major rivers which is vital for inhabitants in downstream nations. He also reminded the audience about the fact that if the neighboring countries had stood and spoken against the invasion of China on Tibet back then, Tibet would not have been facing the predicament it is facing at the moment.



*Sikyong speaking at the Faculty of Law, Victoria University*

Sikyong presented a memento to the Member of Parliament Mr. Gareth Hughes and lecturer Catherine J. Lorns of the Victoria University to thank them for supporting the Tibetan Cause.

## Obituary: Tsering Dorjee Zotsang, Director of Kashag Documentation and Interim Placement Section

The Central Tibetan Administration mourned the demise of its long-serving civil servant and Director of Kashag Documentation and Interim Placement Section, Mr Tsering Dorjee Zotsang. Mr Tsering Dorjee passed away at Fortis Hospital in Kangra. He was 66.

As a mark of respect to the deceased, a prayer service was organised at Gangkyi Nyatri hall from 3 – 4pm to pray for his noble rebirth. All CTA offices were shut after the prayer service as a gesture of mourning.

Mr Tsering Dorjee Zotsang was born in Tibet in 1951. With over 45 years of service, Additional Secretary Tsering Dorjee was one of the senior most civil servant. During his long and accomplished career, he undertook various prominent roles in the CTA. He joined the Tibetan civil service from 1 January 1983 as Office Assistant at the Tibetan Settlement Office in Shimla. On 1 February 1985, he was appointed as cashier cum accountant at the Shimla settlement office. Mr Tsering Dorjee also served in Bir Tibetan community in 1991.

He joined the Kashag Secretariat on 15 April 1992 as a senior clerk. On 23 August 1993, he was appointed as Deputy Secretary at the Kashag Secretariat.

On 30 January 1999, he was appointed as Joint Secretary at Kashag Secretariat. He was later promoted to Additional Secretary of Kashag on 5 June 2007.

On 19 June 2013, he took charge as Director of the Kashag Documentation and Interim Placement Section. Mr Tsering had served beyond his retirement age and continued his dedicated service until his sudden demise.

## U.S. lawmakers Visit Dalai Lama, Highlight Situation in Tibet

Douglas Busvine, Reuters

A U.S. Congressional delegation visited the Dalai Lama at his headquarters in India on Tuesday, seeking to draw world attention to human rights in Tibet as President Donald Trump eyes warmer ties with China.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi flew with a bipartisan delegation to the Himalayan hill town where the 81-year-old Buddhist leader is based. The meeting is likely to upset China, which regards the Dalai Lama as a separatist.

“As we visit His Holiness the Dalai Lama, our bipartisan delegation comes in his spirit of faith and peace. We come on this visit to be inspired by His Holiness and demonstrate our commitment to the Tibetan people, to their faith, their culture and their language,” Pelosi said.

The lawmakers’ visit comes at a awkward time for Trump. Campaigning for election, he had cast China as a trade adversary and currency manipulator, but he now wants President Xi Jinping’s support to restrain nuclear-armed North Korea.

“This is my home,” the Dalai Lama said holding Pelosi’s hand after welcoming the U.S. delegation to his timber-built hilltop residence. He then corrected himself: “This is my second home. My real home – other side.”

He then reflected on his fate as a refugee, since fleeing from his homeland in 1959.

“Here the last 58 years I am the longest guest of Indian government,” the Dalai Lama said. “But, emotionally, some concern about deep inside Tibet, and also in China proper there are 400 million Buddhists.”

The Dalai Lama said he would be willing to visit China but this was not possible while Beijing still considered him a “dangerous splittist.”



U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi meets Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at his headquarters in Dharamsala, India May 9, 2017. REUTERS/Douglas Busvine

### POLICY ON TIBET

After Trump’s election last November, the Dalai Lama said he was keen to meet the incoming U.S. leader. It now looks unlikely the Nobel peace laureate will get a White House invite – an honor accorded by recent American presidents – anytime soon.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson last week played down the role of human rights in U.S. foreign policy, raising fears the Dalai Lama could lose one of his last friends in the West.

Pelosi last visited the Dalai Lama in 2008, in the aftermath of a Chinese crackdown on an uprising in Tibet that coincided with the Beijing Olympics.

The situation in the Tibet Autonomous Region has worsened since then, according to experts and human rights activists, as authorities crack down on dissent and pursue systematic policies to assimilate Tibetans.

“The level of repression in Tibet has increased tremendously,” said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

Numbers crossing from Tibet into India

and neighboring Nepal have slowed to a trickle, she added, sapping the vitality of the Tibetan emigre community in South Asia.

Reports continue to emerge from Tibet from time to time of isolated acts of protest against Chinese rule.

A 16-year-old student, chanting “Tibet wants freedom” and “Let His Holiness the Dalai Lama come back to Tibet”, burned himself to death on May 2, Radio Free Asia’s Tibetan service has reported.

Representative Jim McGovern, a Democrat traveling with Pelosi, has called for a new U.S. policy toward Tibet to safeguard the identity of the Tibetan people and hold China accountable for human rights abuses.

China took control of Tibet in 1950 in what it calls a “peaceful liberation” and has piled pressure on foreign governments to shun the Dalai Lama.

Most recently, Beijing denounced New Delhi for hosting the Dalai Lama when he traveled to India’s northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh – territory it claims as Southern Tibet – to give spiritual teachings to his followers.

## President Trump, meet the Dalai Lama

Dr Lobsang Sangay, Published in The Hill magazine

On his first foreign trip, President Trump has met with King Salman in Saudi Arabia, the home of Mecca and Medina, the holiest shrines of Islam. He met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel and visited the Western Wall, all that remains of the Jewish Temple Mount. And he then met with Pope Francis in the Vatican.

As the president has reached out to adherents of the world's interconnected monotheistic religions — Islam, Christianity and Judaism — he should also meet with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness is the most visible and important Buddhist leader in the world and has throughout his life been a proponent of the highest ideals of Buddhism, including non-violence, compassion, equanimity and kindness.

Such a meeting would assist in bringing these principles to bear on issues of world peace and nonviolence. There are an estimated 700 million Buddhists in the world today, including 300 million in China, and 6 million in Tibet.

It is critical that President Trump understand how the situation in Tibet could be improved.

The 2017 Freedom House report ranked Tibet as the second-worst place in the world for civil and political rights, just behind Syria. An estimated 1.2 million Tibetans have died since the Chinese occupation of Tibet and over 6,000 monasteries in Tibet have been reduced to rubble. Forced cultural assimilation of Tibetans in fueled by replacement of Tibetan-language education with Mandarin. Government-sponsored migration of large numbers of Han Chinese into the Tibet is a major component of sinicization.

Lack of access has made visiting Tibet sometimes even more difficult than hermetic North Korea. Demonstrating their profound hopelessness, 149 Tibetans have self-immolated in Tibet since 2009, including four this year. The



Chinese government has also installed an Orwellian electronic and human surveillance system covering every area of the Tibet Autonomous Region, which is vast, intrusive and permanent.

The United States is the leading nation of the free world. It alone among all nations is best positioned to help China become a more open society, one where its leadership realizes that true stability and prosperity comes not from the barrel of a gun but through rule of law and freedom of expression. Among the many problems confronting the Chinese leadership, the Tibet issue should be relatively easier to address because of the “Middle Way” approach that has been the position of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for over three decades years and is strongly supported by the Tibetan people.

While recognizing and respecting the One China policy of the U.S. government, the Middle Way envisages genuine autonomy for Tibetan people and the restoration of human rights and religious freedom for people in Tibet. It contemplates a constructive dialogue to develop an appropriate framework and solution that will work for everyone. The U.S. government has consistently supported the Middle Way that the Central Tibetan Administration, of which I am the president, has advocated for more than 30 years. This approach is supported by the Tibetan Policy Act adopted by the Congress in 2002 and has been supported by U.S. presidents ever since.

Like in the case of Israel-Palestine issue, where the President Trump has showed optimism, he should use his growing relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping to facilitate autonomy and fundamental rights for the Tibetan people consistent with both the One China policy and the Middle Way. In the meantime, it is crucial that the president appoint a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the State Department as soon as possible. The position has been vacant since the inauguration, and the person in this role has played a critical function engaging in political and humanitarian efforts.

Each and every U.S. president since George H.W. Bush has met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Each of these presidents reported the meeting provided a fresh and unique view on political and spiritual issues that currently confront us as a global community. President Trump and His Holiness the Dalai Lama would certainly find much to discuss as we see the world torn by violence and conflict.

Adding a Buddhist voice and perspective to those that President Trump undoubtedly heard this week from Christian, Muslim and Jewish friends can only be helpful and broadening. In addition, it would provide an opportunity to discuss the situation in Tibet and to revisit, revitalize and advance U.S. support for the Middle Way approach.

*Dr Lobsang Sangay is the President of Central Tibetan Administration.*

## Recreating Tibet Outside: Early Years of the Refugee Community

Thubten Samphel, Published in Hindustan Times



*The Dalai Lama at the official reception in Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh. He is flanked by PN Menon (former Consul-General of India in Lhasa from 1954-1956) and Sonam Topgay Kazi (who served as the Interpreter for the Indian Mission in Tibet from 1949 to 1955), who were sent by the government of India to receive him. (Courtesy Exile)*

Going through the pages of *Exile*, one is amazed by the generosity of India and how this generosity has enabled the Tibetan refugees to re-construct Tibet outside of Tibet. Lobsang Gyatso Sither, the compiler and editor of the photo journal, focuses on four key efforts of the Tibetan refugees in the re-construction of their community in exile. These efforts include the rehabilitation of the refugees in farming settlements, education of the refugee children, strengthening the exile administration and resurrecting the core elements of Tibet's cultural heritage.

The early years were the most challenging. Many escaping Tibetans dropped like flies while negotiating the treacherous Himalayan passes. They also succumbed to malnutrition, tuberculosis, and the searing heat. Those who successfully escaped Tibet and safely landed in India felt they had not crossed one country to another but had left the medieval world of old Tibet behind and emerged in the bewildering complexity of the modern world. To them everything was new and strange except the selfsame earth and sky.

The escape routes of Tibetans covered the whole of northern India from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh, Nepal and Bhutan. We are told that those Tibetans living in south-eastern Tibet adjoining Yunnan escaped to Burma. In all some 87,000 Tibetans followed the Dalai Lama into exile in 1959 and the follow-

ing years and found sanctuary in Nepal, Bhutan and India. The answer to how the Tibetan refugees scattered across this vast swathe of land was bound together into a cohesive community lies in the inspirational leadership provided by the Dalai Lama and their own tenacity and the hospitality of the governments of India, Nepal and Bhutan. In those days the Dalai Lama re-energized the exile community by providing them with the rallying cry: hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

20 years later, the Tibetan refugees were able to successfully re-establish themselves in exile. With the active assistance of the host governments and guided by the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan refugees established separate schools for their children and build compact farming settlements serviced by hospitals and health clinics. The refugees re-constructed in exile monasteries destroyed in Tibet to educate and train future spiritual masters, the torch bearers of Tibet's cultural heritage. The Central University of Tibetan Studies, based in Sarnath, educate young Tibetan scholars in Buddhist philosophy and sciences. The traditional Tibetan medical system nurtured in exile has a world-wide clientele. In the 1980s, the Tibetan carpet industry started by Tibetan refugees generated more income and employed more workers for Nepal than the country's own tourism.

Having guided his community to establish itself firmly in exile, the Dalai Lama travelled outside India to engage the world on Tibet. The reach and the diversity of the Dalai Lama's, and by default the Central Tibetan Administration's, engagement with the world was at its peak truly astonishing. Even before he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, the Dalai Lama was the guiding light in some unique international institutions like the Allied Committee that brought Mongols from Inner Mongolia, Manchus, Uighurs and Tibetans to make common cause. The Unrepresented People's Organisation (UNPO) brought together people without a seat in the UN to create an international platform to speak

up for their collective rights. The Tibet Support Groups, the worldwide Tibet movement, remain the most sustained non-violent movement in the world. All the while, the Dalai Lama was engaged with the Chinese government in his efforts to persuade it to formulate a tolerant policy to the Tibetan people. At the same time, he has reached out to Chinese students and scholars to explain to them the Tibetan people's struggle is neither anti-China nor anti-Chinese but pro-justice. And they have responded with sympathy and support, amplifying Tibetan voice to the Chinese public.

Little commented on is how the present Dalai Lama has provided and continues to provide spiritual ministry to the traditional parish of the Dalai Lama's of Tibet. From Mongolia and the republics of Tuva and Buryatia snow-bound deep in the tundra of Siberia to Kalmykia (the only region in Europe where Buddhism is the dominant religion) strung along the Caspian Sea to the whole of the Buddhist Himalayan belt, the Dalai Lama has given guidance, encouragement and hope. In this way, he has sustained Tibet's Buddhist civilization and made this ancient heritage of India immediate, relevant and critical to how we lead our lives.

Exile is a testimony to the generosity of India and how the Tibetan refugees responded to that generosity. Lobsang Jigme Sither's painstaking re-creation of the early days of the Tibetan refugees is a timely reminder to the new generation of Tibetans born in exile the hard work and dedication that their parents and grandparents put in to create a productive and cohesive community. *Exile*, in moving photos and concise text, is a wake-up call that this legacy is not to be frittered away. It is an exhortation to fresh generations of Tibetan exiles that this legacy must be sustained with the same energy and hard work of the first generation of Tibetan refugees.

*Thubten Samphel is the director of the Tibet Policy Institute and author of Falling Through the Roof*

## UCSD Chinese Should Welcome Dalai Lama - Not Parrot Party Line

Yang Jianli, Published on Times of San Diego

What do Richard Spencer, Ann Coulter, and the Dalai Lama have in common? Each of them has been the target of college student protests opposing their speeches on campus.

But unlike Mr. Spencer and Ms. Coulter, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was born on a straw mat in a cowshed to a poor Tibetan family, and is now one of the most beloved and sought after world leaders.

The most recent college campus speaker controversy involves the University of California at San Diego's invitation to the Dalai Lama to deliver the commencement address on June 17. The invitation has triggered strong opposition from some Chinese students on campus.

As an ethnic Han Chinese myself, I am deeply troubled by the reaction of these Chinese students. Not because they are protesting, but because they are so decisively repeating the party line of the Chinese Communist government. Having studied in America where, unlike China, there is freedom of expression and the free flow of information, these Chinese students don't seem to have taken advantage of these freedoms to go beyond the rhetoric and propaganda taught to them in China and judge for themselves the Dalai Lama's contribution to humanity.

The Chinese student protesters' say that their primary reasons for opposing this commencement speaker is their belief that the Dalai Lama is a "separatist," seeking to split Tibet from China. They claim his name has been tainted by the so-called Tibetan "slavery" system in the past, and they say the Dalai Lama is "ill-suited to represent" the university's message of "service to humanity." They say that by allowing him to speak, UC San Diego is disrespecting the Chinese students and their families.

First, the Dalai Lama is not a separatist, as the Chinese government and UC San Diego protesters claim. I have personally known him for over two decades,

and in both public and private meetings I have witnessed his great compassion for humanity. He has stood firm against violence and separatism, and has consistently shown a sincere desire to compromise and negotiate with the government in Beijing, even in the face of the Chinese government's brutal treatment of Tibetans. The Dalai Lama abandoned the idea of Tibetan independence a long time ago and now promotes his Middle Way Approach, a policy that seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet under China's current political system.

Second, most international scholars do not support the claim that Tibet was a society of "slaves" prior to China's occupation. No doubt, Tibetan history is complicated, and traditional Tibetan society had its fair share of social issues. However, many scholars believe it is misleading to use the terms "serfdom" or "slavery" to describe Tibet at that time. China has demonized the Tibetan social structure that existed before the Chinese invasion as a "backward feudal society" or "evil serfdom." Such characterizations aim to take a moral high ground to justify the regime's illegal occupation of the country.

The Dalai Lama's humble beginning impressed upon him the need for reforms in Tibetan society, something he immediately initiated upon his enthronement in 1950. Those reforms stopped when the Communists took the county by force in 1959 and the Dalai Lama had to flee to India. In exile, the Dalai Lama has continued his reform efforts, including introducing democracy to the exiled Tibetan government. The Dalai Lama ceded his political power completely in 2011 to empower exiled Tibetans to elect their own government leaders.

Third, the Dalai Lama is globally admired as an outspoken advocate for peace and freedom. The Nobel Committee recognized the Dalai Lama's profound contributions to humanity by awarding him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. Since then the Dalai Lama has continued his tireless efforts toward

creating a more humane and peaceful society, something that makes him well suited to represent the university's message of "service to humanity."

Finally, universities in America strive to be a platform for ideas and debate, exposing students and faculty to a wide range of speakers and viewpoints. American universities and schools have invited both former and current leaders of China to give speeches. The Dalai Lama has never expressed disrespect to China or Chinese citizens, so there can be no implied disrespect to the students at UC San Diego.

Certainly the students at UC San Diego have a right to protest. In fact, I'm glad to see they are exercising their Constitutional rights to freedom of expression and association—rights that they don't have in China. What is disappointing is that their protests don't show originality or freedom of thought; they are parroting verbatim the rhetoric of the Chinese government.

I want to encourage my young fellow Chinese at UC San Diego to take their act of freedom and liberty one step further and open their minds to new ideas and new thoughts. Don't be so tightly chained to what you were taught to believe in China. Take this precious opportunity to listen to what the Dalai Lama has to say and then make your own judgment.

The Dalai Lama should be welcomed by all students, regardless of cultural and political background. He will provide a thought-provoking commencement speech, and challenge all to promote peace, pursue happiness, live with integrity, and remind us all that we are all interdependent and connected, including the Han and Tibetans.

*Yang Jianli is president of Initiatives for China. He is PhD Scholar from Harvard and UC Berkeley. He is a survivor of the Tiananmen Square Massacre and a former political prisoner in China.*

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## QUOTES

*“Historically Tibet was a free and independent country in the 7th, 8th and 9th centuries, after which it fragmented. What has since held us together is our common religion, culture and language. Today, it’s very important that Tibetans of the Three Provinces remain united. While remaining within the PRC we want genuine autonomy so we can continue to keep our culture, language and traditions alive.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his address to 2000 Tibetans in Boston on 25 June 2017’.*

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*“Meeting with young people like you I’m aware you are the future of humanity. And here and now at the beginning of the 21st century you have the opportunity and responsibility to create a better world, a happier world—a world without violence or the yawning gap between rich and poor. We older ones may not live to see it, but you will.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during University of California San Diego Commencement on 17 June 2017.*

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*“the congressional delegation sends a message of hope, justice and freedom for Tibetans inside Tibet and the world. As you entered the ceremony, you have seen the smiles of the Tibetan children and public, these smiles reflect the smiles of the six million Tibetan people,” Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay during the US Congressional delegation public felicitation at Tsuglagkhang on 10 May 2017.*

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*“It will be good if we can spread the idea of warm-heartedness and love and limit those actions that lack compassion. Just as India is known as the land of ahimsa, we Tibetans are brought up not to harm creatures like insects unnecessarily. A former official of the Central Tibetan Administration told me that he found work in the USA cleaning vegetables for a university kitchen. He used to set aside worms and insects he found in a glass jar and release them outside at the end of his shift. His colleagues watched and asked what he was doing. He explained that in Tibetan culture people make an effort to preserve the lives of small creatures and before long he noticed that they had begun to follow his example.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during Second Day of Teachings for Tibetan Youth on 6 June 2017.*

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