

# FREE TIBET

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free  
TIBET



75% of the UK want  
Chen Quanguo  
**BANNED**

• Solo protest in Paris • Ban Chen: China retaliates • No Beijing 2022: the fight-back •

# Dear friends...

Four of Chen Quanguo's minions – responsible for torture, invasive surveillance and systematic repression – have now been banned from the UK, EU, USA and Canada.

The architects of Tibet's occupation within the Chinese government are so livid that they responded with their own sanctions by banning parliamentarians, lawyers and human rights advocates in retaliation. This had huge geopolitical impacts, including causing the EU to pause the massive EU/China Belt and Road "investment" deal.

The #BanChen campaign had its doubters – those that said it would never make a difference, those that said that sanctions don't change anything, and those that said that it was simply too ambitious. Together, we have proved those doubters wrong. I hope that, as a supporter of Free Tibet, you are as proud as I am about how we have held Tibet's oppressors to account and caused real political and economic consequences for the Chinese government.

There is more work to do... in a ludicrous omission, Chen Quanguo himself was missing from the list of sanctions. Our governments still fear the wrath of Beijing and, for now, trade still trumps human rights. The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing gives us a wonderful opportunity to encourage them to conquer this fear (see pages 7-8). And the COP26 climate negotiations are an opportunity to push Tibetan climate concerns onto an international stage (see page 9).

As always, thank you for being part of this movement at this crucial time.

Sam Walton, Free Tibet Chief Executive



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Our vision is a free Tibet in which Tibetans are able to determine their own future and the human rights of all are respected.

Free Tibet campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for international recognition of Tibetans' right to freedom. We mobilise active support for the Tibetan cause, champion human rights and challenge those whose actions help sustain the occupation.

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Front cover: Figure is from a poll commissioned by Free Tibet carried out by Survation in April 2021.



# The solo Tibetan protester in Paris

An interview with  
Tenpa Dhargye.

In the midst of a buzzing crowd of tourists, who were busy taking selfies in front of the Eiffel Tower, stood Tenpa Dhargye – a Tibetan who ran a solo protest for nearly a month.

Every day from 12 February, Losar (the first day of the Tibetan New Year), up until 10 March (Tibetan Uprising Day), he stood at Parvis des Droits de l'Homme in front of the Eiffel Tower. He stood by posters detailing information about Tibet and distributed leaflets printed both in English and French. Photos and the story of the recently deceased Tenzin Nyima (see page 11) were also present. He was joined by other people, including other Tibetans, who would sometimes spend all day with Tenpa to protest in solidarity. We spoke to Tenpa to hear why he was protesting.



## Why are you here today?

I am Tibetan in my blood and bones. I have a responsibility. When I see the continuing human rights abuses inside Tibet, I feel that I cannot just stay idle. I need to do something. That is why I started this protest.

## How did you feel on the first day of your solo protest?

The weather was cold and rainy on the first day, and I was worried and a bit nervous the days before wondering if everything would go as planned. But once I took the first step, and now that I am here, standing day by day, I feel immensely fortunate to have this opportunity and freedom to stand in solidarity with the spirit of Tibetans inside Tibet who continue to resist the Chinese occupation.

## How else have you protested for Tibet in the past?

I decided to go on a hunger strike until death, with or without the authorisation of the Indian government, in a campaign against the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The campaign was organised by the Tibetan Youth Congress. When the campaign first started, there were nine of us. With time, many more joined in.

After 18 days and 18 nights with no food and water, I could not walk, move or talk. I only had my feelings. But then the Indian police forcefully stopped our campaign. It was around midnight when they took us away. I tried to ask them to stop but I was not able to talk. Others were not allowed to come to the hospital either. So it ended with us being hospitalised.

## What do you hope to gain or see happen from this solo protest in Paris?

I hope for human rights to be restored inside Tibet, and the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

It is just as much the responsibility of the Tibetan public to mobilise protests or awareness campaigns, alongside the efforts of the Tibetan government in exile (the Central Tibetan Administration). I believe that with joint efforts our hopes can materialise into the future we want.

You can read the full interview on our website at [freetibet.org/interview-tenpa-dhargye](http://freetibet.org/interview-tenpa-dhargye)

# Ban Chen campaign: China retaliates

How our campaign provoked a reaction from supporters, MPs...and China.

When Free Tibet launched its Ban Chen campaign in November last year, we knew we would ruffle a few feathers. Demanding that one of the most senior politicians in the Chinese government be held to account for his crimes was an audacious challenge that was always going to get a response. Yet the scale and speed of the response, from Free Tibet's supporters, from MPs and from China, took even us by surprise.

The Ban Chen campaign demands that the UK government imposes sanctions on Chen Quanguo, a member of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo, and the senior CCP official in Tibet between 2011 and 2016. Since then, he has also been the official most responsible for repression of the Uyghur people.

Chen's crimes are huge in every sense. In less than a decade he turned an area the size of India into a pair of giant open prisons, firstly in the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region (the TAR, which makes up half of Tibet's territory) and then in the Uyghur region. Both are now run as surveillance states, where nothing is hidden, especially in the cities where security forces

are on every corner. As Party Secretary of the TAR, his mission was to make sure that Tibetans would never again be able to carry out mass protests as they did in the 2008 uprising. His security policies – combining hi-tech surveillance with an overwhelming security presence, were backed up with torture and police violence, as well as policies to eradicate Tibetans' unique identity. His legacy remains in Tibet to this day; in March this year, the organisation Freedom House announced that Tibet – specifically the TAR – was the worst place in the world for civil liberties and political rights, at the bottom of its annual rankings alongside Syria.

The brutal repression attracted the admiration of senior CCP leaders, who rewarded Chen by letting him replicate these methods in the Uyghur region, known to the Uyghur people as East Turkestan, on an even larger scale. Around two million Uyghurs are interned in camps, while a stream of testimonies and evidence of torture, indoctrination, forced labour and sterilisation are increasingly being recognised by governments around the world as a genocide, including the House of Commons after a vote in April.



## Chen turned an area the size of India into a pair of giant open prisons.

The campaign we launched last November with our friends in the Tibetan community and World Uyghur Congress sought to demand justice for the countless lives ruined by Chen. But it was our supporters who took things to the next level, piling thousands of signatories onto our petition, sharing our social media videos and infographics and sending hundreds of letters to their MPs, urging them to push the government to ban Chen.

The impressive response from our supporters was almost matched by that of the UK government. It has been decades since Chinese officials were subject to sanctions...yet in late March, the United Kingdom, along with the European Union, Canada and the United States, imposed coordinated, targeted sanctions on four senior Chinese officials responsible for abuses against the Uyghur people.

Frustratingly, the sanctions aimed too low – targeting officials who answer to Chen, including two of his direct deputies, while missing the man ultimately responsible. It was clear that governments had pulled back from doing the right thing to avoid Beijing's wrath. But there could also be no doubt that the public pressure was working – governments were coming around to our view and taking an unprecedented tough line with the Chinese government.

The third response came from the Chinese government. Within a week, Beijing announced sanctions on a range of mid-level European Union officials, followed by sanctions against five British MPs and two peers with a track record of calling for freedom and human rights for Tibetans, Uyghurs, Chinese dissidents and the people of Hong Kong. Among them

was Tim Loughton, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, who responded by filming a mock video from his cupboard, claiming he was hiding, having been declared an enemy of the Chinese state. Tim and the other individuals who were sanctioned struck a more defiant tone, vowing to continue speaking up for human rights. They also pointed out that while the UK had sanctioned individuals responsible for torture and forced labour, Beijing's sanctions were aimed at punishing critics instead.

The UK government responded by backing the sanctioned MPs and saying that it will not be deterred from pushing for the human rights of those under CCP rule. The Prime Minister met with them to show public support, while Minister for Asia Nigel Adams stated that the government "will be unbowed by China's action".

These fine words need to be backed up with action. Support for our campaign has not let up; within two weeks of the CCP's sanctions, our Ban Chen petition hit 8,000 before shooting up to 10,000. Meanwhile a poll commissioned by Free Tibet and carried out by Survation in April found that 75 percent of the British public back banning Chen from the UK as punishment for his human rights abuses. Behind the scenes, we are continuing to work with our friends in parliament to push for Chen to be held to account.



Chinese police march through Tibet.

### Action

If you have not already done so, please do get involved by visiting [freetibet.org/ban-chen](http://freetibet.org/ban-chen). Supporters who are not online can also contact us for letter templates to send to their MPs.

# Bringing Tibet to Tower Hamlets



Imagine passing through Uyghur Court, walking along Hong Kong Road before heading up Tibet Hill. For people in London, this might soon be a reality.

Tucked away in east London is the London Borough of Tower Hamlets – an area set to be the site of the Chinese government’s largest embassy in Europe. However, through lots of campaigning by Free Tibet and our supporters, Tower Hamlets councillors have decided to back the move to name the streets surrounding the new embassy after victims of Chinese oppression.

The Chinese government purchased the grand Royal Mint building in Tower Hamlets in 2018 with plans to turn it into an embassy. The new embassy will be located within sight of iconic London sites including the Tower of London and Tower Bridge – an opportunity, if unchallenged, to flaunt their power in front of millions of tourists every year.

In response, members of the Tibetan community have been working with local councillor Rabina Khan and others to ensure there is recognition of Chinese atrocities in the borough and on the council. When the council refused to fly the Tibetan flag outside their city hall on the Tibetan National Uprising

Day, campaigners and councillors raised the flag themselves.

The next stage of the campaign was a motion by Councillor Khan to rename streets around the new embassy after victims to recognise some of the key struggles against CCP rule. The proposals include names such as Tibet Hill, Tiananmen Square, Uyghur Court and Hong Kong Road. The motion had been on the agenda at three previous council meetings but not discussed, and it looked like the same thing would happen again. We made a last minute call to ask you, our supporters, to email councillors asking them to support the motion, and your response was incredible. Over 700 emails were sent in just a few hours. Then, at the meeting on 17 March, the campaign took a big leap forward as the council voted to investigate the idea. Since then, over 2,000 people have signed our petition asking councillors to make the new road names a reality.

This win is thanks to Free Tibet supporters and it means we’re one step closer to creating a permanent reminder of the atrocities that the Chinese government is committing for every Chinese official that visits the new embassy, and for anyone else who visits. We will hope to have an update about this campaign in the next magazine.



Top: The Royal Mint, which will house the Chinese Embassy later this year.

Right: Councillor Rabina Khan holding the Tibetan flag at Cable Street, East London, on 10 March.

In the run up to the Games the IOC has barely mentioned human rights.



# NO BEIJING 2022

# THE FIGHT-BACK

As the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) prepares to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, history looks to be repeating itself. Just as it did in 2008, the CCP stands to gain international praise and legitimacy by laying on a festival of elite sport, even as it carries out extensive crimes and abuses. But, Free Tibet is fighting back.

Hosting the world's best athletes and capturing international media attention through dazzling opening and closing ceremonies is a remarkable opportunity, one that Beijing was so keen to exploit that it is even manufacturing its own artificial snow to compensate for the absence of the real thing. But just as it covers the ground in fake snow, so the CCP hopes to cover up its treatment of Tibetans and Uyghurs, which is facing growing criticism. To see how Beijing hopes to exploit this new opportunity to embolden itself, we can look back on the sinister events that followed the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

In July 2001, the world was stunned when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) made the decision to award the 2008 Summer Olympics to Beijing. It is a decision that has only become more controversial with time.

The CCP made vague but ambitious claims that it would improve its human rights record. In practice, it used the legitimacy of the Games to expand its repression, not least in Tibet. In 2008, sensing the world's eyes on China, Tibetans began a series of protests that were brutally put down with at least 100 protesters killed. Since then, the CCP has almost completely closed Tibet off from the world, converting it into a heavily locked-down surveillance state. As the crackdown intensified, so did Tibetans' anguish, a fact captured by the sad statistic that since 2009, at least 159 Tibetans have carried out self-immolation protests, the majority of them fatal. The hopes that the games would help China to become more open, the firm commitments from Chinese officials on human rights and the assurances that the 2008 Beijing Olympics would be a force for good now ring hollow.

Protests took place in February in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The lesson from 2008 is that we cannot look away.

The decision to award the 2022 Winter Games to Beijing has in effect been rewarded the CCP for mass killings, torture and policies designed to wipe out other cultures and genocide. Worryingly, in the run up to the 2022 Winter Games, the IOC has barely mentioned human rights, and there are no human rights commitments in Beijing's host city contract. A more assertive Beijing has no need to even fake its commitment to human rights. Instead, over the past year, the Chinese government has made headlines with fresh evidence of forced labour and sterilisation of women in the Uyghur region, overwhelming crackdowns in Hong Kong and the news that in 2020, over 500,000 rural Tibetans were moved from their land into a so-called labour transfer programme, often involving coercion.

### The case for a boycott

Free Tibet and its partners campaigned doggedly against Beijing's Winter Games bid. When the announcement was made in 2015 that Beijing had won the race for 2022, it was tough to accept. But we never gave up. This year, we have been calling on the British Olympic Association to boycott the games and for the government to commit to a diplomatic boycott.

The pressure is getting results. MPs across the aisle, including Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Ed Davey and Chris Bryant have all publicly

called for boycotts, along with the members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet. Even the Secretary of State, Dominic Raab, has questioned whether the Games should go ahead. Our petition to the British Olympic Association, launched in May, hit over 3,500 signatures within a week.

The lesson from 2008 is that we cannot look away from the CCP's abuses and pretend that the Olympics are apolitical. Most world leaders took no action in 2008, with only a handful boycotting the opening ceremony in protest, and an emboldened CCP accelerated its abuses. There appeared to be recognition after the Games had concluded that most world leaders had committed a serious error; later that year, both US Presidential candidates, John McCain and Barack Obama, stated that they would have boycotted the opening ceremony if they were in the White House. More needs to be done this time.

As this magazine goes to print, we are preparing for a Global Day of Action against Beijing 2022 on 23 June, coordinated with Tibet groups around the world. There will be plenty of exciting activity throughout the rest of the year as we push to ensure that the history of 2008 is not repeated.

To take part, and for more information, visit: [freetibet.org/nobeijing2022](http://freetibet.org/nobeijing2022)

# BOYCOTT BEIJING

Given the continued atrocities against human rights from the Chinese Government, it is evident that China does not deserve the honour and prestige of hosting the Winter Olympic Games.

The IOC and the world let Tibet down in 2008. We must do all we can to stop history repeating itself. Please support us in boycotting the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

With your generous donations Free Tibet will:

- Lead mass demonstrations in London and support direct actions around the world.
- Force a debate in the UK parliament and challenge MPs to ensure the mistakes of 2008 are not repeated in 2022.
- Educate and support athletes to boycott the games rather than protesting.
- Interview survivors of the 2008 uprising and add their voices to calls for a boycott of Beijing 2022.

We stand for the Olympic values of **respect, friendship and autonomy**, as such we do not stand for the Beijing Olympic games!

[freetibet.org/boycott-olympics-appeal](http://freetibet.org/boycott-olympics-appeal)



Protesters raise a banner in against the 2008 Olympics, Beijing 2004.



# Campaigns update...

## Preparing for COP26

Free Tibet is working hard to prepare for COP26, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which is expected to take place in November in Glasgow, Scotland. Having been postponed from last year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is currently under the presidency of the UK.

On 22 April, we marked World Earth Day by hosting a conversation with Dechen Palmo and Tempa Gyaltzen, two Tibetan environmental experts who will be attending COP26. The pair outlined the effects of climate change on their country, as well as the wider damage to Tibet's environment caused by mining, extraction and big dams.

You can see the discussion and learn more about our environmental work at: [freetibet.org/tibets-climate-crisis](https://freetibet.org/tibets-climate-crisis)



CHINA NEWS.COM

## The Panchen Lama: 26 years without a trace

On 17 May, Free Tibet joined the Tibetan community to commemorate and protest the 26th anniversary of the Panchen Lama's abduction in a vigil outside the Chinese embassy in London. Around 20 demonstrators stood outside the embassy, demanding that the Chinese government reveal the truth about what happened to him.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was just six years old when the Chinese government abducted him in 1995. His kidnapping came shortly after he was identified as the 11th Panchen Lama, recognised by Tibetans as the second highest authority in Tibetan Buddhism after the Dalai Lama. The Chinese government refuses to disclose the Panchen Lama's whereabouts or condition.



## Building support in parliament

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet (APPGT) had their first meeting of 2021 on 22 February, packed with MPs and Tibetan representatives. Free Tibet gave an overview of the current human rights situation in Tibet and discussed with MPs on how they can support the Ban Chen (see pages 4-5) and No Beijing 2022 (see pages 7-8) campaigns.

The APPGT met again on 24 May where they hosted Lobsang Sangay, the outgoing Sikyong (equivalent to the President) and head of the Central Tibetan Administration Tibetan, which functions as a Tibetan government-in-exile. As the meeting closed, Lobsang Sangay took the opportunity to thank the MPs on the APPGT for their unwavering support of Tibet.

Lobsang Sangay.



GERD EICHMANN

# Tibetan National Uprising Day in a pandemic

In 2021, amidst a pandemic and the lockdown restrictions, this year's Tibetan National Uprising Day looked very different...

On 10 March 1959, hundreds of thousands of Tibetans gathered in the streets of Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, to protest against the brutal Chinese occupation. This peaceful act of defiance was crushed by the Chinese military, which killed thousands of Tibetans, forcing the young Dalai Lama to escape and take refuge in India. 62 years on and China's mission remains the same – to wipe out the Tibetan identity, culture and freedom. Despite living under this relentless oppression, the Tibetan people continue to draw inspiration from this historic day and each year find new ways to rise up.

This year in the UK, we missed thronging the streets of London with hundreds marching and chanting 'Bhod Gyalo!' (Victory for Tibet!) that usually takes place annually on 10 March. However, this year showed, more than ever, that the Tibetan spirit cannot be broken as demonstrations were adapted to work within the restrictions of the global pandemic.

From top: Taipei protest; Free Tibet staff hand delivered a letter to the Chinese Embassy.



CHIANG YINSHAN

At Free Tibet, we moved our actions almost entirely online and throughout the day we received lots of news of the vibrant protests taking place in Paris, Ladakh, New Delhi and more! Our social media platforms were buzzing with inspiring quotes, stories and pictures that showed people proudly displaying the Tibetan flag on their face masks, painted on faces and flying high in the air. There was so much online activity from supporters all over the world, we felt honoured to be able to share their actions and be part of such a strong and diverse community.

We successfully held our commemoration event online, in partnership with Students for Free Tibet and the Tibetan Community in Britain. Despite not being physically together, we were determined to create the same atmosphere of a unified resistance with powerful speeches from MPs to Tibetan human rights activists. A particularly moving moment was when the Tibetan National anthem was sung in unison by Tibetan children from all over the UK. Free Tibet staff members also hand-delivered a letter to the Chinese Embassy in London calling on the Chinese government to cease its assault on Tibetan human rights and culture.

Even with the pandemic restrictions, we were allowed to freely protest for the Tibetan cause... a sharp contrast for those living in Tibet itself. In fact, freedoms are restricted more than ever in Tibet. Our research partner, Tibet Watch, reported that the Chinese authorities intensified monitoring and surveillance just before the National Uprising Day to prevent any gatherings or celebrations. This included a ban on travel within the country, with security personnel checking vehicles on the highways and demanding travellers to produce identification documents. An anonymous source residing in Lhasa cautioned, "Do not contact me for a few months now. The weather (coded language for political climate) is bad these days".

At Free Tibet, we tirelessly campaign so that those living in Tibet will one day be able to safely join the rest of the world on 10 March and proudly raise the Tibetan flag. But, we cannot make this into a reality without you – our dedicated supporters.

To follow our future online actions, make sure to follow us on Twitter at @freetibetorg or find us on Facebook by simply searching up 'Free Tibet'.

# News from Tibet...



China works hard to keep news of their abuses in Tibet hidden. Here are some stories which Free Tibet, working alongside our research partner Tibet Watch, has brought to global attention.

## 19-year-old Tibetan monk dies from police beatings

In January, Tenzin Nyima, a 19-year-old monk from Dza Wonpo Monastery in Wonpo Township in eastern Tibet, died from ill-treatment in a Chinese prison.

He was arrested in November 2019 for peacefully protesting outside the local police station, calling for Tibet's independence and passing out leaflets. Four other Tibetan monks were arrested along with Tenzin for their involvement in the demonstration.

Since Tenzin's death, Chinese authorities have cracked down on the village of Dza Wonpo in an attempt to find the source of the information leak. Reports have detailed military personnel being deployed to the area, increased surveillance and villagers being interrogated.



Tenzin Nyima.

## Tibetan teen tortured for failure to register WeChat group

On 17 February, three young Tibetans named Kanshi, Dadul and Sangye Tso were arrested for failing to register their WeChat group with Chinese authorities.

Dadul was tortured and severely beaten, resulting in both his legs being broken. His family had to pay 40,000 yuan (around 6,000 US dollars) for his hospital treatment and were threatened to keep silent about his torture. In Tibet, it is compulsory to register any WeChat group with Chinese authorities so that an official can join and monitor the chat.



L-R: Dadul; Sangye Tso.

## Glacier collapse continues to affect Tibetan landscape

A group of scientists from China and France studying Tibet's environment have said climate change is responsible for the collapse of two glaciers in 2016. This event is still affecting the ecology of the region and could impact nearby communities, putting them at risk.

The original glacier collapse saw nine people die, and a leading climate expert described the second collapse just a month later as "absolutely unique in known history". Two mountain lakes near the collapsed glaciers have expanded since the event, and scientists are worried they may join into one large lake, fundamentally changing the landscape and posing a risk of flooding.



NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY

# News continued...

## Tibet ranked the least free country in the world

Leading US think tank Freedom House has ranked Tibet as the least free country in the world in its annual survey of political freedoms and civil rights around the world. While countries such as Finland, Norway and Sweden received scores of 100/100 on Freedom House's index, occupied Tibet scored 1/100, alongside Syria. This is the first time Tibet has been placed at the bottom of the list; for the previous five years, it was ranked as the second-lowest.

In stark contrast to the lack of freedom for Tibetans inside Tibet, this year thousands of exiled Tibetans around the world cast their votes in free and fair elections to choose the new Sikyong (President) and parliament for the Central Tibetan Administration, with Penpa Tsering taking office in May.



Country	Total Score and Status	Political Rights	Civil Liberties
Tibet*	1  Not Free	-2	3
Syria	1  Not Free	-3	4
South Sudan	2  Not Free	-2	4
Eritrea	2  Not Free	1	1
Turkmenistan	2  Not Free	0	2
North Korea	3  Not Free	0	3

## Tibetan dies after suspected beating and torture in jail

A Tibetan tour guide and environmental activist named Kunchok Jinpa has died at the age of 51 after sustaining severe injuries in prison. Kunchok, from Chaktse Village in Driru, central Tibet, was serving a 21-year prison sentence when he was secretly taken to hospital in November 2020 with severe injuries. He died in hospital months later, in February 2021.

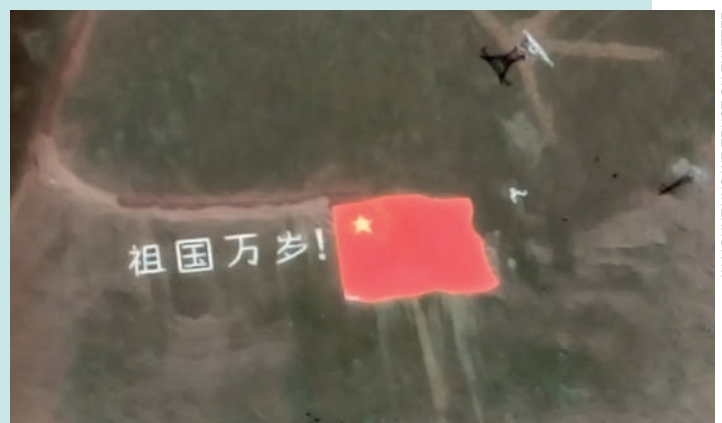
Kunchok Jinpa was arrested in 2013 after sharing information about an environmental protest in Tibet with the outside world. He also called for mining projects to be banned at the holy site of Naghla Dzambha Mountain.



Kunchok Jinpa.

## Tibetan mantra replaced with Chinese flag

Satellite imagery has uncovered the destruction of a Buddhist mantra inscribed on a hillside in Nagchu, central Tibet. The mantra, Om Mani Padme Hum, is one of the most widely used in Tibetan Buddhism and its use on the hillside likely expressed the sacredness of the area. This message appears to have been removed around August 2020, and a new message has been inscribed in its place that reads "Long live the motherland" in Chinese, along with a Chinese flag, highlighting the CCP's relentless attempts to sinicize Tibet.



Tibetan mantra replaced with Chinese flag.

IN MOUNTAINS WE TRUST ON TWITTER



# Remembering Tsering Wangyal

One of the most respected and beloved figures in Tibetan media, Tsering Wangyal, has had his book published, two decades after his death. *Another Place*, a fictional novel about a Tibetan protagonist working within the Tibetan Government-in-Exile in Dharamsala in the 1990s, was published by Blackneck Books at Tibet Writers in 2020.

Tsering lived an extraordinary life. He was born on 6 March 1949 in Kalimpong, India and went on to study History at the University of Bristol in England. He is most known for his work at the *Tibetan Review*, a Tibetan monthly journal covering news about Tibet and the exiled Tibetan community, where he worked as the editor from September 1976 to September 1996 upon his return to India.

His work had a great impact and resonated with many people who would go on to join the wider Tibet movement, especially as his time at the *Tibetan Review* coincided with critical moments in Chinese and Tibetan history, such as the death of Mao, the arrest of the Gang of Four and the protests in Lhasa in the late 1980s that resulted in martial law being imposed in Tibet. Tsering was brave and unafraid to not only critique the Chinese government, but to also hold the Tibetan Government-in-Exile accountable. In fact, he insisted on editorial independence despite the Tibetan

Review being owned by the Information Department of the Tibetan Government-in-exile at the time.

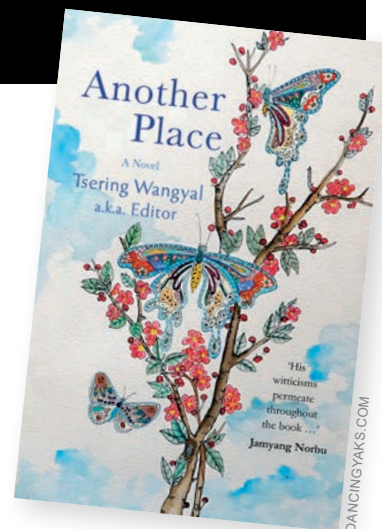
Tsering Wangyal passed away on 24 November 2000 from Hepatitis B illness in Toronto, Canada at just 51 years of age.

Fondly known as simply 'Editor', he had started writing *Another Place* when he emigrated to Canada in 1996, unbeknownst to anyone else at the time.

Jenny James, a longtime Tibet supporter and editor of *Contact Magazine*, commented on his book, saying "It's all in there: people, Tibet, friendship, loyalties, love... a book to read at one sitting and then go straight back to page one and start again."

Tsering's legacy lives on not just in the people he inspired within the Tibet movement, but also in the words he wrote.

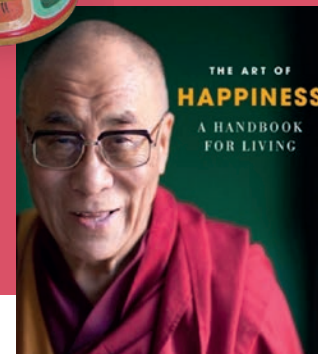
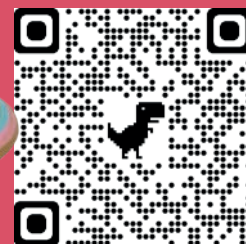
You can enquire more about *Another Place* by emailing [blackneckbooks@tibetwrites.in](mailto:blackneckbooks@tibetwrites.in)



DANCINGYAKS.COM

Relax and unwind with a cup of tea and a good book – courtesy of the Free Tibet Online Shop.

See our catalogue for more product details and offers.



# Letters



If you have a question or comment that you would like to see published in the next magazine, do get in touch with us by email at [letters@freetibet.org](mailto:letters@freetibet.org), over the phone on +44 (0)330 016 8404 or by post to:

Letters, Free Tibet, ER82, The Link, Effra Road, SW2 1BZ, United Kingdom.

Please note we cannot guarantee publication of each letter we receive. Thank you!

**We've received lots of letters and emails here at Free Tibet since our last magazine and our supporter team wanted to answer as many as possible. So here, we have synthesised a few of the most common write-ins addressing some challenging issues which we thought would be great to highlight for everyone.**

## **Have you seen this CCP propaganda? What can you do about it?**

This is a great email that we get a lot. It would be impossible to keep up with every single stream of CCP propaganda so we love it when people send in links to articles they've read which we can keep on our radar. Our campaign successes so far with our China Watch campaign have shown that with a bit of pressure, media outlets will drop the CCP propaganda from their publications. So keep sending them in!



## **Why are Uyghurs being covered more in the news than Tibetans and what are you guys doing about it?**

We share the frustration people have with the often sparse inclusion of the Tibetan plight in the media. For those of us who have a sense of what is happening inside Tibet, it is a huge concern when journalists do not pick up our stories or omit Tibet.

At Free Tibet we contact journalists in some form almost every week about Tibet, whether it is through press releases, planning features or sending updates that can be worked into a story. It can be a slow and often frustrating process though. The situation of the Uyghurs has overshadowed Tibet recently for a few reasons:

- Freedom of information – Tibet is on par with North Korea in how closed its borders are to the media and the lack of visuals is often a deal breaker for TV news.
- Urgency of information – Uyghurs have been able to escape to countries where they can speak freely, whilst Tibetans are finding this method of communication to be increasingly challenging.
- The scale and brutality of abuses – What is happening to the Uyghurs was ignored for too long and now it has exploded as an issue in its own right.

In fact, one of the most reliable ways to currently get Tibet mentioned in parliament or in a news story is to align Tibetans' concerns with those of the Uyghurs, something we have been doing in our Ban Chen campaign (see pages 4-5).

Despite all of yours and our frustration with the media – all coverage which leads to the freedom of any people under CCP control is a step in the right direction for our campaign.

# Supporter Spotlight

Free Tibet is lucky to have incredible supporters from all over the world. They're as diverse as the places they come from, but they all share one thing in common. The desire to see Tibetans able to determine their own future. In this edition we highlight some of the amazing people who stand in solidarity with the cause.

## Tibetans walk 2,000km to raise awareness of Tibet

Tenzin Dhondup, 28, and Tenzin Nima, 24, completed a 2,000-kilometre hike from Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh to Nathu La in East Sikkim, India. That's the equivalent of walking from London to Belgrade! This impressive feat was accomplished over the course of three months, with Dhondup starting the trek in Dharamsala on 2 November 2020, and Nima joining him later on from the city of Chandigarh in the states of Haryana and Punjab.

Dhondup said he decided to undertake the massive journey "because I felt I would be able to meet and interact with more people and spread my message. I managed to achieve that during my journey till here". Nima added, "[the] environment is a global responsibility. Human rights, too, is everybody's responsibility. I did this [walk] to spread awareness [of these issues]".



## A cycle rally for a free Tibet

In February 2021, a massive cycle rally for Tibet was held in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. The organisers of the event, the Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan, called for a boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing until Tibet and other regions oppressed by China are free.

"China's occupation of Tibet and East Turkestan is essentially a colonial occupation and countries all around the world should pay more attention to the human rights violations in Tibet, East Turkestan, Taiwan and Hong Kong," said one of the organisers.



## Getting ready for the Brighton Marathon

For the first time ever, Free Tibet has secured spaces in the Brighton Marathon this September. One of our supporters, Peter Cook, has already volunteered to run for us and he has a lot of experience under his belt, having competed in ultra marathons in the past!

Since hearing the Dalai Lama speak in the UK a few years ago, Peter has been determined to make an active effort to support the Tibetan cause. He looks forward to having lots of conversations about Tibet over the next six months and we can't wait to see him carry the Tibetan flag over the finish line! To support Peter, search: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-cook55](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-cook55)

If you would like to join Peter and be part of Team Tibet in the 2021 Brighton Marathon, contact [crissy@tibetwatch.org](mailto:crissy@tibetwatch.org) to apply for a space. Free Tibet are here to support our runners and we ask that you commit to a minimum fundraising goal of £300. Members of Team Tibet will have access to our specialist fundraising knowledge and downloadable marathon training guide.



From top: Tenzin Dhondup and Tenzin Nima at the end of their walk; participants in the cycle rally; Peter with a waxwork figure of the Dalai Lama.

Remember Free Tibet  
with a gift in your will.

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Let Freedom  
be your legacy!