

# FREE TIBET



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• Rinchen Kyi released • Stop China's war on Buddhism • Tibetan children separated from families •

## CEO LETTER

Dear friends,  
Free Tibet needs to reflect our powerful voice for Tibet. We need to stand up and take action against the world's biggest military and to express the dignity of Tibetans who have been nonviolently resisting over 70 years of occupation and oppression at the hands of the Chinese government. We need to represent the anger people feel towards the nations who have been blithely ignoring Tibet for far too long. Free Tibet needs to support and amplify Tibetan resistance, as opposed to 'saving' helpless Tibetans.

As mentioned in the last magazine and as you can hopefully see throughout this issue, Free Tibet has rebranded. I hope it achieves some of the goals outlined above. Now, brands are subjective and your opinion of our new look may differ from mine. I feel confident this new brand delivers a lot of what we want. And crucially, so do the many Tibetans that we spoke to throughout the redesign process.

As a supporter, you are among the first to hear about our rebranding and to also see what our new logo looks like. We hope you like it and agree that its bold colours – taken directly from the Tibetan flag – and design will make a lasting impression. Do also take a look at the new Free Tibet t-shirts and hoodies in the catalogue or our online shop.

Whilst I am happy with the new branding, I am ecstatic about two major campaign victories. Rinchen Kyi, the teacher who was imprisoned for teaching Tibetan, has finally been released. Credit goes to our research partner Tibet Watch who told the world Kyi was imprisoned and enabled us to run the powerful campaign that led to her freedom – a campaign that so many of you joined.

Closer to home, the UK's Department of Health and Social Care has banned CCTV cameras manufactured by the Chinese-state controlled Hikvision. Hikvision CCTV cameras play a crucial role in making Tibet a surveillance state and are riddled with security threats the Chinese government can exploit. This is what we hope will be the first of many victories, as we drive these oppressors of Tibet from our shores. Watch this space.

These two victories show the difference we are making, both inside Tibet and further afield. These victories were won because of your support and you joining our campaigns.

Thank you for standing with Tibet at this crucial time.

Sam Walton, Free Tibet Chief Executive



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Front cover: Former NBA basketball star Enes Kanter Freedom meets with the Tibetan Community in Britain during a small event in London.

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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.

# CAMPAIGN WIN: RINCHEN KYI RELEASED

Against the grim backdrop of ever intensifying Chinese oppression in Tibet – especially with the aggressive pace of China’s repression of Tibetan language, religion and culture in the past few years – updates from Tibet are often replete with sorrow and suffering. However, news about the sudden release of imprisoned teacher Rinchen Kyi has come as a welcome departure from that depressing trend.

We were delighted to receive confirmation through Tibet Watch, Free Tibet’s research partner, that Kyi had been secretly returned home by police at 8pm local time on Sunday, 24 April 2022 – bringing an end to her eight-month imprisonment and with it the much-needed relief to not just her family but to dedicated Tibet supporters, like you, all around the world.

As one of the longest serving teachers at Sengdruk Taktse Middle School in Darlak county of Golog Tibetan Autonomous Region in Qinghai Province, eastern Tibet, and someone proud of her Tibetan identity, Rinchen Kyi was left distressed when her school was abruptly ordered to shut down on 8 July 2021 by the local Chinese authorities. The Tibetan school’s students were left with no other alternative than to move into government-run colonial boarding schools.

Confidential sources from the area confided that the motives behind the school closure were strictly political.



The school’s primary language of instruction was Tibetan and it provided Tibetan culture-based learning for Tibetan students in the region.

Kyi was detained at her home on 1 August 2021 and charged with inciting separatism – a state security crime under Chinese law – and was initially taken to a hospital in Xining, the provincial capital, where she was later moved to an undisclosed location. Chinese authorities provided no information or explanation to Kyi’s 79-year-old mother and 13-year-old daughter.

Following her arrest, Free Tibet launched an international campaign demanding that Rinchen Kyi be immediately released. Over 2,000 people took online actions targeting various Chinese embassies and local authorities in Qinghai, while numerous other Free Tibet supporters sent postcards with Kyi’s face on them to the Chinese Embassy in London.

Free Tibet and the Tibetan Community in Britain also held a vigil for Rinchen Kyi on 30 August 2021, to mark the International Day of the Disappeared. Most recently, in February 2022, six United Nations special experts raised her case, along with that of two other Tibetan political prisoners, in a joint communication that was sent to the Chinese government demanding explanation on their whereabouts.

Our campaign demanding the release of Rinchen Kyi would not have achieved this success without your active support. Thank you. We look forward to your continued support so that together we can celebrate many more successes in the coming future.

Activists in the UK call for Rinchen Kyi’s release outside the Embassy of China in London.



# CAMPAIGNS UPDATE

## REFLECTING ON NO BEIJING 2022

The 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing will go down in history as a total flop. Thanks to the tireless work of campaigners, activists and protesters from around the world, an event which was set to become a propaganda parade for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) instead turned into a PR disaster. Free Tibet counts down the top five campaign wins of the No Beijing 2022 campaign:

5

### Media attention

Working together with other groups seeking to challenge the CCP's human rights abuses and genocide, we were able to turn news from Tibet, East Turkestan, Hong Kong and mainland China into headlines around the world.

4

### Highlighting fear and paranoia

In February 2022, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) released a video in a weak attempt to show solidarity with athletes and spread a message of unity. We took that video and edited it to show the IOC what solidarity really looks like. This video was subsequently removed from Facebook and Instagram at the request of the Beijing 2022 Organising Committee.

3

### Interrupting the torch lighting ceremony

Back in October 2021, the Olympic torch was being lit in the traditional ceremony in Olympia, Greece. What organisers did not expect was the bravery and audacity of nonviolent action. Free Tibet's own Jason Leith joined with activists Chemi Lhamo and Fern MacDougal to successfully interrupt the ceremony at the moment the flame was being lit. During the live camera feed from the event, their chants opposing China being host to the Winter Olympics and the CCP's oppression of Tibetans could be heard clearly, while photographers on the scene snapped images of their unexpected ambush.

2

### Dismal viewership

As the Olympics drew closer, groups around the world joined together to launch the #IWillNotWatch campaign. Thousands of people signed pledges to switch off from the Winter Olympics and steal away the propaganda win that the CCP so desperately wanted.

1

### Diplomatic boycotts

When the Summer Olympics were hosted in Beijing in 2008 the call for a boycott, in response to the Chinese government's human rights abuses, was not heeded by most. In 2022, however, our voices were heard. Thanks to over a year of sustained campaigning from the Tibetan, Uyghur, Hong Konger and sympathetic Chinese communities, several governments committed to do the right thing and stand up to the CCP. The efforts of Free Tibet's supporters, donors and followers, cannot be understated regarding these victories. It is thanks to your determination that we were able to deliver this crushing blow to the CCP's ego and bring Tibet to the forefront of global news reporting. Together, we can keep the energy of the No Beijing 2022 campaign going and continue to push for meaningful action for Tibet.

You can read the full story on our [#NoBeijing2022](https://freetibet.org/no-beijing-2022-wins) campaign wins here: [freetibet.org/no-beijing-2022-wins](https://freetibet.org/no-beijing-2022-wins)

The Environmentally Unfriendly Secret of the Beijing Olympics

Winter Olympics: Athletes advised to use burner phones in Beijing

'Nobody can say anything': China cracks down on dissent ahead of Olympics

Olympians complain about

in China use the Beijing Olympics to 'bootwash' its abuses against the Uyghurs?

only if the

fragged

THE IOC HAS BACKED THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT,

POLICE BRUTALITY  
TORTURE  
MASS ARRESTS  
EXECUTIONS  
LABOUR CAMPS  
RELIGIOUS REPRESSION  
GENOCIDE

Viewing figures UK

Flags: United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Norway, Canada



# HIKING UP THE PRESSURE ON HIKVISION

This year Free Tibet has continued our campaign against the Chinese-state controlled CCTV manufacturer Hikvision, which has been a key component of the creation of a surveillance state in Tibet – something we proved this year when we unearthed documents showing surveillance authorities in Tibet had purchased a number of Hikvision cameras. The company has also been heavily involved in the creation of Uyghur concentration camps in East Turkestan.

There are over one million Hikvision cameras in the UK, and our research found that many of them are paid for and operated by local authorities and government departments. Three quarters of UK councils and at least three government departments use Hikvision cameras.

## Hikvision gets the boot

So far this year, we've been working with influential partners to campaign on a number of fronts including pressuring the UK government, pushing for changes to the law and shining a light on the extent of Hikvision's use in the UK.

In April, we received confirmation that the UK's Department of Health and Social Care, one of the

biggest government departments, had committed to begin phasing out Hikvision cameras because of the company's links to human rights abuses.

We have also been pushing for amendments to the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure and Public Procurement bills to address Hikvision's support for human rights abuses and its security flaws.

In May, we visited Hikvision's UK headquarters to encourage their staff to ask their bosses more questions about the company's links to Uyghur and Tibetan human rights

abuses. We will continue to target Hikvision's UK executives to push for them to finally answer inquiries from the UK's CCTV commissioner.

In just a few months, we have made significant progress towards getting Hikvision banned from the UK and stopping an important stream of funding towards one of the key players in Tibetan surveillance. With your help we can get Hikvision out of the UK.

Show your support to get Hikvision out of the UK by signing our petition:

[secure.freetibet.org/hikvision-petition](https://secure.freetibet.org/hikvision-petition)

Insight from our campaigning partner Big Brother Watch:

## HIKVISION AND DAHUA ARE WATCHING US.

Big Brother Watch's investigation has found that surveillance cameras supplied by Chinese state-owned companies like Hikvision and Dahua are everywhere: in schools, hospitals, local authorities, police forces and even government departments.

But the cameras that monitor so much of public life in the UK are the same devices that are watching over persecution across China and they have no place in democratic, rights-respecting nations.

Worse still, both companies have track records of significant cybersecurity problems and glitches. These flaws, coupled with their state links, pose a real risk to privacy and security. The government urgently needs to rethink its lax attitude towards the dominance of these companies across the UK. It's time we followed the US and banned the sale and use of Hikvision and Dahua.

# UK'S TIBETAN COMMUNITY WELCOMES ENES KANTER FREEDOM

On Saturday 9 April 2022, former NBA basketball star Enes Kanter Freedom met with the Tibetan Community in Britain during a small event at the Tibetan Peace Garden in London.

Tibetan community speakers expressed their thanks to Freedom for his commitment to stand up for Tibetans around the world and his outspoken defiance of the Chinese Communist Party's colonisation of Tibet and East Turkestan.

Speaking to the Tibetan community, Freedom implored them to continue their fight for freedom and peace, and to never give up hope. He expressed his love for the Tibetan people and culture, sharing personal anecdotes of his past work with community members around the world and his meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Representatives from the community – as well as Rahima Mahmut from World Uyghur Congress – stood with the 29-year-old NBA star in front of the Tibetan flag, expressing their thanks for his allyship and support. The atmosphere remained

upbeat and relaxed as members shared jokes and stories with the accomplished basketball player and activist.

Bringing a Tibetan cultural flair to the event, Tibetan community members performed Tibetan opera, music and dance – all in traditional Tibetan attire. The event ended as Free Tibet and the Tibetan Community in Britain presented Freedom with gifts to thank him for coming and for his hard work in standing up for Tibetans – though we may not have judged his T-shirt size correctly!



## VOLUNTEER FOR FREE TIBET

Are you passionate about freeing Tibet? Do you have experience with fundraising?

If the answer is 'yes', we would love to hear from you. Take part in this unique opportunity to gain a valuable insight into the workings of a small but powerful campaigning organisation by volunteering with Free Tibet. We can't wait for you to join us!

Take a look online to view our volunteering vacancies and apply: [freetibet.org/jobs](https://freetibet.org/jobs)

# ADVOCATING FOR TIBET IN UK PARLIAMENT

**Tenzin Kunga, Free Tibet's newly appointed Advocacy Officer, reports on the various advocacy updates and moves towards strengthening our impact in UK parliament over recent months.**

In her opening remarks to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council in Geneva on 1 March 2022, the UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss expressed concern about the situation in Tibet – one of the first references to Tibet in an official written speech by a UK government minister in a long time.

Echoing similar concern, Simon Manley – the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN – remarked at the UN Human Rights Council on 21 March that “the situation in Tibet remains of deep international concern, including reports of boarding schools being used to further erode cultural, linguistic and religious identity”.

Prior to this, on 31 January, Navendu Mishra, Labour MP, submitted two written questions to the UK government expressing concern about reports of Chinese boarding schools in Tibet and about the status of Tibetan language; and simultaneously raised these concerns during debates in the House, drawing responses from the government.

Replying on behalf of the UK government, Amanda Milling, Conservative MP and Minister of State for Asia and the Middle East, wrote on 8 February 2022: “We have serious concerns about the situation in Tibet, including reports that Tibetan parents are being coerced into sending their children to residential schools. We continue to urge China to respect all fundamental rights across the People's Republic of China, including in Tibet.”

## **APPG for Tibet**

Free Tibet and Tibet Society continues to uphold the role of Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Tibet, further supported by my role as Advocacy Officer. During the APPG for Tibet's AGM on 2 March 2022, all nine parliamentarians were re-elected as the Group's Officers.

This included: Tim Loughton Conservative MP as Chair, Chris Law Scottish National Party MP as Co-Chair and Kerry McCarthy Labour MP as Vice Chair – all of



Free Tibet's Tenzin Kunga (left) pictured with UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss (right).

whom addressed the rally commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the 10 March Tibetan National Uprising Day in London. As part of the commemoration, a flower wreath was placed on the Innocent Victims' Memorial in front of Westminster Abbey on 16 March.

During the wreath-laying ceremony, Tim Loughton remarked: “Today we come together, again, to remember more than a million who have lost their lives since the 1950s at the hands of the Chinese regime. To remember those who continue to live in fear and curtailment of their rights in Tibet as well as those outside of China who still are affected by the long arm of the Chinese authorities. We show them solidarity, just as we show solidarity with the people of Ukraine, to Uyghurs and to Hong Kongers.”

Free Tibet and Tibet Society continues to reach out to parliamentarians in the UK – to shine a spotlight on the grim situation inside Tibet, with the hope of bringing in much needed legislation on behalf of Tibetans in Tibet.



The situation in Tibet remains of deep international concern.

# STOP CHINA'S WAR ON BUDDHISM

Our new campaign challenges the Chinese Communist Party's religious repression.

Since October 2021, Drago County in eastern Tibet has faced an onslaught at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) that has seen the local community turned upside down. The events in Drago County are both horrific and representative of the CCP's brutal occupation of Tibet and its desire to interfere with every aspect of Tibetan life, including Tibetan Buddhism.

Free Tibet and our research partner Tibet Watch first caught on that something was wrong when officials tore down a Tibetan Buddhist school attached to Drago Monastery. Gaden Rabten Namgyaling School was best known for providing students with a broad curriculum that offered teachings about the wider world and education specific to Tibet, including the Tibetan language, Tibetan culture and Buddhism. Some 130 student monks have been left with nowhere to study as their school was reduced to rubble and the building materials carted away.

In the following months, more horror stories emerged from Drago – with each news clip came a new layer of insult and misery. A building housing 45 giant prayer wheels was demolished, as was the residence of an esteemed senior monk, while prayer flags on and around Drago Monastery were ripped down and burned.

The demolitions were clearly designed to cause maximum distress to Tibetan residents – some of whom were forcibly recruited into assisting with the demolitions. At least 12 local Tibetans were detained, tortured and sent for political re-education for allegedly showing signs of distress over the demolitions or sharing information about them.

Most symbolically, three large statues of the Buddha in Drago County were destroyed. One of them, a 99-foot-tall statue affectionately known as the “People’s Buddha”, had been funded by farmers and nomads donating income from their harvests to pay for its construction.

The assault on Drago County is the latest outrage in the seven decades of abuses that the CCP has inflicted on Tibetan Buddhists and their religion. As different CCP leaders have come and gone, each has imposed their own twisted and oppressive views onto occupied Tibet. Tibet was not yet occupied when Mao Zedong's Red Army first looted monasteries in eastern Tibet during the Long March of 1934–35.

Red Army members would later return as the People's Liberation Army in the 1950s, a decade that began with invasion of Tibet and culminated in the Dalai Lama escaping Tibet in 1959.

From the wholesale destruction of the Cultural Revolution under Mao in the late 1960s and 1970s, to the kidnapping of the six-year-old Panchen Lama in 1995 and the crackdown on monks and nuns after the 2008 uprising, the CCP has never ceased to treat Tibetan Buddhism as an obstacle and a threat. By expressing their culture, living their distinct way of life and practising their religion, Tibetans have defied the CCP and challenged its overarching aim of colonising Tibet.



The demolition of Gaden Rabten Namgyaling school at Drago Monastery begins.





Tibetans have defied the CCP and challenged its overarching aim of colonising Tibet.

Today, under Xi Jinping – the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong – Tibetan Buddhism is in as risky a position as it ever has been. The repression extends from top to bottom. Children across Tibet have been banned from participating in religious events and sent to boarding schools where they are forced to undergo a CCP-approved education that omits Tibetan Buddhism. The Buddhist communities of Larung Gar and Yarchen Gar have seen thousands of residents expelled and their houses flattened. Monasteries are run by CCP officials and forced to fly Chinese flags.

Where portraits of the Dalai Lama once graced the shrines in Tibetans' houses, Tibetans are instead ordered to display pictures of Xi and other senior CCP officials. Anyone caught in possession of images of the Dalai Lama or recordings of his teachings and anyone who mentions his name in public risks almost certain arrest. The CCP even claims that it has the right to control the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama and that when the time comes, it will impose its own Beijing-appointed Dalai Lama.

Meanwhile, the painful unknown whereabouts of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Panchen Lama, remains a closely guarded secret. The Chinese government claims that the six-year-old boy who disappeared in 1995 has now found a job, is happy and does not wish to be disturbed. As Beijing promotes

its own Panchen Lama in Tibet, Tibetans continue to demand answers about Gedhun Choekyi Nyima.

All of these outrages are connected, and they demand a comprehensive response. To this end, in May, we launched our new campaign, Stop China's War on Buddhism – a recognition that Tibetan Buddhism is being systematically eradicated by the CCP and that a renewed push is needed to challenge the CCP's religious repression

With your help, we can make a huge difference. Accompanied by dedicated behind-the-scenes lobbying, we are calling on governments to demand a field investigation to assess the destruction at Drago County, to repair the damage and that all detainees be released. We are pushing for governments to follow the lead of the United States and publicly state that the succession of the Dalai Lama is a matter for Tibetans only, that the CCP has no business interfering and that any Dalai Lama imposed on Tibet by Beijing will be ignored. And we continue to push for answers regarding the location of the Panchen Lama, who has been missing for 27 years.

In the words of Tenzin Kunga, Free Tibet's Advocacy Officer, "this task will not be easy but if we do not act now, the damage done to Tibet's religion and culture will never recover".

None of this vital work would be possible without your support.

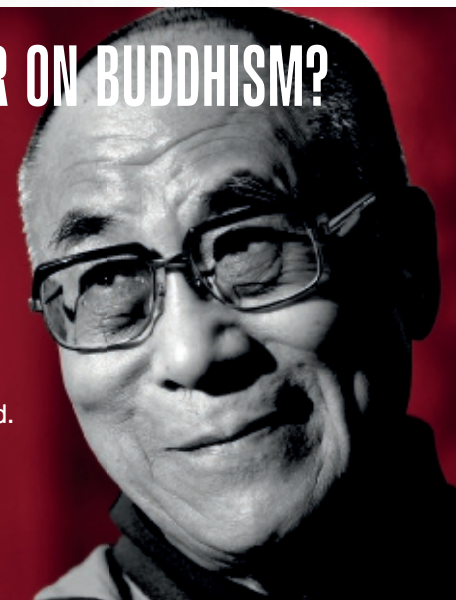
## HOW WILL YOUR DONATION HELP STOP CHINA'S WAR ON BUDDHISM?

**£5** will fund parliamentary advocacy. Your donation will back receptive parliamentarians in speaking out against religious persecution in Tibet.

**£10** will fund a series of demonstrations bringing to life the unique beauty and significance of Tibetan Buddhism. This will be essential in spreading our message.

**£15** will bring Tibet to a wider audience. Working with others in the wider movement and with your support we will take our campaign across the world.

Will you stand with Tibetans as they defend their religion? Please act now by making a donation to our Stop China's war on Buddhism campaign. You can follow the campaign and take part by visiting: [freetibet.org/scwb](http://freetibet.org/scwb)



# NEARLY A MILLION TIBETAN CHILDREN SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES

Over 800,000 children – over three out of every four Tibetan students – have been separated from their families and communities and sent into a vast network of colonial boarding schools across Tibet. Despite the numbers sounding too extreme to be real, this is likely to be an underestimate.

This shocking finding comes from extensive work carried out by our friends at the Tibetan Action Institute, who have meticulously sifted through Chinese government data and on-the-ground accounts from Tibet.

The boarding school system and human rights abuse against children happening in Tibet echoes historic examples of colonial boarding schools formerly used in Australia, Canada and the United States. In these more well-known instances, where indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and placed into boarding schools, these powerful countries made it their mission to erase the identities

of indigenous people and force their own identity, culture and way of life upon them. While these schools have since largely been closed down – and there have been numerous investigations and apologies in Australia and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada in recent years – in Tibet, these atrocities only seem to be building momentum.

The purpose is certainly the same: Tibetan children are forced to study in Chinese and about Chinese culture rather than in Tibetan and Tibetan culture. They are subjected to Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-approved education and indoctrination. All the while, they are removed from their communities and families – causing unethical emotional distress for both parents and the children.

The orders behind this programme come from the top. Xi Jinping is invested in the forced assimilation of Tibetans and the principle that religion and the Tibetan way of life

be subject to central government control. The aim was reflected by the former Party Secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Region, Chen Quanguo, who boasted about his attempts to eradicate Tibetan identity and its unique cultural, religious and linguistic identity – a process dubbed “breaking lineage, breaking roots, breaking connections, and breaking origins”.

Laughably, the Chinese government claims that these boarding schools are necessary because Tibet is a vast place and there is a lack of educational opportunities. Simply refer to the centre spread of this magazine, where we outline how and why a Tibetan school was demolished (page 8) or our story about Rinchen Kyi (page 3), whose school was forcibly closed down and who was detained and only recently released, and have a guess as to why this might be.

In response to these revelations, Free Tibet joined an emergency cross-movement campaign to call on the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to speak out about these colonial boarding schools and to secure a visit to Tibet to investigate them. High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet has been completely silent on Tibet since her appointment in 2018, but after a month of campaigning, a whopping 17,000 people had signed the action. We are proud to report that this included over 8,000 Free Tibet supporters, like you. The petition was delivered to Bachelet’s office in May 2022 and we will keep you updated on further developments as they happen.



# Give the gift of freedom with a Gift for Human Rights

The perfect present for someone special: Gifts for Human Rights really brings Free Tibet's work to life. Each gift includes a detailed greetings card – specific to one of our three main campaigns – for you to personalise and a handmade Tibetan character doll.

Every Gift for Human Rights bought for £20 will support powerful campaigning, lobbying and the self-determination of the Tibetan people.

- **Environmental Protection**  
This gift helps call for international recognition of Tibet within climate talks.
- **Cultural Freedom**  
This gift helps ensure the protection of cultural freedom for all Tibetans.
- **Religious Expression**  
This gift supports the protection of religious freedom for Tibetans.

You can find out more and purchase a Gift for Human Rights through our online shop, our summer shop catalogue or by contacting us at Free Tibet.



[shop.freetibet.org/collections/gifts-for-human-rights](http://shop.freetibet.org/collections/gifts-for-human-rights)

# 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.

## SELF IMMOLATIONS RETURN TO TIBET

Free Tibet received reports of the deaths of two Tibetans following self-immolation protests – the first, that we are aware of – since 2019. In February 2022, Tsewang Norbu (right) set fire to himself outside the Potala Palace in Lhasa, the first such protest in the capital in more than 10 years. The 25-year-old was a well-loved singer-songwriter who had appeared on a number of popular Chinese talent shows. In March, 81-year-old Tsering Samdup carried out his self-immolation protest outside a police station in Kyegudo County in eastern Tibet. It is understood that he had been trying to raise issues with the local authorities and had been ignored.



## FORMER POLITICAL PRISONER INTERROGATED

Tashi Wangchuk (above), who was released from prison last year – following Free Tibet’s campaigning – has been interrogated by police after he visited government offices in Qinghai to advocate for the protection and use of the Tibetan language. Since the interrogation he has stated that he will continue his public promotion of the Tibetan language.

## CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 11 DETAINED FOR SHOWING EMOTIONS

According to new information received by Free Tibet, Chinese police authorities arrested three Tibetan children from their boarding school in Markham County last October, under the pretext of them needing ‘psychological counselling’. This came after the children admitted that they were unhappy about the removal of Tibetan classes from their school.

The three children – a 16-year-old boy named Yalsang, a 15-year-old girl named Sermo and an 11-year-old girl named Yangkyi – have been taken to a so-called ‘reform through education centre’ in Markham County, Chamdo and little is known of their well-being.

Two months prior to detaining the children, the Chinese government announced the implementation of a new education policy that banned classes being taught in Tibetan. Subsequently, all textbooks written in local languages were replaced by ones written in Mandarin.

## MORE PUNISHMENTS FOR ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

There have been numerous reports of Tibetans being arrested for discussing religion or contacting exiled relatives on the internet. Sources told Free Tibet's research partner, Tibet Watch, that a 24-year-old named Palsang was arrested in November 2021 after he used WeChat to post messages supporting the use of the Tibetan language. He was held in a local jail for two weeks before being moved to Xining City. His current whereabouts are unknown.

In February 2022, Free Tibet learned that – for the last two years – police in Drag-yab County (pictured below) have required the families of exiled Tibetans to install an app on their phones which grants the authorities complete access to their phone's data. Anyone found with 'politically sensitive' material or thought to be communicating with people outside of Tibet will be detained for months at a time and then kept under strict surveillance. Those arrested include Buddhist nun Lobsang Tsomo, who was suspected of contacting Tibetans outside of Tibet and imprisoned for three months – during which time she was severely beaten.

In March, new restrictions came into effect which give the Chinese government more power to restrict religious freedom in Tibet, including a ban on sharing religious information online. Organisations and individuals must now obtain a licence to do so. The new laws have already been used to shut down a number of WeChat groups run by Tibetans based in Qinghai.



VINCENT CHAN / UNSPLASH

## FIVE-YEAR-OLD SNATCHED BY POLICE

In April 2022, police are reported to have grabbed Kundol Sangmo, a five-year-old girl, from her mother, Dekyi, on a street in Purang County in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Dekyi was working as a street cleaner at the time when police accused her of breaching Covid-19 regulations and took her daughter. At the time of writing we have no information about the whereabouts or health of Kundol Sangmo or Dekyi.

# TIBET MATCH

## A huge thank you to everyone who donated to Tibet Match 2022

We were absolutely blown away by the incredible support Tibet Match received this year. The total, including Gift Aid and our match pot, amounted to an amazing **£25,667** for Tibet Watch's important research work.

Since 2006, Tibet Watch has continued to be world leaders in sourcing and disseminating vital information from inside Tibet – forcing the international media to focus on the injustices carried out by the Chinese Communist Party.

Each year, a handful of generous donors make up the Tibet Match pot. We would like to extend a special thank you to those who contributed this year. Your generous donations are vital to the continued success of Tibet Match. Your support for Tibet Match will allow us to continue carrying out vital work like this – thank you!

We know that there are many more victories ahead of us in our efforts towards Tibetan freedom and we can't wait to see you back next year for Tibet Match 2023.

# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

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), by phone on +44 (0)330 016 8404 or by post to: Letters, Free Tibet, ER82, The Link, Effra Road, SW2 1BZ, UK  
Please note we cannot guarantee publication of each letter we receive. Thank you!

## SUPPORTER RESPONSES

Your replies to our campaign updates are incredibly important to us here at Free Tibet. We often get messages when we send you a campaign update by email or post. Your emails and letters are insightful, critical and engaging in their response to our work. So, we wanted to share with you some of our favourite replies from you, our supporters:

**Our Hikvision campaign gave one supporter the idea to reach out to their Police and Crime Commissioner to hear what they had to say about using cameras that directly fund the CCP and their unethical activities. Their PCC wrote back to them and the supporter forwarded the response to us:**

Dear Free Tibet,

I enclose a letter from the PCC for Cumbria...

"I have discussed your letter with the Constabulary and am able to advise that they procure equipment in line with guidance provided centrally from HM government. I can confirm that at this time there is no specific prohibition [of] technology from Hikvision, however I have brought your concerns to the Superintendent responsible for the Constabulary's CCTV. I am assured your ethical concerns will be taken into consideration during future procurement."

It would seem that we need to get the government to change the procurement criteria, so please keep up the good work highlighting CCP policies, activities and crimes.

**In response to our No Beijing 2022 campaign – whereby you, our supporters, offered signatures, emails and other support which directly led to the diplomatic boycotting of the Olympics – one supporter wrote in to say:**

Well done! Ten countries diplomatically boycotting the Olympics is an incredible achievement for the movement, and for it to have the lowest viewership of the century is a brilliant step for anti-CCP, pro-freedom movements everywhere.

I personally didn't watch any coverage of the Olympics at all due to your message. And I think it shows that non-violent protests are an effective way forward for peace.

The historical British empire obviously has a lot to answer for and there is much work to be done internationally to right these historical wrongs but seeing a UK campaigns organisation doing this much good brings hope. I obviously have the freedom to express my opinions on what the government should be doing, and that's all I hope for the Tibetan's also. Keep it up!



## FUNDRAISE FOR TIBET

Raising money is a fun and rewarding way to contribute to Free Tibet. From bake sales to pub quizzes, whatever you choose to do, you'll know that every pound you raise is making a real difference to the rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people. We would love to hear all about your fundraising ideas. Visit our Fundraise for Tibet webpages to get inspired, find out more and register your fundraiser. We are here to support you every step of the way. [freetibet.org/take-action/fundraising](https://freetibet.org/take-action/fundraising)

## SUPPORTER ACTIONS

### Mayor raises Tibet flag in Milton Keynes

Free Tibet staff Namgyal Tsondue and Tenzin Kunga were proud to attend the ninth Tibetan flag-raising event held at the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist temple in Milton Keynes on 24 April 2022. The event was organised by longtime Tibet supporter Catherine Mostyn Scott along with her team of volunteers. This year's event saw a large turnout of around 100 people, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama's UK representative Sonam Frasi and the Mayor of Milton Keynes – Mohammed Khan.



Left to right: Office of Tibet London's Tenzin Zeydhan, Free Tibet's Tenzin Kunga, Sonam Frasi, Mayor Mohammed Khan and Free Tibet's Namgyal Tsondue at the Tibetan flag-raising ceremony in Milton Keynes.

Mayor Khan addressed the crowd saying:

"Fighting for freedom and having your flags standing tall is one of the best things in the world one can have. I like to state to all the occupying countries that freedom is there for everyone".

After several speeches by attendees, the Tibetan flag was proudly raised by Mayor Khan and Sonam Frasi. Afterwards, a group of supporters carried the flag around the picturesque Willen Lake. Scott told local newspaper, The MK Citizen, that she was "deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making this such a happy and successful celebration of a beautiful flag. My thanks go to Sister Maruta and her team for allowing us to use this beautiful and peaceful setting." Free Tibet looks forward to attending the 10th anniversary of the flag-raising ceremony next year.

### 'Walking the Himalayas' campaign success

Well-known Tibetan poet and activist Tenzin Tsundue completed an incredible walking tour of the Himalayas in December 2021 with the mission of educating people about China's repressive policies in Tibet. Tsundue spent an astonishing 127 days walking and travelling via public transport across five northern Indian states – traversing 20,000 kilometres of remote, mountainous terrain.

In a press release, 47-year-old Tsundue explained why he took on this impressive task: "[To] journey through the Indian Himalayas to create more awareness about the 70 years of Chinese occupation of Tibet, [...] its impact on [the] Indian Himalayas [and] the growing Chinese security threats on India."

Tenzin Tsundue has been involved in Tibet activism for 25 years and has taken part in countless actions over the years. He has been detained at least 16 times for his daring protests, including during the Chinese premier's India visit in 2005 where he climbed the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and waved a Free Tibet banner.



Tenzin Tsundue in Ladakh, India during his walking tour. Credit: Tenzin Leckphel, Phayul.

**Free Tibet is delighted to welcome new Mi Tse (life long) supporters: Ken Cowling and David Burlison.**

**Have you organised or taken part in an event for Tibet or Free Tibet recently?**

Or do you have an event coming up? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at [mail@freetibet.org](mailto:mail@freetibet.org) for a chance to be featured here on our Supporter Spotlight page.



# LET FREEDOM BE YOUR LEGACY!

Remember Free Tibet with a gift in your will.

For more information please contact us on  
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