

FREE TIBET

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Tibetans
demand
justice

freeTIBET

• Massive protests in Tibet • Dalai Lama visits UK • T for Tibet

“ If the present situation in Tibet continues, I am very much concerned that the Chinese Government will unleash more force and increase the suppression of Tibetan people ”

The Dalai Lama, 6 April 2008, Dharamsala



Anne Holmes,
Campaigns Manager

Dear Friends,

It's been a tumultuous time since our last magazine. On the anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan Uprising, monks in Lhasa protested peacefully, calling for the release of political prisoners and the return of the Dalai Lama. The brutality with which peaceful protest was met led to a day of rioting in Lhasa, after which demonstrations spread throughout the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and into Kham and Amdo, historical provinces of Tibet. Within a week, the Chinese government had removed all foreign journalists and tourists from all regions of Tibet.

Despite the media blackout, Free Tibet, has been able to get news about the continued protests and the brutal crackdown to the outside world. More than 100 people have been killed and thousands arrested.

Attempts by the Chinese government to hijack the ideals of the Olympics whilst abusing human rights turned into a PR disaster during the Torch relay. I would like to thank all our supporters who came out on 6 April to send a clear message to the Chinese and British governments that human rights matter.

Thank you, also, to everyone who called on Gordon Brown to meet the Dalai Lama. However, as the first world

leader to meet him since the unrest began in Tibet, it was unconscionable that Gordon Brown chose Lambeth Palace and not Downing Street as the venue. The UK government continues to place all its faith in negotiations between the Tibetan government-in-exile and the Chinese government. Of course negotiations are crucial, but talks can never succeed until the Chinese government removes its preconditions and ends its campaign of vilification against the Dalai Lama.

Gordon Brown and other world leaders must adopt a proactive role, demanding the Chinese government negotiate openly. If no progress is made before August, they should boycott the Beijing Games of Shame.

And athletes must search their hearts. Will they take a stand, as Glenn Hatrick did in an Ironman competition in China (see page 8), or will they compete in silence as human rights continue to be abused in Tibet? How hard is it to make a T for Tibet sign?

As always, thank you so much for your support - it's time to free Tibet.

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Free Tibet Campaign stands for the right of Tibetans to determine their own future. It campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for the fundamental human rights of Tibetans to be respected. Founded in 1987, Free Tibet Campaign generates active support by education about the situation in Tibet. It is independent of all governments and is funded by its members and supporters.

Views expressed in *Free Tibet* are not necessarily those of Free Tibet Campaign.

Editor: Janet Fereday
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Cover: Free Tibet Campaign protest march. 22 March 2008. Andrew Wiard

T for Tibet

Celebrities join our campaign to create a simple gesture of support for Tibet at the Olympics.

It was a simple idea. Athletes have been told they are not allowed to speak out about the atrocities in Tibet while competing in the Beijing Olympic Games. Some athletes were being told they could not even wear a Free Tibet t-shirt outside the Olympic Village.

So how could they show their support without being barred from competing in events for which they had been training all their lives? Free Tibet has the answer – *T for Tibet*.

It's a quick, simple hand signal that anyone can use to send a clear message of support for Tibet. Athletes

can make the sign when accepting their medals, spectators can make the sign when watching the Games – anyone can do it anytime, that's the beauty of it. The challenge is getting the hand signal recognised before the Games begin.

Enter Clive Arrowsmith, world renowned photographer and long time supporter of Tibet. Clive was keen to put his skills to use on a project that would help raise awareness about the problems in Tibet and the urgency to act now. So we set about recruiting public figures who could help us deliver the message by taking part in the first of a series of *T for Tibet* photo shoots in early June.

One of the first to answer the call was Philip Glenister, who famously portrays DCI Gene Hunt in *Life on Mars* and *Ashes to Ashes*. When approached, he told Free Tibet Campaign he'd been appalled by events in Tibet and was wondering what he could do to help.

Joanna Lumley, our wonderful, long term supporter, was also keen to be involved from the very beginning.

Award winning actress Amanda Donohoe, who's had a long involvement in human rights issues, also jumped at the chance to take part. Amanda told us she clearly understood the time for a solution in Tibet is now.

Special thanks also to the talented Shazia Mirza and Susan Murray, two of the comedians who previously offered their support by performing at our Yakety Yak comedy benefit last November.

There will be another photo shoot soon to allow the many people who couldn't take part the first time to be involved. The *T for Tibet* campaign will be officially launched soon after so look out for it.

Please don't wait to get involved. Tell your friends to tell their friends to tell their friends: *T for Tibet*.

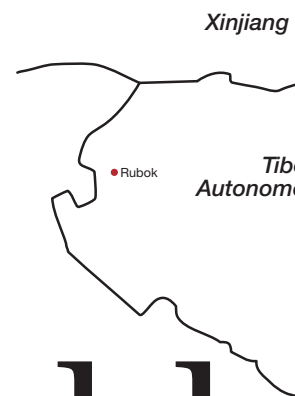
Philip Glenister, giving it the Gene Hunt stare, at the T for Tibet photo shoot.



CLIVE ARROWSMITH

Special thanks to Free Tibet Campaign's Gabriel Hartnell and our volunteer Nicole Houghton for their help on the day.

Tibetan protests shock the world



In March and April 2008 Tibet grabbed the world headlines as peaceful protests turned violent and spread across the country. Free Tibet has been working to find out the truth of the scale and extent of these unprecedented protests.

In March this year Tibet saw the beginning of an uprising on a scale not seen since 1989. Unlike 1989, the protests spread well beyond the capital Lhasa to include the Tibetan areas of China outside the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). Almost 80% of the demonstrations took place in Amdo, in the Chinese province of Qinghai.

It is estimated that over 100 protests took place throughout March and April. The number of Tibetans taking part is unknown, but Chinese reports have estimated some 30,000 people.

Unlike previous protests, the demonstrators included students, nomads and ordinary citizens as well as monks and nuns of all ages. Almost all the protests were completely peaceful. A few in Lhasa resulted in attacks on Chinese businesses, government and police buildings.

According to Chinese government figures, 22 Chinese and one Tibetan were killed in the protests. The Tibetan government in exile puts the Tibetan death toll at 203. Following the military crackdown in Tibetan areas, thousands of people have been arrested in house-to-house searches and many are still missing.

All foreigners and journalists were expelled from Tibet by 17 March. Phone lines are still severely limited and the threat of serious reprisals against Tibetans passing on information makes communication with Tibetans inside the country practically impossible.

Here we summarise four of the key protests taking place during the uprising.





Labrang Monastery, Gansu Province. 14 March-15 April

One of the largest protests took place at Labrang. On 14 March around 1000 monks and laypeople gathered around the White Stupa of Labrang monastery for a religious ceremony. The gathering erupted in protests after monks draped in Tibetan flags began to call for the Chinese to leave Tibet and for the long life of the Dalai Lama. The crowd marched through the streets before being dispersed by police.

For several days small protests took place in and around Labrang, some involving clashes with police who fired tear gas and warning shots. Dozens of Tibetans were detained or injured. Phone lines and internet connections were cut and regulations put in place banning people from walking in groups of more than two people.

On 8 April a government organised media tour of foreign journalists visited Labrang. About twenty monks appeared in front of the cameras with Tibetan flags, shouting that they don't want independence, but they want human rights and the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet.

On 15 April, during a late night raid, 160 monks from Labrang monastery were arrested. There are reports that three monks are in hospital after being tortured, but nothing has been heard of the others.

Tongkor Monastery, Sichuan Province. 2-3 April

On 2 April Chinese authorities were conducting a "patriotic education" session which required the monks of Tongkor monastery to denounce the Dalai Lama. Chantmaster, Lobsang Jamyang, refused, allegedly saying he would rather die than take part in the sessions.

The next day all the remaining monks joined him, refusing the political indoctrination campaign. Chinese work teams arrived with armed police who searched the monastery, confiscating photos of the Dalai Lama. Two monks were arrested.

In response, all the monks from the monastery and around 400 laypeople marched to the township authorities demanding the release of the arrested monks. A clash occurred between Tibetans and the police. Machine guns were fired into the crowd killing at least eight people.

Kirti Monastery, Sichuan Province. 16 March

On 16 March a dispute occurred between police and monks at Gomang monastery after armed police removed a Buddhist flag replacing it with a Chinese one. Two monks were arrested.

Following the clashes, thousands of monks from Kirti monastery joined with laypeople and students from Ngaba County Middle School to demand the release of the two monks. The protesters burned police cars and threw stones then marched towards the police station and entered the compound where the police opened fire on them.

Between 15 and 30 people including women and a 16-year-old schoolgirl died in the shooting. Two days later graphic photos of the dead bodies emerged. (See www.freetibet.org/newsmedia/photos-kirti-monastery-discretion-advised)

One Kirti monastery monk - Lobsang Jinpa committed suicide on 27 March. In his note he said: "I do not want to live under the Chinese oppression even for a minute, leave aside living for a day".

Between 28 and 30 March, around 572 monks including 10-year-olds, were arbitrarily arrested. The whereabouts of the majority of monks is still unknown although it is hoped that many have since escaped into hiding, afraid to return.

Lhasa City, Tibetan Autonomous Region. 10 March-28 March

Protests began on 10 March with spontaneous demonstrations by monks from Sera and Drepung monasteries at the Jokhang Temple. Around 15 monks were apparently arrested at this time.

In the days that followed hundreds of monks from Drepung, Sera and Ganden monasteries and nuns from Chutsang marched towards the Jokhang to demand release of the arrested monks, but were stopped by police.

Thousands of Public Security Bureau (PSB) personnel with firearms and electric batons dispersed the crowd and arrested dozens more monks. Although police seemed restrained, a massive military buildup started to take place.

By 14 March peaceful protests had escalated to include hundreds of students and laypeople. The protests turned violent and led to the burning of Chinese shops and businesses. According to official figures, 19 Chinese people died during the protests.

There are several reports of armed police firing on protestors. The full Tibetan death toll is unknown. Free Tibet Campaign has received eye-witness reports of police collecting corpses and throwing them into police vans.

A heavy security crackdown followed from 15 March as house-to-house searches took place and former political prisoners were rounded up. *The Times* reported that dozens of handcuffed Tibetan protesters were paraded on tanks on the streets of Lhasa.

On 28 March about 30 monks from Jokhang Temple spoke out passionately to foreign journalists on a state-organised media tour. The monks were reported as saying: "... the army killed more than 100 Tibetans ... We want freedom and we want peace ... But after you leave, we are probably going to be arrested."

As we go to press their whereabouts following this incident remain unknown.

Dangerous dialogues

Dialogue between the Tibetan government in exile and Chinese authorities must now be treated with as much trepidation as relief according to one Tibetan expert. Here he analyses how the recent protests in Lhasa turned violent and what this means for the future.

By **Losel Tashi Topgyal**

In the biggest protests since the 1950s, Tibetans are rising up all over Tibet. It began on 10 March 2008. The international media is fixated on the 14 March violence, but these 100-plus protests were overwhelmingly peaceful. While the media has moved on to China-friendly stories, Tibetans are still protesting and refusing to co-operate with “patriotic education” teams.

What explains this sudden upheaval? In these protests, one sees an unprecedented expression of pan-Tibetan nationalism: today’s protests are neither localised, as in the 1950s, nor are they confined to Lhasa, as in 1987–1992. All Tibetans are protesting in the name of the Tibetan nation and its identity and rights.

It is not a sudden eruption either. In the heavily censored blogs and popular media from Tibet, one got the sense that something angry was brewing. The Dalai Lama’s exile and the futures of the Tibetan nation and identity in the face of perceived Chinese political and cultural imperialism are lamented at great risk. Tibetans have dealt with political hopelessness and cultural depression by escaping into exile, alcoholism, protests and even suicide. In Lhasa and Lixiang, high profile protests happened in 2007. As such, these protests can be seen in the light of a quiet and apparently weak child, who has endured incessant beatings and humiliation and faces an uncertain future finally fighting back against the playground bully.

Since 1989, China has implemented a hard-line set of policies in Tibet and towards the Dalai Lama. The hard-line

faction within Chinese officialdom, who pressed for ruthless suppression of dissent and unbridled economic development, ostensibly to buy Tibetan loyalty, and waiting for the Tibetan issue to die with the septuagenarian Dalai Lama, has side-lined the moderates who argued for engagement with the Dalai Lama. It is clear that the hard-line policy has managed neither to intimidate Tibetans nor to win their loyalty. Chinese immigration and the Dalai Lama’s continued exile worsened the anomie that had gripped the Tibetan psyche.

Thus, Beijing’s strategy of trying to render the Dalai Lama irrelevant has back-fired. Beijing has weakened the one authority that can rein in the more radical elements among the Tibetan nationalists. The Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile have been following the Middle Way policy that advocates Tibetan autonomy through uncompromised non-violence and dialogue. Since dialogue resumed in September 2002, the government-in-exile asked Tibetan exiles not to protest against visiting Chinese leaders. These unpopular appeals were also made prior to the 10 March anniversaries. During the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony, the Dalai Lama assured China that he would use his “authority and influence” to induce Tibetans to live as Chinese citizens. The Chinese led by Tibet’s hard-line Party Secretary Zhang Qingli stepped up the campaign of vilification against the Dalai Lama, describing him as a “false religious leader”. After raising expectation among Tibetans, Beijing



REUTERS

started to indicate in 2005 that it was not interested in meaningful negotiations. The Dalai Lama was vilified, his representatives not even formally recognised and his Middle Way policy, which has scaled down Tibetan demands even further from the unpopular concessions in the 1980s, was dismissed.

After six rounds of dialogue, which the Tibetan officials handled with great delicacy, nothing was achieved. The Dalai Lama conceded on 10 March 2008, “On the fundamental issue, there has been no concrete result.”

This was fodder for those Tibetans who consider the Dalai Lama as their beloved leader but argue that complete independence is the only guarantee for the survival of Tibetan identity and action-oriented strategies should be used. It is not in the nature of the Chinese regime to negotiate sincerely with a leader that advocates peace and a people that do not harm China’s national interests. Because China does not tolerate even peaceful Tibetan dissent and Tibetans see the government as the facilitator of Chinese colonialism, some protests turned violent against the Chinese migrants.

Talks always raise Tibetan hopes and expectations. Tibetans think that deliverance from political powerlessness, cultural depression and economic marginalisation is close. The possibility of being united with the Dalai Lama lifts their sunken spirits. When raised expectations are dashed, dialogue becomes dangerous.

The same thing happened when the dialogue that started in 1978 faltered in the mid-1980s. From 1987–1992, over 140 protests and riots rocked Lhasa and martial law had to be imposed in 1989. This means that dialogue must now be treated with as much trepidation as relief.

Beijing’s attempts to avoid making concessions and the ongoing ruthless and secretive crackdown are not surprising. However, the Tibetan struggle will go on for generations unless a solution is reached with the current Dalai Lama.

For Tibetan and Chinese benefits, world leaders should pressure Beijing to engage the Dalai Lama in sincere and substantive negotiations for a lasting settlement.

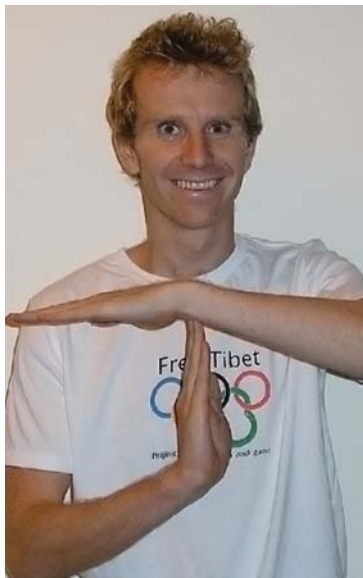
“The protests can be seen as a child who has endured incessant beatings finally fighting back against the playground bully.”

Chinese armoured personnel carriers patrol the streets of Lhasa after protests sweep the capital, 15 March 2008.

Hatrick scores for Tibet in China

Glenn Hatrick was thrilled when he qualified to compete in the Ironman triathlon in China in April 2008. But as the date for his departure approached, he grew increasingly uncomfortable about taking part in a sporting event in China. Glenn explains why he took action and why he thinks other athletes going to Beijing in August must also take a stand.

By Glenn Hatrick



Glenn in the t-shirt that earned him a disqualification in China.

I couldn't get the image out of my mind: the English football team raising their arms in the Nazi salute in Berlin in 1938. Two years earlier, Germany had been allowed to use the Olympics to glorify the Reich and promote the superiority of the Aryan race. Until now, the 1936 Olympics – which will always be known as 'Hitler's Games' – was the most outrageous use of sport to give credibility to an evil regime.

The world was promised by the International Olympic Committee that granting Beijing the 2008 Olympics would force the Chinese government to clean up its act on human rights. Instead, the Games are being used as a way of telling Tibetan and Chinese dissidents that they are friendless in the world.

The Chinese government seems so intent on demonstrating it won't be influenced by international pressure that it is acting with almost cartoonish villainy. The regime will keep on shooting Tibetans in the streets, jailing and torturing dissidents in Tibet and in China, supporting the brutality in Burma and Darfur. Put all this together and giving the Games to China looks less like an exercise in improving human rights and more like what it always was: an exercise in selling Cokes and cars and mobile phones to the expanding Chinese market.

The Olympic Torch Relay made it clear our leaders are far too scared of China's political and economic clout to challenge cultural genocide and utter contempt for human rights. They won't do what their citizens want them to do and boycott the Olympic ceremonies. The only people trying to prevent the Chinese government hijacking the Olympic ideals for propaganda were the protesters in the streets waving Tibetan flags and the climber who tried to get the Tibetan flag to the summit of Mount Everest.

Witnessing all this, I knew I couldn't go to China to take part in the international Ironman competition without saying or doing something.

I went to the Free Tibet Campaign office to buy a t-shirt depicting the Olympic rings as handcuffs. I hid the t-shirt in the bottom of my bag and waited until the final leg of the competition to reveal it.

When I first appeared in the stadium, the crowd cheered, apparently thinking I was promoting the Beijing Olympics, but the cheering soon ended when the Free Tibet message on my t-shirt became clear. The response from the organisers was immediate: I was disqualified.

Yes, it was gutting, after all those years of hard training for a gruelling event to be reduced to 'disqualified' on the records, but I was prepared to accept this possibility. I have no regrets. I don't see how any athlete can compete in China without visibly disassociating themselves from the legitimisation of a monstrous regime by conferring upon it the prestige of hosting a major international sporting event.

Athletes are very self-absorbed creatures, content to claim that they're just there to run fast/jump high/beat up the other guy, not to make political statements. They are too 'focussed' to understand anything beyond the white lines of the track. But you don't need to be a rocket scientist to work out that shooting civilians in the street, torturing dissidents, arming murderers or enforcing sterilisations are wrong, and that maybe they don't want to be seen as tacitly supporting these atrocities.

Our athletes have an opportunity to do a better job than our leaders. They can make it clear that they and the countries they represent oppose the Chinese government's appalling human rights record in Tibet and around the world. It is a difficult, but straightforward choice: stand up for justice, as Tommie Smith and John Carlos did with their Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympics or be used as complacent propaganda tools by a repressive regime. To those who compete in Beijing and say nothing, all I can say is: *Sieg Heil*.

New wave of political prisoners

In March and April 2008, Tibet erupted in widespread protests against the Chinese occupation, as described in the preceding pages. Prior to this, Free Tibet was aware of some 150 political prisoners in Tibetan jails, but in the wake of China's crackdown of the recent protests, thousands more have been arrested in house-to-house searches.

China's official figures put the number detained in April at 4400, claiming that around half were released within a few weeks. However, these figures relate only to the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), and do not include areas such as Sichuan and Qinghai where a large percentage of the protests took place.

Neither do the figures reflect the continuing arrests that have occurred since. In one incident alone, 54 nuns from Pangrina monastery in Kardze were rounded up after refusing to denounce the Dalai Lama in "patriotic education" sessions and protesting peacefully in the town.

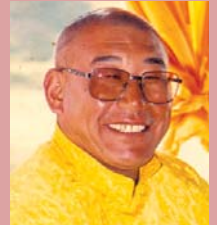
It is impossible to estimate how many people are currently being detained as China's total shutdown of Tibet has prevented independent assessment of the situation. Fear of intimidation and reprisals makes many Tibetans afraid to speak out, so we can only assume the number missing remains in the thousands. Many may have gone into hiding on release, afraid of continuing harassment and arrest.

Here we highlight just a few of the cases.

Phurbu Rinpoche.

Arrested: 19 May 2008, Trehor Kardze monastery.

At around 4:30am on 19 May, Phurbu Rinpoche, a lama of Trehor Kardze monastery, was arrested at his house in Kardze town. The details and reason for the arrest are still unknown. Phurpu Rinpoche is also the lama for two nunneries - Pangrina and Yatsak.



Sonam Dekyi.

Arrested: 23 April 2008, Drakar nunnery, Kardze.

Sonam Dekyi, a nun from Drakar in Kardze, was arrested along with another nun, Bhumo Laga, after calling for the return of the Dalai Lama. The arrests sparked further protests as local people and fellow nuns from the area marched to demand their release.



Sangey Tashi.

Arrested: 19 March 2008, Nyima, Machu.

Tibetan nomad Sangey Tashi remains in prison in Machu. He was arrested after being identified at protests in Machu on 16 March waving the Tibetan flag and shouting free Tibet slogans. A further nine people were arrested in connection with the protest.



Lodoe Wangpo.

Arrested: 14 April 08, Lanzhou.

Lodoe Wangpo was arrested in Lanzhou, on 14 April 2008. He was charged with organising peaceful protests on 17 March and of distributing photos and videos of several protests to sources outside Tibet. Two others, as yet unidentified, were arrested with him.



Action

Tibet has seen the most widespread protests against the Chinese occupation since 1959. The protests have been put down by brutal military force resulting in the arrest, torture and killing of Tibetans, including women and children.

There must be an immediate United Nations investigation into what happened in Tibet. Please write to Lord Malloch Brown, Minister for the UN and ask him to instruct the UK ambassador to the UN to demand an investigation.

Address:
Lord Malloch Brown
Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
Tel: 020 7008 1500

Campaigns

It's the real thing

On 20 March, Free Tibet Campaign, along with the other members of the International Tibet Support Network (ITSN), wrote to Coca-Cola and other sponsors of the Olympic Torch Relay, urging them to apply pressure on the Chinese government to withdraw all Tibetan populated areas from the relay route.

The letter, sent just days after protests engulfed Lhasa and the former Tibetan provinces of Kham and Amdo, stated that taking the Torch into Tibetan areas was “a blatant attempt by the Chinese government to underscore its baseless claims to sovereignty over Tibet”. We warned that the Torch

“may become the focus of further unrest, which would result in another heavy-handed crackdown”.

Ignoring the possibility of blood being spilt as a result of the Torch being born triumphantly through Tibet, Coca-Cola replied that it had no role in selecting the route and that “dropping out of the Torch Relay or using the event to put political pressure on China would erode the ability of the Olympic Games to make a contribution to lasting change in China”. Responses from other sponsors were equally disappointing.

Underscoring our concerns about the Torch being paraded through Lhasa and other areas of Tibet, Jampa

Phuntsog, Governor of the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR), warned that the authorities expected Tibetans to protest when the torch arrived and that “we will deal with these persons severely ... We will not be merciful.”

A 17 March internal International Olympic Committee memo (leaked in early April) warned members that protests and a violent Chinese crackdown were expected when the torch passed through Tibet. Rather than suggesting intervention, the memo simply advised IOC officials to respond by expressing “deepest sympathies or condolences”.

We wrote to Coca-Cola again, flagging Jampa Phuntsog’s dire warning and the IOC’s assessment that violence was expected. We made it clear that there was a “direct, tangible link between the ongoing repression in Tibet and the coming of the Olympic Flame, as Chinese authorities clear a path for the Torch Relay, employing the harshest of means”.

At the time of writing this article, neither Coca-Cola (which prides itself on being “the longest-standing sponsor of the Olympic Movement”), nor any of the other Torch Relay sponsors has called on the IOC to withdraw Tibet from the Torch Relay.

As we go to press, we have written to Coca-Cola one last time. Our warning, just days before the Torch was due to appear in Tibet, was straightforward.

If Coca-Cola does not publicly call for an end to the arbitrary detentions and beatings of men, women and children in Tibet – who are simply protesting for their basic human rights to be respected – and if it allows the Chinese government to hijack its brand, along with the Olympic rings and ideals, the image on the left is how Coca-Cola’s sponsorship of the Torch Relay will be remembered.

We can only hope no blood will be spilt, but if it is, Coca-Cola and other companies who seek to profit from associating their brands with the Olympic symbols will also have blood on their logos.



Giving Tibet a sporting chance

Hats off to Cadel Evans, who will be competing in the grueling Tour de France wearing a free Tibet t-shirt. The 31-year-old Australian cyclist will also be competing in Beijing, although he knows the t-shirt will be banned there.

Evans, who has a link to Free Tibet Campaign from his official website, told the Sydney Morning Herald on 13 June: "Trying to raise awareness about Tibet is something someone in my position can do. I feel really sorry for Tibetans. Their culture is being destroyed.

"I don't want to see a repeat of what happened to Aboriginal culture [in Australia] happen to another culture."

The outspokenness of Evans and the courage of Glenn Hatrick, who was disqualified for wearing a Free Tibet t-shirt at an international Ironman competition in China (read his story on page 8) gives us hope that other athletes will ignore restrictions and gagging orders and speak up for Tibet during the Olympics.

In the coming weeks we will be contacting athletes – directly and through the sports press. We will be offering them information about the current and historic situation in Tibet, explaining why it is so important to take a stand for Tibet (and human rights everywhere) at the Beijing Olympics, and providing suggestions for actions they can take.

We have produced a briefing paper, *Give Tibet a sporting chance*. If you know any athletes (even if they're not competing in the Olympics) who you think might benefit from the information, please send them a copy. Please also feel free to forward a copy to your local sports journalists. The briefing can be downloaded from our website.

China playing games with media

Before China won the right to stage the 2008 Olympics it made a clear and unambiguous commitment: "there will be no restrictions on media reporting and movement of journalists up to and including the Olympic Games".

In December 2006, however, when China published new regulations purporting to allow free reporting, it was clear that the government was already reneging on its promises. Crucially, foreign journalists wishing to report from Tibet and Xinjiang would still require a special government-issued permit.

Following the eruption of protests over the entire Tibetan plateau in March 2008, China demonstrated clearly that it had no intention of allowing any foreign press to report on politically sensitive news, regardless of earlier pledges. Just seven days after the start of protests in Lhasa, foreign journalists were detained in Amdo and Kham and prevented from getting to areas affected by the protests.

Jon Watts of *The Guardian* newspaper was forced to resort to filing a video commentary *Seven Years Not in Tibet* after being prevented from visiting Aba county in Sichuan where at least eight Tibetans were shot dead according to an eyewitness. Others were physically intimidated with one Finnish reporter being told: "You do not want to know what will happen to you if you do not let us see what is on that video".

China's systematic campaign to expel foreign journalists from the TAR and all Tibetan areas was accompanied by a huge military build-up with reports of huge convoys of military trucks carrying armed troops into Tibet.

There is an urgent need for journalists to be readmitted to all areas of Tibet. It is imperative to verify what has taken place since the protests started and to investigate claims that Chinese troops shot into crowds of protesters.

Free Tibet Campaign has lobbied the British government to demand that China readmits foreign journalists into all Tibetan areas affected by the protests.

Action

You can also help by sending a message to the British Olympic Association (BOA) that our athletes must not be gagged.

- Tell the BOA Chairman Lord Moynihan that our athletes should be allowed to voice their concerns about human rights abuses in Tibet and China.
- Request an official announcement from the BOA that British athletes will be allowed to speak out.

Write to:

Lord Moynihan
British Olympic Association
1 Wandsworth Plain,
London SW18 1EH
Tel:+44 (0) 20 8871 2677
Fax:+44 (0) 20 8871 9104
Email:boa@boa.org.uk



As Free Tibet Campaign is able to uncover more information about human rights abuses in Tibet and to identify the many thousands of new political prisoners, our Urgent Action Campaign will become more and more important. If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join the campaign.

Members of Free Tibet's Urgent Action Campaign are contacted whenever we receive information about events in Tibet or national or international political developments affecting Tibet. You are asked to write one or two letters or emails to draw attention to your concerns.

Speed is often of the essence, so we encourage people to sign up electronically if possible. However, there is an option to receive Urgent Actions by post. You can sign up by visiting our website, or write to Urgent Action Campaign, Free Tibet Campaign, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT.

Dalai Lama visit highlights need for UK to do more

The Dalai Lama's visit to the United Kingdom in May brought renewed focus on the plight of the Tibetan people.

His engagements included receiving an honorary doctorate from London Metropolitan University and planting a tree in the garden of Clarence House during a private visit with Prince Charles. In addition, he gave public talks in London, Nottingham and Oxford, as well as three days of teachings in Nottingham.

There was little press coverage of these events (although comparisons were later drawn between the easy camaraderie of the Dalai Lama's meeting with Prince Charles and the clear discomfort of the Prime Minister's meeting with His Holiness).

What interested the media were the comments made by the Dalai Lama when he testified in front of British Parliamentarians and the controversy around his meeting with Gordon Brown.

In his testimony before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, the Dalai Lama detailed the terrible stories coming out of Tibet and renewed his calls for an independent international investigation. He also voiced his concerns about rumours that the Chinese government plans, after the Olympics, to flood the Tibetan plateau with as many as a million Han Chinese migrants.

Asked about the awarding of the 2008 Olympics to Beijing, the Dalai Lama repeated his long standing opinion that the Games will offer an opportunity for China to open up to the world – and for the world to get to know China better.

Shortly before his arrival in the UK, rumours began to circulate that the Chinese government was considering inviting His Holiness to attend the Olympics. When this subject was raised, the Dalai Lama said: "Some Chinese want me to go there. If the situation in Tibet were to improve and there was long-term progress, then I am ready to go to the Olympic Games."

Clearly his presence at the Olympics would be a public relations victory for China, so Free Tibet Campaign was reassured when, at a private audience, he told us and other UK Tibet supporters: "Don't worry. There has been no invitation."

Free Tibet Campaign succeeded in its efforts to get Prime Minister Gordon Brown to agree to meet the Dalai Lama, although not until the media and many MPs from every party had joined our call.

The PM was justifiably criticised when it was announced that the meeting would take place at Lambeth Palace, not Downing Street. Breaking with the precedent set by Prime Ministers Major and Blair, Gordon Brown claimed Lambeth Palace was an appropriate venue to meet the Dalai Lama in his role as a religious leader. (This fooled no one, including the Chinese government, which still denounced the PM for "interfering in China's internal affairs".)

According to an official spokesperson, they discussed "inter-faith issues" and "the importance of the dialogue between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese authorities".



The Dalai Lama meets Gordon Brown at Lambeth Palace in London. 23 May 2008

REUTERS/CARL DE SOUZA

Free Tibet Campaign continues to lobby the PM about the need for world leaders to exert much more pressure on the Chinese government to end their virulent anti-Dalai Lama rhetoric as a first step towards serious negotiations to secure the future of the Tibetan people.

Prior to the Dalai Lama's arrival in the UK, Free Tibet Campaign produced a report for Gordon Brown's senior advisors, *Revealing the truth: Why China's anti-Dalai Lama campaign must end*. To read the report please download it from our website at: www.freetibet.org/files/DalaiLamaReport.pdf

Action

Now that Gordon Brown has sat down with the Dalai Lama, it is time for him to stand up for Tibet. Please urge him to bring pressure on the Chinese government to drop all preconditions for negotiations with the Tibetan government-in-exile and to begin substantive, transparent talks immediately.

Write to:

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
Fax: 020 7925 0918

Or you can send an e-mail to the Prime Minister via the Downing Street website: www.number10.gov.uk.

Kicked out of Hong Kong

Free Tibet Campaign's Matt Whitticase, who grew up in Hong Kong, flew there at the beginning of May to take part in a press conference on the day that the Olympic Torch was due to arrive. He was not allowed to do so. Here's what happened:

"As soon as the immigration officer at Hong Kong airport looked at my passport, I was refused entry and was escorted by a phalanx of security officials to a private room where my passport and mobile phone battery were immediately confiscated. I was told to sit and wait. "Eventually a courteous official asked why I had travelled to Hong Kong. I told her the truth: that I had come to visit my father and to speak to foreign journalists. I added, in Cantonese, that I had grown up in Hong Kong and worked there for five years in the 1990s.

"After eight hours of questioning and waiting, I was escorted by security officials onto a plane bound for London. My passport was handed to the senior steward with instructions that it could not be returned to me until the flight landed. No reason was given for my deportation.

"Several weeks later, I am still waiting for the Hong Kong Immigration Department to explain why I was denied entry. I have no doubt that the Hong Kong government was, despite the 'one country, two systems' agreement, pressured by Beijing to prevent me talking to journalists about what is going on in Tibet.

"As host of the Olympics, China is supposed to be opening itself up to the rest of the world. I had the door slammed in my face and became the latest in a long line of people prevented from talking to the media as China attempts to hide the truth about Tibet from the eyes of the world."

Australian PM criticises China

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, has urged China's leaders to address "significant" human rights problems in Tibet. Mr Rudd, fluent in Mandarin, made the comments in Chinese to a gathering of Beijing University students in early April.

He said: "It is necessary to recognise there are significant human rights problems in Tibet" and went on to urge "all parties to avoid violence and find a solution through dialogue".

Few western leaders are critical of China's rights record in Tibet while they are actually in China. Rudd went even further, openly voicing criticism before he arrived in China.

His comments were widely reported on CNN, the BBC and on other world news networks, ensuring that a significant proportion of the Chinese population would have been aware of the comments through the internet.

Rudd's public criticism of China's human rights record has thrown into stark relief the long-standing public silence of the British government on Tibet under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

Blair and Brown have both argued that, for British commercial interests to be protected, it was necessary that human rights be addressed in private with the Chinese leadership. Gordon Brown took a large delegation of British businessmen to China, but was noticeably silent in public on Tibet and human rights.

Rudd's approach has been more sophisticated. He argued he wanted to be a *zhengyou* to China (a good friend who is not afraid to share unpleasant truths).

Although the Chinese leadership denounced Rudd's views while he was in China, it still continued with the positive side of the visit, embracing him as an important guest.

Rudd proved it is possible to be forthright on human rights while still making progress on commercial and environmental issues.

- **On 10 June, the US and EU issued a joint declaration on Tibet:** "We welcome China's recent decision to hold talks with the Dalai Lama's representatives. We encourage both parties to move forward with a substantive, constructive and results-orientated dialogue at an early stage." The inclusion of the words 'results-orientated' was a significant acknowledgement that previous talks have led nowhere. The next day China denounced the declaration, claiming that "Tibet is an inseparable part of China" and that "the dialogue ... is a completely internal affair".
- **Bowing to pressure from world leaders, Chinese officials met with the Dalai Lama's representatives** in early May. This was the first meeting between the two sides in more than a year. A second round of talks scheduled for June has been postponed, following the tragic earthquake in Sichuan.
- **The IOC refused to criticise plans to take the Torch into Tibet** at its last meeting before the Games begin in Beijing. Called upon to do so, IOC president Jacques Rogge said: "Tibet is a part of China and a region of China so it is normal that they pass through Tibet." In a minor concession to the Torch controversy, he added: "We are not blind, neither naive. We will consider what we will do in the future."
- **China reversed a decision to reopen Tibet to foreign tourists** on 10 April. No permits to visit the region have been issued since the crackdown on protests began in March 2008. It is unlikely that any permits will be issued until after the Olympics in August.
- **A group of 29 leading Chinese intellectuals released an open letter** on 22 March, urging the Chinese government to "stop the violent suppression" in Tibet. Entitled *Twelve Suggestions for Dealing with the Tibetan Situation*, the letter advised Beijing to hold direct dialogue with the Dalai Lama, and appeared on several Chinese websites.

Supporters

Torch relay

Our thanks to all our supporters who braved the snow and came to London on 6 April for protests at the Olympic Torch relay. It really was a remarkable day and we were so impressed by the dedication and support of those who followed the torch from start to finish. The news pictures spoke for themselves – hardly a single image that didn't have a Tibetan flag in the background!

Well done to all, and our thanks to Joanna Lumley and Norman Baker for speaking at the Tibetan Freedom Torch rally afterwards. A very memorable and inspiring day for all.



FAR LEFT: RICHARD CAMPBELL; ALL OTHERS: NICK COBBING



Keeping Tibet in the news

It is almost certain that none of the tens of thousands of foreign journalists descending on Beijing in August will be allowed to travel to Tibet. In the midst of the sporting frenzy in the media, it will be crucial to keep the plight of Tibet in the news. Free Tibet Campaign will be working to do just that with national and international press, but there are things you can do to help wherever you are.

Radio talk shows and letters to the editor are two important ways of getting the message out. Any radio discussion or newspaper article about the Olympics can provide an opportunity.

Important points to raise are:

- **The Olympic Games and all they stand for have been tainted by China's human rights abuses in Tibet.** People are being imprisoned and tortured in Tibet simply for demanding more freedom, yet the world is turning a blind eye. That's hardly sporting.
- **The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is complicit in China's awful human rights record.** The IOC keeps saying we shouldn't mix sports with politics, but awarding the

2008 Games to Beijing was always a political move. The IOC promised it would act if China's human rights record didn't improve. Why has it never made a move to penalise – or even criticise – the Chinese government's behaviour in Tibet?

- **Foreign journalists must be allowed to report freely from Tibet.** The one promise the Chinese government had to make to gain the 2008 Olympics was to allow foreign journalists to travel and report freely. All foreign journalists were kicked out of Tibet and Tibetan areas of China as soon as the unrest began in March. They have not been allowed to return.

We all hope that athletes will take a stand for Tibet. When that happens, it will be news, so please make sure you contact newspapers and radio shows immediately to congratulate them for showing so much courage and compassion.

For a quick reminder of key facts about the Chinese occupation of Tibet, please check our website: www.freetibet.org/about/10-facts-about-tibet.

Free Tibet Raffle 2008

Enclosed in this magazine you will find your chance to win an amazing prize in the Free Tibet 2008 raffle.

The first prize is a fantastic 11-day tour of Nepal with your own guide, generously donated by Mongoose travel, specialists in small escorted tours and promoters of responsible travel in the Himalayas.

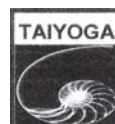
The second prize is a wonderful yoga retreat holiday in Malta courtesy of Tai Yoga. Valued at £999, you could experience seven days of mind, body and spirit exercise and relaxation in the Mediterranean.

Third prize is a beautiful hand painted Medicine Buddha Thangka on silk brocade backing (pictured right). The design features the healer of outer and inner sickness and measures 94 x 127cm. Our thanks to Pink Lotus for this unique prize.

Other prizes include a yurt holiday, weekend breaks and ethical shopping vouchers so there's plenty of chances to win. Whether buying for yourself or selling to friends, the raffle is a great way to raise funds for Free Tibet's work and allows us to give a little something back to you in thanks for your support.

The raffle will be drawn on 3 December, just in time for a Christmas treat.

For more tickets call us on **020 7324 4605**.



Customers who care

Free Tibet Campaign is delighted to have been chosen by The Co-operative Bank to be part of its annual Customers Who Care vote.

Each year The Co-operative Bank selects an issue to promote to its customers - this year its 'Defending Human Rights'. As part of the campaign, for every £100 customers spend on The Co-operative Bank credit and debit cards between 1 October and 31 December, the Bank will donate 1.25p to a campaign fund. Customers are then asked to vote for the organisations that they think deserve a share of the fund and the total donation is then divided between them according to the percentage of votes each receives. Free Tibet Campaign is one of the organisations you can vote for this year.

Voting closes on 31 July so if you are a customer of The Co-operative Bank, or you know someone else who is, why not help Tibet by casting a vote for Free Tibet Campaign. You can vote for us online at co-operativebank.co.uk/vote or call Freephone **0800 994311**. Please note that only customers of The Co-operative Bank are eligible to vote.

Tuesday 1 July - Monday 7 July

Through an Exile Lens season at the ICA in central London. Screenings of new and acclaimed Tibetan documentaries and films, photography and music. The project then moves to Newcastle, Manchester and Rich Mix, London. For more details, please visit www.throughanexilelens.org

Friday 11 July

Tibet benefit concert at Denton Labour Club, Ashton Road, Manchester. Contact Simone Carr on 01613719118

Thursday 31 July, Friday 1 August

Plough Arts Centre, Torrington, Devon, 8pm-midnight. Thursday: The monks of Tashi Lumpo. Friday: Fundraising party for Tibet. Contact jancoutu@googlemail.com

Starts Friday 1 August

Tara Art Project. An exhibition showcasing artworks based on Tibetan designs by tattoo artists. With speakers, bands and food at Studio 13 Tattoo Studio, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh. The works will be included in a book, to be launched at Tattoo Jam, 1-3 Aug, in North Wales. Sales will benefit Free Tibet Campaign. For more info visit www.myspace.com/taraproject

Saturday 2, 9 & 16 August

Tibetan film screenings in Brighton. 2 Aug: *Cry of the Snow Lion*, 9 Aug: *Forbidden Team & Tibetans: A Life in Exile*, 16 Aug: *Buddha's Journey & Windhorse*. Contact Pete at sukhavati@ntlworld.com for times.

Thursday 7 August

Candle in my Window for Tibet. On the eve of the Beijing Olympics, people across the world will be lighting a candle for Tibet and getting together for local vigils. To register and learn more, please visit www.candle4tibet.org

PLUS Please check our new website at www.freetibet.org for details on protests and events up to and during the Beijing Olympics.

Every Wednesday

Vigil for Tibetan Freedom, 6-8pm, opposite the Chinese Embassy, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1B 1JL. Contact Tibet Vigil on 020 7813 1922.



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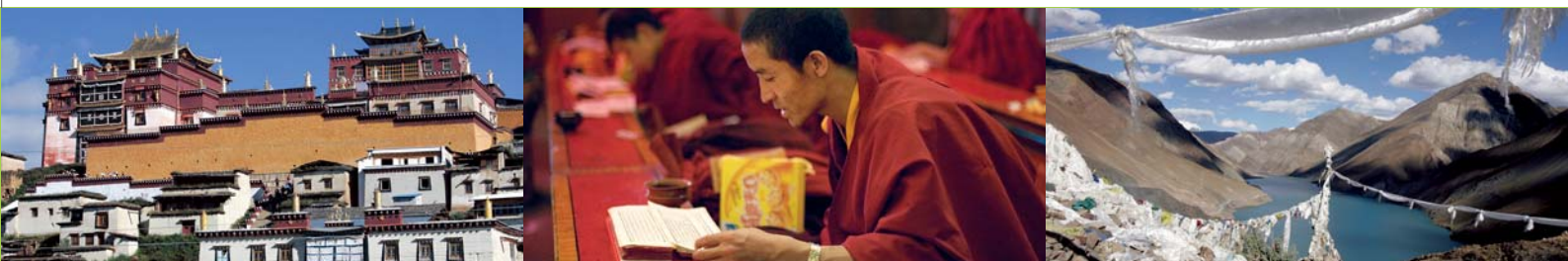
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When you become our client we will donate 10% of our initial commission or fees to Free Tibet Campaign. Contact us for a free consultation.

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Ted Scott, Fund Manager, Friends Provident



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Every day the dream of a free Tibet comes closer to being a reality



PEDRO SARAVIA

By leaving a legacy to Free Tibet Campaign you can help us plan our campaigns, sure of a secure income. The more support we have, the more we can do to create pressure for real change in Tibet.

No one knows what the future holds but you can help to shape that future and leave a gift of hope for young Tibetans who have never known freedom.

For more information and a free guide to making a Will, contact Janet on **020 7324 4605** or email janet@freetibet.org

