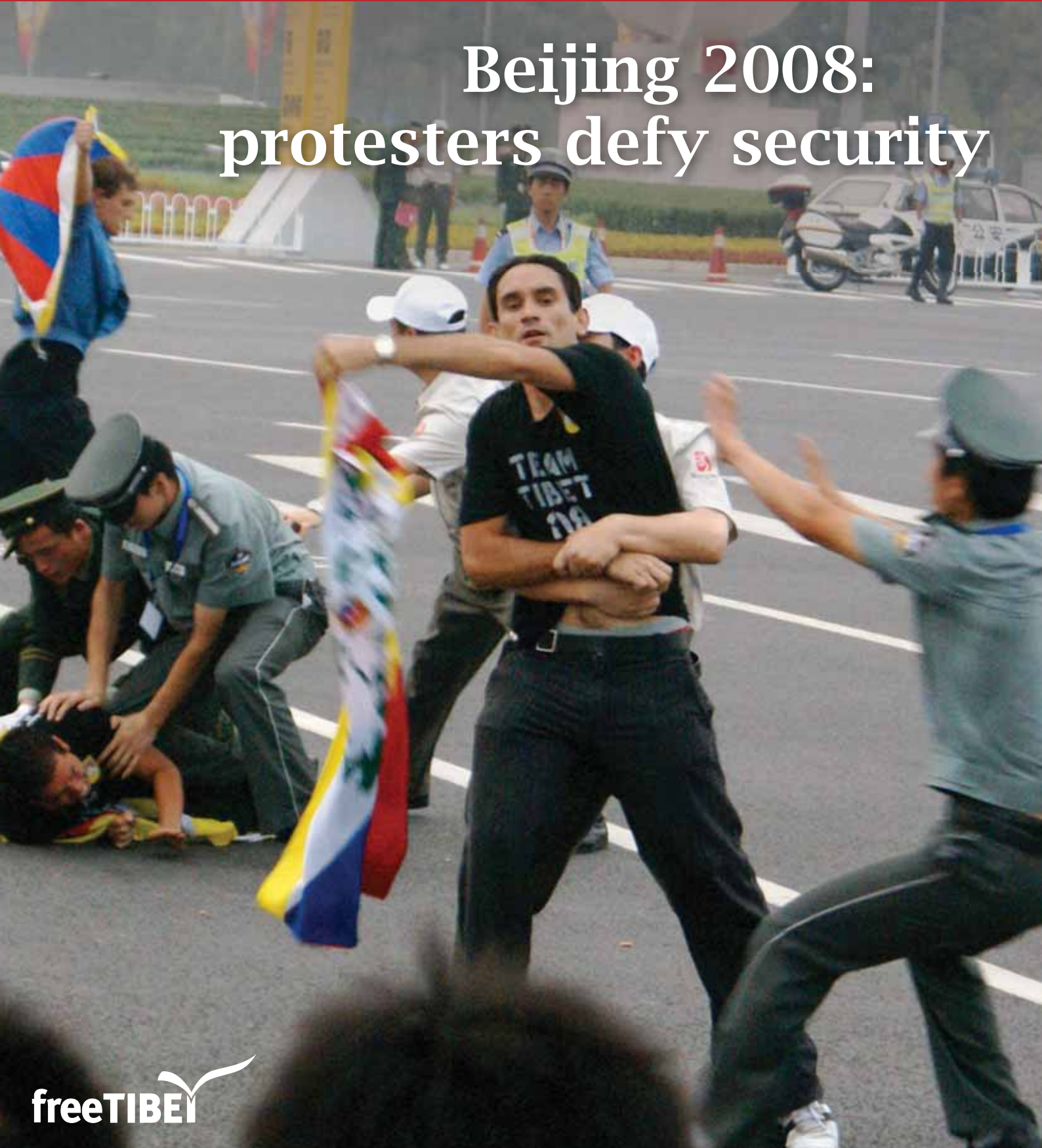


FREE TIBET

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Beijing 2008: protesters defy security



freeTIBET

• Tibet under lockdown • Protests in Beijing • Monasteries threatened with closure •



Stephanie Brigden
Introducing Free Tibet's new
Director who joined us in July.

Dear Friends,

As the Olympic Games commenced in Beijing with Tibet sealed off from the world, it was our turn to pick up the baton and ensure the courage shown by Tibetans during March and April was kept alive. Defying arrest, detention and in some cases deportation; in Beijing and across the globe Tibet protestors scaled buildings, marched across cities, unfurled Tibetan flags and held peaceful vigils. Our combined efforts ensured that world leaders attending the Olympics and the millions watching did not forget the tragedy inside Tibet.

Despite the promises that human rights would improve as a result of China being awarded the Games, the Olympics acted as a catalyst for a worsening human rights situation. Terrified that protests inside Tibet would mar the Olympic spectacle, Chinese authorities have poured thousands of troops into Tibet. Towns like Ngaba, which witnessed some of the largest protests are under military curfew. Tibetans are living in a climate of fear, under surveillance, terrified of night visits from security forces taking them away to unknown locations.

Joining as the new Director of Free Tibet when the situation is arguably the most desperate it has been for decades,

is a huge challenge. Having had the privilege to work alongside Tibetan nomadic communities; hearing the disappointment of Tibetan friends whose children cannot read or write in Tibetan as their schooling is now in Chinese; speaking to women who were too frightened to go to hospital as they feared forced sterilisation; seeing machinery used to exploit the land of its minerals abandoned, polluting the local rivers and witnessing the rapid destruction of a unique culture, it is evident to me, that *only* by securing the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people can we help secure a just future for the people of Tibet.

With the Olympics now over and the world's attention focussed on new crises our efforts must ensure that the world does not turn its back on Tibet. The crisis in Tibet is a David and Goliath struggle but thanks to your continued support we are making a difference.

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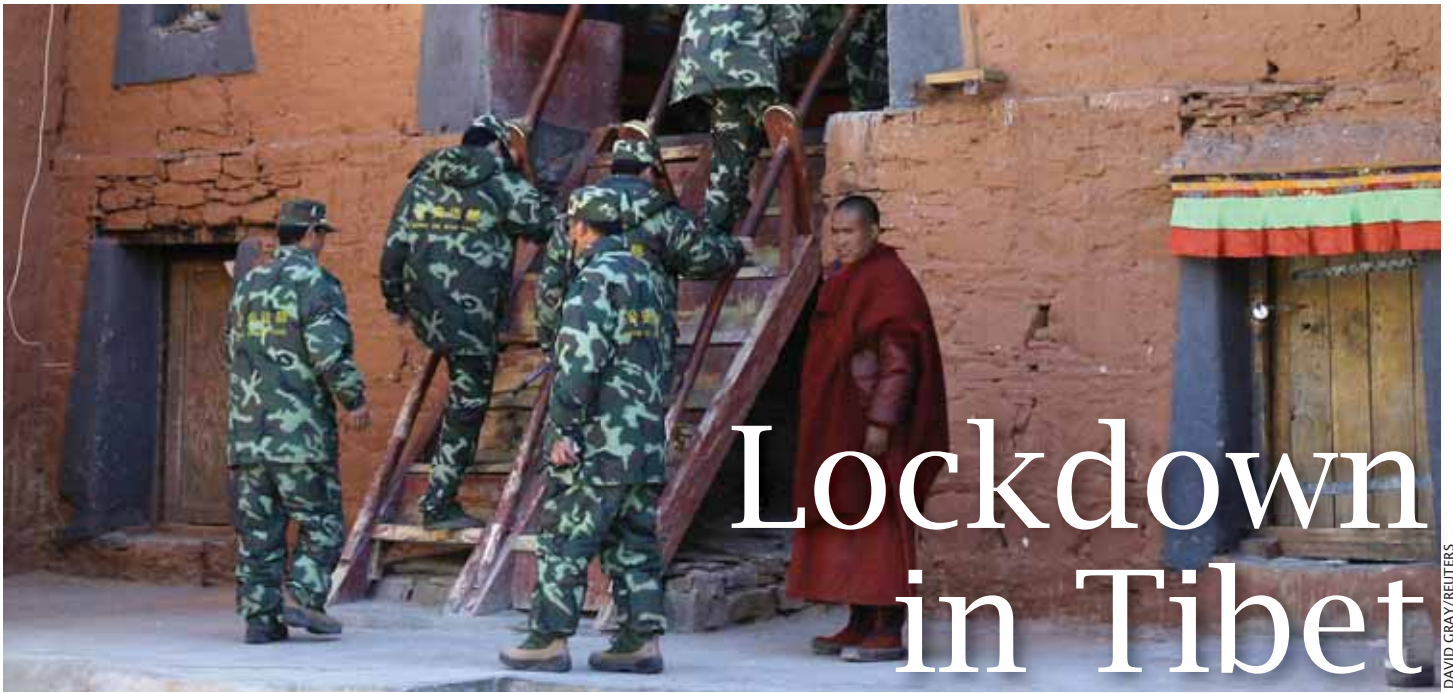
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Free Tibet Campaign stands for the right of Tibetans to determine their own future. It campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for the fundamental human rights of Tibetans to be respected. Founded in 1987, Free Tibet Campaign generates 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
Design & layout: Catherine Quine

Cover: Protesters display Tibetan flags on the day of the Opening Ceremony in Beijing.
Photo: Students for a Free Tibet.



DAVID GRAY/REUTERS

“There's a good reason that foreigners aren't allowed in these places. It looks like a war zone.”

Whilst the world marvelled at China's Olympic spectacular in Beijing, the people of Tibet have been living under total military lock-down.

Telecommunications into and out of the region have been severely restricted and it has been virtually impossible for journalists or any foreigners to travel to the region in recent months. Despite this, reports are now emerging that China has poured thousands of troops into the areas of Tibet which witnessed significant protests earlier this year.

Free Tibet's sources confirm the military presence in the small town of Ngaba in the Amdo region of Tibet rose dramatically from around 2,000 to 10,000 troops in early August, dwarfing the local population. Townspeople were told that troops would stay until after the Olympics. They have been enforcing a strict curfew as well as manning checkpoints on every major road in the town. We also received reports that two women were shot and wounded in the town on 9 August. According to eyewitnesses, the shots came from a building that is known to be accommodating the troops stationed in Ngaba.

In March Ngaba was the scene of a large Tibetan protest which ended when Chinese armed security forces fired into the crowd, killing at least eight men and women. This latest influx of troops is thought to be a direct result of events at that time and is mirrored in other Tibetan regions, particularly Kandze in Kham.

Although foreigners have been prevented from travelling to the region

for months, a Taiwanese American woman travelling on a Taiwanese passport recently managed to visit Kandze and reported her experiences on an influential American blog. Her report read:

“There's a good reason that foreigners aren't allowed in these places. It looks like a war zone. In Kandze the police are in the middle of the sidewalks. They're sitting in helmets holding their guns and riot shields in rows of 10 or 15. They are outside convenience stores under blue tarps every half a block, on both sides of the road – watching. They're up on raised metal posts with cut-out windows – watching. I couldn't walk anywhere without dozens of armed police staring at me. I've never seen so many police and military personnel in one town in my life. Nor have I experienced this kind of heart pounding fear before.”

Similar reports have been received from Lithang and Tso in Amdo where groups of 20-30 armed police are reported to be stationed on street corners, barricaded behind cement-filled sandbags.

Whilst these rises in troop levels were undoubtedly designed to deter Tibetans from staging protests during the Olympics, they are also thought to be indications of further restrictions to come. Internationally respected China analyst, Willy Lam has warned of a “crackdown to come” on all forms of dissent in China and Tibet now the focus of the international media has moved onto other human rights catastrophes.

Above: Chinese authorities are cracking down on monasteries since protests earlier this year

Tibet centre stage during Olympics

Tibetans and Tibet activists bravely defied an overwhelming security presence during the Beijing Olympics to stage a series of eight peaceful, but daring, protests outside Olympic venues and Chinese government offices.

The protests were designed to highlight that China's dire human rights record in Tibet had actually worsened in the run up to the Games, despite promises from both the Chinese government and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that staging the Games in China would lead to an improvement.

The Chinese authorities drafted a huge security presence into Beijing, designed to prevent any protests and embarrassment during the Games. They were determined to ensure that only the carefully-choreographed Tibet propaganda - that Tibetans live happily under Chinese rule - would feature during the Games.

Tibet protesters signalled their determination to counter China's cynical lie with a hugely daring banner hang just days before the Opening Ceremony. On 6 August, four activists from Students for a Free Tibet were detained after two of them scaled lampposts opposite the Olympic Stadium. Each climber unfurled banners 140 feet square which read "One World, One Dream, Free Tibet" and "Tibet will be Free".



One of the climbers, Iain Thom from Edinburgh, told the BBC: "I'm here today because I've been a long-term Tibet activist and I feel like now is a really critical time for Tibet". The action made headline news in Britain and the US, ensuring that China's brutal occupation of Tibet was put under intense media scrutiny as world leaders gathered in Beijing for the Opening Ceremony.

Just one day after the Opening Ceremony, on the first day of competition, five more Tibet protesters brought their message to one of the most iconic symbols of the Chinese state, Tiananmen Square. Draped in Tibetan national flags four of the protesters lay on the ground in a mock die-in whilst another protester narrated to the gathered crowd the reasons for the protest. Free Tibet Campaign supporter Matt Guy, had planned to be part of this protest but was detained and turned back on arrival at Beijing airport (see side box for story).

More protests quickly followed. On 13 August five protesters blockaded the front gate of Beijing's "Chinese Ethnic Culture Park". They unfurled a banner which read: "Tibetans are dying for Freedom". Despite repeated promises that journalists would be allowed free and unrestricted reporting during the Games, John Ray of ITV News, who was covering the protest, was aggressively bundled into a van and taken away, (see box right). At another protest on 15 August two Tibet activists unfurled a Free Tibet banner in front of the CCTV (China's state broadcaster) building. The activists had chosen the CCTV building as the official mouthpiece for China's Tibet propaganda.

In the final week of the Games four protesters, including former Free Tibet Campaign staff member Mandie McKeown, were arrested after a protest outside the Olympic Stadium. They were detained and, unlike previous protesters, were not immediately deported. Instead they were questioned at length, held at first in an informal place of detention and deprived of sleep before receiving official 10-day detention sentences. The four were deported after the closing ceremony, following calls for their release from the US Embassy in Beijing and after Gordon Brown personally intervened on behalf of Mandie McKeown with Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao.



Free Tibet Campaign sent supporter Matt Guy from Bristol, to Beijing to take part in the protests. He was detained before he even got to passport control. Here he describes what happened.

“As soon as I was offered the chance to take part in the protests during the Olympics, I knew I had to go. Having been lucky enough to meet people such as Ama Adhe and members of the Tibetan Football Team while an intern at Free Tibet Campaign, I wanted to give voice to their horrific experiences under Chinese occupation.

I can remember the suffering in their faces as they recounted their experiences; it banished any fears I had about the repercussions of taking part. I kept thinking about the fate of Tibetans if they attempted what we were going to do: prison, torture, even execution.

As soon as we landed in Beijing I sensed something was wrong. Before we reached security, a guard approached me, asking for my passport. After a quick glance he marched me through passport control where we were met by four other guards.

I was put in a room, told to sit in the corner. My two young guards were eager to practice their English, asking if I knew David Beckham and if it was true the English all stopped for afternoon tea.

But the atmosphere changed when older officers came in and began checking my bag. I asked a young guard why I had been detained and he translated my question. “Because you are to go back,” he said. I asked why. “We don’t know.”

My detention lasted less than two hours, time spent watching my visa being cancelled. I was marched back through immigration by six guards and put on a plane home. I was never asked a single question, all the information they needed to identify me had been gathered with electronic spying tools before I left the UK.

It was a long ordeal and a huge disappointment, but I would do it again to stand in solidarity with the people of Tibet.”

UK reporter “roughed up” during Beijing protests

China’s so-called press freedom was called into question during the Olympics when John Ray, ITV’s Beijing correspondent, was detained and “roughed up” on 13 August. Ray was covering a free Tibet protest at Beijing’s Chinese Ethnic Culture Park.

Ray told *The Guardian* he was jumped on by four policemen and pinned down before being dragged along the ground and shoved into a police van.

Footage filmed by other journalists at the scene clearly showed Ray leaning out of the window of the van, pointing to his press accreditation and saying in Chinese that he is a British journalist.

After his release, Ray described the way he was manhandled as “very forceful, very rough”. He said that after he was thrown into the van he was asked by an officer for his views on Tibet. He replied that he had no views and was there to report only as a journalist.

According to *The Washington Post*, the Beijing Public Security Bureau did not respond to questions about Ray’s detention. The incident was one of the most serious examples of harassment of journalists reporting at the Games.

Footage of Ray’s arrest and detention can be viewed at www.guardian.co.uk/world/video/2008/aug/13/tibet.protest.john.ray

Above: Night protest at the Olympic stadium.
Left: Iain Thom in the first protest in Beijing.

T for Tibet creates a stir

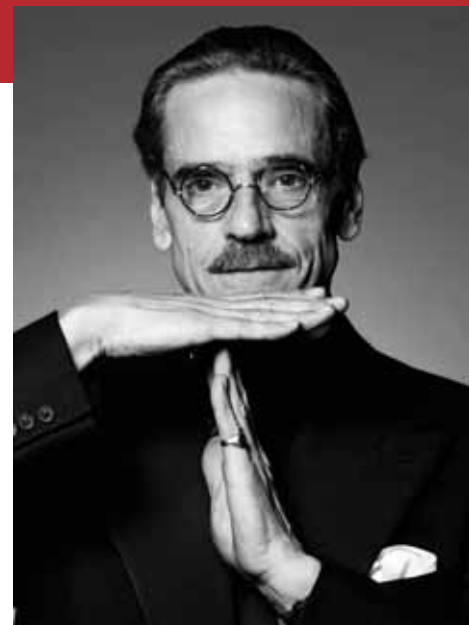
Launched just before the Beijing Games in July, our T for Tibet campaign has the support of high profile celebrities from many walks of life, including award-winning director Sir Ridley Scott and actors Jeremy Irons and Glenda Jackson (who took part in a cross-party MP's T for Tibet photo shoot at Parliament). Tibet supporters from around the world have also been adding their own T pictures to the website.

The campaign garnered a lot of media interest in the weeks running up to the Olympics. It also prompted the International Olympics Committee to rule that a simple T hand signal was a political statement to be banned from official venues.

The message also got through to the Beijing police. When he was arrested for covering a free Tibet protest during the Olympics (see page 5), ITN's John Ray reported that police "made 'T' signs and one of them asked me for my views on Tibet".

And at the Big Chill festival in Hereford, comedians The Mighty Boosh and Bill Bailey were amongst the many performers who signed up to the campaign – and hundreds of festival goers formed a giant T on the hillside. But Tibet isn't just for the Olympics, and nor is the T for Tibet campaign.

The Chinese government is hoping that the world will look away from Tibet, now that the Games have ended. With China's continuing military lockdown of Tibet and the 50th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising next March, it is more important than ever for everyone to show their support for Tibet. If you haven't already sent us your own T for Tibet photo, now is your chance to join other supporters, stars and MPs in sending a clear message for Tibetan freedom. Get involved: www.TforTibet.org



TONY HUSBAND

Torture continues in Tibet

"Unfortunately, the Olympic spirit is not at all respected by Chinese officials inside Tibet... and often [Tibetan] civilians are arrested and tortured very violently, to the point where they die," the Dalai Lama told French lawmakers on 13 August.

Indeed, torture in Tibet (which can include severe beatings for days with the use of electric batons) has often led to death. In many cases, victims in a critical condition are released to die outside the prison in order to reduce the numbers of deaths in custody.

In one such case earlier this year, Nechung a 38-year-old mother of four, died from the effects of torture in detention after she attempted to remove a sign from a government building. She was arrested and tortured for over a week and when eventually released she was in an extremely weak state, unable to eat or speak. Nechung was denied medical care by the local hospital and died three weeks later.

Dawa, a 31-year-old Tibetan farmer, died after being subjected to brutal torture by prison guards. He was arrested while participating in a peaceful protest in

Phenpo County on 15 March. He was released for medical care, but died four days later.

Torture is often inflicted to gain a confession during the initial stages of detention. Too many of the thousands of Tibetans who remain in prison following the spring uprising are likely to be the victims of torture, suffering the same fates as Nechung and Dawa.

Although China signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture (CAT), it has not amended its own laws to comply with this.

In 2005, Dr Manfred Nowak, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, visited prisons in China and Tibet. His findings were released in a 2006 report which stated that "torture remains widespread" in Tibet. He also pointed out that "The situation in Tibet is aggravated by discriminatory treatment of Tibetans and the targeting of political prisoners."

A UN review of China's state report on torture is due to take place in November 2008. Free Tibet Campaign believes it will be impossible to properly assess the current use of torture in Tibet and throughout China unless Dr Nowak undertakes a second follow-up visit.



Free Tibet Campaign demonstration at Downing Street prior to the opening of the Beijing Olympics

FREE TIBET CAMPAIGN

Time to talk

Between 2002 and 2007 there were six rounds of what the Chinese government called negotiations with representatives of the Tibetan government-in-exile. These were never negotiations – they were talks about having talks.

The Chinese government showed such bad faith it was impossible not to conclude that the primary purpose of these ‘negotiations’ was to distract western governments keen to see Beijing do something about the situation in Tibet.

When renewed calls for dialogue were made by world leaders in the aftermath of China’s brutal crackdown on freedom protests in March and April, Beijing announced that talks would resume. It came as no surprise that the 5 May meeting between representatives of the United Front Work Department and of the Tibetan government-in-exile ended, yet again, in deadlock.

World leaders, many of whom had long cited their support for these talks as a pretext for doing little in support of Tibet, have finally begun to question their validity.

In a carefully worded joint statement on 10 June, the United

States and the European Union declared: “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 significant inclusion of the words “results-orientated” was a pointed and long overdue acknowledgement that the talks were making no progress.

Although the Chinese government agreed to another round of talks before the opening of the Olympics, predictably, there were no positive results. The Dalai Lama’s special envoy Lodi Gyari was forced to concede:

“In the course of our discussions we were compelled to candidly convey to our counterparts that in the absence of serious and sincere commitment on their part, the continuation of the present dialogue process would serve no purpose.”

It is time to end this farce. It is time for world leaders to demand action, not words from China. The next round of talks is due to commence later this year – to add your voice to demands for substantive talks see the action box right.

Action

Free Tibet Campaign has written to Gordon Brown, pointing out that, for the world to have any faith in future negotiations between the Chinese government and the Tibetan government-in-exile, the UK and other world governments should call for:

- the appointment of a third party negotiator
- agreement on a neutral venue (such as Oslo, home of the Nobel Peace Prize), and
- provision of full debriefings about the progress (if any) of the talks as a means of accountability.

Please add your voice to this call by contacting your MP and asking him or her to raise your concerns with the Foreign Office.

You can write to your MP: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Or you can email your MP: www.writetothem.com

China orders sweeping purge of Tibet's monasteries

Just days before the Olympics were due to begin in Beijing, Free Tibet Campaign revealed alarming new measures planned to punish Tibetan monks and nuns in Kandze for taking part in what the Chinese government referred to as "turbulent activities".

The punishments are detailed in an official document which appeared on a Chinese government website.

Monks and nuns charged with unspecified "minor" crimes will, if they confess and "display a good attitude", be discharged to their family who will be responsible for their "re-education" and care.

Monks and nuns charged with "serious" crimes who do not confess their guilt and show remorse for their "splittist" actions will have their religious rights removed and be dismissed from their monasteries or nunneries. Any monastery or nunnery which subsequently takes them in will be deemed a supporter of splittists and punished accordingly.

Specific measures are also being introduced against monasteries where more than 10% of monks have taken part in protests. These will be subjected to restrictions and searches and suspected monks/nuns will be arrested. All religious activities at the monastery will be halted and movements of remaining monks will be closely monitored.

Lamas and senior teachers also face China's wrath. Religious leaders charged with providing information about protests to foreigners or of "facilitating and inciting turbulent activities" will have their civil, political and religious association rights removed. Interrogations and investigations into their "corruption" will be broadcast on television news.

In June, Tibet's head of propaganda Lie Que declared: "We must clean out the monasteries." The measures detailed above, suggest very dark days ahead for Tibetan monks and nuns. Although we only have confirmation of plans in Kandze, it is almost certain similar steps are being implemented throughout Tibet.

As the Chinese authorities prepare to avenge themselves against Tibet for daring to protest in the run-up to the Olympics there is a real concern among China experts that a brutal crackdown will be launched against all known dissidents in China and Tibet.

Free Tibet Campaign has written to Gordon Brown, calling on the British government to "publicly and unequivocally condemn the measures" contained in the document. A full translation of the document can be found on our website at www.freetibet.org/newsmedia/28-july-2008

Forced resettlement threatens Tibetan identity

In the middle of the Olympics, the Chinese government made two worrying announcements about Tibet. The first involved the forced resettlement of more than 73,700 Tibetan nomads from their ancestral lands in Khanlo and into urban housing estates. Two days later it was

announced that a further six railway lines were planned for the Qinghai-Tibet railway.

Official China news agency Xinhua reported that resettlement of the nomads was necessary because "a growing population and excessive grazing [had] led to the desertification

of large areas of pasture in the past 30 years and a 25 percent reduction of the river water."

They failed to mention the accelerating land grab as Tibetan nomads (who have always lived in sustainable harmony with their environment) are displaced to make way for destructive and polluting mining projects, road and dam building, and urban development.

Wang Yongping of the Ministry of Railways falsely claimed, when announcing the line expansion, that the move would boost the economy and benefit Tibetans.

In reality, both the railway and the resettlement programme are central to a development strategy which provides employment incentives for millions of Han Chinese to relocate to Tibet and facilitates rapid extraction of Tibet's vast natural resources (including gold, copper and gas) for use in China's booming industries.

Whether specifically intended or not, the end result of these projects for most Tibetans is marginalisation in their own country.



Nomads' traditional way of life is threatened

Leaving freedom behind

On 5 August 2008 an extraordinary film premiere was held in a budget hotel room in Beijing. Foreign journalists were invited to view *Leaving Fear Behind*, a powerful 25-minute documentary in which Tibetans express their feelings about the Dalai Lama, the threats to their culture, life under Chinese occupation and the Beijing Olympics.

The film began as a collaboration between two cousins, Dhondup Wangchen in Tibet and Gyaljong Tsetrin in Switzerland in 2007.

Throughout 2007, Dhondup and his friend Golog Jigme, a Tibetan monk, travelled thousands of miles, recording interviews with ordinary Tibetans.

In March 2008, just days after Dhondup delivered the taped interviews to a safe location, Dhondup and Golog were both detained. According to Dhondup's cousin, they have been tortured. As the magazine goes to press, the whereabouts of Dhondup and Golog are unknown and there has been no announcement of any charge brought against them.

Dhondup has said of his involvement in making the film: "I needed to stand up for the Tibetans and this is where I need to go. Staying away from my children and family is one of the hardships, if I live on."

The whereabouts of the filmmakers, like hundreds of other Tibetans arrested since the protests in Tibet began in March, are unknown.

Without international pressure, these political prisoners can, at best, expect to be put through a show trial ending with a lengthy prison sentence. At worst their families may never hear of them again. To take action, go to [www.freetibet.org/campaigns/urgent action](http://www.freetibet.org/campaigns/urgent%20action)



Gyaljong Tsetrin (top) and Dhondup Wangchen

Dalai Lama calls emergency meeting

The Dalai Lama has called for an emergency meeting of Tibetan exiles to evaluate the impact and consequences of recent events in Tibet. The meeting will result in a resolution on the future of the Tibetan movement in the wake of the protests and the continuing Chinese crackdown in Tibet this year.

Meetings are scheduled to take place in November 2008 and will be attended by members of the exiled Tibetan Parliament as well as Tibetan non-governmental organisations, experts and members of the exile community, especially representatives of Tibetan youth.

Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile, Samdhong Rinpoche, said that this year's events have created a shift and Tibetan exiles have to review their course of action. The Dalai Lama's quest for genuine autonomy will also be under discussion. "We are committed to our middle way approach and we will continue our efforts for a genuine autonomy within China's framework, and that will not change. But this meeting surely will be a good platform of discussion for various opinions and views within the Tibetan community" Samdhong Rinpoche said.

- **The Yulong Copper Mine in Chamdo** prefecture in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) will start a trial production period in September. The copper mine is the second largest in Asia with proven reserves of 6.5 million tons. The Aluminium Corporation of China also announced that it will set up a unit to explore for minerals in Tibet. Source: Xinhua
- **British mining company Central China Goldfields, has begun exploring for copper in Nimu, close to Lhasa.** Nimu lies on the huge Gangdese copper belt that stretches all the way to Afghanistan. Central China Goldfields is the only British mining company operating in Tibet. It has set up a joint-venture partnership with The Sichuan Bureau of Metallurgy and Geological Exploration. Source: *The Sunday Telegraph*
- **Tibet's most famous woman writer and blogger was detained** in Lhasa on 25 August. Woesser is the author of an influential blog that is read by many Chinese. She was held for eight hours by security officials in Lhasa after she was allegedly seen taking photographs from a taxi of army and police positions in Lhasa. Source: *The Times*
- **Adak Kalgyam was sentenced to five years imprisonment in Dartsedo,** Kandze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture on 14 July. He was arrested in October 2007 after he openly objected to patriotic education classes in his village following the arrest of his uncle, Runggye Adak, in August 2007. Source: Tibet Watch
- **The annual EU-China Summit** is due to take place this year in December in France. Summits have been held annually since 1998, alternating between Beijing and the country currently holding the rotating EU Presidency. Subjects covered in the summit range from foreign policy to trade and human rights. There is also a separate dedicated Human Rights Dialogue and seminar.

Supporters

Skydive for a Free Tibet!

Would you like to have the experience of a lifetime and raise much needed funds for the campaign? Then join Free Tibet's 2008 Skydive!

Imagine leaning forward out of that plane and letting go - falling forward into the clouds, diving down through

the air as you freefall at over 120mph! Then imagine the peace and quiet as the canopy opens, the steering toggles

come down and you begin a tranquil parachute descent from a mile up in the air.

By raising the minimum sponsorship of £360 you will enjoy the thrill of falling 10000 feet and know that the funds raised will make a real difference to Free Tibet.

Free Tibet member Anna Drnas recently raised over £1000 to help our work. "It was a totally unique experience - the closest thing to feeling like a bird. The jump was even more rewarding knowing that the funds raised will help Free Tibet. Brilliant!" A big thank you to Anna and all those who sponsored her and to those who have already jumped for Tibet.

Skydives can be arranged throughout the year at numerous locations across the UK.

For more information please see our website or contact Claire for an information pack: claire@freetibet.org
020 7324 4610.



Anna with her instructor after completing her skydive.

Trek the Himalayas 18-28 April 2009

Calling all adventurers! Join us on an exciting journey from Dharamsala through the Himalayas!

Free Tibet is pleased to launch our new sponsored trek - an action packed 10 days in the Indian Himalayas. With an itinerary especially chosen for our supporters, you will experience Tibetan culture first-hand, exploring Dharamsala, the town where the Dalai Lama resides, before you set off for the mountains. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit Buddhist temples, taste Tibetan food and to meet and talk with Tibetans living in exile.

On the trek, you will see nomads wandering the pastures and travel through forests and caves, over rivers and glaciers, encountering the stunning scenery of the snow capped Himalayas. Ending with a visit to the glorious Taj Mahal, it will be a journey you will never forget!

Please support Free Tibet Campaign by taking up this challenge. You will need to raise £2650 which includes all the costs of the trek and the sponsorship money. Free Tibet will give you lots of tips on how to raise this amount over the next 6 months. For more information please see our website or contact Claire: claire@freetibet.org
020 7324 4610.





Above: Grampian group on a sponsored hike.
Right: T for Tibet reaches Fremantle, Australia



Local groups stand up for Tibet

During the protests in March, the Olympic Torch Relay and the Games themselves, interest in the Tibet has been at a high, and our local group volunteers have been instrumental in both raising awareness and funds for the campaign at this crucial time.

We would like to give a big thank you to those who run and attend local groups, and also to all our supporters who have held fundraising events this year such as sponsored walks, concerts and film screenings.

With over forty groups across the UK, you can also get involved at a grass roots level and help to keep Tibet in the public eye now that the Olympic spotlight has dimmed. If there is not a group in your area, why not start one – it's easy!

Simply contact Gabriel at gabriel@freetibet.org or give us a call on 020 7324 4605 for more information. We can provide you with materials and advertise your events to other supporters.

In recent months we have had a lot of interest from groups overseas. We now have twelve contacts across the world from Taiwan to the Philippines to the United States, who are able to share information about Tibet with new groups of people and push their political leaders to seek change.

Participating in local group activities can be a rewarding and eye-opening experience. You can meet like-minded people who are passionate about the issue while having fun and doing important work to keep Tibetan culture alive!

More chances to win

There's still time to win a fabulous prize in our raffle. Enclosed with this magazine (unless you requested otherwise) are some more raffle books for you to buy or sell to your friends. But hurry the raffle closes on 1 December. You could win an 11-day tour of Nepal, a yoga retreat in the sun or your own Tibetan thangka. Just think what wonderful Christmas presents these would be. Not only do you have the chance to win something for yourself but you have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping us to campaign for Tibetan freedom at the same time. If you would like some more tickets, please call us on 020 7324 4605.

Diary

1-5 October

Journey into Exile. Exhibition of drawings by Tibetan refugee children at Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Argyll Street, Glasgow. 11am-5pm, free admission

Friday 10 October

Free Tibet Reigate group meeting. Includes three SFT activists talking about their experiences of taking part in Olympic protests in Beijing. The Friends Meeting House, Reigate Road, RH2 0QT
For details please email Derek at derek5205@ntlworld.com

Saturday 11 October

Overtone chanting workshop. Learn how to sing two notes at the same time; no singing skills required. The Pierian Centre, St.Paul's, Bristol. 2-5pm. Tickets £12 or £6 concessions; proceeds go to Free Tibet Campaign.
Please call Mark Vaughan on 01179734031 or 07931443905 to book.

Tuesday 14 October

Arrested in Beijing; a talk by SFT activist Iain Thom, who was detained for staging a banner hang outside the 'Birds Nest' stadium this year. Aberdeen University, room KCG7 from 7.30pm
For details contact Liz at d.c.lindsey@abdn.ac.uk

Tuesday 21 October

Yoga for Tibet. Introductory class at Aberdeen University Chaplaincy Centre, Elphinstone Road entrance from 7.30pm. Proceeds go to Tibetan charities.
For details contact Liz at d.c.lindsey@abdn.ac.uk

Monday 17 November

Journey into Exile. The refugee art exhibition arrives at the University Chaplaincy Centre, Bistro Square, Edinburgh. Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm until 16 December, free admission.

Wednesday 26 November

Tibet by bike; a talk & slide show by Gordon Casely. Aberdeen University, room KCG7 from 7.30pm
For details contact Liz at d.c.lindsey@abdn.ac.uk

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.

Join in the Big T

Introduce a friend and get a free T shirt!

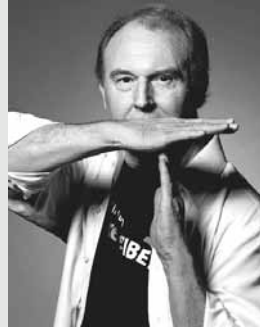


The more voices we have in support, the more powerful the message will be.

You can help by introducing a friend to Free Tibet Campaign.

If your friend becomes a member, we will give you a free T shirt like the ones modelled by our celebrity supporters.

To claim your T shirt just get your friend to call us on **0207 324 4605** and quote **FT51** and your name and address. Or write to us at Free Tibet, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT. Make sure we have your details to claim your free T shirt.



Since launching in July, T for Tibet has gained hundreds of supporters including celebrities like Jeremy Irons, comedians Bill Bailey and Shazia Mirza, TV personality Aggie MacKenzie and actors Tim Pigott Smith, Anna Chancellor, Philip Glenister and Sean Gilder.

You can show your support for Tibet by adding your own T picture to the T for Tibet website at www.tfortibet.org and join the stars in making a clear statement – **NOW** is the time to free Tibet.

Numbers of Tibet supporters have swelled in the months leading up to the Olympics. Many of the people who have placed their photos on T for Tibet are new to the Tibet issue and to Free Tibet Campaign.

freeTIBET

www.freetibet.org