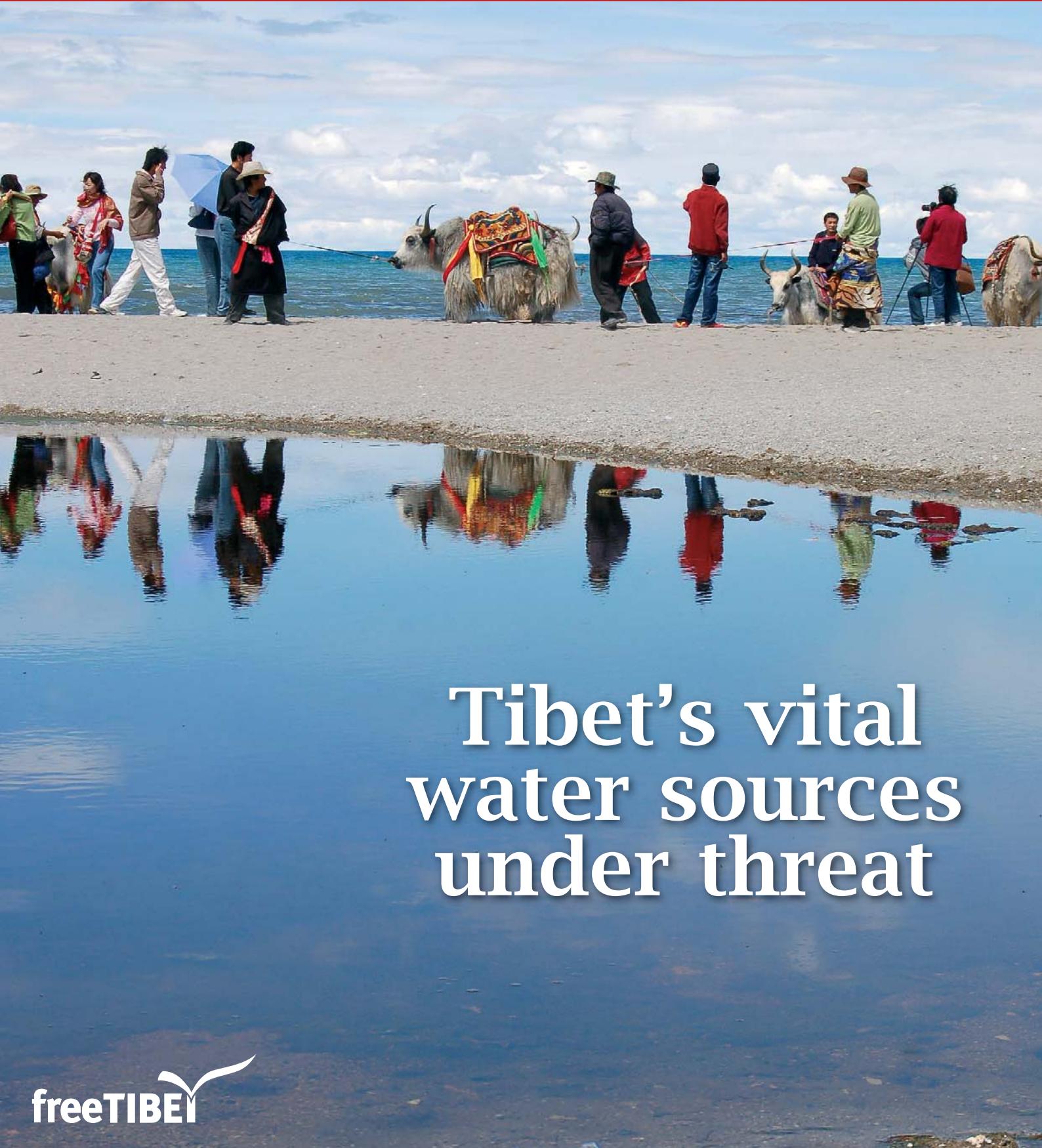


# FREE TIBET

Issue 54 October 2009 issn 1360-4864

[www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org)



## Tibet's vital water sources under threat

freeTIBET 

• How *your* support helps • Minister tip-toes out of Tibet • Over 1,000 Tibetans still missing •



Free Tibet team

## Dear friends

In recent months, Free Tibet's opposition to Chinese rule over Tibet has been reinforced by statements from several independent academics. This includes sources from within China, who argue that Chinese policy in Tibet has failed and Tibetans are increasingly marginalised and excluded in their own country. The cost for some of the Chinese advocates who have spoken out has been high. They have, like the 1,000 Tibetans missing after the Spring protests, lost their liberty.

Critically, the British government is failing to honour peaceful Tibetan dissent, or to heed the Chinese academics who offer an alternative understanding to Beijing's claims that Tibetans are "*complaining with their stomachs full*". In September the British Foreign Minister tip-toed in and out of Tibet and failed to make a strong statement on the human rights situation, thus bringing into question the UK government's genuine commitment to human rights as one of the pillars of its UK-China strategy.

It is this weak approach to human rights which is driving Free Tibet's campaign to secure a Foreign Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the UK's policy on Tibet and China. As with all

our campaigns, your support is crucial: working together, individual voices become one powerful call for a free Tibet. Please add your voice by returning the enclosed postcard to your MP.

In the next few months there are several ways you can support Free Tibet. You can host an event on International Human Rights Day, 10 December, to help end the widespread and routine use of torture in Tibet; we'll have resource packs available containing all the information you will need to make the event a real success.

Also, there is still time to buy raffle tickets, giving you the chance to win one of four fantastic holidays for just a pound. And let's not forget our Christmas merchandise range and the eagerly awaited 'virtual yaks' which will contribute to our work to help protect Tibetan nomads from forced resettlement.

Your support really does make a difference. Please act with us today.

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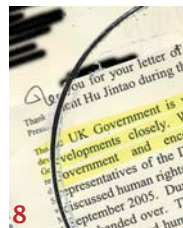


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Free Tibet stands for the right of Tibetans to determine their own future. It campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for the fundamental human rights of Tibetans to be respected. Founded in 1987, Free Tibet generates active support 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.

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**Design & layout:** Catherine Quine

**Cover:** Tibetans and tourists at Namtso Lake.  
Michael Bollino. www.michaelbollino.com





# The Third Pole: a Crisis in Tibet

Approximately one billion people depend on the seven major rivers which begin high up on the Tibetan plateau. Tibetan nomads have been the stewards of this unique environment for generations.

Above: Tibet's waterways are a vital part of everyday life

## Action

Please support this campaign by visiting [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org) where you can read our letter to the UN Secretary General, make a donation and take action. The future is in our hands.

Pictures of polar bears stranded on sheets of melting ice remind us all how global warming is causing the two poles, the Arctic and Antarctic, to melt. But what about the so-called 'third pole', the Tibetan plateau, which holds the third largest amount of stored water on earth?

Approximately one billion people depend on the seven major rivers – like the Yangtze, the Indus and the Yellow River – which begin high up on the Tibetan plateau. With average temperatures rising and the Tibetan glaciers melting at faster than average rates, this vital water source is in danger. Protection of this natural resource is now critical, not only for the Tibetan people but for us all.

Tibetan nomads have been the stewards of this unique environment for generations. The Chinese administration's policy of forcibly resettling nomadic families has not only put their unique way of life at risk of destruction, but also risks knowledge of how to manage this fragile environment being lost for ever.

Forcible resettlement is motivated not only by China's scramble for natural resources, which has seen Chinese state companies drilling, mining and extracting as far afield as Tibet, Iraq and Zimbabwe; it is also motivated by political aims. Last year Zhang Qingli, the Tibet Autonomous

Regional Party Secretary, publicly acknowledged that the resettlement of Tibetan nomads was to counteract the Dalai Lama's influence: the Chinese administration is desperate to avoid the scenes of last spring, of brave Tibetan nomads riding bare-back into towns and villages challenging China's occupation of their land.

Beijing has attempted to justify the forcible relocation of nomads by blaming the escalating ecological crisis on the 'backward' and 'unscientific' behaviour of the Tibetan nomads. Independent research demonstrates that it is actually the Chinese administration's land-use and resource extraction policies in Tibet that have accelerated the degradation of the plateau's fragile ecosystem and water sources.

This December the UN is facilitating a climate conference in Copenhagen that will bring nations across the globe together to secure a new climate treaty. Free Tibet is working with others to ensure that the importance of the Tibetan nomads – as stewards of our shared environment – is not only acknowledged, but that efforts are made to protect the Tibetan nomads and their way of life. This is integral to the preservation of the Tibetan plateau, the world's third pole.



# Your Individual Voices: One Giant Message for Tibet

NICK COBBING

## Free Tibet supporters force Gordon Brown to abandon plans to attend Beijing Games Opening Ceremony

In April last year thousands of free Tibet supporters poured onto the streets during China's Olympic Torch Relay through London, to demonstrate their opposition to China's violent crackdown in Tibet. Free Tibet had already been lobbying Gordon Brown intensively to condemn China's crackdown, to meet the Dalai Lama and to abandon plans to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Games on account of China's crackdown. Our success in persuading the government to concede to our demands resulted directly from your dramatic intervention: thousands of individual Free Tibet supporters who collectively sent a powerful and united message to the government that the British public did care about China's appalling human rights violations in Tibet.

## Free Tibet supporters bring Tibet to the heart of Westminster

Only a year after the Olympic Torch protests in London, Tibet supporters delivered another powerful message to the British government that it must do more to stand up for Tibet. More than 300 Tibet supporters staged a mass lobby of Parliament in March, urging their MPs to raise their concerns with the government.

A huge number of MPs met Tibet supporters from their constituencies, dramatically increasing parliamentary awareness of China's ongoing crackdown inside Tibet, the huge number of Tibetans who remained unaccounted for a year after being detained during the 2008 protests and the UK's weakening policy on human rights abuses in Tibet.

The value of Free Tibet supporters regularly raising their concerns over Tibet with their MP cannot be overstated. MPs and their researchers have told Free Tibet that it only requires two or three letters from constituents on any one issue for that issue to become an area of concern for the MP. The letters that you continue to write to your MP on subjects like widespread torture and the failure to implement national and international laws in Tibet are vital in reinforcing the regular lobbying work Free Tibet undertakes on these subjects with the Foreign Office.

### Brown: I am staying away from Olympics opening ceremony – but it's not a boycott



Your support helped gain news coverage for Tibet and influenced politicians



Tibet has rarely been far from the headlines over the past 18 months: the largest protests against Chinese rule in Tibet in decades, the Beijing Olympics and the 50th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan Uprising have all put Tibet firmly in the public eye, under the media spotlight and on the political agenda.

Free Tibet supporters made a vital contribution to the attention paid to Tibet: the cumulative effect of thousands of individuals taking action has complemented the lobbying work undertaken by Free Tibet. Without our supporters there simply could be no campaigns.

It is all too easy to think that what you do as an individual will not make a difference. Nothing could be further from the truth: each letter you send to the Chinese administration or to your MP, every petition you sign and each demonstration you attend is carefully linked into a wider campaign.

For example, when you write to your MP to highlight cases of torture of Tibetans, your MP is obliged to take up the matter with the Foreign Office. When thousands of Free Tibet supporters are raising their concerns with the Foreign Office through their MPs this adds enormous power to the call for the UK government to take a far tougher line with China over its dismal human rights record in Tibet.

### Taking action to stop torture: Golog Jigme

Over the last ten years, our Urgent Campaign letter-writing scheme has resulted in scores of Tibetan political prisoners gaining early release from prison. An extraordinary number of letters have been sent by Free Tibet supporters to the Chinese authorities. The authorities in China have acknowledged that it is the number of letters and postcards received on any one case that determines their decision to release a prisoner early. One of the most prominent political prisoners to have been released early, Ngawang Sangdrol, said:

*"I was obviously released many years before my scheduled date because of pressure from the international community."*

Last year our Urgent Campaign Scheme highlighted the case of Golog Jigme, a monk from Labrang monastery in eastern Tibet who was arrested in March 2008 for his role in recording the views of ordinary Tibetans for the film *Leaving Fear Behind*.

Having been released and then re-arrested, Golog Jigme was finally released on 22 April 2009 after a high-profile letter-writing campaign by Free Tibet supporters responding to an Urgent Campaign.

Golog Jigme told sources that he was severely tortured during his first spell in prison. During his second spell in prison the Chinese authorities were deterred from inflicting further torture and ill-treatment on him as a direct result of the attention his case received from Free Tibet supporters: Golog Jigme reported that he received far better treatment and was not tortured as before.

Golog Jigme



### How you can support our future campaigns

Over the coming months Free Tibet will be campaigning to persuade parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee to conduct a formal inquiry into Britain's weakening support for Tibet and human rights within its overall China policy.

Your support, as in the past, will be a vital component of this campaign. Your MP is far more likely to support our call for a wholesale review of British policy on Tibet if you urge him or her to do so.

**Action:**  
Please forward the enclosed postcard to your MP, and join Free Tibet's Urgent Campaign Scheme.  
Call us on 020 7324 4605 or visit [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org)

### Make sure Tibet is an issue at the next general election

We are seeking your support to ensure that Tibet becomes an active issue with both sitting MPs and candidates in your constituency in the upcoming British general election.

Widespread dissatisfaction with the present government, and MPs more generally, is sure to result in a huge redistribution of seats in Westminster. MPs and candidates will therefore be more eager than ever to listen to your views, meaning that the next election provides an unrivalled opportunity for you to bring the issue of Tibet to a new generation of MPs, and to ensure that it remains a 'hot' topic in parliament following the election.

Free Tibet has prepared campaign materials that will enable you to put Tibet firmly on the agenda when general election candidates canvass for your vote. We are creating pledge cards which you can ask candidates in your area to sign, saying that they will stand up for Tibet and human rights if they are elected to parliament. These and other materials will be available as soon as the election is called.



# Get Involved



## Buy Your Own Virtual Yak

You can now purchase a virtual yak at [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org) for as little as £3, as a fun way to support our campaign to preserve the nomadic way of life in Tibet. You can choose a name for your yak, decide on his or her appearance, buy colourful decorations – a popular custom in Tibet – and then visit your yak on our virtual plateau to see it grazing happily alongside other supporters' yaks.

A virtual yak is an innovative Christmas gift – you could introduce your friends to the plateau and challenge them to come up with a better yak!

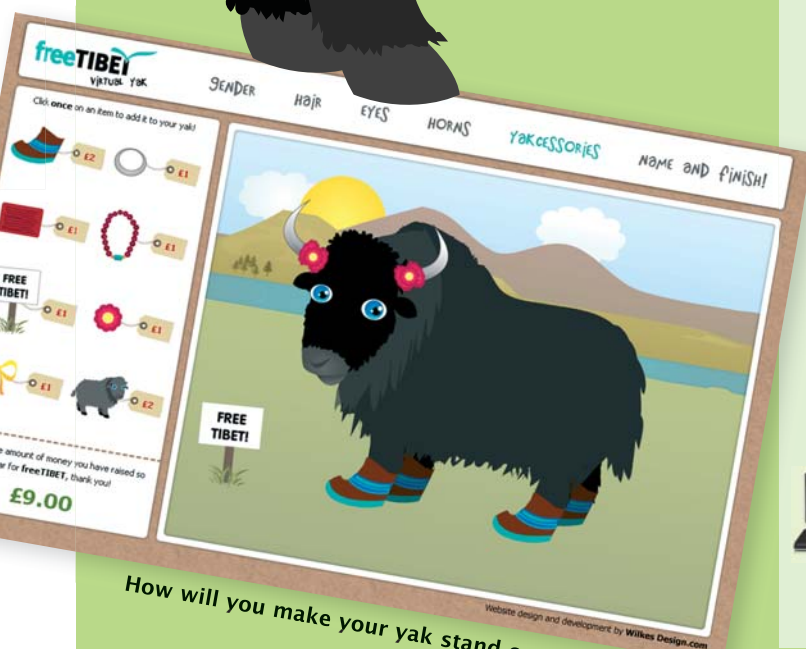
Yaks are integral to the Tibetan nomadic way of life which is under serious threat. Thousands of Tibetan nomads are now being forcibly removed from their ancestral lands and resettled in tenement housing complexes; livestock, including yaks, belonging to the uprooted families are either confiscated or slaughtered.

The ongoing plan to relocate some 900,000 nomads by the end of 2010 is destroying the Tibetans' ancient culture; as recently as August this year, the Chinese administration announced that they had just moved 50,000 Tibetan nomads into tenement settlements.

By purchasing a virtual Yak you will be supporting Free Tibet's crucial ongoing work to protect the endangered Tibetan nomads' way of life.



You can support our work to protect the Tibetan nomads online at [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org). If you do not use the internet, why not tell someone who you think might be interested. Thank you



How will you make your yak stand out from the herd?

## Yak Facts

Did you know?

- Around 85% of the world's yaks live on the Tibetan plateau.
- Yaks have evolved to survive in the harsh, high altitude environment.
- Nomads keep herds of between 20 and 100 yaks. Not only do these herds provide milk and meat, but their hair and hide are used for clothing and their dung is burnt to cook on and to heat the nomads' tents.
- Being strong, steadfast animals able to carry heavy loads across mountain passes, yaks provide an effective mode of transport for people and goods.
- The nomads work the herds sensitively across the plateau to ensure that minerals and nutrients are kept in the soil and the balance of this delicate eco-system is preserved.



PEDRO SARAIVA

## Tibet is for Life

After a successful launch in the last issue of the Free Tibet magazine, we would like to thank the first Free Tibet Life members.

Gina Esmonde told us why she became a life member:

*"I became a Free Tibet Life member because I want to see the Tibetan people and their leader return to Tibet during my lifetime."*

You will see the names of some of Free Tibet's new Life members across the foot of these pages. We would like to thank them all for their support. Each Life member strengthens our capacity to advocate for the rights of future generations of Tibetans, helping us to ensure that they grow up in a free Tibet.

Free Tibet life members receive copies of all Free Tibet's publications, invitations to special events, a new Free Tibet t-shirt every year, optional acknowledgement of their support in the Free Tibet magazine and an exclusive invitation to annual meetings with the staff and Director to discuss current developments and the direction of the campaign. Life members also receive all the benefits of standard membership. Life membership costs £500.

If you would like to become a Life member please contact us by telephone on 020 7324 4605, by post (a UK freepost envelope is included with your magazine) or e-mail [mail@freetibet.org](mailto:mail@freetibet.org). You can also join for life online at [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org). We would be delighted to hear from you.



FALSALAMA

## International Human Rights Day

Did you know that confessions obtained through torture can be used as evidence in courts in China?

On International Human Rights Day on 10 December, Free Tibet's campaign against torture shifts up a gear, further raising awareness about the routine and widespread use of torture in Tibet. For this to be successful, Free Tibet needs your support, combining your local voice with our national efforts so we can have a greater impact than ever before.

The whereabouts of over 1,000 Tibetans detained following the Spring protests of 2008 remain unknown over 18 months later. This puts them beyond the protection of

the law and allows Chinese authorities to torture and mistreat them with impunity. The use of torture as a common instrument against dissent creates a climate of fear and intimidation in Tibetans' everyday lives.

International Human Rights Day is your opportunity to highlight the intolerable situation in Tibet by hosting an event on torture on or around 10 December in your local area. Free Tibet is developing resources for that day which you can use to spread the word. If you would like to host an event please do get in touch with us at Free Tibet by calling 020 7324 4605 or writing an email to [gabriel@freetibet.org](mailto:gabriel@freetibet.org)

# Campaigns

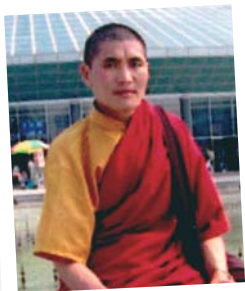
## The Disappeared in Tibet

Disappeared people are: "... persons arrested, detained or abducted against their will or otherwise deprived of their liberty by officials ... followed by a refusal to disclose the fate or whereabouts of the persons concerned or a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of their liberty, which places such persons outside the protection of the law."

UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Thousands of Tibetans – husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters – have family members who are missing following detention by Chinese officials.

It is increasingly difficult to determine the exact number of Tibetans in detention because of the lack of official information and severe restrictions on communication from Tibet. The UN has questioned China about the ill-treatment of Tibetans and, in response, Chinese officials accounted for Tibetans arrested during the 2008 Spring protests in Lhasa but failed to account for more than 1,200 Tibetans detained during the protests from other Tibetan areas. There are other Tibetans, detained both before and after the protests, who also remain unaccounted for.



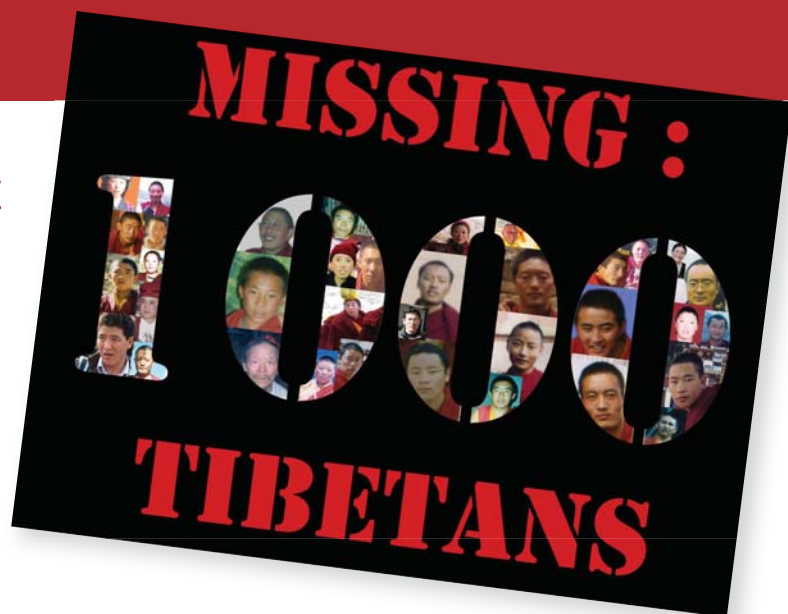
### Case Study

Ngakchung (Chinese: A Qiong) a 38 year old monk from Serthar Monastery in Kardze, was arrested with two of his relatives in Chengdu City on 7 July 2008 whilst leaving a local restaurant.

Whilst his relatives were released (three weeks later), Ngakchung's whereabouts remain unknown. His

mother, friends and monastery have made desperate appeals for information to a variety of bodies, including local and provincial governments and even detention centres in Chengdu.

Three months after the arrest Serthar County Police confirmed to Ngakchung's mother that he was held for allegedly passing information outside Tibet and stated that they would not give out information on his whereabouts until Ngakchung confesses. He has been missing for 14 months



Many of the missing Tibetans were detained for non-violent acts of dissent: for "crimes" including the distribution of flyers calling for freedom, sending information on the situation in Tibet abroad or flying the Tibetan flag.

Free Tibet has grave concerns for the welfare of those who have been disappeared. Evidence shows that individuals are most likely to suffer ill-treatment and torture when their whereabouts are unknown and they are therefore beyond the protection of the law. Detainees who were released in 2008 spoke of horrendous abuse suffered during their detention.

## Action

Free Tibet urges you to write to China's ambassadors, on behalf of disappeared Tibetans, asking them to answer two simple questions:

- How many Tibetans have been detained since the 2008 Spring protests in the 49 county-level areas where protests took place?
- What is the current location and status of all Tibetans detained to this day?

Please send your letter to the Chinese ambassador in your country.

For the UK:

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UK  
Madam Fu Ying  
49-51 Portland Place  
London W1 1JL

Please send a copy to Free Tibet so we can track all our supporters' actions.

## Death Sentences Update

We continue to seek information about Lobsang Gyaltzen and Loyak who were sentenced to death in Tibet in April. At this time the Chinese administration has not released any further news about the two men.

Thank you to all Free Tibet supporters who wrote to their MP urging them to sign the parliamentary motion

(called an Early Day Motion or EDM) calling for the reversal of the death sentences. Because of your letters and other campaigning, 126 MPs have signed the EDM, showing the British government that these sentences are abhorrent to the British public and that action needs to be taken.



# Free Tibet Calls for Inquiry into Britain's Tibet Policy

The last 18 months have witnessed a catastrophic worsening of human rights in Tibet. Rather than developing a tougher line on China and human rights, the British government's stance has weakened. Free Tibet is therefore lobbying MPs to support a parliamentary inquiry into Britain's policy on China and Tibet.

Last January the British government published *The UK and China: A Framework for Engagement*, in which it set out its China policy. In his foreword Foreign Secretary David Miliband stated that "... promotion of human rights is a fundamental part of this framework." And in correspondence to Free Tibet, Prime Minister Gordon Brown acknowledged that active promotion of human rights in China would "... benefit China's future stability and prosperity, which is in all our interests."

These commitments are welcome, but the government has failed to translate them from sound-bites into actual policy. Instead, for years, the British government has held up its biannual human rights dialogue with

China as the main evidence of its success in promoting human rights.

But the dialogue can hardly be regarded as a success simply because it is happening. The success of the UK's policy of constructive dialogue can only be measured in outcomes, which would have to come in the form of demonstrable improvements made by China to its human rights record in Tibet as a result of recommendations and pressure coming from the UK from within the dialogue process. Such improvements, however, are nowhere to be seen in Tibet where the situation only continues to deteriorate.

It is this evident failure of the UK-China human rights dialogue to deliver positive results that prompted parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee earlier this year to criticise Britain's policy: "...there remains little evidence that the British government's policy of constructive dialogue with China has led to any significant improvements in the human rights situation."

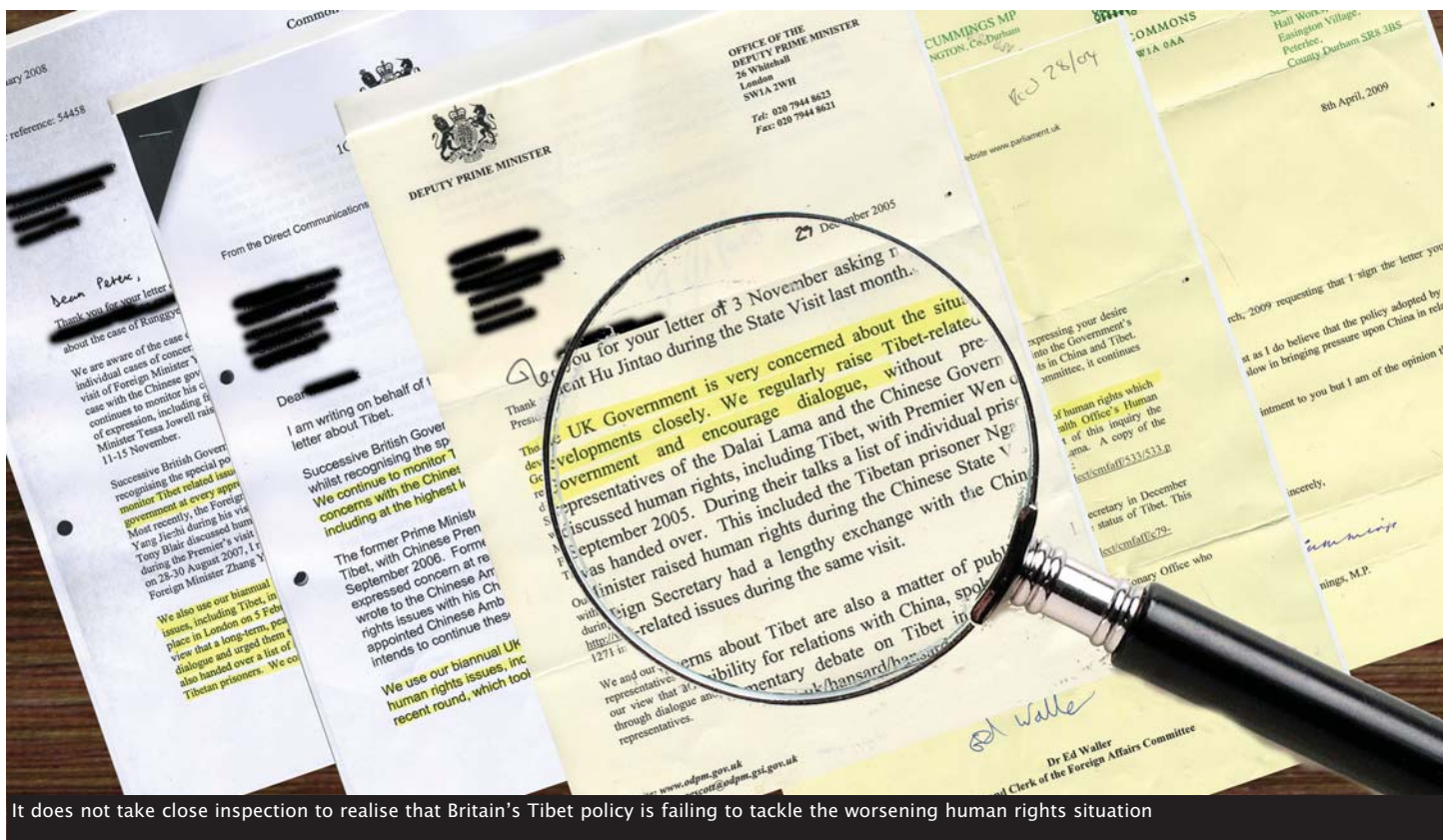
Further evidence of the ineffectiveness of Britain's strategy to

promote human rights in Tibet is to be found in the recent framework itself, where benchmarks for assessing improvements in human rights are weak; for example, the framework calls only for a "reduction" of arbitrary detention in China and Tibet, a serious dilution of the United Nations' call for its abolition. Britain's weak approach surfaced again in September when Foreign Office Minister Ivan Lewis failed to make any strong public statement of concern regarding human rights after his visit to Tibet.

For more information visit 'Campaign Action' at [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org)

## Action

Please join our campaign by mailing the postcard enclosed in this magazine to your MP urging him or her to write to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee supporting our call for an inquiry.



It does not take close inspection to realise that Britain's Tibet policy is failing to tackle the worsening human rights situation

## Chinese Academics Challenge their Government

A Beijing academic institution has released a report criticising the policies of the Chinese administration in Tibet. The report represents a rare and significant challenge to Chinese policies from within. Since the publication of the report, the Chinese administration has attempted to silence its authors.

The report was published by the Gongmeng group, which aims to promote reforms to the Chinese legal system. The report concluded that the Chinese administration mis-handled the Tibetan protests of 2008, and that China has failed to address the deep-rooted resentment felt by the Tibetan people. It said that

although China has modernised Tibet, it has deliberately sidelined Tibetans.

The report stated: *"When you can no longer find work in your own land, and feel the unfairness of lack of opportunity, and when you realize that your core value systems are under attack, then the Tibetan people's panic and sense of crisis is not difficult to understand."*

In response to the report, the Chinese authorities closed the department responsible in July and have punished the lawyers by denying them the right to practice. Gongmeng lawyers Li Fangping and Jiang Tianyong, who represented Tibetans arrested during the Spring protests of 2008, were among 53 who have had their licenses revoked in recent months.

Key members of staff have been intimidated, including Gongmeng co-founder Xu Zhiyong who was detained on 27 July and held for three weeks. Released on bail, Xu said, *"I still believe in the future of this nation, and I believe conscience and justice will finally become the mainstream of the society."*



The academics' report sympathised with the grievances of Tibetan protesters

## Comment by Enver Tohti, World Uyghur Congress UK

The People's Liberation Army entered Xinjiang by force in 1949 and then took over Tibet in 1959. Today, both autonomous regions share their resentment at Han migrants and a lack of religious and political freedom.

In both areas China continues to implement elements of an old "frontier strategy", using large-scale Chinese immigration to consolidate their control of the strategically important regions across the former western frontier.

Han Chinese comprised only 2% of the population of Xinjiang in 1949; by 2008 this had increased to 50%, even excluding Chinese military, their families and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corp. The latter, called Bing Tuan – estimated at more than one million –

effectively control farms, mines, factories, towns, schools, hospitals, police and courts there.

The Uyghurs and Tibetans have become homeless and underprivileged in their own lands, excluded from the booming Chinese economy. Both have voiced their desperation for change by going to the streets protesting against Chinese rule – as witnessed last year in Tibet and twice this year in Xinjiang.

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed in this article are the sole responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Free Tibet.



## Educating for Exclusion

According to the Chinese administration all is well in Tibet. Beijing says that poverty rates are falling in the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region and in Qinghai province where three-quarters of the Tibetan population in the People's Republic of China live; they say household incomes and levels of education are improving. So are Tibetans "*complaining with their stomachs full*" as Beijing claims? In his report *Educating for Exclusion in Western China*, Andrew Fischer explains why this claim is untrue and examines some of the underlying reasons for continued opposition against Chinese rule.

The Tibet Autonomous Region is the most heavily subsidised area in the People's Republic of China, with Qinghai second. Economic growth, however, has not resulted in an improvement in the education or health standards of ordinary Tibetans but rather, has acted to increase inequalities. This has created what Fischer refers to as "*exclusionary dynamics*" not only between Tibetans and Han Chinese, but also amongst Tibetans. Ordinary Tibetans cannot afford the 'good' schools, which are almost exclusively attended by Chinese students. Tibetan children whose parents do have the means to overcome financial barriers are still "*disadvantaged within these schools on linguistic and cultural grounds*", since the dominant cultural and political bias is Chinese. And for those students who have been educated, after their education they still have to compete shoulder-to-shoulder for poorly paid jobs with less-educated Han Chinese migrants, many of whom have only recently arrived in Tibet.

Fischer points out that it is these rising inequalities of opportunity and persistent political repression, rather than the 'backwardness' Beijing continues to blame, which are the sources of many of the grievances among Tibetans. While Tibet and China are changing, the vast majority of Tibetans are not beneficiaries of the changes. To view Andrew Fischer's report in full please visit [www.freetibet.org](http://www.freetibet.org)



JIM MCGILL PHOTOGRAPHY, WWW.PHOTO444.COM

## Minister Tip-toes out of Tibet

In August Ivan Lewis made the first ever visit to Tibet by a British minister. Free Tibet had welcomed the visit as we believed it offered an important opportunity for a UK Minister to raise concerns regarding China's human rights record in Tibet, not only to the international media but also to a domestic Chinese audience.

The media coverage secured for the visit by the Foreign Office was extremely limited and compares poorly to ministerial visits to other parts of the world. By tip-toeing into and out of Tibet, Mr Lewis has offered the Chinese administration a propaganda victory. His failure to publicly highlight human rights concerns represents a tacit endorsement of China's Tibet policy and casts strong doubt on the British government's claim that human rights concerns are integral to its engagement with China.

- **Mining dispute apparently settled.** Reports suggest that a standoff between Tibetans and local authorities over the expansion of a gold mine at a sacred site was resolved after talks between the two parties. It was agreed that Chinese security would leave the area and mining would cease.
- **Shootings in Kandze.** The Tibetan Government-in-Exile reported that six Tibetan women were shot and wounded by Chinese security forces during a protest in Tawu County, Kandze on 26 May 2009. The Tibetans had been protesting against the forced relocation of tens of thousands of Tibetans to make way for a hydroelectric dam.
- **Protesters receive harsh sentences.** Six monks and two lay people were sentenced on 13 August for taking part in a large scale protest in Machen County in March this year. They received various prison terms, the longest being seven years. Over 1,000 Tibetans protested outside the local police station after a monk being chased by police apparently died when he jumped into a river.
- **China backs down on internet filter.** The Chinese administration have abandoned plans to roll out the 'Green Dam Youth Escort' web censorship software, which would have increased state control of access to politically-sensitive information in China and Tibet. The software was shelved after international condemnation and promises from Chinese bloggers that they would stop using the internet if the plans went ahead.
- **China once again banned foreign tourists from visiting Tibet.** The ban, between 24 September and 8 October, was designed to ensure that visitors were not present to witness any Tibetan protests which may have occurred around the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic on 1 October. The ban demonstrates China's deep insecurity over Tibet.

# Free Tibet Raffle

**Don't miss out on your last chance to win one of these fabulous prizes!**

Free Tibet would like to say a big thank you to all our generous prize donors. There is a great selection of prizes to be won, with the added bonus that raffle proceeds help us fund projects and continue our work. By selling just two books of raffle tickets, you can help to give a voice to silenced Tibetans, and help to fund our work recording and publishing testimonies of survivors of torture.

**Deadline: 9 December 2009**  
(Draw date 11 December 2009)

## 1st prize:



### 5 night stay for 2 at La Grande Maison, Rhone Valley, Switzerland

Free Tibet 1st prize is a stay for 2 at this unique 200-year-old listed building, including breakfasts. Your room has an open fire and there is also a jacuzzi with amazing views of the Swiss Alps. A £100 contribution towards flights is also included in the prize.

[www.lagrandemaison.ch](http://www.lagrandemaison.ch)

## 2nd prize:



### 4 night stay for 2 at the Hoopoe Yurt Hotel in Andulucia

Listed in Marie Claire's top 10 eco holidays, Free Tibet's 2nd prize is a fantastic stay in a luxurious yurt pitched among olive trees, with spectacular views of the Grazalema mountains. A £100 contribution towards flights is also included in the prize.

[www.yurthotel.com](http://www.yurthotel.com)

## 3rd prize:

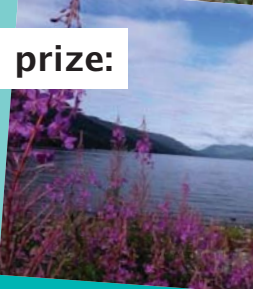


### 5 night stay for 2 at Il Giardino Segreto, Naples, Italy

This beautiful 18th century building is in the heart of Naples and offers its guests wonderful sanctuary after a hard day's sightseeing! A £100 contribution towards flights is also included in the prize.

[www.ilgiardinosegreto.org](http://www.ilgiardinosegreto.org)

## 4th prize:



### 3 night stay for 2 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Loch Earn, Scotland

The Four Seasons looks south-west down Loch Earn and enjoys one of the most enviable settings in Scotland. This three night stay includes champagne on arrival, breakfasts and dinner.

[www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk](http://www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk)

## More prizes:

5th prize: Tibetan thangka donated by Pink Lotus [www.pinklotus.co.uk](http://www.pinklotus.co.uk)

6th prize: 2 day cooking course in Devon with the Holistic Cooking School [www.holistic-cooking.co.uk](http://www.holistic-cooking.co.uk)

7th prize: A dolphin discovery day for 2 with Wild At Heart Eco Holidays [www.wildatheart-ecoholidays.com](http://www.wildatheart-ecoholidays.com)

8th prize: Demologica Facial for one, courtesy of All About You Beauty Parlour, London, NW11

Raffle open to residents of the UK only. If you think you may have a gambling problem please seek advice and support which can be found at [www.gambleaware.co.uk](http://www.gambleaware.co.uk)