

FREE TIBET

Issue 57 October 2010 issn 1360-4864

www.freetibet.org



No
freedom
to believe

freeTIBET 

• New government, new approach? • Tibet is for life • Earthquake reconstruction •

“[The Chinese authorities] ...have transformed Tibet into a terrifying battle ground. At most of the monasteries and villages, soldiers parade. They have made everyone powerless, helpless and desperate.”

Shogdung, imprisoned Tibetan writer



Free Tibet Director Stephanie Brigden

Dear friends

Many thanks to all of you who contacted the Foreign Secretary before his visit to China. Mr Hague raised the necessity for change in Tibet, including the need to address human rights violations. Said alongside his Chinese counterpart, in a room full of journalists, his statement caused a great furore among China's political elite and in the Chinese media. This illustrates the impact a simple act of accountability can have. Critically, despite China's groans, the UK government's firm stand on human rights has not had a detrimental effect on bilateral relations. Now, ahead of his first visit to China as Prime Minister, we are calling on Mr Cameron to stand up for Tibet. Please join us by signing our online petition at www.freetibet.org. Please don't forget if every one of our website visitors shared the link with 100 friends we could reach the whole population of London in under a month.

I am also delighted to invite you all to a free event in Bristol on 25 October (or in London on 26 October for Life Members) to hear more about our Stop Torture in Tibet campaign and to meet Lhamo Tso, wife of political prisoner Dhondup Wangchen. Dhondup

was arrested for his remarkable documentary *Leaving Fear Behind* and has been tortured. We are working hard to stop the widespread and routine use of torture in Tibet and China. Recent changes to legislation (see page 11), although not enough, illustrate that China is sensitive to criticism of its torture record. Please sign our Stop Torture in Tibet postcard asking the UK government to press China to end torture (see page 9).

Also enclosed in this magazine is our much-anticipated Christmas catalogue full of beautiful gifts and Christmas cards. Our annual raffle will be drawn just before Christmas: check out the back page to see how far £1 could get you ... 7 nights in France perhaps!

All of the team thank you for all your support and we look forward to seeing many of you in Bristol or London.

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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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A monk outside his monastery

Tibet is for life



FALSALAMA WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/FALSALAMA

“When I became a Life Member, I simply wanted to help Free Tibet in a way I could afford. Unexpected benefits came later... I feel I can be as active or quietly supportive as I wish.”

Free Tibet is a membership-based organisation; our large supporter-base demonstrates popular support for a free Tibet and gives our organisation legitimacy with policy-makers and the media. By becoming a Life Member you will not only be demonstrating a lifelong commitment to our work but also be providing essential support to Free Tibet.

Diana from Kent tells us why she became a Free Tibet Life Member: **“The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying by Sogyal Rinpoche has to be my ‘desert island’ book of choice. On my long daily train commute to London my interest in Tibet grew stronger. Gradually, I delved further into Tibet’s history and I realised, with horror, the brutal oppression and deliberate destruction which has taken place. I found the Free Tibet website and the book *Fire under the Snow*, by Palden Gyatso which deeply affected me. Palden Gyatso, a monk and fellow human being, suffered unbelievably, yet survived to bring us his story and light a beacon of hope. I could no longer look away.**

When I became a Life Member, I simply wanted to help Free Tibet in a way I could afford. Unexpected benefits came later such as the welcome I received and the chance to meet Stephanie Brigden and her dedicated team. I feel I can be as active or quietly supportive as I wish, with no pressure. I attended Stephanie’s presentation to the Conservative Party Human Rights

Commission. This event was a fascinating insight into the world of political diplomacy. Before the election I visited my MP to urge his support for a free Tibet. He promised to speak to William Hague and to read the copy of *Fire under the Snow* which I gave him. How wonderful if this in some small way has contributed to his recent stance in Beijing.

My intuition guided me this far, people worldwide share the hope. FREE TIBET.”

Free Tibet invites you to become an integral part of Free Tibet and join as a Life Member with a one-off payment of £500. Life Members enjoy fantastic benefits which include invitations to exclusive events. This year Life Members met with an inspiring Tibetan from Lhasa who shared with us her personal account of how the spring protests of 2008 unfolded and impacted on the life of her and her family. Life Membership also supports Free Tibet by saving us money in administration costs. This will help us channel more money where it matters most. It also enables Free Tibet to invest in long-term campaigns which would not be possible without this level of financial support.

To become a Free Tibet Life Member or make a gift of a Life Membership to someone else, please complete the cover letter enclosed with this magazine, visit www.freetibet.org or call 020 7324 4605

“They are putting the monks and nuns in prison-like conditions, depriving them the opportunity to study and practise in peace. These conditions make the monasteries function more like museums and are intended to deliberately annihilate Buddhism.”

Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, March 2010

Visitors to Tibet often comment on the large numbers of monks who seem free to practise their religion without restriction. Temples, monasteries, nuns and monks, Buddhist rituals and festivals are all outward signs of an apparently thriving religion. The Chinese government cites this as evidence of its commitment to the free exercise of religious belief. This is a facade.

What visitors cannot see is the complex system of control and restrictions which makes it virtually impossible for Tibetans to practise their religion in a meaningful way. What they also do not see is the coercion, the surveillance, the threats and the monks and nuns who are in prison for exercising their beliefs. Religious festivals are often banned and religious leaders prevented from giving teachings simply because the authorities do not want large groups of Tibetans to gather together.

“The situation of my country Tibet – having no freedom is difficult to comprehend. Having no place for Tenzin Gyatso [the Dalai Lama] the mother of all sentient beings and the supreme head of spiritual and political head of Tibet tortures my mind. Even no freedom to keep his photo and being forced to denigrate him is the deepest suffering.” Nun 27, Nagchu.

Enshrined in Chinese law is the requirement that religion does not threaten “the security, honour and interests of the Motherland”. One of the ways in which China makes sure that the state comes first is by putting many Tibetans through a compulsory programme called patriotic re-education in order to “correct their thinking”. Anyone may be subjected to re-education without reason. It takes place in religious institutions and occasionally in schools or colleges.

Patriotic re-education

The main aim of patriotic re-education is to instil in people that they must love the Chinese ‘Motherland’ and place it before their religion. The demands of re-education cause devout Tibetans great pain and distress as they require them to deny the very fabric of their Buddhist belief system. Specifically, it demands that participants:

- Oppose separatism;
- Deny Tibet was ever or should ever be independent from China;
- Agree that the Dalai Lama is destroying the unity of the Motherland;
- Recognise Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama, as the ‘true’ Panchen Lama.



No freedom to believe

Chinese state media reported that in 2009 alone more than 2,300 officials were sent to 505 monasteries and nunneries in the Tibetan Autonomous Region to carry out patriotic re-education.

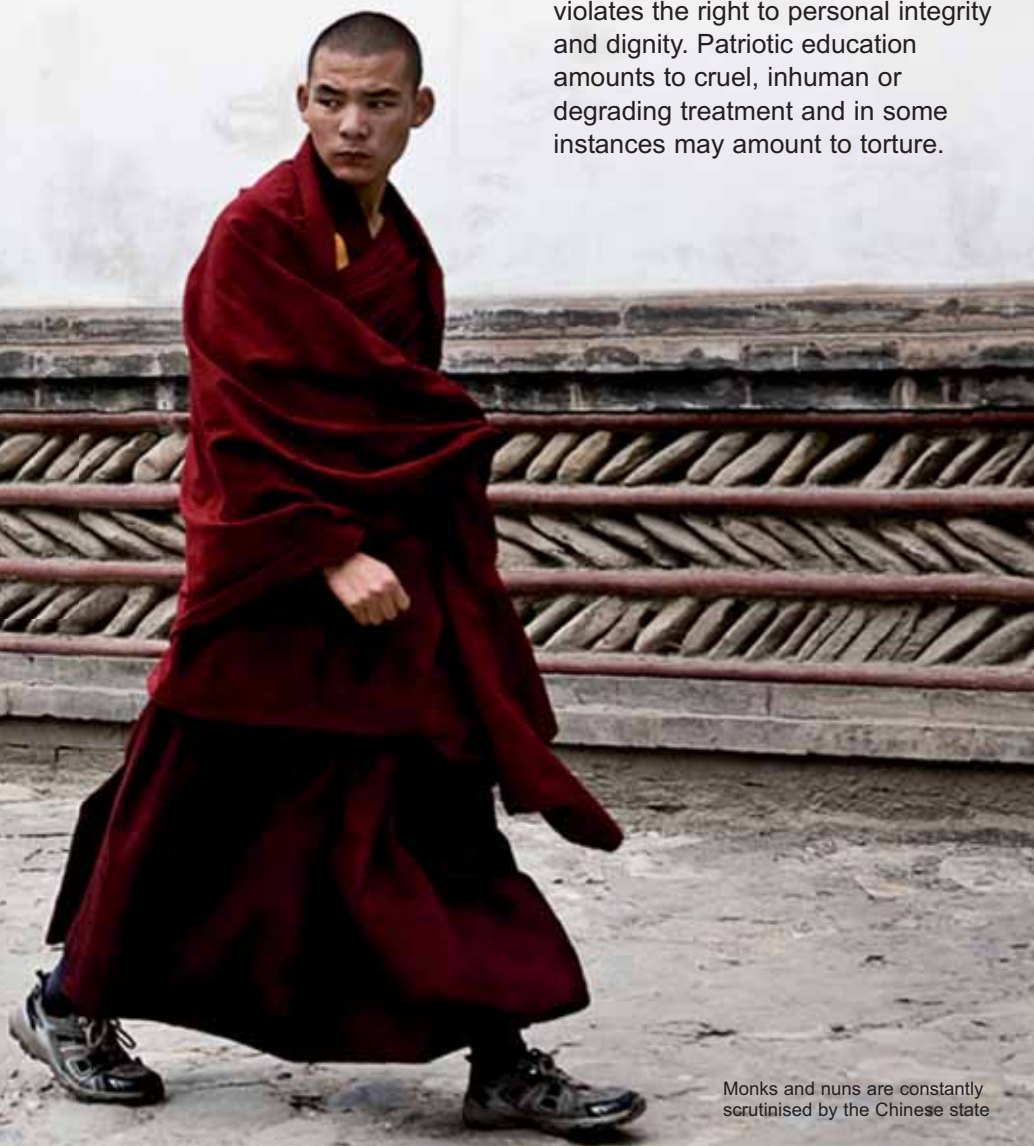
Failure to comply with patriotic re-education campaigns has resulted in fines, surveillance and physical punishment such as beatings. Monks and nuns are expelled from monasteries and nunneries, people are sometimes detained and even imprisoned for non-compliance.

In April 2008 Chinese forces shot at least eight unarmed civilians who were protesting against patriotic re-education in Tongkhor monastery. A number of incidences of suicide have also been recorded after patriotic re-education sessions.

“The Chinese official work-teams have arrived at the monastery again. They have ordered the monks to assemble for the ‘education’. Again, they will not let us stay in peace.”

The 16-year-old monk who spoke these words to his brother as he arrived home from Kirti Dhongri Monastery, Mehu-ru-ma Village in Sichuan Province then walked out of the room. After around 15 minutes his brother discovered him dead with a rope around his neck in the nearby storeroom where they kept their firewood. It is thought that he committed suicide as a result of the distress caused by the patriotic re-education programme.

Forcing monks and nuns to change or recant their deeply held religious beliefs is a violation of the absolute right to freely have beliefs of one’s own choosing; it also violates the right to personal integrity and dignity. Patriotic education amounts to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and in some instances may amount to torture.



Monks and nuns are constantly scrutinised by the Chinese state

What is Free Tibet doing?

- With Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Free Tibet wrote an open letter to highlight violations of freedom of religion in Tibet, published in the Telegraph on the Dalai Lama’s birthday.



“My great sadness today is that ... Tibetans in Tibet cannot openly pray for his [the Dalai Lama’s] long life or burn incense to mark his birthday, as is traditional for Tibetan Buddhists; nor can they carry or display a photograph of their Dalai Lama without fear of punishment, including detention and even torture. All these restrictions are terrible violations of the universal right to freedom of religion and religious belief as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

Archbishop Emeritus
Desmond Tutu, July 2010

- Free Tibet has given evidence to the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission (July 2010) on violations of religious freedom in Tibet. The commission has adopted and published all of Free Tibet’s recommendations for the UK government to address this issue with China.
- Free Tibet is lobbying the United Nations to have patriotic re-education reclassified as a form of torture.



www.freetibet.org/about

Get involved

Meet the wife of political prisoner Dhondup Wangchen

Free Tibet supporters are invited to join Lhamo Tso, the wife of political prisoner Dhondup Wangchen, for an evening talk in Bristol on 25 October at 7pm.

Dhondup Wangchen is a Tibetan film-maker who was arrested in March 2008 for his remarkable documentary *Leaving Fear Behind* in which ordinary Tibetans bravely spoke out about the Chinese occupation of Tibet. In December 2009, Dhondup was sentenced to six years imprisonment. From detention through to his sentencing, the Chinese authorities denied Dhondup a fair trial. There remain great concerns for Dhondup's health: he has been tortured and denied access to medical treatment.

Free Tibet screened *Leaving Fear Behind* in 2008 and has made a donation to support Dhondup's family in his absence. His wife Lhamo Tso vows to never give up her fight to secure her husband's release. Free Tibet is supporting Lhamo Tso in her undertaking to build international support for Dhondup's release. Free Tibet is welcoming Lhamo Tso to the UK where she will share the story of her husband's desire to expose the truth inside Tibet. Free Tibet would like to invite our supporters to join us for an evening in Bristol to meet this courageous woman and hear first hand her moving account and to learn more about Free Tibet's wider work on torture.

A unique opportunity – not to be missed!

Numbers are limited and we will work on a first come first served basis. Please contact Free Tibet today to reserve your place at this free event.



Lhamo Tso and (right) Dhondup with one of their children



Lhamo Tso Event

Date: Monday 25 October 2010

Time: 7.00 – 8.30pm

Venue: Hamilton House, 80 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS1 3QY

RSVP:

Please call 020 7324 4605

or email claire@freetibet.org to reserve your place.

A lucky winner's tale

Last year Free Tibet supporter Liz, from Hertfordshire, was one of the eight lucky raffle winners. Liz won a stay at this year's second prize destination The Four Seasons hotel in Scotland. This coincided with her 36th wedding anniversary. Here is what she had to say:

"We've just come back and it was wonderful! A really relaxed and friendly atmosphere, a stunning location overlooking the loch and fantastic food. It really was a wonderful prize – there are some beautiful walks and the hotel has bikes to borrow. I hope the wealth of generous prizes donated encourages lots of people to buy tickets so that your vital work can continue."

Free Tibet is grateful to all the staff at the Four Seasons for making Liz and her husband feel so welcome and for their continued generosity in donating the prize again this year.

We are excited to have nine wonderful prizes for this year's raffle including our fabulous first prize – a one week stay in the Normandy countryside courtesy of The Haven (www.de-stressinfrance.com). Tickets are enclosed with this magazine and we wish our supporters good luck in the draw which takes place just in time for Christmas.



Liz enjoys her prize



www.freetibet.org/support

Free Tibet would like to thank our new Life Members: Christopher Robb, Tom Yates, Dr Cecilia d'Felice, Oliver Gay,



Free Tibet Merchandise

As Christmas is fast approaching no doubt you'll be thinking about your Christmas shopping list, what to get for whom, how best to spend your Christmas pennies, what to buy as stocking fillers... Stuck for ideas? Well, why not take a look at Free Tibet's wonderful range of gifts which are not only unique but also 100% of the proceeds support our work. Gifts start from as little as 60 pence! We are committed to providing ethical products of the highest quality.

We work with a Tibetan family who source products directly from the Tibetan refugee community in India. These refugees support themselves through the production of traditional Tibetan handicrafts, including our intricate jewellery, traditional butter lamps and warm fleece blankets. Many of our other products are made in a workshop in Nepal which was set up to establish ethical trading and to help individuals support themselves economically. The workshop employs around 20 craftsmen and women and ensures that employees are paid a fair wage. Just a few of the products which they have made for us include our beautiful silk cushion covers, our rosewood mala beads and our wall hangings.

Our Christmas catalogue is enclosed and of course you can visit our online shop for even more items. Thank you to all our supporters who have bought items from the shop in the past – your support helps both Free Tibet and talented craftspeople in India and Nepal.



 www.freetibet.org/shop



Free Tibet's stunning Christmas cards by Ian Cumming. Only £6.50 a pack of 10

Regular giving

You can now become a member of Free Tibet by setting up a regular gift online. By donating just £2 or more per month, by direct debit, you will become a member and help us to reduce our administration costs. This means that more of your money will go into our vital campaigning work.

It's easy: just a few clicks and you're done! As a thank you we will send you a Free Tibet ribbon, car sticker and Tibetan mala beads!



www.freetibet.org/support

A gift in your will

We all dream of the day when Tibetans will live in freedom in their own country able to practice their religion freely and with equal rights and opportunities. We firmly believe that this day is drawing closer but we also realise that it will take time. If you would like your commitment to Tibetan freedom and human rights to live on, please consider leaving a legacy to Free Tibet.

Leaving a legacy to Free Tibet means your vision of freedom and justice will continue. It is your opportunity to help the Tibetan people regain their freedom with a gift you may not have been able to afford in your lifetime.

Legacy giving is extremely valuable for Free Tibet as it allows us to plan for the future. Remember, absolutely every gift, no matter how small, can help.

Leave a lasting legacy: a gift that will help the future generations of Tibet. Please remember Free Tibet in your will.

For information about leaving a gift in your will to support Free Tibet's vital work please contact us on legacies@freetibet.org or 020 7324 4605

New government, new approach?

The coalition government has made positive first steps to address human rights issues in Tibet.

Following a campaign by Free Tibet supporters urging William Hague to make a public statement on Tibet, Free Tibet was encouraged that he did indeed make such a statement during his first visit to China as Foreign Secretary. By publicly voicing UK concerns over human rights in Tibet and calling for greater Tibetan autonomy to a Chinese audience



Foreign Secretary William Hague

Mr Hague has made a significant break from the previous government's approach of so-called 'constructive dialogue'. His statement also marks an important first step in setting the tone for this government's relationship with China and honouring the coalition government's manifesto commitment to human rights.

The coalition government has set the bar high when it comes to working for human rights in its foreign policy. Their manifesto commits to "standing firm on human rights" while "seek[ing] closer engagement with China". Also in July, during a speech outlining the government's vision for foreign policy, William Hague stated that **"our foreign policy should always have consistent support for human rights ... at its irreducible core and we should always strive to act with moral authority"**.

The commitment to a foreign policy **"that is resolute in its support for those around the world who are striving to free themselves through their own efforts from poverty or political fetters"** seems to speak directly to the people of Tibet and their non-violent struggle for freedom.

The previous government's strategy to address human rights in Tibet and China failed to bring about actual improvements of human rights in Tibet. Mr Hague's predecessor reduced human rights concerns in Tibet to conversations behind closed doors, masked by stronger statements at home to appease UK public opinion.

Prime Minister David Cameron will be travelling to China en route to the G20 economic summit in early November. As he establishes his own and the new government's relationship with China, it is vital he places human rights firmly on the agenda both publicly and privately. Free Tibet is mobilising supporters, members of parliament and celebrities to insist that David Cameron stands up for human rights in Tibet.

Action

Join Free Tibet in asking our Prime Minister to stand up for Tibet when he represents us in China in November!

Rouse David Cameron at www.freetibet.org/campaigns or write to him at:

10 Downing Street, London, SW1 2AA

Yak Hotel owner sentenced to life

The owner of Lhasa's famous Yak Hotel, Dorje Tashi, 38, whose assets are worth £26 million, was sentenced to life imprisonment on unknown



Dorje Tashi

charges on 26 June. He was arrested more than two years earlier, during the mass protests in Tibet and was held incommunicado until his trial. It is believed Dorje Tashi donated large sums of money to the office of the Dalai Lama and the receipt for the donation was found during a house search following his arrest. It is unclear why he was arrested in the first place. For Tibetans such donations are an act of religious devotion but the Dalai Lama is viewed by China as a 'splittist' therefore any donation to him could be interpreted by China as supporting 'splittism'.

As a successful Tibetan businessmen who worked within the Chinese system and stayed clear of

politics the severity of Dorje Tashi's sentencing surprised many.

Dorje Tashi had received various awards from the Chinese government for his outstanding business and charity work and was promoted by the regime as a model citizen. In 2005, two years after joining the Communist party, Dorje Tashi met the Chinese president, Hu Jintao, and the premier, Wen Jiabao. Dorje Tashi was even a delegate to the Chinese government's top advisory body.

Dorje Tashi's case illustrates that although certain Tibetans can become successful inside Tibet, China still cannot buy their loyalty.



www.freetibet.org/campaigns

Enough is enough

Following the unprecedented protests in Tibet in 2008, the brutal suppression and the current climate of fear and intimidation, many Tibetans feel that there is nothing more to lose. Even some who had previously remained silent have finally spoken up. One such person is writer Tagyal (pen-name Shogdung).

Shogdung, 47, one of the most famous writers in Tibet whose writings were regularly published in government newspapers, was arrested in April on charges of 'splittism' relating to the content of his new book *The Line Between Sky and Earth*.

In the book he calls on Tibetan intellectuals and state workers to stop co-operating with the Chinese government and start a campaign of civil disobedience. He apologises for his previous writings and his failure to speak out after the mass protests: **"I kept a disciplined silence and stayed passive like a coward, ultimately out of fear ... I am naturally terrified at the thought that once this essay has been made public, I will eventually have to endure the hot hells and cold hells on earth."**

There have always been songs circulating about the Dalai Lama and the occupation but previously they were cloaked in metaphors. There are now a growing number of musicians and writers inside Tibet who are openly expressing their desire for freedom and their sorrow of living under Chinese occupation.



Influential writer, Shogdung

Since 2008, numerous artists have given up anonymity and caution courageously facing the consequences of their words. One of them, Tashi Dhondup, a young singer from Amdo, sang: **"I will sing for the rest of my life for which even if I am killed I have no regrets."** He is now serving in a labour camp for his lyrics about the protests and the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

Torture continues

In July Chinese state media reported that new regulations would ban evidence obtained through torture from being used in court.

While Free Tibet welcomed the initial news, it soon became clear that the new regulations do not ban outright the use of evidence extracted under torture. Instead, the measures only allow a detainee to lodge an appeal on the grounds that torture was used to secure evidence. However, it is the defendant who has to prove that torture took place. This could be done, for example, by naming the alleged torturer and providing the date and location of the alleged torture – clearly an impossible task. It is also unclear how the victim would even know about the new measures given that most defendants do not have legal representation.

While the new changes in regulations will not have any real impact on stopping torture, the fact that China

has felt the need, at least on the surface, to attempt to reform its legal system illustrates that China can be pressured. However, more needs to be done to stop torture in Tibet and China.

The recent case of Karma Samdrup, an environmental activist and businessman named by China's state TV as 'philanthropist of the year' in 2006, demonstrates that torture continues to be an everyday reality. During his trial Karma exposed the appalling torture he had suffered in detention.

His wife Dolkar Tso, who was present at the trial, described her husband's testimony in her blog. **"The account we heard exceeded our worst imaginings, we heard about hundreds of different cruel torture methods, maltreatment around the clock, hitherto unheard of torture instruments and drugs, hard and soft tactics and even of fellow prisoners being grouped together to extract a confession."**



Karma Samdrup and family

Action

To send a Stop Torture in Tibet postcard to the Foreign Secretary urging him to press China to end torture in Tibet please call Free Tibet on 020 7324 4605.

British actress Juliet Stevenson, an ardent supporter of this campaign, will be delivering the postcard to the Foreign Office later this year. Thank you to all our supporters who have already signed this action postcard.

Reconstruction plans opposed

The deadly earthquake that hit the county of Jyekundo (Chinese: Yushu) in April claimed the lives of more than 2,600 people with thousands more injured. More than 150,000 homes collapsed. The devastation to both lives and infrastructure was enormous. Six months on and authorities are still in the process of clearing away rubble.

At the time of the earthquake Free Tibet reported on the devastation and highlighted potential risks, including the risk of Tibetans being marginalised in the re-development process. Events following the earthquake demonstrate that our concerns were justified. Writer Shogdung was arrested after he called for donations to be given directly to victims instead of government agencies. More recently there has been opposition to

redevelopment plans by local Tibetans.

In June hundreds of Tibetans protested against plans to raze their homes and businesses in the main streets of Jyekundo to make space for office buildings and parks. The Chinese authorities apparently plan to move residents and business-owners to the town's outskirts. This has upset local Tibetans who have owned these properties for generations. They have argued that this would negatively affect their livelihoods as the passing trade in the centre of town makes local shops highly profitable businesses.

Locals reported that the only notice of the plans was on posters written in Chinese – a language that most Tibetans do not understand. Hundreds of residents have been appealing to the local government



since 1 June. As we go to print they are still awaiting the final decision about the fate of their properties.

Free Tibet is continuing to work with human rights organisations to monitor the impact of re-development in Jyekundo.



www.freetibet.org/newsmedia



Residents of Jyekundo have been hit hard by the earthquake

Far from heaven

China's Shanghai Expo ran for six months from May to October. The Expo is an enormous international fair that allows all nationalities to show-case their industry, culture and sophistication. 'Tibet Week' at the Expo in September was a crude attempt by the Chinese administration to gloss over the reality of human rights violations and marginalisation that are facts of life for Tibetans in Tibet.

Free Tibet called upon visitors, particularly world leaders, to avoid visiting the 'Heavenly Tibet' pavilion with its claims of 'New Tibet, Better Life'. To visit this parody was to tacitly endorse China's policies in Tibet of arbitrary detention, torture, disappearances, patriotic re-education and the occupation of Tibet. Pleading ignorance of what is happening in Tibet is simply not an excuse.

Journalists who visited Tibet in June on the annual press trip were not fooled by the administration's attempts to disguise the culture of fear that prevails in Tibet. Reports



Troops watch crowds at Mount Kailash

by Damian Grammaticas from the BBC showed Tibetans afraid to speak to journalists, Chinese armed forces on rooftops and Chinese security personnel clearly controlling who journalists spoke to and what was said to them.



www.freetibet.org/newsmedia

New laws restrict free speech

New restrictions have effectively made it impossible for Tibetans to photocopy anything in the Tibetan language. Recent legislation requires printers to obtain detailed information from customers who wish to photocopy documents in their shops. This information includes descriptions of the content and the quantities to be copied. But the difficulties do not end there.

Free Tibet commissioned a Tibetan researcher to call a Lhasa printing shop to test the impact of these new regulations. When he called saying he was a monk who wished to photocopy Buddhist scriptures the shop owner replied: "Oh, that thing cannot be copied... Police order us not to print Tibetan." The researcher called shops across Tibet asking to copy various material including agricultural documents and in all but one of the enquiries shop owners refused to print anything in the Tibetan language without police consent.

These test calls reveal that the new law has left shop owners fearful of printing anything in Tibetan in case there are police repercussions. Meanwhile, Tibetan customers are effectively being gagged, unable to print materials in their own language.

In another move, Chinese authorities in Tibet have ordered internet cafes to install state-of-the-art surveillance systems, further tightening controls on what Tibetans can safely read and say. The 'real-name registration system', which is being introduced across China and Tibet, requires identity cards to be swiped by anyone using internet cafes. Viewed content can then be tracked to the individual. These new measures deepen the climate of fear and intimidation in which ordinary Tibetans are forced to live.

- **Protesters shot:** Tibetans have been shot by Chinese security forces in three separate incidents over the past few months. Fifteen Tibetans suffered gunshot wounds or beatings during a protest against pollution caused by a cement factory in Labrang country. Five more Tibetans were injured during a protest against a mining company in Markham county. One Tibetan was shot dead during another mining protest in Palyul county.
- **Landslides hit Tibet:** Deadly landslides ravaged Drugchu, Tibet, on 7 August killing over 1,400 people. Hundreds are still missing with many more injured or displaced. Although media reports stated that the disaster occurred in China, Drugchu is in Tibet. The Tibetan government-in-exile said the severity of the disaster may have been exacerbated by the extent of China's mining, deforestation and dam building in the area.
- **Death sentence:** Sonam Tsering, who is only 23, has become the seventh Tibetan sentenced to death for taking part in protests in Tibet in 2008. Lobsang Gyaltsen and Loyak were executed in October 2009.
- **'Singing nun' escapes:** The nun Palden Choedron has escaped from Tibet into India. She is one of fourteen nuns who became famous for recording songs about freedom from inside their cells in Drapchi, one of Tibet's most notorious jails. Palden Choedron was first arrested for taking part in a peaceful protest in 1990, aged just fourteen. Her three year sentence was extended to eight years after recording the songs. After her initial release she was caught attempting to escape from Tibet and was sent to a labour camp for a further three years. Free Tibet supporters helped campaign to secure the release of Phuntsog Nyidrol and Ngawang Sangdrol, two other singing nuns.

Where could £1 take you?

£1 could pay for a local bus ticket to take you into town but a £1 Free Tibet raffle ticket, combined with a stroke of luck, could take you to the French countryside or the stunning Lake District. These are just a couple of Free Tibet's wonderful holiday prizes! So for the price of a bus ticket why not try your luck and buy a raffle ticket. All proceeds go to Free Tibet.



6th prize: A stunning Tibetan Thangka painted by craftsmen in Nepal courtesy of **Pink Lotus**. www.pinklotus.co.uk

8th prize: A cooking course for four people and a goodie bag courtesy of **Popina**. www.popina.co.uk

Three lucky runners up will get a £50 voucher for **Komodo's** online store. www.komodo.co.uk

Closing date: 14 December 2010 Draw Date: 16 December 2010

Thank you to all our generous prize donors without whose support this raffle could not be possible.

freeTIBET

Raffle open to residents of the UK only excluding Northern Ireland.

If you think you may have a gambling problem, please seek advice and support which can be found at www.gambleaware.co.uk