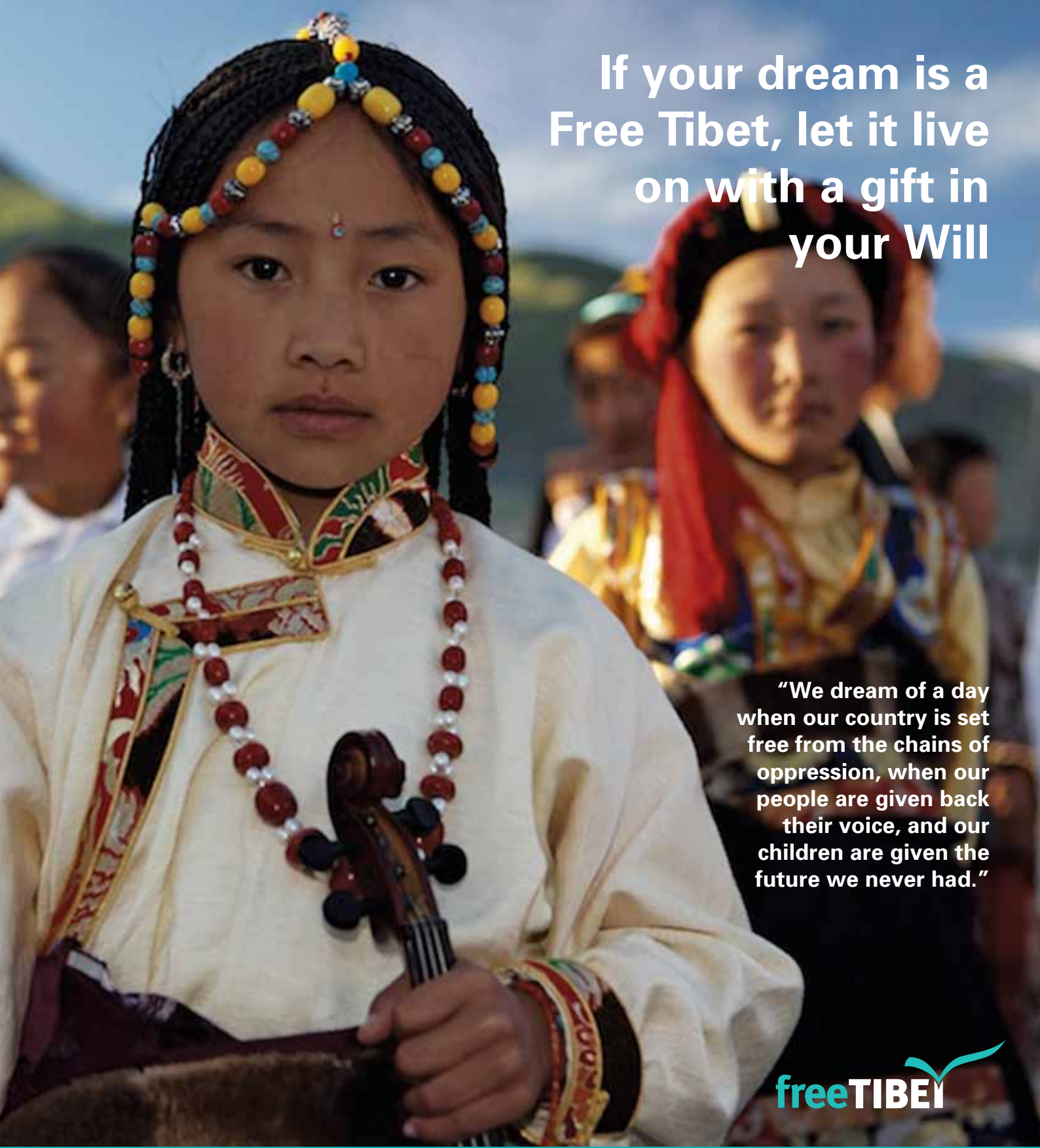


FREE TIBET

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www.freetibet.org



If your dream is a
Free Tibet, let it live
on with a gift in
your Will

**"We dream of a day
when our country is set
free from the chains of
oppression, when our
people are given back
their voice, and our
children are given the
future we never had."**

freeTIBET 

• The Dalai Lama hands over political leadership • 60 years of occupation •



Free Tibet Director Stephanie Brigden meets the Dalai Lama

Dear friends

It was a great privilege to meet the Dalai Lama on my last trip to India, and a very emotional experience! He thanked Free Tibet for our work and asked me to extend his personal thanks to each and every one of our supporters. My visit was timely given his announcement that he will soon hand over political authority to an elected representative, news which reduces China's capacity in the future to manipulate the politics of Tibet through its religion (see page 6).

In March we received news that a young monk from Kirti monastery in Ngaba set himself on fire. As expected, the Chinese regime responded disproportionately to the community's distress with an increased military presence, house-to-house searches and road blocks. Elders from the town, mainly women, made a human shield around the monastery to prevent monks from being taken away, but to no avail: on Good Friday, more than 350 monks were forcibly removed; their wellbeing and whereabouts remain unknown.

This year, with the 60th anniversary of the occupation of Tibet, the Chinese regime are stepping up their propaganda campaign to convince the world of their

'peaceful liberation of Tibet'. Stories like the one from Ngaba testify to China's failed policies in Tibet. See page 3 to read an ex-political prisoner's perspective on the occupation of his country.

We have just launched our new merchandise range; with Free Tibet umbrellas, T-shirts, shopping-bags, new mugs and even a tea towel we're going to paint our homes and streets with the demand for a Free Tibet!

With the news that banks will be stopping issuing cheque books, I'd love to encourage you all to consider renewing your memberships by direct debit. You can do this online or using the enclosed form.

Also enclosed are tickets for our raffle – a holiday to Rhodes, Slovenia, Scotland, Naples or Andalucía could be yours for just £1... Good luck!

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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.

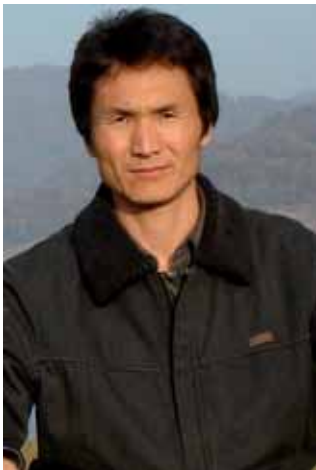
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Vincent Van Den Berg



A Tibetan perspective on 60 years of occupation

“The Tibetan people will always protest the Chinese occupation and we will never believe the lies repeated by the Chinese Communist Party”
Tsering Dorje



Tsering Dorje

This year, China is celebrating 60 years of so-called Tibetan ‘liberation’ and will be spending huge amounts of money attempting to paint a rosy picture of life in occupied Tibet. Tsering Dorje, an ex-political prisoner who lives in exile, gives us his perspective on the occupation of his country.

“I did not witness the brutality of the invading Chinese army myself, but I grew up in occupied Tibet. From childhood, I heard older generations talking about the awful situation created by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the sacred land of Tibet. The sense of horror and lack of trust between Tibetans and the occupying Chinese laid the foundations for my impressions of the Chinese presence in Tibet, impressions that have sadly only been reinforced by my experiences as I have grown up.

At school, we spent most of our time learning Communist Party doctrine – being brainwashed as I now see it – and learning some basic modern science. When I was learning to read Tibetan, the first text I was taught was *I Love the Motherland, I Love the Chinese Communist Party*. Language textbooks, and even science textbooks, were based around topics such as: *How the Communist Party and the People’s Liberation Army conquered imperialists and local landlords* or *How the Chinese Communist Party brought modernisation and a happy life to the Tibetan people*.

My parents and grandparents taught me a very different history from their memories and experience.

The CCP celebrates the ‘liberation’ of Tibet every decade. It has repeatedly tried to convince the Tibetan people that the Communist Party saved us from the dark ages, that happiness and development have been bestowed on Tibet by the Communist Party. In fact, we Tibetans do not benefit much from the occupation and we have lost our freedom. After 60 years’ occupation, Tibet is the poorest of China’s provinces, with nomadic families living on an average of £1 per day in 2010 and the Tibetan region has the highest level of illiteracy of all China’s regions.

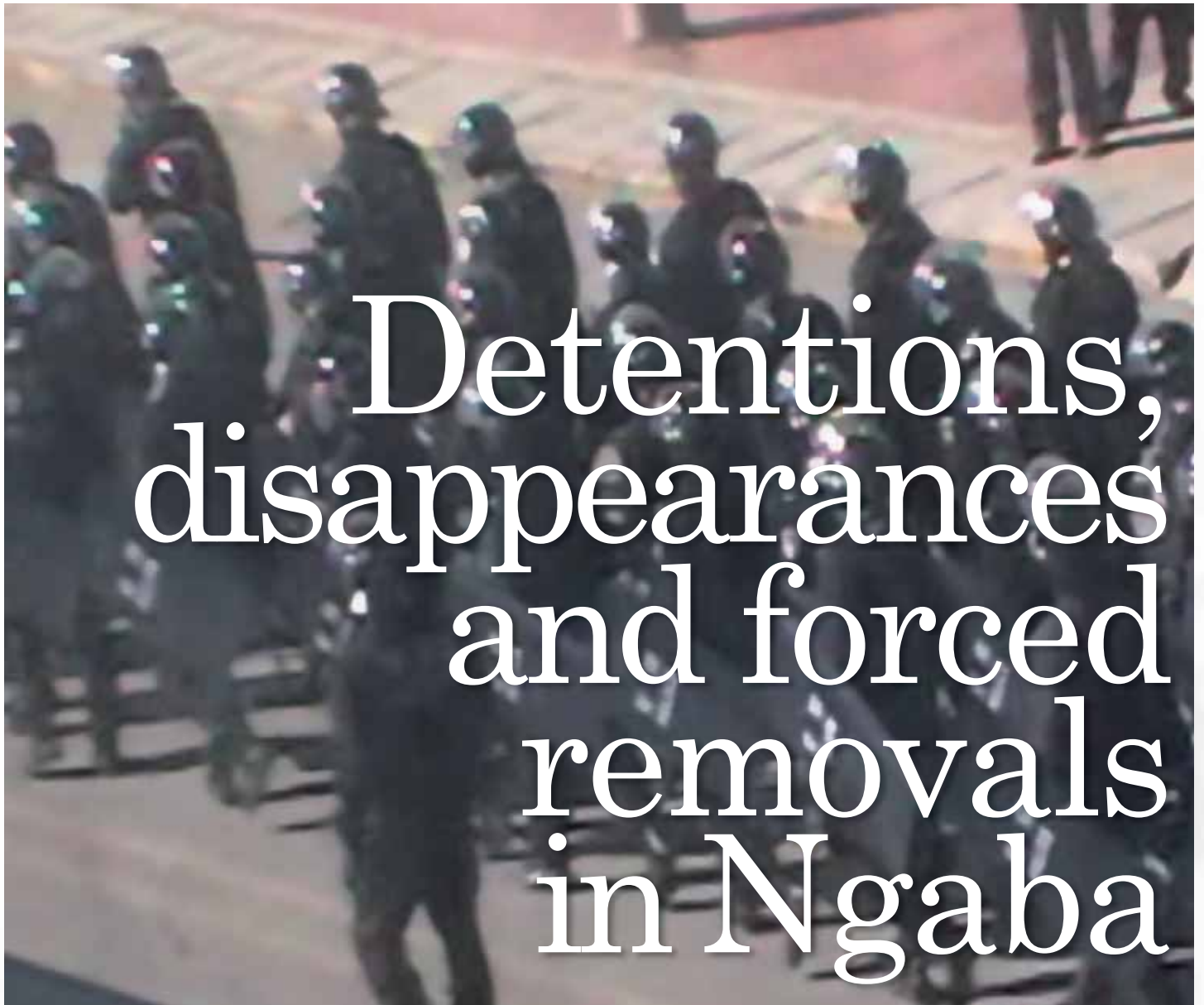
Since last October, the Cultural Bureau of the Tibet Autonomous Region has been preparing for the celebration of 60 years of occupation of Tibet – which they call ‘liberation’. As ever, the CCP is pouring massive amounts of money into showing off their so-called achievements to the rest of the world.

However grand the celebrations may be, we Tibetans cannot forget that our country is illegally occupied; we will always protest the Chinese occupation and we will never believe the lies repeated by the Chinese Communist Party.”

Watch Chinese propaganda films about Tibet from the 1950s.



www.freetibet.org



Detentions, disappearances and forced removals in Ngaba

Written on 13 May 2011

Unrest in Ngaba, eastern Tibet, has deepened. A massive military presence has built up in towns across the region since March, when a young monk died after setting fire to himself. Local people have joined together in protests against Chinese oppression and to protect local monks; two Tibetans have died during these protests. Over 300 monks have been forcibly removed from Kirti monastery and dozens of lay people and monks have been detained. At the time of writing, detentions of monks and lay people continue.

The crackdown began on 16 March after Phuntsog, a 21-year-old Tibetan monk from Kirti monastery died after setting himself on fire. Phuntsog is believed to have set fire to himself in protest against China's rule in Tibet. The tragedy took place on the third anniversary of demonstrations in Ngaba town in 2008 when armed police shot dead at least 13 protestors, including a 16-year-old schoolgirl.

A group of locals who witnessed Phuntsog's act staged a protest and marched towards the local government building. As the police tried to disperse or

detain people, they beat them with metal batons; many people fled with severe injuries while others, including monks, were detained.

Since this incident, Chinese authorities have stepped up security in Ngaba town and the surrounding area, while 'patriotic re-education' has been introduced to the monastery, one of the largest in the region, housing over 2,000 monks. Communications, including mobile telephones and the internet, have been restricted and sometimes shut down. Troops have been deployed on the streets of Ngaba and checkpoints were

Above: People's Armed Police at 5pm, 16 March 2011 in Ngaba market. This image was taken covertly.

Right: Phuntsog, 21, who died in March after setting fire to himself.



Plain clothes police carrying wooden sticks photographed near the central market in Ngaba town just minutes after Phuntsog's self-immolation. According to eyewitnesses, there were as many plain clothes police as civilians on the streets that day. This photograph was taken covertly.

Watch undercover footage that was filmed and smuggled out of Ngaba at great risk.

 www.freetibet.org/news

set up outside the monastery. Armed soldiers with dogs were reported to be patrolling the monastery compound at nights; curfews were imposed in Ngaba; homes in Ngaba town were searched during the night and identity cards were checked as authorities searched for people staying in Ngaba who were not from the area. Phuntsog's younger brother and his uncle, who are both monks, were detained shortly after Phuntsog died and they remain in detention.

As the situation in Ngaba deteriorated, Free Tibet informed the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, prompting the government to raise concerns about Ngaba with the Chinese Ambassador in London.

At around the same time, the US State Department made a statement saying the “...**onerous restrictions on the monks and the general public are inconsistent with internationally recognised principles of religious freedom and human rights**”.

Fearing that the situation could “**become explosive with catastrophic consequences**”, the Dalai Lama also issued an urgent appeal for governments to urge the Chinese authorities to exercise restraint.

As the situation in Ngaba hit the international news, the Chinese government tried to convince the world that the situation in the area was 'normal', with a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman saying: “**According to our knowledge, the monks in the Kirti monastery enjoy a normal life and normal Buddhist activities and the local social order is also normal [sic].**” However, an undercover video shot

during the first three days after Phuntsog's death and released by Free Tibet confirms eyewitness accounts of a massive and intimidating police and military presence in Ngaba. The footage includes images of riot police on the streets of Ngaba town, checkpoints manned by the army, and plain clothes police armed with wooden batons which eyewitnesses say were later used to beat people.

'Patriotic re-education', which was launched in Kirti monastery after Phuntsog's death, was extended to monasteries throughout Ngaba County and army units were stationed in villages in the area.

In the evening of 21 April, teams of police, army and government officials forcibly removed 355 monks from Kirti monastery. A group of mostly elderly women who had kept vigil outside the monastery for weeks tried to stop the authorities from taking the monks away; they were violently removed from the scene, severely beaten and two Tibetans died: a 60-year-old man called Dhunko and a 64-year-old woman called Sharkyi. Free Tibet is unable to confirm the actual causes of their deaths.

At the time of writing, the wellbeing and whereabouts of the 355 forcibly removed monks remain a great concern; family members attempted to travel to Ngaba town to find out what had happened to their relatives, but were turned back at army checkpoints; many laypeople and monks known to have been detained also remain unaccounted for. A 'patriotic re-education' campaign continues in Kirti monastery, forcing monks to denounce the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile. Internet cafes in Ngaba are still closed, international media and foreigners are banned from the region and local people are too afraid to talk about the situation.

Action

Write to the Chinese authorities demanding an end to the human rights violations in Ngaba.

See our website for details.

 www.freetibet.org/campaigns



The Dalai Lama hands over political leadership

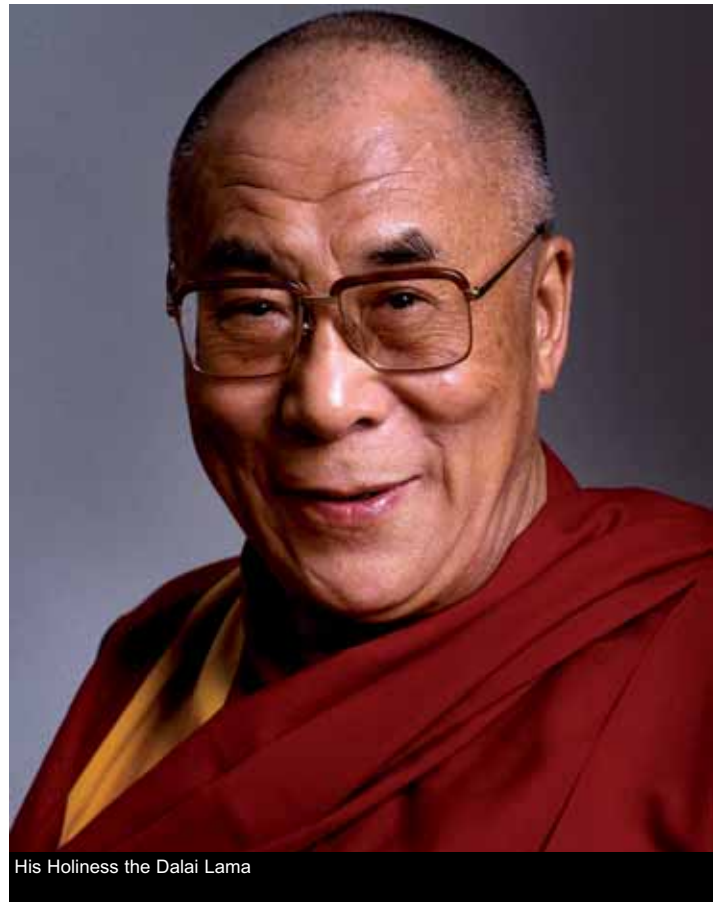
The Dalai Lama continues to be **“committed to playing [my] part in the just cause of Tibet.”**

On 10 March 2011, the Dalai Lama announced that he intends to hand over political authority to an elected representative of the Tibetan government-in-exile; this will most likely be to the Kalon Tripa, the Tibetan Prime Minister in exile. The Dalai Lama will continue with his spiritual responsibilities and he has also clearly stated that he continues to be **“committed to playing [my] part in the just cause of Tibet.”**

Some commentators claimed that the Dalai Lama’s announcement shows that he is giving up the struggle for Tibet, or that his statement signals an end of the movement for a free Tibet. However, this is far from the truth.

By devolving political responsibility to an elected leader, the Dalai Lama is diminishing the capacity of the Chinese government to manipulate the politics of Tibet through its religion. Having failed to bring the current Dalai Lama under control, the Chinese administration has developed policies with the aim of instating their own successor, just as they have done with the Panchen Lama. These efforts to control the Dalai Lama as a politician through his reincarnation as a religious figurehead have been put at the centre of China’s policies to cement its rule in Tibet. With political power no longer sitting with the Dalai Lama, the incentive for such religious interference will be lessened and the potential for such interference to have the desired effect is equally diminished.

In recent years, by meeting with the Dalai Lama as a religious leader but not as a politician, world leaders have answered domestic calls for them to meet with the Dalai Lama while also appeasing the Chinese regime by avoiding overt political engagement with the Tibetan government-in-exile. World leaders will now come



His Holiness the Dalai Lama

under pressure to meet with the elected Tibetan leader on a political basis, to demonstrate their public commitment to finding a negotiated solution for Tibet. Free Tibet supporters called for such a meeting at the mass lobby of Parliament (see page 8).

The newly elected Tibetan Prime Minister (Kalon Tripa)

Lobsang Sangay, 43, a Harvard University academic who specialises in international law and conflict resolution, was announced as the newly elected Kalon Tripa on 27 April 2011. Dr Sangay supports the Dalai Lama’s policy on ties with China – the ‘Middle Way’ – which calls for genuine autonomy within China or within the framework of the Chinese constitution. Dr Sangay has a history of successfully fostering dialogue between Chinese and Tibetan academics.

Dr Sangay said that he views his election victory as **“a mandate to shoulder the aspirations of six million Tibetans”** and urged **“every Tibetan and friends of Tibet to join me in our common cause to alleviate the suffering of Tibetans in occupied Tibet”**. Dr Sangay also said: **“Tibetans inside Tibet followed the elections closely and I heard accounts of Tibetans lighting butter lamps, praying and celebrating by bursting firecrackers.”**



Newly elected Tibetan Prime Minister Lobsang Sangay

Democracy movements in China and Tibet inspired by the Arab Uprising

Since the beginning of the Jasmine Revolution in the Middle East, the Chinese regime has reacted fiercely to repeated calls for a Jasmine Revolution in China. Chinese netizens (citizens of the internet) began to spread news of the protests in Tunisia and Egypt by Twitter, Facebook and blogging sites as soon as the protests began in December 2010. In February, lists of places in major Chinese cities where people could 'go for a stroll' every Sunday to express their desire for democracy began to be posted on the internet.

In Tibet, *White Wednesdays* have developed as a way for Tibetans to express their desire for change inside Tibet without inciting the disproportionate wrath of the authorities: across Tibet, Tibetans have agreed that on Wednesdays they will wear Tibetan clothes, eat Tibetan food and only speak Tibetan; this is a safe way for them to stand together and assert their identity.

The Chinese government has provoked international condemnation for its reaction to the calls for democracy: Chinese authorities are detaining activists, lawyers and artists in an attempt to contain dissenting voices. The most prominent of those arrested is internationally-known artist and political activist Ai Weiwei, famous for co-designing the Beijing 'Bird's Nest' Olympic stadium and who recently had a major exhibition at Tate Modern in London.

The authorities are also imposing ever tighter censorship on the internet, even going so far as blocking words like 'today' on Sundays, the day of the week that the 'peaceful strolls' are called for; 'jasmine' is also sometimes blocked, among other related words. There have also been reports of the authorities restricting the sale of jasmine plants, a further indication of their nervousness around even symbols of dissent.

Chinese scholar-activist Shao Jiang, one of the student organisers of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, said: **"I believe 'flower gatherings' will continue in China. People are beginning to assert themselves under Chinese Communist Party rule and are trying to find ways to promote democracy from within. This growing movement is being facilitated by the internet, which allows activists to hide their identity from the authorities and to coordinate huge numbers of people over a wide geographic area both within China and abroad."**

Life Members meet Colin Thubron

In May, Free Tibet Life Members met celebrated travel writer Colin Thubron for an exclusive Free Tibet Life Members' event. It was a fascinating evening and a great opportunity to update Life Members on our recent work.

Colin Thubron talked about his latest book, *To a Mountain in Tibet*. Colin travelled from the highest source of the river Ganges to Mount Kailash in Tibet. His book was recently Book of the Week on Radio 4.

To enjoy future Life Members' events, sign up for Life Membership and help the next generation of Tibetans grow up in a free Tibet! To become a Life Member, call 020 7324 4608 or visit the website.



 www.freetibet.org/support

● Protest in Jyekundo

On 1-3 April, Chinese security forces broke up a protest by 300 Tibetans over the government seizure of properties and land for redevelopment in Jyekundo in Yushu. Many of the protesters were detained. A devastating earthquake there killed 1,500 people and destroyed most of the town in April 2010.

● China increases military capability

The Indian military has warned that China has acquired military capabilities to deploy half a million troops along the Tibet-India border. China and India are in a long-standing dispute over the north Indian border state of Arunachal Pradesh which China claims as part of its south Tibetan territory.

● US damns China human rights

In a recent interview, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called China's human rights record "deplorable" adding that by trying to prevent all forms of dissent "they are trying to stop history, which is a fool's errand". Her remarks were published as the US and China held high-level strategic and economic talks in Washington.

● Is any publicity good publicity?

An advertisement which used the crisis in Tibet to promote a group discounts company prompted heated debate in the media and on the internet after it was aired at the American Super Bowl. Many believed it belittled the suffering happening inside Tibet.

Get involved

Free Tibet Raffle 2011

Free Tibet is delighted to announce the prizes for this year's raffle. With only £1 and a little bit of luck you could enjoy an unforgettable holiday in medieval Greece, go for a romantic trip in sunny Slovenia, relax in Spain or maybe you'll win premium seats for the National Ballet. All of this

while supporting Free Tibet. We would like to thank those who donated these amazing prizes. Please contact us at raffle@freetibet.org or call 020 7324 4605 for tickets.

 www.freetibet.org/support

1st Prize: A four-night stay for two at the **Spirit of the Knights Boutique Hotel** set in the medieval old town of Rhodes, Greece. This exclusive eco-friendly boutique hotel was named one of the 100 Best Hotels in the World by the Sunday Times. www.rhodesluxuryhotel.com



2nd Prize: A two-night stay for two at boutique hotel **Sončna Hiša**, Slovenia. This exciting holiday includes a welcome cocktail, breakfast buffet, unlimited use of the spa garden, free bicycle rental, a romantic dinner for two in a top restaurant and a bottle of local wine. Get ready to be pampered! www.soncna-hisa.si/en



3rd Prize: Three nights of luxury for two at **The Four Seasons Hotel**, Scotland, including breakfast and dinner at the AA rated restaurant. This wonderful hotel is situated on the banks of Loch Earn, one of the most enviable settings in Scotland. www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk



4th Prize: A five-night spring or midsummer nights' dream holiday for two at the **Secret Garden** in Naples, Italy. This beautiful 18th century building has been described by a previous winner as "the best holiday experience one can ask for". www.ilgiardinosegreto.org

5th Prize: Three nights for two at the luxury **Hoopoe Yurt Hotel** in Andalucia, Spain. Set in three hectares of secluded olive groves, this is the perfect place to unwind and relax. www.yurthotel.com

6th Prize: One night with breakfast and dinner for two at the **Relais Il Cantico Della Natura**, in Umbria, Italy. The prize includes entrance to their wellness centre. www.ilcanticodellanatura.it

7th Prize: A beautiful brocaded Tibetan thangka donated by **Pink Lotus**. www.pinklotus.co.uk

8th Prize: A pair of tickets to a performance of **Strictly Gershwin** by the English National Ballet at the London Coliseum. www.ballet.org.uk

9th Prize: A champagne hamper from **Rainbow Wholefoods**. All their products are 100% vegetarian, GM-free and organic. www.rainbowwholefoods.co.uk

Raffle only open to residents of the UK excluding Northern Ireland. If you think you may have a gambling problem please seek advice and support at www.gambleaware.co.uk.

Closing date: 13 December 2011

Draw date: 15 December 2011

Raising awareness of Tibet

On 10 March, Tibetans and Tibet supporters gathered in Parliament to call on their MPs and the government to take action on Tibet. This was the first mass lobby since the 2010 General Election.

More than 100 Free Tibet supporters lobbied their MPs; James, whose MP is David Cameron, met with one of the Prime Minister's staff members. James, from Oxfordshire, said the meeting "definitely had an impact". The lobby sent a strong message to Parliament that people want human rights in Tibet to be at the centre of UK engagement with China.

On Saturday 12 March, Free Tibet was joined by hundreds of Tibet

supporters on a march through central London to commemorate the struggle for Tibetan freedom. Carrying Tibetan flags and calling out for Tibetan freedom, the march reached the Chinese Embassy where a rally took place. Free Tibet and other Tibet support groups presented letters to No. 10 Downing Street and the Chinese Embassy. To all of you who joined us: Thank you so much!

Visit Free Tibet's website to watch videos of our supporters talking about their experience in the mass lobby and see pictures from the rally.



www.freetibet.org/newsmedia



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Another way you can help Tibet's dream of freedom become a reality

If freedom and human rights have been your lifelong dream then there is a way to allow them to live on.

You can remember Free Tibet with a gift in your Will.

Making a Will, or updating an existing one to include a gift to Free Tibet, is not expensive, complicated or time-consuming. We strongly recommend that you go to a solicitor for professional, reliable advice.

There are several ways to leave a legacy gift to help Tibet's people regain their freedom.

- You can give a specific sum of money or an item of value, such as a painting or a piece of jewellery.

- Or you can consider leaving a share of the residue of your estate. This is what's left over once loved ones have been provided for.

You don't have to be wealthy to remember Free Tibet in your Will. Every gift, no matter how small, will change lives forever.

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will to Free Tibet, please call us on 020 7324 4605 or visit www.freetibet.org/support



Supporters in action!

On the first day of January 2011, supporter Sheila started knitting 'the longest scarf in Bridport'. She intends to continue knitting until 1 January 2012 to raise awareness about torture in Tibet and to raise funds for our Stop Torture in Tibet campaign. She has already raised over £170 and her project continues!



Gail from Brighton has designed a Tibet-themed board game to teach children "about the nomadic lifestyle of the Tibetan people and to raise awareness of how the Chinese government are seeking to destroy this ancient way of life".

Claire from Bristol is raising money for Free Tibet with her delicious cakes. She recently catered for a combined wedding/civil partnership celebration and raised £70. She intends to continue donating the money she makes from her catering business to support Free Tibet.

Many thanks to Sheila, Gail, Claire and to all of you who help us to spread the word about Tibet. **Do you have a creative fundraising idea? Tell us about your experience fundraising for Free Tibet and you may appear in our next magazine! Please email julia@freetibet.org**

Free Tibet merchandise

We are excited to announce the launch of our brand new Free Tibet range. We have lots of exclusive items which you can see in detail in the enclosed catalogue. To place an order, please complete the enclosed form, call 020 7324 4605 or visit the Free Tibet online shop.

 www.freetibet.org/shop



Free Tibet would like to thank our new Life Members: David Bell, Manuel Cerruti, Robert Marx, Guy Johnson, Mark Shiell

Keeping the Tibetan language alive

“Language is the soul of the nation. When language is gone, the nation dies.” Tibetan blogger, December 2010

Chinese policies that have resulted in Chinese becoming the main language in schools, business and public life in Tibet are aimed at wiping out the Tibetan language and are part of China’s wider strategy to cement its occupation of Tibet.

The threat to the survival of the Tibetan language is one of the most pressing and urgent concerns of Tibetans living under Chinese rule. Tibetans are responding to this threat to their identity by setting up grassroots initiatives to provide what schools and the government fail to provide: Tibetans are taking the preservation of the Tibetan language into their own hands.

Hundreds of ordinary Tibetans – mostly teachers, students and monks – travel around their local areas in Tibet and hold workshops on the importance of the Tibetan language. They do this voluntarily and at their own expense. In villages where, due to Chinese influences or a lack of Tibetan education, Tibetans

themselves are unable to speak their own language properly, the volunteers teach them to speak, read and write Tibetan. In other areas volunteers educate the local community about the importance of not mixing Chinese words with Tibetan words, a common and worrying trend for many in Tibet.

One of the Tibetan language teachers said: **“We encouraged Tibetan villagers in our county to speak pure Tibetan to the best of their abilities. We introduced a rule. The rule said that if a villager used a Chinese instead of a Tibetan word, he or she would be fined a small amount. The villagers supported the idea and enjoyed observing the rule.”**

While these Tibetans work individually, they share the same aim: to save the Tibetan language and identity.

Small projects have gone under the authorities’ radar, but projects that involve a larger number of students or schools have drawn attention. Even with a seemingly ‘safe’ issue such as

language lessons, Tibetans set up projects knowing that their efforts may be stopped at anytime.

A monk who has worked to preserve the Tibetan language said: **“We contacted individuals and schools and many people quickly responded that they were willing to join our mother tongue preservation project.”**

Not long after this, eight police from the local police station arrived in our monastery. The police told us that we had not applied for legal permission from government to carry out our work. They ordered us not to launch any such classes in the future. Our mother tongue preservation project has been forced to stop.”

Since the student protests in Qinghai Province in October 2010, most of the Tibetan language projects in Qinghai came to a temporary halt as the organisers fear that the authorities would blame them for the protests. Others are continuing their activities but under increasing scrutiny.



A Tibetan mother tongue campaigner working in a village in Qinghai Province

Two courageous monks die

Two Tibetan monks who staged a rare and bold protest in front of foreign journalists in 2008 have died just weeks apart from each other.

Following the March 2008 protests and crackdown in Tibet, the Chinese government organised an official press tour to Labrang Monastery for foreign journalists to show that everything in Tibet was back to normal.

Despite the government's efforts to stage-manage the tour, 15 monks, including Jamyang Jinpa, 37, and Sangay Gyatso, 42, burst in front of the journalists in the courtyard of the monastery carrying Tibetan flags and banners calling for human rights in Tibet. The protest was captured on camera and broadcast around the world to the embarrassment of the Chinese government.

Jamyang Jinpa was detained the same day and was released a month later after being subjected to severe torture. Upon his release Jamyang could not walk or stand, had no memory of what had happened to him and his eyesight was damaged. His family has cared for him for the last two years, but his overall health did not improve and he passed away on 3 April 2011.

To avoid a detainee dying in custody as a result of torture, the Chinese authorities are known to release detainees in immediate danger of dying into the care of their families.

Following the protest in 2008, Sangay Gyatso fled the monastery in order to avoid arrest and spent many months

in hiding in the hills near Labrang. Lack of appropriate food and mental stress resulted in a severe deterioration of his health. He was eventually admitted into hospital and died on 26 February 2011.



Protest in Labrang monastery, 2008. Sangay Gyatso is on the left.

Thank you for campaigning on their behalf



Norzin Wangmo

We are delighted to have good news about three political prisoners.

Norzin Wangmo's sentence has been reduced by 8 months. Norzin was sentenced to five years imprisonment in November 2008 after she used the internet and telephone to share what she had witnessed during the 2008 protests.

Shogdung, an eminent writer, has been released on bail pending trial after nearly six months in detention. He was arrested in late April 2010 following the publication of a book critical of China's crackdown on the protests in 2008. He also wrote an open letter to the Chinese government criticising their relief efforts in the wake of the 2010 earthquake in Tibet. He was released on 14 October and is reportedly in good health.

Tashi Dhondup was released from prison after 15 months of

re-education through hard labour because his album entitled *Torture without Wounds* was deemed 'subversive' by the authorities. His release in February was celebrated throughout Tsekhog County.

Action

Thank you to all of you who have campaigned on behalf of Norzin Wangmo, Shogdung and Tashi Dhondup through Free Tibet's Urgent Action Scheme. If you would like to be notified when we hear about cases like theirs that need a rapid and direct response from you, please join our Urgent Action Scheme by emailing mail@freetibet.org or join online.

 www.freetibet.org/campaigns

