

FREE TIBET

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www.freetibet.org

Speaking out for
freeTIBET
25 years

• Protests in Tibet grow • Free Tibet's 25th anniversary • Dominic West in Dharamasala •

“ I call on the international community to show solidarity and to raise your voices in support of the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people at this critical time....I want to tell my dear brothers and sisters inside Tibet that we hear your cries loud and clear.”

Statement by Kalon Tripa Dr. Lobsang Sangay on the recent killings of Tibetans by Chinese state security forces



Free Tibet Director Stephanie Brigden

Dear friends

Free Tibet turns twenty-five in 2012. Over the years, Free Tibet has worked tirelessly to spread the word about what happens inside Tibet, and to hold China accountable. We couldn't have done it without the 70,000 supporters who make our voice louder – thank you for being an integral part of it.

This year started with four new cases of self-immolation and this week I had to report the news of the largest shooting of Tibetan civilians since 2008. Two Tibetans were shot dead in peaceful protests in Draggo County. The next day, we received more information: two other Tibetans were shot dead in neighbouring Serthar County. As I write, we have just confirmed that another Tibetan has been shot. You can read more about it on page 4. When you receive this magazine, it's likely we will have received more news in the interim.

Visit www.freetibet.org for up-to-date information from Tibet.

This edition also includes a personal account by The Wire star, Dominic West. He tells the story of his recent visit to India where he met a Tibetan survivor of torture (p.8).

The Dalai Lama will be visiting the UK in June, and many will have the chance to attend his teachings in person. Free Tibet will host a reception for Life Members at the Royal Albert Hall during the Dalai Lama's visit. This is a perfect time to join as a Life Member.

With the focus of the Dalai Lama's visit on young people, we want to reach out to a younger audience by offering them free membership. You can support future generations of Tibetans by sponsoring a young Free Tibet member; just complete the form on the cover letter.

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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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Giving thanks for Vivienne



Free Tibet is incredibly lucky to be supported by an amazing team of volunteers.

Free Tibet is incredibly lucky to be supported by an amazing team of volunteers; their great generosity with their time and expertise allows us to do so much on behalf of Tibetans in Tibet that our small (but perfectly formed!) team would otherwise be unable to do.

Most of the work we do is underpinned by committed volunteers – from organising events to operating the Free Tibet shop, from researching campaign issues to keeping our database up-to-date. For the last eighteen months, Free Tibet's magazine was edited by long-term volunteer, Vivienne Briscoe. Because she contributed so much to the magazine, we would like to celebrate Viv's contribution to Free Tibet's work here.

Viv's time at Free Tibet began very auspiciously. On that day in May 2008, the Dalai Lama was in London, and Viv leapt at the chance to go with our then campaigns officer, Sophie, to see if they could catch a glimpse of His Holiness. After some time of hanging around hopefully outside a doorway somewhere, Sophie headed back to the office, happy to have tried and failed to see the Dalai Lama. A little while later Viv reappeared, glowing, at the office; not only had she seen the Dalai Lama, he had stopped to give her a kata (traditional Tibetan ceremonial white scarf, used as a form of greeting) and to share a few words.

Viv worked closely with, and supported, almost every staff member over the three years that

she volunteered at Free Tibet, and brought her sunny zest for life into the office whenever she was here. She approached every aspect of her work with extraordinary enthusiasm, good humour and patient attention to detail, no matter how great or small the particular task may have been.

Viv's eagle eye ensured that the Free Tibet magazine was produced to a consistently high standard; she spent countless hours both in the office and at home, poring over punctuation and debating turns of phrase, checking and rechecking, demonstrating immense patience with our ever-shifting schedule. As a result of her tussles with the magazine, Viv also did the lion's share of the work on a style guide that continues to ensure consistency across all of Free Tibet publications. Viv came from a teaching background and also made a great contribution to a long-term project at Free Tibet developing educational materials for schools.

Those of you who have attended Free Tibet events such as vigils, Uprising marches and events at Parliament may well recognise Viv as she was a regular participant, also often helping to organise these events.

Viv died peacefully, surrounded by her family, in December 2011. We miss her enormously but Free Tibet has been greatly enriched by her presence: her kindness, thoughtfulness, positivity and love of life continue to inspire us, and we continue to build on work whose foundations Viv laid.



Phuntsog (above) set fire to himself in Ngaba on 16 March 2011; Phuntsog died the next day from his injuries.



Protests in Tibet grow

These extraordinary calls for freedom cannot be stamped out or glossed over. Tibetans are courageously standing up, and sometimes giving their lives, to demand freedom

Protests in Tibet are escalating and spreading; at the same time the Chinese response is becoming increasingly disproportionate, with security forces opening fire on unarmed Tibetans in four separate incidents in January alone. At least five Tibetans (at the time of writing) have been shot dead – unconfirmed reports suggest more – and a large number have been wounded, some very seriously.

Tibetan defiance is nonetheless growing and a unity of purpose is evident. News travels despite China's best efforts, and Tibetans are travelling to places where protests and shootings have taken place to stand in solidarity

with their countrymen and women. We know that some, at least, are aware of international media coverage of events, despite China's attempts to isolate Tibet.

In the preceding months, since March 2011, sixteen Tibetans (at the time of writing) have set themselves on fire in protest at the repressive Chinese occupation. Eleven of those who set fire to themselves have died; the well-being and whereabouts of the others remain unknown. Many of those who set fire to themselves were heard calling for freedom for Tibet and for religious freedom.

Self-immolation is not a traditional form of protest in Tibet. This is an



Yonten, shot dead by Chinese security forces on 23 January 2012

Most serious incidence of state security firing on Tibetan's since 2008

The most serious incidence of Chinese state security personnel opening fire on Tibetans since 2008 occurred in Draggo, Eastern Tibet on 23 January 2012. Two Tibetans were killed: Yonten died at the scene with a bullet wound to the head and a second Tibetan died from his wounds the next day; Free Tibet has confirmed the names of 36 lay people and monks who sustained bullet wounds.

China later claimed that security forces opened fire because the protesters were violent, but eyewitnesses report that the protest was peaceful; it was only when the shooting began that protesters threw stones.

unprecedented trend that underlines the growing courage and determination of some Tibetans to demand freedom for their country regardless of the cost to themselves. Pamphlets have been distributed stating that **“many more people are prepared to give up their lives in protest.”**

China has responded to protests and self-immolations not by trying to address the causes, but by increasing the repression of Tibetans.

In areas where protests have taken place, freedom of movement has been severely restricted; large numbers of police, paramilitary police and soldiers have flooded into these areas and patrol the streets; checkpoints litter the roads; internet and mobile services continue to be restricted, sometimes for months, in an attempt to prevent information being shared; house-to-house searches have been conducted; many Tibetans are reported to have been detained; up to 100 Tibetans disappeared in one incident near Ngaba.

Tibetans accused of being involved with self-immolations have been tried behind closed doors and given lengthy sentences; prolonged patriotic re-education campaigns have been conducted in monasteries associated with self-immolations. There are now police posts within monasteries and in some instances monks have been forcibly removed from their monasteries.

China’s response demonstrates a chilling ignorance of the longing for freedom that has led to protests, including self-immolations. But China must realise that these extraordinary calls for freedom cannot be stamped out or glossed over. Tibetans are courageously standing up, and sometimes giving their lives, to demand freedom.

Despite the intense surveillance they are often under, Tibetans are risking imprisonment and torture by sharing information and pictures of events as they unfold; they are determined that the world should know what is going on inside Tibet – a country where neither journalists nor human rights monitors can travel or report from freely.

In Lhasa, thousands of kilometres from where the protests and self-immolations have taken place, locals

and tourists report that the city has been flooded with troops. Security forces patrol public spaces armed not only with weapons but now also with fire extinguishers. Locals describe house- to-house searches and one resident describes the atmosphere in Barkor Street near the Jokhang Temple:

“How horrible it is! I dare not to look around casually, dare not move around freely. Armed personnel are everywhere, police are on every corner”.

China later claimed that security forces opened fire because the protesters were violent, but eyewitnesses report that the protest was peaceful; it was only when the shooting began that protesters threw stones.

Free Tibet has lobbied the Foreign Office intensively to take action in response to China’s violent crackdown; following this lobbying, the Minister with responsibility for Tibet, Mr Jeremy Browne MP, made a statement urging the Chinese government to exercise restraint, to release full details of the incidents, and to work to resolve the underlying grievances.

Free Tibet is calling on the British Prime Minister to demand that the disproportionate use of force in Tibet stops immediately, that independent observers are allowed access to Tibet and that China holds those responsible for disproportionate use of force accountable. Free Tibet is also demanding that Britain works with other governments to press China to engage in diplomatic action for a long-term solution for Tibet, in particular negotiating with Tibetan representatives.

Action

Write to the Prime Minister demanding that the British government takes decisive action to help resolve the crisis in Tibet..

The Prime Minister David Cameron
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA



www.freetibet.org/campaigns



Lobsang Jamyang
14 January 2012

Nyage Sonamdrugyu
8 January 2012



Pawo Ten nyi
6 January 2012

Pawo Tsultrim
6 January 2012



Tenzin Phuntsog
1 December 2011

Palden Choetso
3 November 2011



Dawa Tsering
25 October 2011

Unconfirmed
22 October 2011



Tenzin Wangmo
17 October 2011

Norbu Dathul
15 October 2011



Choepel
7 October 2011

Khayang
7 October 2011



Kalsang Wangchuk
3 October 2011

Lobsang Kalsang
26 September 2011



Lobsang Konchok
26 September 2011

Tsewang Norbu
15 August 2011



Phuntsog
16 March 2011

Tabé
February 2009

Get involved

Wanted: new members for our 25th year

Being a member of Free Tibet has never been so important. This year is our 25th anniversary and there has been solid support for a free Tibet for all of these years. We could not have done it without the faithful support of our members who amplify our voice and strengthen our presence.

There are different types of membership: waged, unwaged, family, overseas and life membership. This year, Free Tibet Life Members are invited to the Dalai Lama's talk at the Royal Albert Hall in June, followed by an exclusive Free Tibet event.

If you are one of the many Free Tibet members reading this magazine, thank you so much for your

support. However, one in four people reading this magazine hasn't joined us yet. If this is you, we would like to offer you a special introductory membership of Free Tibet for only £20. This offer is extended to any friends and family who want to join the movement for a free Tibet.

To mark this 25th anniversary year, please help us swell our numbers and strengthen our call for a free Tibet by inviting your family, friends and colleagues to join us: together we can do more!

To join Free Tibet for only £20, please complete the form on the cover letter or call 020 7324 4605.

 www.freetibet.org/join

'Tibet Needs You': New range of merchandise



Free Tibet is commemorating 25 years of raising awareness about Tibet this year. So we are launching a new exclusive design for 2012 – 'Tibet Needs You'. The new design features an image of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, and is on t-shirts and badges. The t-shirt is made of ethically sourced and certified organic cotton and priced at £20, and the badge is priced at £1. All proceeds go to Free Tibet.

To order your badge or t-shirt, please fill in the form on the cover letter, call 020 7324 4605 or visit the online shop.

 www.freetibet.org/shop

Free Tibet would like to thank our new Life Members: Mrs C A Greenwood Catherine Mostyn Scott Melanie Etherington

Sponsor a young Free Tibet member!

Free Tibet is very pleased to announce that the Dalai Lama will be visiting the UK in June 2012. The key theme of the Dalai Lama's visit will be the promotion of his message to young people. Thousands of people under the age of 25 will be invited to see His Holiness in Manchester.

Sponsor a young Free Tibet member

Free Tibet would like to offer a special membership to young people. This visit by the Dalai Lama provides a great opportunity to reach out to and engage young, new supporters about the desperate situation in Tibet. Believe it or not, many young people are unaware of the situation inside Tibet.

You can help us reach out to young people by sponsoring a young Free Tibet member for only £15.

Action

To sponsor a young Free Tibet member please complete the form on the cover letter and return it to us in the enclosed Freepost envelope or call 020 7324 4605.



www.freetibet.org/support

Free Tibet Raffle

Free Tibet would like to say an enormous thank you to all those who bought raffle tickets last year. We raised several thousands of pounds which makes a big difference to the work we do.

Congratulations to 2011's lucky winners!

		Ticket no.
1st	Andrew Parfaiitt	(026359)
2nd	Anonymous	(272481)
3rd	K. Miller	(120472)
4th	Anonymous	(114960)
5th	E. Fishlock	(034753)
6th	Anonymous	(284910)
7th	Fraser Patrick	(325561)
8th	Ian Wright	(322537)
9th	Anonymous	(322828)

Supporters in action!

Last year's Global Day of Action for Tibet was an opportunity for Tibet supporters to come together in solidarity. The villagers of Flore in Northamptonshire acted in support of Tibetan Freedom. Local hero Caroline Scattergood organised the 12th annual flag-raising ceremony, replacing a Union Jack at the town hall with the Tibetan flag. This was one of many events that took place around the UK.

Tibet local groups are independently run by members who organise meetings, local protests and sponsored events. A fine example is the Grampian local group, which has been raising money and awareness since 1993. Everyone at Free Tibet would especially like to celebrate David Lindsey, who recently passed away. His long-term dedication was extraordinary; the Grampian group raised over £6,500 for Free Tibet over the years.

If you are interested in joining a local group or starting a new one, please contact tom@freetibet.org or call 020 7324 4615.



Above: The Northampton group raise the Tibetan flag
Left: David Lindsey

Jenny Mackenzie Margaret Smith Pippa May

The truth is the greatest weapon

Actor Dominic West writes about his time in Dharamsala with Free Tibet

“Tibet is an issue which is close to my heart and I’ve always been keen to help. Two years ago, I read the transcripts of a torture victim for a Free Tibet video and I was eager to get involved again.

I had an unforgettable time in Dharamsala. I took a walk, or kora, around the temple of the Dalai Lama, and watched Tibetan monks practise their ancient art of debating. I was also invited to an opera rehearsal at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts.

I met two victims of torture, one of whom was the man whose experiences I had read on camera.

Lhamo Kyab was imprisoned and tortured for entering Tibet to fly a Tibetan flag. Meeting someone who is prepared to sacrifice seeing his family to make a difference in his homeland was humbling. In my opinion, he is a great hero.

Tsering is a former nun who returned to Tibet to care for her ailing father. She was captured trying to cross the border back into India. She suffered horribly at the hands of her captors. It was harrowing to sit opposite this small,

brave woman while she described her torture.

They were the most amazing two people I’ve ever met – not only their courage but their humanity, empathy and warmth touched me deeply. These two people embody the triumph of imagination and compassion.

I see the struggle between Tibetans and the Chinese authorities as a struggle between compassion and ignorance. What the Chinese regime in Tibet relies upon is ignorance, misinformation and secrecy. The first thing we can do to fight this is to bear witness and spread information about what’s going on in Tibet – the self-immolations, torture and so on. I have enormous respect for the work of Free Tibet in doing this.

After all, the truth is the greatest weapon against ignorance.”



Dominic meets Lhamo Kyab

Torture continues in Tibet

News of the deaths of two Tibetans as a result of torture and of a number of recently-released Tibetans who were the victims of severe torture while in detention, reminds us that we still have so much work to do in our campaign to Stop Torture in Tibet.

Norla Ashagtsang, a political prisoner since 2009, died in December 2011 as a result of the torture he suffered in Chinese detention. He was released from prison on medical parole shortly before his death, a practice that is common for seriously injured prisoners in order to reduce the number of deaths in detention. Norla's fellow political prisoner Gonpo was released on medical parole at the same time and is paralysed from the waist down following torture.

A highly-respected Tibetan Buddhist monk, Geshe Tsultrim Gyaltso, 51, who championed the rights of Tibetans, died on 22 January 2012 from injuries sustained during torture in prison. Like Norla, he was released from prison to be taken to a local hospital; some weeks later, the local hospital returned him to his family. He was physically incapacitated and frail due to maltreatment in prison and passed away at his home. When contacted,

Chinese police in Qinghai said they were not aware of Gyaltso's case and that: **"We are not responsible for a prisoner's death which occurred outside the prison."**

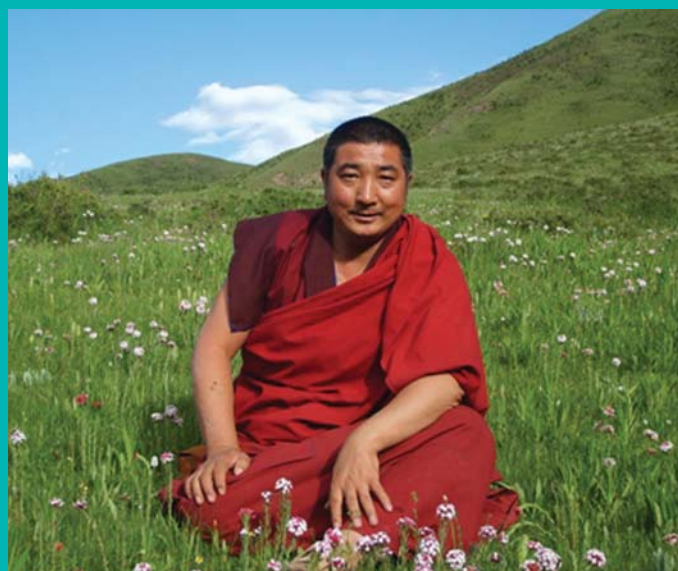
Free Tibet has been building the campaign to Stop Torture in Tibet for a number of years. We hold the Chinese regime accountable for torture in Tibet and have given evidence about torture committed by Chinese state officials to both the British government and the United Nations. Evidence given by Free Tibet led to the United Nations concluding that torture in Tibet is both **"widespread"** and **"routine"**. We also hold the Chinese regime accountable by campaigning on behalf of individuals who are at risk of torture. Such awareness-raising campaigns offer Tibetans in detention a form of protection, as the Chinese regime knows that their actions are being scrutinised and so is less likely to use torture.

To find out more about what you can do to help Stop Torture in Tibet, to hear the testimonies of Tibetan survivors of torture read by actors such as Juliet Stevenson, Dominic West (see opposite) and David Threlfall, and to find out more about torture in Tibet, please visit the website.



STOP TORTURE IN TIBET

 www.freetibet.org/campaigns



Campaigning for Lama Jigme Gyatso

During his detention in 2008, Lama Jigme Gyatso, a senior monk from Labrang monastery, was hospitalised for treatment of injuries sustained during torture. Later, he was detained for a further six months without charge after making a video documenting his ordeal and providing testimony of the wider 2008 crackdown in Tibet. Our campaign to expose Lama Jigme's detention and torture not only ensured this courageous man's release, but was also integral to the good treatment he experienced during his second period in jail and to his release.

Free Tibet is currently extremely concerned about the well-being of Lama Jigme as he was detained again in August 2011 and, like many other Tibetans in detention, is considered to be at serious risk of torture.

Shocking images of Chinese crackdown



Photos and video documenting a harsh crackdown by the Chinese authorities have been released online. They are believed to date from 2008 – following the unrest which spread across the Tibetan plateau.

An increasing number of images from inside Tibet have been appearing online. The Tibetans who release them do so at great personal risk. Free Tibet has disseminated images to great effect on our website and on social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

The photos show monks and lay people handcuffed with placards around their necks. The placards announce their names and alleged 'crimes'. Treating Tibetans in this way contributes to the climate of fear and intimidation with the intention of deterring dissent. Recent continuing protests and self-immolations in defiance of Chinese repression clearly demonstrate the futility of such a brutal approach.

The video records a number of very heavy-handed house arrests by Chinese authorities. Terrified Tibetans are dragged from their beds by the paramilitary People's Armed Police and paraded in front of the camera.

More photos and the video can be viewed on the website.



www.freetibet.org/newsmedia

China's soft diplomacy

The two giant pandas that have been loaned to Edinburgh Zoo are part of China's charm offensive on the West. It is an attempt to promote an image of China far removed from the grim reality of an unelected regime with one of the worst human rights records in the world.

The animals arrived with much fanfare in December last year. While the British public loves animals, these pandas must not distract us from taking the strongest possible line with China over human rights and speaking up for Tibet.

Free Tibet has been prominent in the media reminding the public that there is nothing cute or cuddly about China's occupation of Tibet. Director Stephanie Brigden appeared on Sky News on the day of the pandas' arrival. She said that anyone going

to see the animals should remember that the people who have loaned them run one of the worst regimes in the world with widespread censorship, torture and arbitrary detention.

The Chinese Ambassador to the UK said that the 'gift' would promote

cultural, economic and social ties between the two countries and will promote China's peaceful role in the world.

What we would like to see is respect for human rights first and maybe pandas later.



Tibet supporters in Edinburgh make their feelings known

Dalai Lama UK visit



SERJAO CARVALHO

The Dalai Lama will visit the UK in June

Free Tibet is delighted to report that, this summer, Tibet supporters across the UK will have the chance to attend teachings by the Dalai Lama in person. His Holiness will be giving public talks in Scotland, Manchester and London in June.

Free Tibet Life Members will be invited to join us in an exclusive event at the Royal Albert Hall. If you would like to join Free Tibet and other Life

Members at this event, sign up for Life Membership and help the next generation of Tibetans grow up in a free Tibet!

To become a Life Member, please complete the form on the cover letter of the magazine, call 020 7324 4608 or visit the website.



www.freetibet.org/support

Solidarity events: March 2012

At a time when Tibetans in Tibet are showing enormous courage and determination in the face of ever-tightening Chinese repression, it is more important than ever that we speak out and show our unwavering support for the calls for freedom that are coming from inside Tibet.

Please join us and Tibet supporters around the world in a number of events to show our solidarity with Tibetans in Tibet.

Wednesday 7 March 2012: Mass Lobby of MPs

A coalition of UK Tibet support groups, including Free Tibet, is organising a mass lobby of MPs to urge the government to take action on Tibet. There are many ways in which you can lobby your MP: join us at the Houses of Parliament from 2-4pm, visit your MP in your constituency, email, fax or telephone them.

Saturday 10 March 2012: Tibetan Freedom March, Central London

Join the annual events on the streets of London, alongside Tibet supporters across the globe. Bring your Tibetan flags and show your support!

For further information about either event, or for a Mass Lobby pack, please contact us on: 020 7324 4605, harriet@freetibet.org, or visit the website.



www.freetibet.org/campaigns

- **Tutu speaks up for Tibet**
Nobel laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu slammed the South African government for refusing to grant a visa to his friend, the Dalai Lama. Mr Tutu said his government was not supporting Tibetans who were **“being oppressed viciously”**. The South Africans bowed to Chinese pressure to prevent Tibet’s spiritual leader from attending Mr Tutu’s 80th birthday celebrations in October.
- **“Beat a Tibetan, get an extra credit!”**
Tibetan students were attacked and held hostage by Chinese counterparts during a rampage in December. Beijing-based blogger Woesser wrote that **“the Chinese students shouted ‘Beat a Tibetan, get an extra credit!’ and broke the doors of the Tibetan dormitories in the institute.”** Around 200 Tibetan students were trapped as their furniture was attacked and windows smashed.
- **“Act swiftly on behalf of the Tibetan people”**
A well-known Tibetan writer, Kalsang Tsultrim, was sentenced to four years in prison after one year in detention without charge. Kalsang was arrested in December 2010 for distributing a video in which he talks about the suffering in Tibet and calls for the international community to **“act swiftly on behalf of the Tibetan people”**.
- **US is “seriously concerned” about Tibet**
The US has declared itself to be “seriously concerned” over the wave of self-immolations in Tibet. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the incidents reflected **“enormous anger and enormous frustration”**. Meanwhile the German Human Rights Commissioner Markus Löning has called upon China to **“work toward creating a political environment that will relax the tensions in the Tibetan region”**.

TIBET



NEEDS
YOU

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