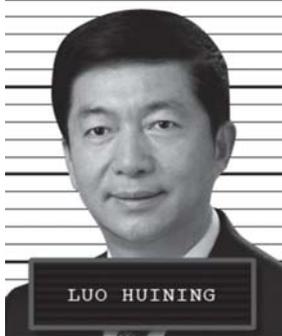
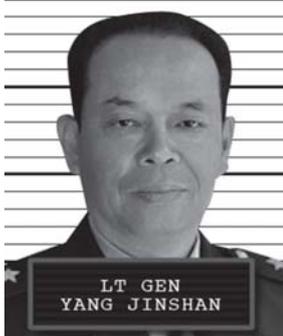
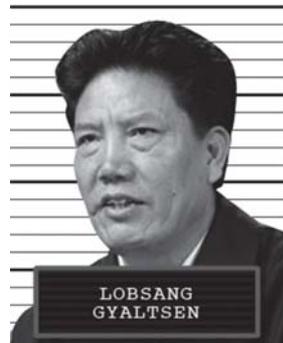
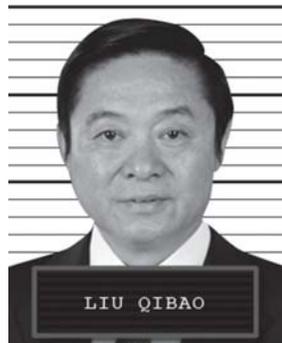
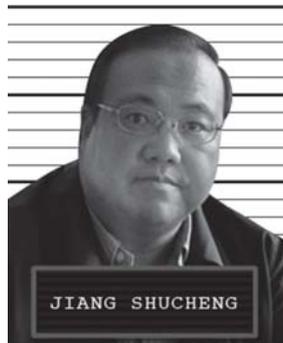
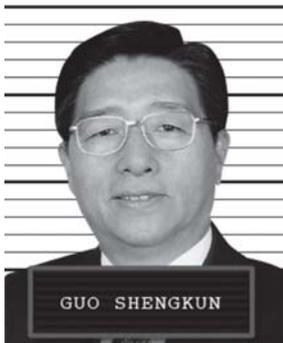


FREE TIBET

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The faces behind the occupation



freeTIBET

• Lolo, a Case Study • Parasites in Paradise • Crackdown •



Free Tibet Director
Eleanor Byrne-Rosengren

Dear friends

I am truly delighted to be addressing you as the new Director of Free Tibet and Tibet Watch. I have been a member of Free Tibet since the 1990s and believe this is a very exciting time to be joining the team in a professional capacity.

Over the last few years, Free Tibet has become one of the foremost sources of information coming out of Tibet and has provided reliable, corroborated reports of the recent protests and other incidents, including the self-immolations. Just keeping up with events in Tibet has been an achievement but I'm confident we're now ready to build on that by using the information, knowledge and skills we have to really develop our campaigning work and ensure that the issues in Tibet move up the international political agenda.

As I write to you, the number of Tibetans facing arbitrary arrest and detention continues to rise. Lolo, whose case we feature on page 3, is but one example. Since Xi Jinping assumed the Chinese presidency, aggressive crackdowns have increased and pressure inside Tibet continues to escalate (page 6).

There is much we have done (pages 9, 10) and much more we must continue to do. In May we launched our first campaign of the year – Parasites in Paradise, which targets the InterContinental hotel development in Lhasa. We ask that you boycott InterContinental (page 4), the owners of Holiday Inn, and let their CEO know how you feel as they build a 2000-room hotel in Lhasa, the capital of occupied Tibet.

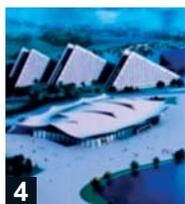
I am also pleased to announce the launch of the 2013 raffle, complete with some fantastic prizes (page 8). You could be spending three nights in Andalucía, watching the English National Ballet's *Le Corsaire* or sipping a glass of wine at the award-winning Four Seasons Hotel on the banks of Loch Earn. We also have plenty of new gifts for sale (page 8), just in time for summer!

Warm regards,

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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.

Editor: Joel Llewellyn
Design & layout: Catherine Quine
Print: Crucial Colour



Front cover: Deniz Tekkul

Case Study

Lolo

Sentence: Six years

Crime: Singing

On 23 February 2013, Tibetan singer Lolo was sentenced to six years in prison. The 30-year old was popular in Tibet but the subject matter of his songs was too much for the Chinese authorities. His most recent album contained 14 songs calling for Tibet's independence, unity of the Tibetan people and the return of the Dalai Lama.

Soon after the album's release in 2012, Lolo was arrested in Yushu, eastern Tibet. He had no known links to protests or other forms of activism and it appears his songs were the sole reason for his arrest. He was not charged or convicted on that occasion and it remains unclear how long he was detained, or how he was treated while in custody.

Even in his absence his songs courageously challenged the authorities. Videos were shared on social media, meaning Tibetans could see and hear his messages without the risk of buying or owning the album. His song *Raise the Tibetan Flag, Children of the Snowland* was a direct challenge to China's rule and its policy of banning the national flag.

Arrested again, he was sentenced by a court in Siling, the capital of Amdo region, Tibet. His 'crime' is not clear but is likely to be "splittism", a catch-all

offence which allows the Chinese authorities to harshly punish any ethnic minorities defending their rights.

Tibetan singers, writers and artists promoting Tibetan national identity and culture have been the target of China's ongoing crackdown on intellectuals, especially after the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Thousands of other Tibetans have been jailed – sometimes without any charge or trial – for protesting, carrying pictures of the Dalai Lama, sharing information with one another and the outside world and for 'crimes' as basic as carrying pictures of loved ones who have died in protest to their funerals. The UN reports that torture is both 'widespread' and 'routine' in Tibet.

For the sake of protecting Tibet's independence
Our Kings resisted the red Chinese leaders
From the true meaning of the middle path
Raise the Tibetan flag, children of the Snowland!

For the sake of honouring the Snowland
And to win Tibet's complete independence
Based on the manifold truth
Raise the Tibetan flag, children of the Snowland!

Lyrics from *Raise the Tibetan Flag, Children of the Snowland*, by Lolo

Action

Sign our online petition to Xi Jinping, demanding that China account for all Tibetans in detention, provide information to their families, open Tibet up to human rights monitors and amend its laws to allow freedom of expression and assembly.



www.freetibet.org/campaigns



INTER-CONTINENTAL

Parasites in Paradise

Why is a UK multinational preparing to run a luxury hotel in Lhasa?

To some people, it may not be immediately obvious what is wrong with opening a hotel in Tibet. But Tibet is not a playground for the rich. It is an occupied country, whose people are subject to gross human rights abuses.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) wants global brands like InterContinental in Tibet to give the impression of normality. InterContinental's presence in Lhasa would both entrench and exacerbate China's occupation.

Turn any corner in Lhasa and you may well encounter a military roadblock or spot armed personnel on rooftops. Even Chinese tourists who have visited the city have taken to social media to express their surprise at the large military presence.

The city's iconic Jokhang Temple was the scene for a self-immolation protest last year when two Tibetans, Dorje Tseten and Dargye, set themselves alight.

The CCP makes Tibetans hand over their identification details to use internet cafés. Foreign television and radio stations are blocked and Tibetans face arrest for making overseas calls. International tourists and professionals, the sort of clientele InterContinental might expect, take these everyday freedoms for granted.

This is hardly the place to open a luxury hotel.

Nevertheless, InterContinental is keen to ingratiate itself with the Chinese government. The company estimates that China will be the world's largest hotel market by 2025. And luxury hotels, like all major projects in China, are impossible without connections to the CCP.

InterContinental has teamed up with Deng Hong, a Sichuan-based entrepreneur, to build the so-called 'Lhasa Paradise' hotel. Deng has admitted in newspaper interviews that

Below:
Architects' drawing of the proposed InterContinental Hotel in Lhasa



his business “depends on the government” and according to media sources he is currently being investigated for corruption.

As Tibet is frequently closed to foreign tourists, it will be impossible to fill a 2,000-room resort in Lhasa without the CCP, which holds conferences and official meetings at venues it prefers. In 2008, military personnel who suppressed the protests in Lhasa with lethal force were billeted in hotels.

This hotel will directly serve those responsible for oppressing Tibetans on a day-to-day basis.

To add insult to injury, UK taxpayers are helping to fund this reckless development.

Lloyds Banking Group, which is more than 40% owned by the UK Government, is a significant shareholder in the InterContinental Hotels Group. Yet, in a 2010 poll conducted by ICM, 74% of British adults said that human rights in Tibet were at least as important as good trade relations with China; an opinion directly at odds with InterContinental's plans.

InterContinental's own corporate responsibility commitments are virtually impossible to implement or monitor inside Tibet and it is unclear how its obligation of a social impact assessment was met. It is also unclear how the global hotel chain plans to engage with community leaders to identify and

Jobs for Tibetans?

InterContinental claims its hotel will benefit Tibetans by providing jobs and training. This is a fallacy.

For decades, most schooling in Tibet has been in Mandarin. Many Tibetans, therefore, do not complete primary education and even fewer attend higher education.

It is unlikely that many Tibetans will be able to meet InterContinental's recruitment criteria, which demands fluency in Mandarin – especially for management posts.

We asked InterContinental to clarify whether staff training would be provided in Tibetan. They did not reply.

Tibetans in Lhasa have expressed concerns that management positions will only be offered to those who show allegiance to the CCP.

Others are concerned the hotel will be an incentive for Chinese graduates to move to Tibet – a serious concern given that young Tibetans already cannot compete for jobs on an equal footing and urban centres, such as Lhasa, are already flooded with Han Chinese migrants.

In the past most workers on international hotel construction sites have been Chinese. Tibetans who did gain employment were paid much less for the same work.

resolve any issues, especially amid the culture of fear and intimidation inside Tibet. The consequences Tibetans may face should they dare voice concerns or dissent mean InterContinental cannot, fundamentally, be held to account.

Interviews with Tibetans in Lhasa revealed little knowledge of InterContinental's grand project. This may indicate the Tibetan population is being neither consulted nor involved to a great extent in the development process.

Some people will benefit from an InterContinental hotel in Lhasa. But they will not be Tibetan.

Some people will benefit from InterContinental in Lhasa. But they will not be Tibetan.

Join the Boycott

Tell InterContinental's chief executive Richard Solomons that you will boycott his hotels until InterContinental leaves Tibet.

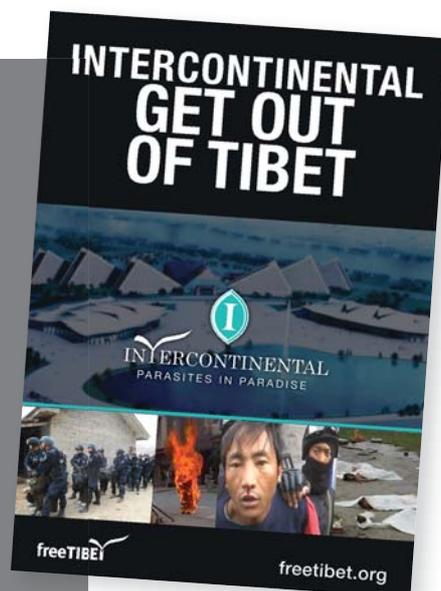
Write a letter:

Richard Solomons
InterContinental Hotels Group PLC
Broadwater Park
Denham
Buckinghamshire
UB9 5HR
UK

Online: Visit the website to sign up.



www.freetibet.org/ihg





Crackdown: fears heighten as tensions grow

Detentions and arrests reach unprecedented levels as protests continue.

Last year saw a significant rise in protests in Tibet, from fasts and mass demonstrations to people setting themselves alight in increasing numbers. A response in part to decades of government-legislated repression, the protests offered an opportunity for China to change the script. Instead, China has resorted to its tried, tested and failed approach: yet more repression. Our front cover bears the faces of just some of the key figures responsible.

Since the Communist Party Congress in November, one of the most sustained and severe crackdowns for many years has been taking place in Tibet. People are being detained in significant numbers – many simply disappear, their families kept entirely in the dark regarding their whereabouts or safety.

As we reported in the last issue, China responded to self-immolations with collective punishments, bribes and propaganda. They also changed the law so that anyone accused of inciting self-immolations could be charged with

‘intentional homicide’ – i.e. murder – and face the death penalty as a result. In January this year, Chinese state TV showed images of two monks being sentenced for incitement: a suspended death sentence for Lobsang Kunchok and a ten year sentence for his nephew. Since then, dozens have been arrested on suspicion of involvement with self-immolations and many have already been convicted, with sentences of up to 12 years in prison being handed down. Many convictions, including Lobsang Kunchok’s, were handed down without any physical evidence being offered; instead, defendants have been imprisoned based upon their confession alone. Torture is routinely used to obtain confessions in China and Tibet.

China has also attempted to prevent Tibetans from communicating news of protests and repression to one another and to the outside world. They have increased surveillance of social media platforms and new rules have been introduced forcing people to provide their real names when setting up internet accounts. In Amdo in March and April,

Above:
PLA troops on the streets of Rebkong during Losar celebrations, February 2013

the internet was simply shut down.

Special censor groups from Beijing raided internet cafes and monasteries in Lhasa in March seeking evidence of communications with the outside world. Anyone with a record of overseas calls faced arrest. A teenager was detained for 15 days in the Lhasa area after Tibetan loyalty songs were found on his phone and he reported that many others were in custody following similar checks.

In February, during Losar (Tibetan New Year) celebrations, military forces were a visible and intimidating presence at religious festivals. Large gatherings pose a threat of protest so China ensures those attending get a clear message about the consequences of any such action. Armed troops were deployed to Nyachong monastery in Lhasa to watch the monks from on top of the walls as they solemnly proceeded with ceremonies. So many monks have been expelled from this monastery that the monastery's Democratic Working Group (a government watchdog) had to join in the ceremonies so that the rituals could proceed.

Rebkong, where many protests have taken place, faced an overwhelming show of force, with trucks and troops lining the streets. Loudspeakers announced the penalties for self-immolation.

Protests have continued despite the crackdown (see page 10) and while Free Tibet has still been able to provide the world's media with news, many of our contacts report that their sources within Tibet have found people too frightened to report on what they have seen.

Holding China to account

Every four and a half years, each country in the United Nations faces a review of its human rights record, through a process known as Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) – 47 elected member states – considers submissions by UN agencies and takes evidence

from NGOs such as Free Tibet and from the nation under review. Following a session in Geneva in which questions are put to the country, the HRC then issues a set of recommendations about how to improve the human rights situation in that country.

Although China traditionally responds to criticism of its human rights record with angry condemnation of "interference" in its internal affairs, it is sensitive to criticism from the UN. It accepted 42 recommendations from the last UPR in 2009 – the first time it faced one – and the 2013 UPR will evaluate its progress, as well as issuing new recommendations. Free Tibet's partner organisation Tibet Watch has already submitted evidence to the UPR process detailing China's recent repression and human rights abuses. Tibet Watch will be lobbying the UN to ensure that China is held accountable for its repression and denial of basic human rights in Tibet. We'll keep you informed of progress.

Rebkong faced an overwhelming show of force, with trucks and troops lining the streets.



www.freetibet.org/resistance

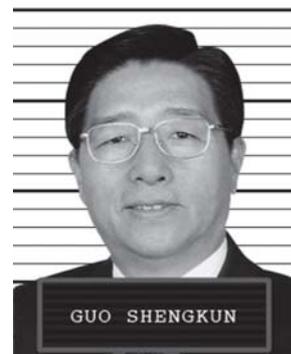
Xi Jinping, China's President, has overseen the worst crackdown inside Tibet for decades since taking power last November



Liu Qibao, China's Head of Propaganda, has dismissively referred to Tibetan self-immolators as 'drunks' with 'family problems'



Guo Shengkun, China's Public Security Minister, oversees mass disappearances across Tibet and heads China's 're-education through labour' programme



Free Tibet Raffle 2013

Raffle tickets for our 2013 prize draw are now on sale! For as little as £1, you could be the lucky winner of one of eight fantastic prizes. Try your luck today and you could find yourself dining by the shores of Loch Earn, whisked off to a secluded mountain retreat in Andalucia, or the proud owner of an original Tibetan thangka. We would like to thank all our prize

donors, whose generosity has made this year's raffle possible.

Here's what one of last year's prize winners had to say about her stay at Eco Retreats:

"Our experience at Eco Retreats in Snowdonia was incredible. For anyone who loves nature, streams, mountains and forests, this is a great spot. We are extremely

thankful to Free Tibet for this great prize, which brought us an unforgettable, relaxing and energetic experience." Elena & Nick

To buy your tickets email us at: raffle@freetibet.org, call 020 7324 4605, or visit the website.

 www.freetibet.org/raffle

1st prize: Three luxurious nights for two people at **The Four Seasons Hotel**, on the banks of Loch Earn, Scotland, including meals at the award-winning restaurant – an ideal place to recharge your batteries. www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk

2nd prize: Two nights for two people in a luxury tipi or yurt at **Eco Retreats**. Escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life and enjoy the beauty of nature in the heart of the Welsh mountains. www.ecoretreats.co.uk

3rd prize: Three nights for two people at **Cloud House Farm**, a secluded mountain yurt hideaway, located deep in the hills of Andalucia, Spain. Explore spectacular hiking routes, secluded river pools or simply lounge in a hammock and take in the breathtaking surroundings. www.cloudhouse.es



4th prize: An original brocaded Tibetan thangka, donated by **Pink Lotus**. www.pinklotus.co.uk

5th prize: Two nights for up to three people at **Hill House Retreats**, nestled above the picturesque and unspoilt costal village of Llansteffan, Wales. Enjoy a quiet and revitalising retreat, with stunning costal scenery and views. www.hillhouseretreats.co.uk

6th prize: A pair of tickets to a performance of 'Le Corsaire' by the **English National Ballet**, at the London Coliseum. www.ballet.org.uk

7th prize: An original artwork depicting Tara, a Buddhist deity embodying compassion, by artist **Becca Marsh**.

8th prize: Two tickets to a production at the multi-award winning **Finborough Theatre**, London. www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk



Closing date: 17 December 2013
Draw date: 20 December 2013

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 which can be found at www.gambleaware.co.uk



Free Tibet Shop

This summer, treat yourself to something from our brand new range of products. Our new and exciting items include: Tibet football shirts, Free Tibet flip flops and prayer flag inspired t-shirts.

To order these and many other items, return the order form included in the enclosed catalogue, call +44 (0)20 7324 4605, or visit our online shop to see the full range.



 www.freetibet.org/shop



Tibetan Uprising Day

More than 500 Tibetans and Tibet supporters marched through central London on 10 March to mark the 54th anniversary of the national uprising in Tibet.

On 10 March 1959, thousands of Tibetans took to the streets of Lhasa to protest against China's invasion of their country.

10 March 2008 saw protests sweep over the Tibetan plateau once more, beginning the most widespread opposition to China's occupation in modern times.

And in 2013 protestors in more than 30 countries again demonstrated their disgust at China's continued occupation and its escalating crackdown in Tibet, anti-Dalai Lama propaganda and criminalisation of Tibetan protests.

Letters to Cameron and the Chinese Embassy

The London protestors gathered opposite 10 Downing Street and submitted a letter to David Cameron, urging him to speak up for the Tibetan

people and make a public statement of concern.

The march then proceeded to the Chinese Embassy on Portland Place, where a delegation attempted to deliver a letter, imploring the Chinese to end their occupation, to Ambassador Liu Xiaoming.

The rally outside the embassy was addressed by speakers including Tim Loughton MP, a former minister and long-standing Tibet supporter who was banned from meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama by Mr Cameron last year.

Life Members meet Tibet Watch Senior Researcher

In February, Life Members met the Senior Researcher at Tibet Watch, the human rights monitoring charity that provides Free Tibet with all our information. Arriving fresh from giving evidence to the United Nations on the plight of children in Tibet, he recounted his visit to Geneva and also talked about his personal experience of living in Tibet. Life Members then had the opportunity to meet each other and Free Tibet and Tibet Watch staff over a glass of wine. To enjoy future Life Member events, sign up for Life Membership by calling 020 7324 4605, filling out the form on the cover letter or by visiting our website.

 www.freetibet.org/support



Free Tibet cannot publish the identity of Tibet Watch's Senior Researcher for security reasons.

Free Tibet would like to thank our new Life Members: Stephen Marshall Jessica Frankopan Neil Dunkin Anne Dew



Working with the United Nations

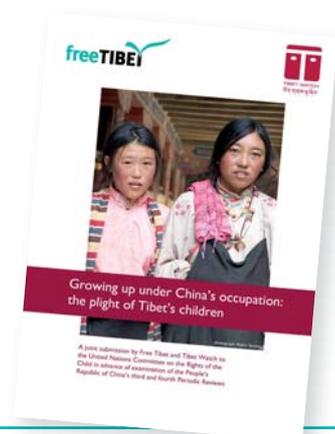
The children of Tibet face all the challenges of life under occupation and in many cases are full participants in the struggle to resist it. This means they are also victims of the systematic and ever-present abuse of human rights in Tibet.

We reported in February that Free Tibet and Tibet Watch had submitted a comprehensive and damning joint report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). *Growing up under China's occupation: the plight of Tibet's children* utilised eyewitness accounts and victim testimonies, based upon Tibet Watch's authoritative research.

“He took out his gun and pointed it to my forehead, saying that if I did not tell them who sent me to protest he would kill me. From the first moment they arrested me, I already felt dead, so feared nothing from his threats.”

Tsomo, a 16-year-old girl,
Kandze County, Tibet

Members of Tibet Watch travelled to Geneva in February to give testimony before the Committee on the Rights of the Child. They gave witness to abuses of cultural and religious rights, a lack of access to education, arbitrary arrests and torture. China will stand before the UN Committee in September.



Read the full report on our website:

www.freetibet.org/about/tibets-children

In Brief

● Former monk released from prison

After serving 17 years in a Chinese prison, former Tibetan monk Jigme Gyatso was released in April. He led the Association of Tibetan Freedom Movement and was sentenced to 15 years in 1996 for “splittism” and “counter-revolution”. His sentence was extended in 2004 for shouting pro-Dalai Lama slogans in prison. He is, however, reported to be in poor health following torture and friends fear his release may not mark the end of his suffering at the hands of the authorities.

● World leaders embrace Xi Jinping

World leaders across the globe have flocked to meet with Xi Jinping since his ascendancy, with one notable exception. He has met Vladimir Putin, Julia Gillard, François Hollande and even US Secretary of State John Kerry. David Cameron, however, is nowhere to be seen. According to media sources, the Prime Minister is being punished for meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama last year, as the latest example of China's malicious bully tactics plays out on the world stage.

● Immolation protests continue

More and more Tibetans are continuing to set fire to themselves in protest against China's occupation. At least 110 Tibetans have now self-immolated, more than 80 of whom have died. Survivors are routinely arrested and disappeared, their whereabouts unknown for months and even years at a time.

www.freetibet.org/news-media



We're
in it
for the
long
haul...

...are you?

Free Tibet Life Membership – £500

Help the next generation of Tibetans grow up in a Free Tibet.

As part of this exclusive group, you will receive:

- Copies of all Free Tibet publications
- Invitations to all Free Tibet special events
- An exclusive invite to meet the staff and Director to discuss current developments and strategy
- A new Free Tibet t-shirt every year
- Acknowledgement of your support in the Free Tibet magazine and website
- Plus all the usual member benefits!