

# FREE TIBET

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

## Statesman or Salesman?

**Tibet's not free,  
China pays me a  
fortune to keep  
quiet about it**



• Cameron in China • Shootings in Tibet • Day of Action •



Free Tibet Director  
Eleanor Byrne-Rosengren

## Dear friends

Recently I’ve been following the legal case in Spain, which has accused former Chinese leaders and officials of genocide, torture and terrorism against the Tibetan people. The court has issued arrest warrants for five of the officials, including former President Jiang Zemin. Not surprisingly, China has objected loudly and is trying to bully the Spanish government into legal reforms that would put an end to the case.

I am both saddened and excited by this news. Saddened by the fact that the Spanish government seems willing to bow to political pressure and allow China to meddle with both domestic and international law – but excited by the fact that these historic arrest warrants have actually been issued. There is nothing China can do now to erase the declarations the court has made or the headlines this case has generated.

I’m sure many of you will agree this case is a reminder of the power of truth – and the importance of our role in

uncovering the truth about human rights abuse in Tibet and sharing it with the world. The video footage we were able to release to the BBC (p10) is a great example. This magazine also has updates on our current campaigns (p5-7) as well as recent news from Tibet (p4, 8, 10).

Also, this year we’re building a banner of song lyrics (p10) linked to our Tibet’s Jailed Musicians campaign (p5). It’s a chance for everyone to get involved in a personal way and I’m looking forward to seeing all the different lyrics that have inspired our members and supporters. I’m also looking forward to the Uprising Day march (p11) and to meeting some of you in person. Don’t forget to visit our shop for flags, badges and t-shirts – all perfect for the march.

## Contents



- 3 David Cameron in China: Statesman or salesman?**  
Prime Minister disappoints in Beijing

- 4 Driri: a county under seige**  
New focus of Tibet’s resistance

- 5 Unsung heroes: Tibet’s jailed musicians**  
Celebrities back campaign

- 6-7 Global action for Tibet**  
Protests continue against Intercontinental Hotels



**8** TIBET WATCH  
འོད་གནས་ལྷ་ཁྱིའི་བ་

- 8 News in brief**  
Raffle 2013 winners  
Thank you from Tibet Watch

- 9 Make a lasting commitment**  
Become a Life Member

- 10 Shocking video goes global**  
Exclusive footage from Free Tibet  
Sponsor a campaign banner

- 11 Uprising Day march**  
Visit our online shop



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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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# David Cameron in China: Statesman or salesman?

**Prime Minister out of step with British public on Tibet.**

In December, Prime Minister David Cameron visited China – his first visit since 2010. Despite a Free Tibet opinion poll showing that a large majority of British people thought it would be right for him to raise human rights in Tibet during his visit, he stayed mute in public and glossed over the subject in private.

The Prime Minister's visit followed China's angry reaction to his meeting with the Dalai Lama in 2012. In 2013 Mr Cameron said that he had "no plans" to meet His Holiness again. He also told the House of Commons in May that "we recognise Tibet as part of China."

Mr Cameron's policy on Tibet during his visit was to ensure it did not stand between him and his goal of increasing Chinese investment in the UK. In this respect, he was also strongly out of step with his public: Free Tibet's opinion poll, conducted immediately before his visit, showed that almost 70% of people believe human rights in Tibet to be at least as important as trade with China.

## **Did Mr Cameron raise Tibet?**

When asked in China whether he had raised issues including Tibet in private meetings, the Prime Minister claimed to have "raised all those issues". Any mention of Tibet (however fleeting) by

the Prime Minister is a sign that UK public opinion will not allow him to completely ignore the thorny issue.

But it is clear that he did not challenge China on its policies in Tibet and that he reaffirmed his government's position, which effectively backs China's occupation of Tibet.

Ultimately, Mr Cameron was more salesman than statesman. The chief message of his visit was that, for the moment, China's money has more weight in determining UK government policy than the plight of the Tibetan people.

## Action

You can help us change UK policy by putting pressure on the government through your MP. Take part in the annual Tibet Lobby Day on 12 March. You can come to Parliament in person to lobby your MP, send them a letter or email urging them to call for the UK to speak up for Tibet.



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



# Driru: a county under siege

“It seems like the Chinese Cultural Revolution has restarted.”

When China attempted to force residents of Driru County to fly the Chinese flag over their houses last September, it sparked a sequence of protests and repression that has continued into 2014.

In May last year, thousands of Tibetans in Driru staged a protest against a local Chinese mining operation. Although the project was suspended, Communist Party officials and security personnel descended on the area a few months later to impose a programme of “patriotic re-education”. Ordered to fly the Chinese flag above their homes in September, Tibetans from one township threw the flags into the river.

Security forces reacted strongly, sparking ongoing unrest. In early October, armed police opened fire on protesters who were seeking the release of arrested Tibetans. Around 60 people were injured in the incident. Some were denied urgently needed medical treatment.

In the aftermath, severe restrictions were placed on internet and phone communications and movement in and out of the area. The area was described as “besieged” by Chinese forces.

## Beaten to death

Another resident said “it seems like the Chinese Cultural Revolution has restarted”, a reference to severe repression and attempted destruction of Tibet’s culture in the 1960s.

His words proved disturbingly prophetic when the local Drongna

monastery was shut down in December. According to reports, other monasteries in the area have also been closed. In addition, Ngawang Jamyang, a monk from the nearby Tarmoe monastery, died in police custody in November. Family members who saw his body believe he was beaten to death.

## “Politically unstable”

China has continued to crack down on the county, declaring it “politically unstable”. In November, 12 protesters who were arrested reported being tortured in custody.

Local residents not involved in protests have also been targeted. Single mother-of-three, Kalsang, was arrested in October, reportedly for comments made on social media and possessing photos of the Dalai Lama.

Two popular singers from the area were also arrested. Trinley Tsekar was sentenced to nine years, reportedly for his involvement in the mining protests early in the year (see p5), while Gongpo Tsezin’s whereabouts are still unknown at the time of going to press. Another man, Choechap, was sentenced to 13 years for the mining protests.

China’s violent response to events in Driru was intended to contain the protests and prevent them spreading across Tibet. The brave residents of Driru have paid a heavy price for their courage but their actions are a reminder of how deeply Tibetans oppose Chinese rule.

Top: Security forces confront a peaceful march in Driru  
Below: Tibetans protesting over arrests



# Unsung heroes: Tibet's jailed musicians

As we write, nine of Tibet's most popular singers languish in China's jails after writing and performing songs celebrating Tibet, opposing occupation and calling for freedom. They are the latest victims of China's attempt to erase Tibetan culture and silence the voices that speak up for Tibet.

But they are not forgotten. In December, Free Tibet launched its Tibet's Jailed Musicians campaign and thousands have raised their voices in support – including some of the music world's biggest stars.

Music is a vital part of Tibetans' resistance to Chinese rule. These brave musicians not only keep alive a culture that China is trying to erase from the world, but give voice to the aspirations, fears and courage of all Tibetans.

Their songs describe their hopes to see the Dalai Lama return, their fears for Tibet's beautiful landscape and environment, their sorrow for the suffering of their people and their determination to see Tibet free. The meaning of the title of Pema Tinley and Chakdor's album, *The Pain of an Unhealed Wound*, is unmistakable to every Tibetan.

For China, their courage and popularity is intolerable. Lolo, Shawa Tashi, Pema Tinley, Chakdor, Chokyal and Trinley Tsekar have been given sentences of between one and nine years.

Achok Phulshung, Kalsang Yarphel and Gongpo Tsezin still await their trials

and sentences. Achok Phulshung has already been imprisoned for more than a year-and-a-half.

## Musicians speak out.

Just a few weeks after our campaign was launched, more than 2,000 people had already signed our petition to China's Justice Minister, Wu Aiyang, calling for the release of the nine artists. Among those to sign are world-famous musicians such as Peter Gabriel as well as Thom Yorke and Ed O'Brien of Radiohead. Exile Tibetan stars have also given their support.

“Thinking the future of Tibet, we chase our dreams.”

Kalsang Yarphel



From top: Trinley Tsekar, Lolo, Achok Phulshung, Choksal, Gongpo Tsezin, Shawa Tashi, Chakdor, Pema Tinley, Kalsang Yarphel

## Action

Please sign our petition calling for the release of all the singers. You can also read more about the individual singers, watch their videos and read their heartfelt lyrics online.



# TIBET'S JAILED MUSICIANS



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



New York

Sutton, UK

Boston

Washington DC

Paris

Mexico City

Natal, Brazil

London

Morelia, Mexico

# Global action for Tibet



Tibet supporters all over the world sent a clear message to Intercontinental Hotels Group last November: Get out of Tibet.

IHG's Intercontinental, Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza hotels on five continents were the scenes of protests, die-ins, Tibet flags and even a line of 'dirty laundry' hung in front of bemused staff and guests.

In London, an audacious protest by Free Tibet and Students for a Free Tibet at the prestigious World Travel Market embarrassed Intercontinental before the world's travel industry.

And there will be a lot more to come in 2014.

Intercontinental faces mounting pressure to cancel its plan to open a massive luxury hotel in Lhasa this year.

MPs and United Nations bodies have demanded answers from the company and it has endured negative coverage in prestigious international media.

In a further blow, while the company claims the highest of ethical standards, its Chinese business partner in the hotel is in jail, facing charges of illegal land deals, tax evasion and fraud.

Our deep thanks to Students for a Free Tibet and the International Tibet Network for their support for the campaign and their amazing work organising many of the protests.

**“Intercontinental's guests around the world will need to get used to Tibet protesters.”**

Eleanor Byrne-Rosengren

## Action

Join Tibet campaigners across the world and tell IHG chief executive, Richard Solomons, to pull the plug on the Lhasa deal. Send the enclosed postcard to Intercontinental today.

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

## News in brief

- **China questioned over Tibet at UN.** Thirteen United Nations member states made recommendations on Tibet during China's "Universal Periodic Review" (UPR) of its human rights record in Geneva last November. A number of other states called on China to improve treatment of ethnic minorities. The US, UK, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, France and Japan were among the countries that directly referenced Tibet. This was a significant increase compared to China's last UPR in 2009. Free Tibet lobbied governments, including the UK, asking them to raise Tibet before the review.
- **Spanish court orders arrest of former Chinese president.** A court in Spain has ordered arrest warrants to be issued for China's former president, Jiang Zemin, and other Chinese officials. They are charged with crimes including genocide, torture and terrorism committed against the Tibetan people. Using the international law doctrine of universal jurisdiction, foreign leaders can be tried for crimes against humanity in Spain. Former Chinese president, Hu Jintao, may also face such charges. However, under pressure from China, Spain's government is planning changes to the law which would make it impossible for Spanish courts to pursue the cases.
- **Protests as monk arrested.** A highly-respected monk and activist has been arrested in Yushu, central Tibet. Khenpo Kartse, an abbot at Japa monastery, is well-known for his work advocating protection of the environment and the Tibetan language. He was arrested by Chinese police on 6 December 2013. Since his arrest there have been a number of demonstrations calling for his release, amid concerns for his health. A number of protesters have also been arrested. At the time of writing, he remains in detention.



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

## Free Tibet Raffle 2013 – the winners

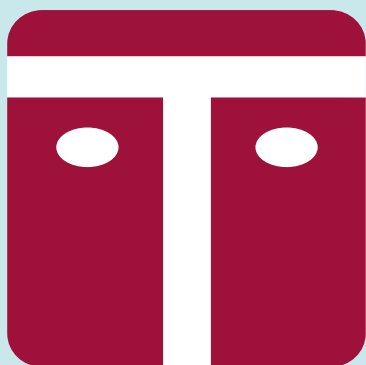
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the raffle last year. We raised over £12,000 which will be used to support our campaigning work throughout 2014.

### Congratulations to 2013's lucky winners:

- |            |   |              |
|------------|---|--------------|
| <b>1st</b> | Three nights for two at the <b>Four Seasons Hotel</b> | H Bailey     |
| <b>2nd</b> | Two nights at <b>Eco Retreats</b>                     | Rachel Miles |
| <b>3rd</b> | Three nights at <b>Cloud House Farm</b>               | B A North    |
| <b>4th</b> | Tibetan Thangka (donated by <b>Pink Lotus</b> )       | J Adams      |
| <b>5th</b> | Two nights at <b>Hill House Retreats</b>              | D Green      |
| <b>6th</b> | Two tickets for the <b>English National Ballet</b>    | M Brennan    |
| <b>7th</b> | Original artwork by <b>Becca Marsh</b>                | M Forster    |



Seventh prize: Tara, a Buddhist deity embodying compassion



**TIBET WATCH**

བོད་གནས་ལྟོ་ཞིབ་

## Thank you from Tibet Watch

Thank you to all our supporters who dug deep and donated to our research partner, Tibet Watch, in the run up to Christmas and this New Year. At the time of going to print we had already raised over £22,000. Piers Bannister, Research Manager of Tibet Watch, sends this message:

**“You have no idea how much this means to the team in Dharamsala, thank you so much. It's very difficult for us to fundraise as our work has to be kept under wraps to protect our staff and our sources in Tibet. To receive most of our annual India budget in just a few weeks is a wonderful gift.”**

All our news from inside Tibet, all the evidence we submit to the United Nations, which they use to hold China to account and the facts and figures we need to challenge the actions of corporations in Tibet comes via Tibet Watch. To find out more, visit the Tibet Watch website.



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



# You can make a lasting commitment to Free Tibet by becoming a member for life



Some Free Tibet Life Members have been inspired by a visit to Tibet; others are simply motivated by hearing about the enormous injustices that prevail there. Whatever your personal connection to Tibet and its people, Life Membership is an opportunity to deepen that bond and support the struggle for freedom for as long as it lasts.

As well as invitations to special events, our Life Members receive all new Free Tibet and Tibet Watch reports and personal updates on our work. With a single gift of £500 you can become a Life Member, advocating for the rights of the next generation of Tibetans.

But don't take our word for it, here is what some of our Life Members themselves have to say.

**Join as a Life Member by 25 March and you'll be just in time for our annual Life Member event – a cultural evening not to be missed!**

Fill out the form on the cover letter or call Jo on 020 7324 4610.

"As a long-term supporter of Free Tibet, I was delighted to become a Life Member and to express my support in an enduring way. I wear my slogan t-shirt to exercise classes to spread the word. A real highlight, and one that I shall always remember, is hearing the Dalai Lama speak at the Albert Hall; thanks to Free Tibet for that invitation!"



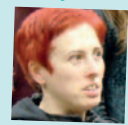
Anthea West

"I joined Free Tibet as a Life Member because I wanted to support an organisation helping to push for a sustainable political situation for Tibetans and I've been delighted by benefits which I hadn't anticipated – such as being invited to hear really interesting talks by staff members about key changes they are trying to push through e.g. via the United Nations."



Fiona Gooch

"Hearing from someone who has lived in Tibet and worked on the issue for many years at last year's Life Members' event provided me with unique insights into the current situation. I used money left to me by my grandma to switch from annual to life membership and so this helps me to remember her too and how she was a deeply political person."



Heather Mendick

Free Tibet would like to welcome our newest Life Member: Brenda Gosling

# Shocking video reaches global audience



Powerful exclusive footage of a confrontation between environment protesters and security forces last August was broadcast by the BBC in December, reaching audiences across the world.

The video was courageously filmed by a Tibetan joining the peaceful protest against mining operations in Dzatoe county (see October 2013 issue). As police film the protesters, many hold their thumbs up - a request for clemency in Tibet. Tensions rise, with sounds of distress among the Tibetans and shouts of "please leave us alone". Moments later, the sound of automatic gunfire is heard amid screams from the crowd. On this occasion, security forces fired into the air but the demonstration was then broken up with batons, tear gas and electric prods.



The film was smuggled at great risk to Tibet Watch who brought it to Free Tibet. Using our contacts in the media, we placed the footage with the BBC who featured it in an extensive report on Tibet broadcast immediately before David Cameron's visit in December (see p3). The video was also used on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, the BBC global news channel and on its website.

## Bringing Tibet to the world

The BBC footage was just one of many news stories featuring Free Tibet since our last magazine. Our poll and comments about David Cameron appeared in The Guardian, Telegraph and other major news outlets while our Intercontinental campaign featured in the New York Times.

Free Tibet is a highly respected source of news from Tibet and our vital work with the media helps to ensure that China's attempt to stifle the truth about its repression will not succeed.



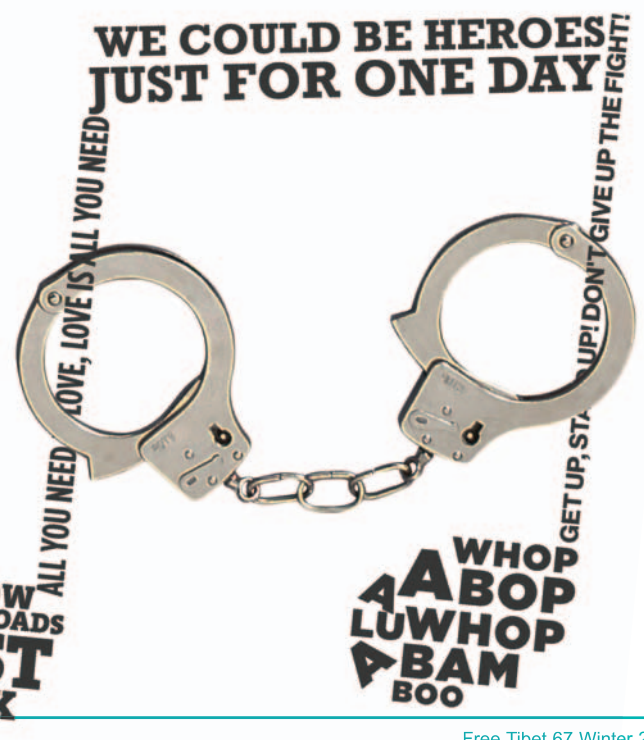
 [www.freetibet.org/news](http://www.freetibet.org/news)

# What's your favourite song?

It is vital that our new campaign to free Tibetan musicians who have been jailed after singing songs of freedom (p5) makes an impact. We plan to create an eye-catching banner formed from a mosaic of song lyrics in the shape of the musical note featured on our campaign logo. The banner will be unfurled and displayed at vigils outside the Chinese Embassy and at national and local demonstrations.

So we are asking you to sponsor a song lyric of your choice. The more supporters who sponsor a line, the bigger the banner will be and the more effect it will have. You can pick something from your favourite song, lyrics that inspire you or something that makes you feel happy.

**Start spreading the news and help us free Tibet's jailed singers. To sponsor a song line, please complete the form on the cover letter.**



# Support Tibet in London this March

Monday 10 March marks the 55th anniversary of Tibet's uprising against Chinese rule in 1959. Hundreds of thousands of Tibetans gathered in Lhasa in March 1959 to protect their leader and defy Chinese rule. The Dalai Lama escaped from Tibet and the courage of his fellow Tibetans is marked every year across the world.

This year, marches and events in solidarity with Tibet will take place in many countries. If you are in London, join Free Tibet, our partners in other Tibet campaign groups and Tibet supporters from across the UK at the annual Tibet March in **London on Saturday 15 March**.

Beginning at Downing Street at 11am and ending in an uplifting rally at the Chinese embassy on Portland Place, the colourful and popular event is a fantastic and enjoyable way to show your support for Tibet. Visit our website or contact us at [info@freetibet.org](mailto:info@freetibet.org) for more information.

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



Tibetan Uprising Day march, London 2012

# Grab yourself a bargain and support Tibet!

The Tibetan flag is banned in Tibet, but we can fly the flag around the world to show our support this March.

You can buy Tibetan national flags, prayer flags, Tibetan gifts and lots more in our shop.

What's more, we have lots of special offers for you to take advantage of. Just take a look at the included leaflet, or visit us online today!

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





WE COULD BE HEROES  
JUST FOR ONE DAY



HOW  
MANY ROADS  
**MUST**  
A MAN  
WALK  
DOWN

WHOP  
**AABOP**  
LUWHOP  
**BAM**  
BOO

ALL YOU NEED  
LOVE, LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

GET UP, STAY UP!  
DON'T GIVE UP THE FIGHT!

Start  
spreading  
the news...

What's your favourite song?  
One line from it could help  
us create an eye-catching  
banner to help free Tibet's  
jailed singers.

See inside for details.

### Trinley Tsekar

**Detained:** 20 November 2013

**Sentence:** Nine years  
imprisonment.

**Crime:** Reportedly convicted  
and sentenced because  
of his participation in  
anti-mining protests.

