

FREE TIBET

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www.freetibet.org

China's plan for Tibet



free
TIBET

• Solidarity in Tibet • Eye witness • Political prisoners • Corporate irresponsibility •

“Guardians of just law are rarer than gold.”

Tibetan campaigner and political prisoner Goshul Lobsang, 1971-2014

Dear friends

It's now just over one year since I took up the post of Director. And it's been quite a year. Around this time last year we launched our campaign against Intercontinental Hotels Group and I was preparing to infiltrate their AGM with some awkward questions. As I write this we are preparing to attend the 2014 AGM with a new report on IHG's corporate responsibility failings. It feels like the campaign is making some real headway.

Our campaign for Tibet's Jailed Musicians is also making great progress and attracting support from musicians and artists around the world – including some my husband describes as 'rock royalty'.

The last couple of months have been incredibly busy, not least because of all the events in March. The last time I attended a Tibet Uprising Day march the weather was pretty dreary. It was fantastic to march in sunshine this year, with clear blue skies above and a great crowd of people.

Tibet groups have also just secured a meeting with the Minister of State for China to discuss human rights in Tibet. It will be another good opportunity to draw attention to Driru County. The resistance and repression there continue to dominate the news coming out of Tibet and have recently been featured in a new report by our research partner, Tibet Watch.

I'm also excited about the new merchandise range that we've developed over the last few months. I was talking to someone a while back about the potential for our merchandise to be an outlet for Tibetan culture and expression. I was also inspired by the art and craft work I saw during my last couple of visits to Dharamsala. We decided to feature both contemporary and traditional Tibetan products and to seek out suppliers who shared our values. We now have a range we are very proud of and I hope you'll enjoy browsing through our new catalogue. I know where I'll be buying everyone's birthday presents this year.



Free Tibet Director
Eleanor Byrne-Rosengren

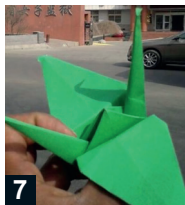
With best wishes

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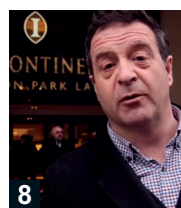


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28 Charles Square,
London, N1 6HT
T: 020 7324 4605
F: 020 7324 4606
E: mail@freetibet.org
W: www.freetibet.org

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
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Travels to Tibet

Long-standing Free Tibet supporter, Rowan Lea, visited Tibet in the summer of 2013. Here she shares some of her many impressions.

Top: Rowan Lea; Tibetan women at the Potala Palace
Below: Military, monks and tourists in the Jokhang Temple



The wonder and delight of the extraordinary landscapes and ancient culture, together with the warm heartedness of the people, sat side-by-side with the heavy presence and sadness of occupation.

I found the crossing from Nepal particularly intimidating, with an intrusive hand-held camera monitoring, close-up, everyone going through the passport checks. As well as the main border crossings, there were many internal checkpoints.

While travelling, there was one incident when a driver needed to buy petrol. He was asked if he had a permit, which really upset him. He seemed to have said, "Why do I need a permit to buy things in my own country?" It was an indication to us of how much of their resentment about petty bureaucracy and other restrictions of daily life Tibetan people have to suppress.

Lhasa is now a huge modern commercial city, very garish with huge adverts on every shopfront and office

block. We saw a statue of a gold yak by the main road into Lhasa, proclaiming Lhasa as the 'Number 1 tourist destination in China'. We visited the strictly policed Tibetan quarter called the Barkor. In some parts, there is a police station almost every 100 yards. There are smart new streetlights, in black and gold, but the effect is more Disney World than old Tibet!

Encouragingly, we were told, there is a strong revival of interest in Tibetan culture and language amongst young people; inspiring after all that has gone on. But one Tibetan told us that students and civil servants are not allowed time off for festival days, so it becomes difficult to keep up the traditions in the way they would like. "Don't be sad", a Tibetan woman said, seeing our distress, "it will only burden you". Perhaps this is how many Tibetans try to cope with the day-to-day realities of Chinese occupation. One man was visibly touched when talking about the Dalai Lama. He simply said, "everyone feels the same inside".

Another Tibetan man we talked to finished by thanking us – and by extension everyone else – for what we are all doing to try to help. His gratitude was so deeply heartfelt that I found myself blinking back tears. At least here, in this article, I have the chance to pass on his thanks.

In order to ensure no Tibetans in Tibet can be connected to this article, Rowan Lea is a pseudonym.

Thinking about visiting Tibet?

Read our online guide on how to do it ethically.

If you have visited Tibet recently and would like to share your experiences with other supporters, we'd like to hear from you! Contact jo@freetibet.org.

 www.freetibet.org/travel

Tibet hollowed out

China plunders
Tibetan resources



Tibet before China's invasion in 1950 was unfenced; its grasslands intact and its mountains rich in minerals and water. Instead of Tibetans using those resources for their own needs, responsibly and sustainably, China has been stealing them without giving heed to the consequences for future generations. Now that exploitation is gathering pace, with potentially disastrous consequences for Tibet.

China has paved the way for the destruction of Tibet's environment by moving millions of Tibetan nomads off their grasslands to urban settlements, ending traditional agricultural practices which have sustained the Tibetan grasslands for centuries and opening vast areas up for exploitation.

Chinese propaganda asserts the benefits to Tibetans of new transport infrastructure: the reality is that those developments facilitate the movement of military forces and Chinese immigrants and the extraction of natural resources which help to feed China's relentless economic and industrial expansion.

Turning off the tap

The Tibetan Plateau holds the third largest store of water-ice in the world – experts have dubbed it the “Third Pole”. Its fresh water is the source of many of the world's greatest rivers, including the Yellow River, Mekong and Brahmaputra. But an estimated 70% of China's own water is polluted from the uncontrolled dumping of chemicals. Instead of rectifying this problem, the Chinese government is diverting water from the Tibetan Plateau to northern and western parts of China to supply over 300 million Chinese people.

More than half of the global population live off the water flowing from the Tibetan Plateau. By controlling the supply of water to Asian countries, China has political power, which it exercises with little regard for the damage to unique ecosystems both in Tibet and downstream.

Its dams in Tibet are also a source of hydroelectric power for Chinese cities and the mines around Tibet. Recently, China drilled a 7km deep borehole in Tibet to reach the country's oil and natural gas resources: the Chinese

government's petroleum corporation estimates the region's oil reserves to be around 10 billion tonnes.

The new gold rush

China is now the world's largest producer of copper and the second biggest consumer of gold. The World Gold Council predicts that the consumption in China will double within a decade and the country could export copper and gold with the worth of nearly one trillion US dollars. All of China's copper and gold deposits are in Tibet.

As well as copper, gold and silver, the Tibetan plateau is also rich in lead, zinc, molybdenum, asbestos, uranium, chromium, lithium and much more. These raw materials are used in manufacturing household goods, computers, smart-phones and much more – in fact it is likely that something in your house contains a part of Tibet.

The Chinese companies who extract and exploit all these resources pay little heed to the local environment or community – their disregard for the religious significance of sites they work on is a frequent trigger for protests. Benefiting from preferential treatment, such as tax breaks, companies also employ Chinese migrants rather than Tibetans – when a landslide killed more than 80 workers at a mine near Lhasa last year only two were Tibetan.

Tibet's resistance

Tibetans continually protest about the environmental destruction going on around them. We reported in February's magazine on the mining protests which led to the ongoing crisis in Driru County and how the BBC showed Free Tibet's footage of security forces breaking up another environment demonstration in Dzatoe County. At a local level, the damage China is causing to Tibet's unique environment causes immense resentment but China's gargantuan theft of resources which belong under the stewardship of the people of Tibet is the gravest injustice.



“It is likely that something in your house contains a part of Tibet.”

 www.freetibet.org/environment

Left: Open cast mining in Tibet
Above: Tibetans protest at Yushu mine, 2013

Deadline: 17 November 2014

2014 Free Tibet Raffle

Buy your tickets today

We are excited to announce the 2014 Free Tibet raffle. With a fantastic selection of prizes, ranging from an adventure in the Scottish Highlands to handmade Nepalese jewellery, there's something for everyone.

The 2013 raffle raised over £12,000, which is being used to directly campaign for the rights of Tibetans to determine their own future. This year we are aiming even higher and we need your help. Please, buy your tickets today.

First Prize: The Highland adventure

A three night stay for two, including dinner and breakfast and a complimentary bottle of fizz, at the **Four Seasons Hotel**, situated on the picturesque banks of Loch Earn, Perthshire, Scotland.
www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk



Second Prize: The Welsh retreat

Spend time deep in the Welsh Hills, in a beautifully furnished canvas home complete with roaring fire, with a wonderful two night Tipi retreat for two provided by **Eco Retreats**. There is no Wi-Fi and no mobile signal but definitely more connection! www.ecoretreats.co.uk

Third Prize: The chocolate lover's heaven

The Raw Chocolate Company has prepared a super selection of their award winning chocolate. With a variety of flavours such as Pure Pitch Dark, Goji and Orange, and Vanoffe – the real decision to be made is will you share?
www.therawchocolatecompany.com



Fourth Prize: The sound of enlightenment

Pink Lotus has donated a wonderful antique singing bowl (worth £130). Singing bowls are used in Tibetan Buddhism; their rich sound helping the individual to enter a deep state of relaxation. www.pinklotus.co.uk



Fifth Prize: Ethical Threads

Komodo has a philosophy of fair trade and a deep consideration for the environmental impact of their fashion creations. Three lucky people will each win £50 to spend across their range of clothing for both men and women.
www.komodo.co.uk



Sixth Prize: Step into Tibet

Komodo have a Tibet-themed range of clothing and two winners will each receive a pair of Free Tibet trainers, inspired by the Tibetan flag.
www.komodo.co.uk

Seventh Prize: Free Tibet goodies

A £40 voucher to be spent in the **Free Tibet** shop.
www.freetibet.org/shop

Ninth Prize: Music to the ears

Bush Hall, an independent live music and events venue in London, has donated a pair of tickets allowing our winner and a friend entry to a gig of their choice.
www.bushhallmusic.co.uk



Eighth Prize: What A Beautiful Story!

A Beautiful Story has donated an eye-catching selection of handcrafted bracelets for one lucky individual.

We would like to say a very big thank you to all of our 2014 donors whose generosity has made this year's raffle possible.

Remember: the raffle is open only to residents of the UK, excluding Northern Ireland. You must be 16 years of age or over to buy tickets. Please gamble responsibly. If you think you may have a gambling problem please seek advice and support which can be found at: www.gambleaware.co.uk **Draw date: 21 November 2014**



TIBET'S JAILED MUSICIANS



As China continues to jail musicians, our campaign continues to grow.

Music stars Cornershop and the legendary Iggy Pop have joined the likes of Peter Gabriel and members of Radiohead in backing our petition for the release of Tibet's jailed musicians. More than 5,000 people across the world have now signed up.

We have submitted the musicians' cases to the UK Foreign Office and are lobbying for them to be raised at the forthcoming human rights dialogue with China. We are also optimistic that the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, Farida Shaheed, will take up their cases.

Sadly, we have also confirmed that a tenth musician has been detained by China. Pema Rigzin from Ngaba County produced CDs for singers Chakdor, Pema Thinley and Achok Phulshung at his studio. All three are

among the nine already jailed. The father of three was arrested in May 2013 – no information about his current status is available.

Meanwhile, our campaign video is reaching a whole new audience. Juxtaposing the emotional statements of television talent show contestants with the commitment and courage of Tibetan singers jailed for their music, the video is designed to attract the attention of a younger generation not always aware of Tibet.

Action

See the video and sign our petition on our website.



www.freetibet.org/singers

Daring show of solidarity in Tibet

These photographs show origami birds outside the prison in Qinghai province where filmmaker Dhondup Wangchen and other Tibetan political prisoners are held. The birds are the symbol of the global Unchain the Truth campaign aiming to secure his release.

Dhondup Wangchen is serving a six-year sentence after filming interviews for his film *Leaving Fear Behind* with Tibetans who bravely voiced their feelings about China's occupation. His release from prison has been delayed and his family are

gravely concerned about his deteriorating health.

On 22 March, campaigners worldwide took action to highlight the filmmaker's situation. Defying the Chinese authorities and proving that the actions of Tibet supporters globally are known and appreciated inside Tibet, Tibetans sent the world these pictures and a simple message: "Thank You".



Corporate irresponsibility

Intercontinental comes under scrutiny over Lhasa plan.

As news has emerged this year of Lhasa hotels being implicated in a racist security policy targeting Tibetans, Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG) has come under fire for avoiding questions about its planned hotel in Lhasa.

With authorities in Lhasa talking of a “crackdown” (see opposite page), a leaked document reveals that the police in Lhasa have instructed hotels to report Tibetan guests from politically-sensitive areas to the security forces. The racist policy does not apply to Han Chinese guests from the same areas.

If IHG complies with this new policy when its luxury hotel opens, it will be helping China to monitor and control Tibetans. However, the company has refused to confirm that it will not report Tibetans in this way.

In response to the company’s persistent stonewalling, Free Tibet has compiled a detailed report about IHG’s repeated refusal to provide any evidence that it has met key corporate social responsibility standards established by the UN, the UK government and other international bodies. Most alarmingly, despite the risk of being directly implicated in human rights violations – such as by providing information or allowing its hotel to be used by security

forces – the company has never given any indication that it has taken any steps to minimise this risk in Lhasa.

One UN body has refused to accept the company’s silence. IHG is a signatory to the UN Global Compact (UNGC), a voluntary scheme designed to ensure best practice in corporate responsibility for multinationals. In response to a Free Tibet complaint in January, the Compact asked IHG to account for its actions and policies in Lhasa. After the company grudgingly supplied an incomplete answer two days before the deadline it was given, the UNGC refused to accept the response and, at the time of going to press, are still awaiting a more respectful and comprehensive reply.

Current indications are that the company intends to open the hotel this year. Free Tibet continues to press the company to do the right thing. In addition to our report (due to be released as this magazine goes to press), demonstrations at its Annual General Meeting in London and at a major hotel industry conference in Berlin have focussed on IHG’s potential complicity with human rights abuses and failure to make any effort to prove it has met its corporate responsibilities. We are confident that other multinationals considering exploiting Tibet are taking note.

Action

Contact IHG at:
www.intercontinental.org/hotel



 www.freetibet.org/intercontinental



Left: A simple message for IHG’s CEO in Berlin
Above: Comedian Mark Thomas in new campaign video, The Hotel Inspectors. See it at www.freetibet.org/videos

News update...

International reports expose reality of Tibet

Respected US human rights NGO Freedom House has given Tibet the lowest possible rating on political rights. In its annual report, Chinese-occupied Tibet was placed amongst the world's 12 worst countries on civil rights, joining notorious regimes such as North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch's *World Report 2014* found that the Chinese government "systematically suppresses political, cultural, religious and socio-economic rights in Tibet". The report goes on to describe torture, severe restriction on Tibetans' freedom of movement and an intense and intrusive surveillance system across Tibet. HRW also outlines how rehousing and relocating Tibetan nomads in "new socialist villages" is an abuse of their rights.



China's show of force

After the chief prosecutor of the occupied Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) claimed in January to have waged war against Tibetans who "sabotage and threaten national security", Lhasa was the scene of high-profile military manoeuvres in March, on the eve of Tibet's national Uprising Day.

Motorcades of armoured cars, fire engines and military trucks drove through the city in a so-called "Stability Maintenance Response Simulation Drill". A top TAR official told the assembled forces that it was vital to "strike hard immediately, without mercy" against "separatist" activities.

On the eve of Chinese New Year in January, Free Tibet obtained photographs showing a large military deployment on the streets of Drango, south-east Tibet. The deployment came on the anniversary of fatal shootings in 2012, which saw four Tibetans killed by security forces.



Above: Military vehicles near the site of the Intercontinental Hotel, Lhasa, March 2014.
Top: Military convoy in Drango, January 2014.

Self-immolation protests continue

Although their rate has diminished considerably, self-immolation protests continue in Tibet. At the time of going to press, 32-year-old Tinley Namgyal was the latest to set himself on fire in protest against China's brutal policies.

Since 2011 more than 125 Tibetans have set themselves alight inside Tibet. As we write in mid-May, there have been six such protests in 2014. There were 83 in 2012.



www.freetibet.org/news

...News update

Khenpo Kartse update

More details have emerged about the condition of respected senior monk Khenpo Kartse, who was arrested in December 2013, leading to protests in eastern Tibet. While the abbot has been allowed a lawyer appointed by his family, there are serious concerns about his health and the conditions in which he is being kept.

Khenpo Kartse is known to suffer from hepatitis, bronchitis and tuberculosis and was previously receiving treatment but has not been allowed to see a doctor in prison and was denied medication for many weeks. He has also been denied bail as his “crime” – allegedly harbouring other monks wanted by the police – is treated by China as a threat to “stability maintenance”.



West’s politicians duck and dive on Tibet

President Xi Jinping visited Europe in March and held meetings with the leaders of France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and the European Union. While all the leaders raised human rights, there is no sign that any of them raised Tibet. In April, Norway’s political leaders bowed to China’s wishes by confirming they would not meet the Dalai Lama on his visit to the country on the 25th anniversary of his being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In welcome news, President Barack Obama met the Dalai Lama in the White House in February, in spite of China’s public objections. The US leader “reiterated his strong support for the preservation of Tibet’s unique religious, cultural and linguistic traditions and the protection of human rights for Tibetans”. However, he also affirmed the US’s position that Tibet is a part of China.

Mother released

In March we received news that Kalsang, who we reported on in the last magazine, had been released from prison. The single mother of three was arbitrarily arrested in Driru County last October. She was accused of posting anti-Chinese messages on social media and possessing banned patriotic Tibetan songs and images of the Dalai Lama on her phone.



Action

Email your foreign minister to demand that they challenge China over its abuses in Tibet.



www.freetibet.org/foreign-minister

Life Members hear first-hand accounts

This year we were lucky to be able to host two guest speakers at our annual event for Life Members in March.

Ivan Cooper read from his travel book *An Accidental Pilgrimage*, taking us on a whirlwind adventure through Tibet and introducing us to an array of colourful characters he met along the way (you can always read it for yourself – find his book in our shop catalogue).

Then, after drinks and nibbles, there was a change of mood as one of the Tibet Watch researchers gave a very moving account of his childhood and his journey into exile.

If you don't want to miss out on future events, you can sign up as a Free Tibet Life Member by filling out the form on the cover letter.



Free Tibet would like to welcome new Life Members: Claudia Ossen and Regine Slavin

Tibetan Uprising Day in London

More than 500 Tibetans and Tibet supporters attended the annual Tibet march in London this year, enjoying the colourful spectacle, sunny weather and stirring speeches. In a departure from previous years, the procession was allowed to walk past the Chinese embassy where the marchers stopped briefly to make a noisy but peaceful protest. The annual Tibet lobby was also a success, with more than 400 people contacting their MPs in person at Westminster or by letter or email to advocate for Tibet.



The Tibet march and lobby are organised by a coalition of UK-based Tibet groups, including Free Tibet.



New website for Tibet Watch

Our research partner, Tibet Watch, has just launched a new website. The site provides details of their human rights monitoring, research and advocacy work as well as featuring their reports and other publications. Their latest report pieces together for the first time the full story of events in Driru, the most turbulent area of Tibet today.

www.tibetwatch.org

Tibet: know the facts

1

Since invading
in 1950,
China has killed
an estimated
1 million Tibetans



2

China's so-called
Tibet
Autonomous
Region

Historical Tibet
(should be
the world's 10th
largest nation)

Tibet is literally
being wiped
off the map

3

China uses
torture and fear
to bully Tibetans
into submission

HOW TO GET TORTURED IN TIBET



①
Fly
a flag



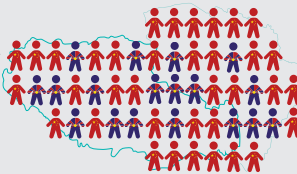
②
Send an
email abroad



③
Say the phrase
'human rights'

4

There are
2 Chinese
people
for every
Tibetan
in Tibet



China has made
Tibetans a minority
in their own country

5

Over 100 countries
have achieved
independence in
the time that Tibet
has been occupied



6

47% of the
world's population
depend on the
flow of fresh
water from Tibet



By controlling Tibet,
China controls
half the globe

7

Under Communist rule,
more than 99% of
Tibet's monasteries
have closed



8



Syria North Korea Saudi Arabia Tibet

Tibet is one
of the 10
most repressed
countries in
the world

Freedom in the world report, 2013