

FREE TIBET

Issue 88 March 2021 | issn 1360-4864

freetibet.org

free
TIBET



Time to #BanChen

● Day of action ● Exposing a monster ● Year in review ●

Dear friends...

Multiple victories! Around the world! The last two magazines opened celebrating landmark campaign wins – getting the Telegraph and the Economist to end their publication of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) propaganda. Now we can bring you news that the globally significant Wall Street Journal and multiple prestigious Australian newspapers have followed suit!

Free Tibet has worked with the global movement for Tibet and spread our campaign around the world. We've found a way to hold China to account for their human rights abuses in Tibet, and we are knocking down the dominoes of their influence globally.

Our next major campaign has the potential to be even more significant. The UK has not taken any meaningful action on human rights abuses in Tibet for decades. We have joined with the World Uyghur Congress to demand that the government #BanChen (pages 4-6). If we succeed, this will mark a seismic shift in the UK's relationship with China, and will establish a precedent that can be used around the world to pressure China to improve the situation in Tibet.

As a movement, we have to dream big. Chen Quanguo and the CCP have a vision for the complete destruction of Tibetan religion, culture, language and way of life. We are part of this movement for Tibet because we treasure Tibetan culture and have a vision for a free Tibet. We must not be afraid to stand up to the might of the CCP and demand what we know is right. We must ensure that those with power and influence do the same.

Together, our work makes a difference to Tibet today and moves our dream of a free Tibet closer.

As always, thank you for being part of this movement.



Sam Walton, Free Tibet Chief Executive



Contents



3 A day of resistance, not celebration

4 Exposing a monster

Our new campaign: Ban Chen.

7 Title

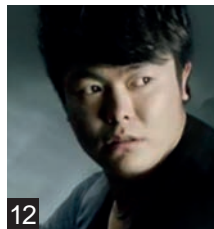
Over 500,000 Tibetans coerced into labour programme.

8 Free Tibet – a year in review

Time to reflect and commemorate our work together in 2020 before looking forward to 2021.

10 Campaigns update

Victory!



12 News update

Detention of missing Tibetan monk confirmed; Tibetan singer sentenced to six years in prison; Tibetan woman dies after police detention; Glacier on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau melting; Tibetan Monks Forced to Learn Chinese Law; Xi Jinping books required reading for government jobs.



14 Letters

15 Supporter spotlight

Circus skills workshop held to support Free Tibet.



ER82, The Link,
Effra Road,
London SW2 1BZ
T: 020 7324 4605
E: mail@freetibet.org
W: freetibet.org

Our vision is a free Tibet in which Tibetans are able to determine their own future and the human rights of all are respected.

Free Tibet campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for international recognition of Tibetans' right to freedom. We mobilise active support for the Tibetan cause, champion human rights and challenge those whose actions help sustain the occupation.

Editor: Akanshya Gurung
Design: Catherine Quine
Print and mailing: Intygra



Front cover: Time to #BanChen.

A day of resistance, not celebration

Protestors gathered for a Global Day of Action.

United in a common struggle, Tibetans, Uyghurs, Hong Kongers and others oppressed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) took to the streets on 1 October. The gatherings, across fifty cities around the world, were part of a Global Day of Action to resist the CCP and amplify the voice of those under its rule. Activists in every corner of the world showed fierce resistance.

1 October, the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, is a day that the CCP wants the world to celebrate. This year's anniversary marked seventy one years. This year protestors made it clear that, for them, this was no day of celebration.

This historic Global Day of Action was the first of its type within the movement. It came at an especially poignant year as the attempts to cover up the outbreak of COVID-19, border tensions between China and India, and the escalating crackdowns in Hong Kong and the Uyghur region have focused international attention on the dangers of the CCP's repressive and secretive rule.

On the eve of the Global Day of Action, Free Tibet and its friends in the Tibet Network and Tibetan community gathered at night to kick-start the protest with a projection video. It was projected onto the UK Parliament building and the Tower of London on 30 September at 10pm. The projection video featured speakers from Tibet, the Uyghur region and Hong Kong, and called for more action from the UK government in holding the Chinese government accountable for their human rights record.

After a few hours of snatched sleep, we gathered outside the Chinese Embassy the next day. The risks of mass gatherings limited the size of the protest in London, but nevertheless, many organisations and groups were represented – including the Mongolian Community UK, NOW! 4 humanity and the Uyghur Solidarity Campaign, as well as the Tibetan community and Students for a Free Tibet.

As well as the physical protest outside the Chinese Embassy, Free Tibet organised and ran a virtual protest to encourage those unable to join to participate in the resistance against the CCP. Supporters sent in or posted pictures of themselves online on social media contributing to Free Tibet's "Wall of Resistance".

Everyone at Free Tibet was delighted to play such an important coordinating role in the Global Day of Action. It marked possibly the broadest ever global action against the repressive CCP. As the Global Day of Action activities in London spanned across two days, our efforts felt tiring yet rewarding. Free Tibet could triumph in the fact that the day had united the forces of all those facing CCP repression into working together towards a goal of human rights and self-determination.



Exposing a monster

Our new campaign: Ban Chen.

Hi-tech and systematic surveillance, police on every corner and attempts to eradicate Tibet's language, religion and culture. When we talk about these policies, we quite rightly attribute them to China or the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the force that has ruled over Tibet and China for seven decades with an iron fist.

The CCP's enormous size, with its membership of over 90 million and its blizzard of committees, congresses and branches, can obscure the fact that it is made up of people, people who are ultimately responsible for their commands and their actions. If we had to put a name and a face to the increased repression in Tibet over the past decade, it would be those of senior CCP member Chen Quanguo. The story of how Tibet was turned into a police state, and how Tibetans' northern neighbours, the Uyghurs,

became the targets of a 21st century genocide. It is also why we are targeting him in our new campaign: Ban Chen.

Terrorising Tibet

In March 2008, as Beijing prepared to host the Olympics, protests against the Chinese occupation spread across Tibet with a speed and tenacity that left the Chinese government flat-footed. The overwhelming police response to peaceful protesters was captured on camera by the international media and embarrassed the CCP. The Party vowed that these protests should never be repeated; "stability" had to come to Tibet, and at all costs. This was the job given to Chen Quanguo, who was appointed as Party Secretary of the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region in 2011.

Chen wasted no time in cracking down on Tibet by imposing tight surveillance and an overwhelming security presence. During his time in office, police recruitment quadrupled, hundreds of new police stations were built and households were required to spy on their neighbours. New surveillance technology was introduced and some 20,000 party members and security personnel were dispatched to Tibet's villages and monasteries to monitor locals.

The suffocating levels of surveillance, referred to by one senior CCP official as "nets in the sky and traps on the ground", made peaceful protest and dissent riskier than ever.

The security crackdown was accompanied by attempts to eradicate Tibet's unique cultural, religious and linguistic identity. It was a process dubbed "breaking lineage, breaking roots, breaking connections, and breaking origins".

Hundreds of thousands of Han Chinese settlers were transferred to Lhasa, benefiting from economic opportunities denied to Tibetans. Chen even politicised love and marriage, encouraging



Chen Quanguo.



Tibetans and Han Chinese to marry each other for the sake of “ethnic unity”. Such married couples would be rewarded with access to better education and employment.

Plotting a genocide

By 2016, Tibetans were no more loyal to the CCP, but their country was now being run as a giant prison, divided by checkpoints and harder than ever for people and information to escape to the wider world. Hailed by Chinese state media for bringing “ethnic stability” to Tibet, Chen was rewarded with a new appointment – Party Secretary of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the homeland of the Uyghur people to the north of Tibet.

Uyghurs reject the name Xinjiang, the Chinese-given name. The Uyghurs, an ethnically and culturally Turkic group of people whose main religion is Islam, share Tibetans’ desire for freedom and have faced harsh repression for their struggle. Chen was invited by the Party to pacify the Uyghur protests by replicating his policies in Tibet on an even larger scale. What happened next, in the words of Human Rights Watch, were abuses on “a scope and scale not seen in China since the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution”.

Months after Chen’s appointment, Uyghurs living in Europe and America found that they could no longer contact family members and friends still living in the Uyghur region. That same year, reports emerged that Uyghurs and Kazakhs were being forcibly incarcerated in camps, where detainees would be forced to undergo political re-education for periods as long as a year. At least one million people have been sent to these camps, although recent estimates suggest the number could be two or three times this amount. Accounts from the camps tell of torture, political indoctrination, disappearances and forced labour. Last year, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute estimated that at least 80,000 Uyghurs had been put to work in factories producing goods for up to 83 foreign and Chinese companies. Among the products of this forced labour are face masks that have found their way to the UK.

Policies targeting Uyghurs’ identity have seen the Quran, prayer mats and growing a long beard banned. Most disturbingly of all, a recent investigation by the Associated Press, has unearthed evidence of forced sterilisations and abortions carried out on hundreds of thousands of Uyghur women, claims that several Uyghur women have stepped forward to back up. In January, outgoing US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo echoed what Uyghurs had long been saying, and called these acts a genocide.

Suffocating levels of surveillance made peaceful protest and dissent riskier than ever.

Pushing for justice

Confronted with these horrors, we have two choices: to ignore them or to act. The first option is no option at all; the crimes we are witnessing against the Uyghur people are only being carried out because Chen was not challenged for his crackdown in Tibet. That leaves us with action, which is what Free Tibet does best.

In July 2020, the UK government introduced its Global Human Rights Sanctions, allowing the Secretary of State to impose travel bans and asset freezes on individuals responsible for serious human rights abuses. Nearly 80 individuals have been targeted so far, but Chen’s name is conspicuously absent from the list, at least for now.

In July 2020, the UK government introduced the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime List, established in 2020 by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. This regime allows the Secretary of State to impose travel sanctions and asset freezes on individuals found responsible for violations of the right to life, the prohibition on torture and the use of forced labour. 60 individuals from Russia, North Korea, Myanmar and Saudi Arabia have already been targeted in the few batches of sanctions, but Chen’s name is conspicuously absent from the list, despite him meeting all the criteria. This was the hook we needed to bring Chen to the public’s and government’s attention.

We began by contacting Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, urging him to add Chen to the list of individuals targeted with sanctions, and



Uyghur campaigners protest against Chen in London.

in mid-November, joined forces with the World Uyghur Congress to launch a full campaign. In an online media briefing to launch the campaign, independent researcher Adrian Zenz and Uyghur activist Rahima Mahmut spoke about who Chen is and why he must be targeted with sanctions. By December, an online petition to the Foreign Secretary had been signed by close to 6,000 people.

We contacted Secretary of State Dominic Raab, urging him to impose a travel ban on Chen, and reached out for support from MPs in the UK and around the world. Several of them, including members of the influential Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, contacted the Foreign Office to push for sanctions while others raised questions in parliament.

This advocacy was accompanied by a vibrant and vocal public campaign. Joining forces with the World Uyghur Congress, we announced the campaign with an online media briefing, in which independent researcher Adrian Zenz and Uyghur activist Rahima Mahmut spoke about Chen's background, his rise to power and why it is crucial that he is held to account.

By the end of the year the campaign had truly come to life. An online petition to the Secretary of State had been signed by close to 6,000 people and images of the Ban Chen campaign were appearing on the streets of London. Social media users will also have seen our powerful videos of Tibetans and Uyghurs speaking of the pain Chen inflicted on their communities.

The combined effect is a deafening call for the UK government to hold Chen Quanguo to account for his crimes – and to prevent further atrocities. In the words of Pema Yoko, Chair of the Tibetan community in the UK, in one of our videos: "If we don't hold Chen to account, what are we saying to the world? First Tibet, now East Turkestan. Where next?"

In June 2020, the United States imposed sanctions on Chen. It is time for our government to finally show that it means business when it comes to human rights abuses against Tibetans and Uyghurs and ban him from the UK. You can find full details of the Ban Chen campaign, including how to add your voice, on our website: freetibet.org/take-action/ban-chen Enclosed within this magazine, you will also find a postcard that you can send to your MP, urging them to contact the foreign office. The movement to ban Chen is growing, and we would love you to be part of it. For full details of the Ban Chen campaign, and to take part, visit: freetibet.org/ban-chen

If you are not online and would like resources to write to the Foreign Secretary, please contact us via post or telephone and we will assist. Our contact details are on page 2 of this magazine.

Will you help them?

The actions of senior Chinese official, Chen Quanguo, have been unchallenged for far too long. He has been allowed to continue his tirade of terror against Tibetans and Uyghurs with the support and encouragement of the CCP.

Despite meeting the criteria, Chen's name remains conspicuously absent from the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime list established in the UK in 2020. This was the hook Free Tibet needed to take action and bring Chen to the public's and government's attention.

Through the actions we have taken, there is already a deafening call for the UK government to see that justice is done to hold Chen accountable for his crimes and to stop him. But we can't do this without you.

With your support we can shout louder when working with parliamentarians to pressure the Foreign Office and we can stand stronger alongside international Tibetan and Uyghur communities.

With your support, we can ban Chen!

Visit <https://www.freetibet.org/ban-chen-appeal> to donate today.





500,000 Tibetans coerced into labour programme



Tibet made headline news in September. Disturbing news emerged of a system of displacement and coercive labour in Tibet. The report, by the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China (IPAC) and the Jamestown Foundation, prompted condemnation from several governments and debate in the UK parliament.

The researcher behind the report, Adrian Zenz, carried out open source research of Chinese government documents over the past few years. His findings revealed that 543,000 Tibetan rural labourers were moved from their lands and trained over the first seven months of 2020 alone. Images from state media show Tibetans dressed in camouflage attire carrying out tasks such as painting and cooking. Documents show that the labour transfer scheme also involves rural workers receiving ideological education.

Free Tibet immediately reacted to the report by backing calls by IPAC for sanctions on those responsible for the labour transfer programme. Free Tibet also called on businesses to investigate any signs of Tibetan forced labour in their supply chains.

In a statement reacting to the findings, Free Tibet also noted the bigger picture:

“There is no long-term solution for Chinese repression in Tibet that does not involve freedom for the Tibetan people. Tibetans must be allowed to determine their own future, and it is up to the governments of the world to confront the Chinese Communist Party with this reality.”

The report was corroborated by Reuters

and drew parallels between the labour transfer programme in Tibet and use of forced labour in the Uyghur region. Although Zenz’s report notes that the scheme in Tibet is “potentially less coercive” than its Uyghur equivalent, it nevertheless fits the CCP’s longstanding policy of attempting to eradicate Tibetans’ traditional rural lifestyle. The displacement of Tibetans from their lands is publicly defended by the CCP as “alleviating poverty”.

In the parliamentary debate in October, the MP Tim Loughton produced an apt analogy to explain how damaging this programme is in practice:

“This is the equivalent of the Westminster Government telling Welsh farmers to kill all their Welsh lambs and retrain as Ikea shop assistants, for example. It is extraordinary. Why can we not call this out for what it is? It is absolutely appalling.”

Iain Duncan Smith, who presided over the debate, raised the prospect of sanctions and even a boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, while MPs from several other parties raised concerns that the UK government had not done enough to push China over its human rights abuses.

The debate was one of the most high-profile discussions of Tibet by MPs in years, testament not only to the gravity of the new findings, but also to growing sympathy to occupied peoples under CCP rule, and a harder attitude towards the Chinese government. They open the door for further work in parliament by Free Tibet in 2021.

Top: Chamdo Golden Sunshine Vocational Training School in Chamdo, central Tibet.
Below: Tibetans are trained as chefs in Chamdo as part of the labour transfer programme.

January

We kicked off 2020 by announcing our new campaign, Tibet's Climate Crisis. The campaign called for international recognition for Tibet at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. Over 7,000 signatures have been collected in the petition since.



February

We continued the momentum for our environmental campaign by attending the Climate Strike march in London, raising awareness about Tibet's climate crisis.

March

March was a busy month as we welcomed our new Chief Executive Officer – Sam Walton. On just his second full day, he joined us in our annual march and protest in London to mark 10 March. The anniversary marked 61 years since the 1959 Tibetan Uprising. 10 March anniversary events also took place in cities around the world, including New York and Dharamshala. Tibet Match, our annual match funding campaign raised over £16,000 for Free Tibet's research partner Tibet Watch. Find out about this year's campaign on the back cover of this magazine.



April

Just two days after The Daily Telegraph stopped publishing paid-for Chinese propaganda, we launched a new campaign, China Watch, on the back of the fantastic news. We called on The Wall Street Journal and The Economist to follow suit and stop any content paid by the CCP. We have since celebrated two campaign wins as both publications have now dropped CCP-paid content!



2020 was a year unlike any. Throughout the upheaval and the unknown, you continued to support our work. It is time to reflect and commemorate our work together in 2020 before looking forward to 2021.

May

As the situation in Hong Kong worsened in 2020, Free Tibet joined the International Tibet Network Members, a coalition of over 100 Tibet-related campaign organisations, in signing a solidarity message standing with Hong Kong.

June

Despite COVID-19, our appeal on Chinese propaganda in the media raised over £15,000. Thank you to all our supporters who contributed.

Free Tibet – a year in



free TIBET



July

July marked new beginnings as Free Tibet and Tibet Society completed a merge to combine our strengths in support of the Tibetan cause. The Tibet Society is the world's oldest pro-Tibet group.

In July, we also carried out an exciting series of projections onto the Chinese Embassy and other sites across London, in collaboration with other groups. The words 'Free Tibet, Free Hong Kong, Free Uyghurs' were among the messages that were projected.

August

Free Tibet started August by supporting the Uyghur community at a Uyghur Solidarity Protest in London. The Uyghur community and the Tibetan community joined forces again in a protest to mark the Day of the Disappeared at the end of August. Meanwhile, we organised billboards which ran in New York and London for 2 weeks in August. They highlighted the ongoing human rights abuses happening in Tibet.

September

A shocking new report by the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China and the Jamestown Foundation was published. It showed evidence of over 500,000 Tibetans being relocated and coerced into a labour programme. Read more about it on page 7.

October

1 October marked a historic Global Day of Action which saw Free Tibet join a coalition of international groups to protest the 91st Anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Read more about the day on page 3.

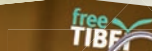
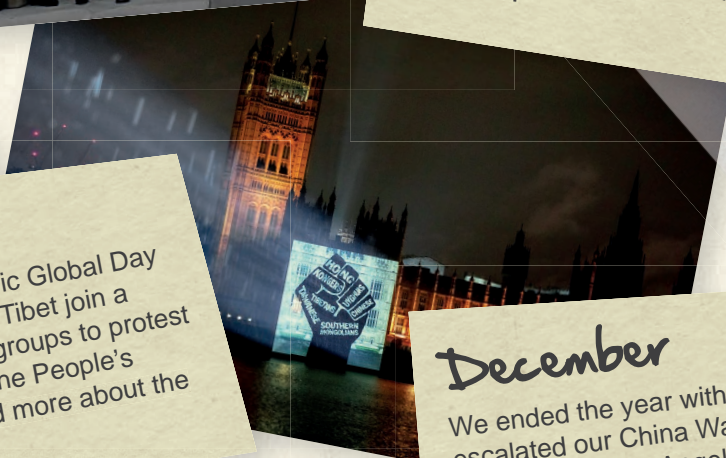
November

In November, we launched a new campaign – Ban Chen. See pages 4-6 for more information on the campaign.

December

We ended the year with a bang as we escalated our China Watch campaign by targeting the Los Angeles Times next. We launched a new action calling our supporters to email the editors to drop their CCP-paid content. Read more about our campaign update on page 10.

review



Campaigns update...

Victory!

In the last magazine, we brought you the good news that the *Economist* had followed the *Telegraph* in dropping Chinese state propaganda advertorials from its print edition. The *Economist* was one of a number of publications around the world that had signed deals with Chinese Communist Party (CCP) media outlets. In exchange for hundreds of thousands of pounds, these newspapers would feature content written by CCP outlets like *China Daily*, and which often looked like regular articles. The advertorials, designed to project the CCP's message overseas, would claim that Tibet is an ideal tourist

destination, was more democratic because of the occupation and that its people were happy under CCP rule. They also pushed CCP trade.

For years, Free Tibet has been pressing newspapers that signed these deals to drop them. Over the past year, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Telegraph* have all dropped the propaganda, followed by the *Economist* last summer. Now we can announce that the *Wall Street Journal* has parted ways with *China Daily*, a fact confirmed after we reviewed documents submitted to the US Department of Justice by *China Daily* under the Foreign Agents Registration

Act. The documents show that while *China Daily* paid the *Wall Street Journal* \$85,296.69 in 2020, these payments abruptly halted in June, whilst no new *China Daily* content has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*.

The good news did not stop here. Barely a week after confirming that the *Wall Street Journal* was propaganda free, we learned that the Australian media group Nine Entertainment, whose publications include the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Australian Financial Review* and the *Age*, also quietly dropped their partnership with *China Daily*. The newspapers had been running *China Daily* articles since 2016 and also appear to have quietly severed ties over the summer

At Free Tibet, we celebrate our victories but we do not rest on our laurels. Our attention now shifts to the *Los Angeles Times*, which continues to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars from *China Daily*. We have contacted the *Los Angeles Times* and launched a new action.



Action

Our campaigns thrive on momentum, so please visit our website and send a message to the Los Angeles Times editors, demanding that they scrap the propaganda: freetibet.org/china-watch

A China Watch supplement in the LA Times in June.



See the range of sustainable, organic and thoughtfully sourced products on our online store

freetibet.org/shop



News from Tibet...



China works hard to keep news of their abuses in Tibet hidden. Here are some stories which Free Tibet, working alongside our research partner Tibet Watch, has brought to global attention.

Detention of missing Tibetan monk confirmed

A Tibetan monk, who has been missing since August 2019, is being held in detention. Reports from sources in Dharamsala, including Phayul and Voice of America, revealed that Rinchen Tsultrim from Ngaba County in eastern Tibet was detained last year.

Tibet Watch obtained an official notice from Ngaba National Security Bureau, dated 23 March 2020, stating that Rinchen Tsultrim was charged with inciting separatism – a state security crime. According to a source spoken to by Tibet Watch, Rinchen Tsultrim was accused of publishing articles on Tibet issues on his WeChat account. The authorities have refused to share any information about his whereabouts and there are now serious concerns regarding his well-being.

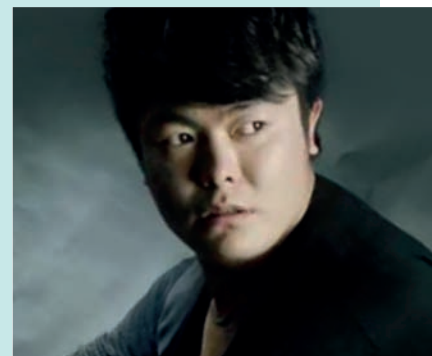


Rinchen Tsultrim.

Tibetan singer sentenced to six years in prison

The Tibetan singer, Lhundrub Drakpa, was sentenced to six years in prison in June. Lhundrub Drakpa was detained in May 2019, less than two months after his song “Black Hat” was released.

The song criticised government policies in Driru County, which is located in the Chinese named Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). The title of the song relates to a Tibetan proverb: “don’t put a black hat on an innocent person”, or “don’t accuse an innocent person of wrongdoing”. He was sentenced in June this year, after over a year in detention, before his trial and without access to legal representation.



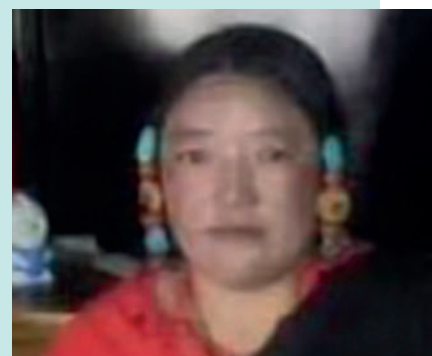
Lhundrub Drakpa.

Tibetan woman dies after police detention

A Tibetan woman died at a hospital in central Tibet in August after being transferred there from police custody.

Lhamo was a herder and a 36-year-old mother of three from Driru County in Nagchu, TAR. She was reportedly detained on charges of sending money to family members and other Tibetans in India.

Members of Lhamo’s family were asked to go to the hospital after her arrest and found her badly bruised and unable to speak. She was reportedly in good health before her detention but died shortly after being transferred to the hospital from police custody.



Lhamo.

View of the Qilian Mountains.



Glacier at edge of Tibetan Plateau melting

Glaciers in the Qilian Mountains, at the north eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau, are retreating as global warming brings environmental changes which could cause long-term water shortages.

The largest glacier in the Qilian mountain chain, known as Laohugou No. 12, has retreated around 450 metres since the 1950s when researchers set up China's first monitoring station to study it.

Tibetan monks forced to learn Chinese law

Tibetan monks and nuns have been forced to undergo training on Chinese law and the constitution following on from the Seventh Central Tibet Work Forum.

The Seventh Central Tibet Work Forum was a high level meeting on Tibet's future governance which ran from 29 to 30 August. At the meeting, Chinese president Xi Jinping said work related to Tibet should focus on safeguarding national unity and Tibetan Buddhism should be developed in the Chinese context. Several reports have come in of Tibetan monks and nuns being forced to learn the message that was delivered by Xi Jinping at this meeting, including at Nyima Ling Monastery in Nagchu and Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Shigatse



Seventh Central Tibet Work Forum.

Xi Jinping books required reading for government jobs

Young Tibetans aiming to get a government job, which are some of the most sought after in the country, have to join the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and study the political thought of President Xi Jinping. Many Tibetans are doing this to get stable and well-paid jobs.

"There aren't other jobs," reported Lobsang Gelek, a reporter at RFA who acquired the information. "Book stores in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet are now filled with Xi Jinping's books on China's governance,". Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era has been heavily promoted by the CCP in recent years.



Bookstores are filled with Xi Jinping's books.

Letters



If you have a question or comment that you would like to see published in the next magazine, do get in touch with us by email at letters@freetibet.org, over the phone on 020 7324 4605 or by post to:
Letters, Free Tibet, ER82,
The Link, Effra Road,
SW2 1BZ, United Kingdom.

Please note we cannot guarantee publication of each letter we receive. Thank you!

Dear friends,

So pleased that you want these pictures as I feel that they are part of your culture. I do admire the Indian government because they gave sanctuary to the Tibetans when they fled to escape the Chinese.

I know just what the Chinese government is capable of and they are now doing the same to the Uyghur Muslims. As a practicing Christian, I will defend to the death the right of others to practice their faith as I am able to do so. The second commandment is to love thy neighbour.

The Chinese government will, I hope sooner or later, reap what they have sown.

Yours sincerely,

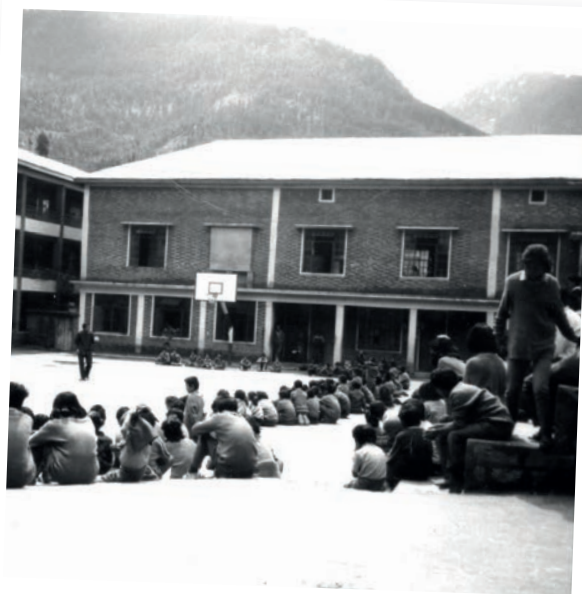
Winifred Paine

Dear Winifred,

Thank you for the beautiful pictures that you took of Tibetan refugee children from when you worked for The Ockenden Venture in India in 1988. These pictures give us a special insight into the lives of some, out of the thousands, of Tibetans who had to flee from their own country due to increasing political repression in the 1980s. Tibet Society, part of Free Tibet, has a proud history of supporting Tibetan refugees and is always keen to hear about the history of our movement.

Thank you also for your continued support. Here at Free Tibet, we work hard for the right of Tibetans to be able to freely practice their religion – China continues to threaten this, from targeting monks and nuns to their desire to appoint the next Dalai Lama themselves. At Free Tibet, we are also continuously working with the World Uyghur Congress as the situation for the Uyghur Muslims worsens. Our latest campaign, Ban Chen (see pages 4-6), targets Chen Quanguo who has brought terror to both Tibetans and the Uyghur people.

All the best,
Akanshya



Tibetan children refugees at The Ockenden Venture in India in 1988.

Supporter Spotlight

Free Tibet is lucky to have incredible supporters from all over the world. They're as diverse as the places they come from, but they all share one thing in common. The desire to see Tibetans able to determine their own future. In this edition we highlight some of the amazing people who stand in solidarity with the cause.

Circus skills workshop held to support Free Tibet

Joel Brooks, a long-standing supporter of Free Tibet, held a circus skills workshop in October 2020 to raise money for the cause. Joel, who performs and teaches as Jambalaya Juggling, uses a variety of circus equipment to teach children "fun ways to broaden their physical abilities and develop their health and fitness".

The circus skills workshop was held at a holiday club for different age groups at Ringwood Waldorf School, a centre for alternative education which lies on the borders of Dorset and Hampshire. Joel generously donated the entire day's fee to Free Tibet.

He said, "I donated the fee to this charity as the plight is something I feel so strongly about, we can't just sit on our phones tutting at what is going on, we need to support great causes - through Circus!"

Free Tibet is grateful for Joel spreading the word about Tibet and the donation. If you would also like to fundraise and raise awareness for Free Tibet, we would love to hear from you!



Joel gets the kids juggling.



Taking action for Tibet

Although we are all spending more time at home, we can still take action for Tibet. On page 4 we told you about Chen Quanguo, his crimes against Tibetans and Uyghurs, and our campaign to hold him to account. This issue of your magazine contains a postcard that you can send to your Member of Parliament (MP), asking them to demand that the Foreign Office bans Chen from the UK. Simply fill in the name and address of your MP, sign the postcard and attach a stamp. If you need help finding your MP's name or address, then get in touch and we will assist.

མེ་ཚོ།

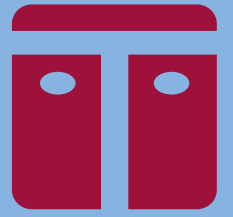
Free Tibet are delighted to welcome our new Mi Tse (life long) supporters: Kalsang Bhatia and Gowan Hewlett.

Find out more about becoming a *Mi Tse* supporter at secure.freetibet.org/join-for-life



MATT MING

TIBET MATCH



TIBET WATCH
བོད་གནས་ལྷ་ཞིབ་

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION
29-29 MARCH 2021

www.freetibet.org/tibetmatch



free
TIBET

freetibet.org

 [/freetibetorg](https://www.facebook.com/freetibetorg)

 [@freetibetorg](https://twitter.com/freetibetorg)