

FREE TIBET



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THE DALAI LAMA'S MESSAGE OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

• The life and suspicious death of Hunkar Dorje Rinpoche • China's digital repression in Tibet •

CEO LETTER



Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to you while preparations for the Dalai Lama 90s birthday are taking place.

In May, we partnered with the University of Westminster to bring together experts, supporters, and members of the Tibetan community. Our discussion centered on the profound significance of the book 'Voice for the Voiceless' and its powerful message of hope for the future of Tibet and the Tibetan people.

At Free Tibet, we've also been actively campaigning for a just and independent investigation into the suspicious death of the Tibetan lama Hungkar Dorje Rinpoche. This incident has deeply shocked the entire Tibetan community and its allies, as it marks the first time that international repression is believed to have led to the death of a Tibetan national while abroad.

We successfully campaigned for the British Museum's 'Silk Road' exhibition to replace the term "Xizang" with "Tibet." However, our work continues, as many other outlets are still conforming to the Chinese Government's efforts to rename Tibet.

A recent victory was the significant turnout at the demonstrations outside the Royal Mint. Our aim was to prevent the Government from approving plans for a new mega Chinese embassy. Thousands joined us, thus confirming the Metropolitan Police's warning that the demonstration would disrupt traffic in the area.

Finally, our sister organisation, Tibet Watch, in collaboration with Turquoise Roof, has published a report detailing China's tightening surveillance in Lhasa, and its expanding reach from Beijing to London.

Amid these troubling times, your support has made these triumphs possible. We couldn't have made it without you.

Thank you,

Monica De Stefanis, Fundraising Manager

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Front cover: Two boys at XXXXXX monastery in Tibet.
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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.



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THE DALAI LAMA'S VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS: A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

The Dalai Lama's new book, 'Voice for the Voiceless', appeared to take China off guard when it was published in March 2025. Soon after its release, China's Foreign Ministry responded by reiterating their position that the Dalai Lama is an "anti-China separatist" and that his reincarnation is a matter for the Chinese Communist Party to decide—not the Tibetan people.

In his book, the Dalai Lama makes it clear that his successor will be born outside China, and that the campaign for the freedom of the Tibetan people will continue no matter what, even after his death.

The timing of the publication was significant, as global interest in Tibet spikes in advance of the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday on 6 July. The book has prompted reflection and discussion across the Tibetan diaspora, as a younger generation grapples with complex questions about their future and the survival of their cultural and religious identity. On 21 May, Tibet Watch and Westminster University brought together scholars, journalists, Tibetans and Tibet supporters to talk about the significance of the book.

Tenzin Choekyi, Tibet Watch senior researcher, discussed how the Dalai Lama shaped Tibetan children's experiences growing up in exile. She recalled His Holiness's departures and returns, welcomed by the town with incense and khata. With each return, his global stature increased. She noted how for her grandparents, living in exile, he was their window to the world, a way of understanding life outside Dharamsala and India.

Voice for the Voiceless is notably spare and focused. Rather than a lengthy memoir, the book goes straight to the heart of what he has sought to communicate throughout his years in exile. It emphasises dialogue

with China, highlights the Buddhist concepts of change and impermanence, and delivers a message of hope: "Today's dark period... is but a brief nightmare. Nothing is immune to the law of impermanence."

The Dalai Lama reflects on history, particularly challenging China's sovereignty claims over Tibet, which are based on false assertions of historic ownership, noting that Tibet was a previously independent country before its military annexation in 1949-50. While Tibet has not always been independent in the modern legal sense and has been subject to varying degrees of Mongol, Manchu, or British influence over the centuries, it has never truly been part of China.

Voice for the Voiceless also draws parallels between the current Dalai Lama's life and that of the 13th Dalai Lama, both forced twice into exile due to foreign invasion. His Holiness has consistently emphasised the need for self-reliance and being prepared for every eventuality in unpredictable political circumstances. Looking back, he warns that sadly Tibet's ruling elite were "largely preoccupied with political infighting" while threats gathered, leaving Tibet "completely unprepared" when the People's Liberation Army arrived in 1950.

The Dalai Lama's words present an alternative narrative to depicting Tibetans merely as victims of communist oppression. Instead, it highlights the resilience and strength of the Tibetan community and the civilisational power of Tibetan Buddhism, at the time of this "nightmare" in Tibet's long history.

"The book reminds Tibetans in exile and in occupied Tibet to be hopeful," said Professor Dibyesh Anand, moderating the panel, which also included China expert Isabel Hilton and Professor Nitasha Kaul. "An important message from this book is that tyranny does not last forever."



An important message from this book is that tyranny does not last forever.

THE LIFE AND SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF HUNKAR DORJE RINPOCHE



The death of respected 56-year-old Tibetan lama Hungkar Dorje Rinpoche in Vietnam has raised alarming questions about the extent of China's transnational repression. Hungkar Dorje Rinpoche died under suspicious circumstances in Ho Chi Minh City in late March 2025, just two weeks before Chinese leader Xi Jinping's visit to Hanoi.

The death of Tibetan lama Hungkar Dorje Rinpoche in Vietnam has raised questions about China's influence beyond its borders. Conflicting reports exist about his death, with allegations of arrest by Vietnamese and Chinese authorities, and claims of death from illness. He had been missing since September 2024, and local authorities banned discussions of his disappearance. A death certificate was shown but not copied. His followers claim he was detained in March 2025 and died days later.

A Life Shaped by History

Born during China's Cultural Revolution, he grew up witnessing Chairman Mao's devastating campaign. Despite this oppressive beginning, Hungkar Dorje rose to become one of Tibet's most respected religious leaders. As the head of Lung Ngon monastery in Gabde county, located in Golog, in the eastern Tibetan area of Amdo, he led the devotion of Buddhists not just within Tibet and China, but across the globe.

Hungkar Dorje was committed to education and his community, he founded a vocational school and more than ten other educational institutions in his region. He graduated from China's national college for Tibetan Buddhist lamas, leading to prestigious positions and making him the most senior religious figure in his county.

Walking a Dangerous Line

Hungkar Dorje's life demonstrated the difficult balancing act of Tibetan leaders under Chinese rule. He maintained good standing with authorities, participating in public ceremonies and government delegations, and his work was "fully affirmed."

However, this didn't protect him from the crackdown on Tibetan education and culture. His disappearance coincided with the targeting of Tibetan educators, and he was pressured to host China's official Panchen Lama.

Hungkar Dorje Rinpoche was interrogated in August 2024, last seen in September, and vanished by November. His monastery announced his death in Vietnam in early April. He was reportedly arrested in Ho Chi Minh City. The circumstances of his death are disputed, with the monastery's official statement contradicting claims of arrest and detention.

A Legacy Under Threat

Hungkar Dorje Rinpoche's death represents more than the loss of one man—it symbolises the systematic erosion of Tibetan religious and cultural leadership under Chinese rule. His life story, from surviving the Cultural Revolution to building educational institutions that served his community, demonstrates both the resilience of Tibetan culture and the constant threat it faces.

Compounding the tragedy, Hungkar Rinpoche's mother, 85-year old Kasa Dukar Dolma, died on 6th May in Golog, following a prolonged illness caused and exacerbated by the distress and emotional toll of her son's suspicious death.

As calls grow for an independent investigation into his death, the international community must grapple with the reality that China's repression of Tibetans no longer stops at its borders. The suspicious circumstances surrounding Hungkar Dorje's death in Vietnam serve as a stark reminder that for Tibetan leaders, there may be no safe haven from Beijing's long reach.

CYBER OPS CENTRE IN TIBET EXPANDS TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION PIPELINE

New Tibet Watch report.

A new report by Tibet Watch in partnership with Turquoise Roof reveals how a Chinese state-owned digital forensics firm blacklisted by the U.S. government for its involvement in rights abuses against Uyghurs has secured a contract to provide an offensive cyber operations training environment and digital forensic laboratory to the Tibet Police College in Lhasa.

Our new report details this escalation not only in China's digital surveillance capabilities in Tibet, but also in extending Beijing's reach globally, creating a 'repression pipeline' from Lhasa to London.

This pattern of heightened surveillance includes cooperation with China's security services in countries where the company, Meiya Pico (now SDIC Intelligence Xiamen Information Co Ltd), is based. That includes Vietnam, as evidence mounts of an alarming case of cross-border cooperation with China's Ministry of State Security in March. A respected 56-year old Tibetan Buddhist leader Hungkar Dorje Rinpoche was detained in Ho Chi Minh City after he had fled Tibet following interrogation, only to be declared dead by China days later. This apparent escalation of China's transnational repression tactics in Southeast Asia signals China's growing leverage through economic and security dependencies, highlighted by Xi Jinping's recent visit to Hanoi.

The urgency of this threat is underscored by newly documented cases of Tibetans being arrested for their internet and phone use, revealing how PRC authorities leverage digital forensics to criminalise ordinary online activities. Hitting close to home, simultaneously, a recent UK National Cyber Security Centre technical advisory highlights sophisticated spyware campaigns targeting Tibetans, Uyghurs, and other communities, demonstrating the global scale of China's digital repression.

Meiya Pico, which was placed on the U.S. Entity List in 2019 for involvement in human rights abuses in Xinjiang, has become a cornerstone of China's digital surveillance complex. Particularly following its blacklisting by Washington, it sought to develop new business in digital forensics and surveillance cooperation projects across countries signed up to Xi Jinping's 'Belt and Road' strategy.

ARTICLE 19 also warns that Xi Jinping's ongoing visit to Cambodia, Malaysia, and Vietnam from 14 to 18 April may deepen digital cooperation that mirrors China's model of cyber sovereignty, potentially exacerbating digital repression in these countries. The organisation highlights concerns over increased surveillance, censorship, and the erosion of online freedoms, particularly through agreements on digital infrastructure and governance that align with China's authoritarian digital policies.

The company claims a 45% share of China's digital forensics market and has developed technologies like the MFSocket app, which police use to covertly extract data from citizens' phones during spot checks.

Our report draws parallels between tactics used against Tibetans and similar digital repression targeting Uyghur and Hong Kong diaspora communities, highlighting a systematic approach to transnational control by Chinese authorities. Robust international action is needed to confront these escalating threats

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UK National Cyber Security Centre highlights sophisticated spyware campaigns targeting Tibetans.



For the full report please visit tibetwatch.org

CAMPAIGNS UPDATE

MEGA EMBASSY? MEGA NO!

In February 2025, thousands of Tibetan, Hong Konger, Uyghur, Taiwanese, and Chinese people turned out to protest against the proposed Chinese super embassy on the site of the old Royal Mint in Tower Hamlets, London.

Despite local authorities rejecting the plans on two previous occasions, the UK government is due to step in on the decision, which threatens to undermine democratic process and the desires of local people.

Protesters were met by a large police presence, as they struggled to control the size of the protest. This is despite the Metropolitan Police recently insisting that the site is large enough to contain potential protests.



SAY NO TO CHINA'S MEGA EMBASSY!

China wants a mega-embassy—right in the heart of London.

But Tibetans, Tower Hamlets locals, and thousands of us across the UK are saying: not here, not now, not ever. We've blocked this embassy before, and with your help, we'll do it again. Stand with Tibetans. Email your MP now—and help fund the fight to stop China's embassy plan for good.

Visit: freetibet.org/mega-embassy-mega-no

TIBET, NOT XIZANG

A group of young Tibetans visited the British Museum in February 2025 amid reports that the institution was using the term 'Xizang' in one of their exhibits. The visit followed a letter sent to the museum, outlining why the term is offensive to Tibetans, and asking that they change it.

During the visit, the group was able to confirm that the museum had since changed the wording on the exhibit to remove 'Xizang', though it was not replaced with 'Tibet'. While this has been a step in the right direction, Free Tibet continues to work with Tibetans to express why the name 'Tibet' is so important, and why it must not be replaced with platitudes to the Chinese government.

SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND TIBET'S NAME.

China is stealing Tibet's name. If we don't act now, the world will let it happen.

Free Tibet is fighting back. We will challenge every institution that adopts China's language of occupation. We will keep Tibet's name alive, and amplify every Tibetan voice against erasure.

Your support today is the **frontline defense for Tibet's name, legacy and unique identity** – stand with Tibetans now.

Visit: freetibet.org/tibet-not-xizang



JUSTICE FOR TULKU HUNGKAR RINPOCHE

Over 1700 Free Tibet supporters have written to Vietnamese officials to call for a full and independent investigation into the death of Tulku Hungkar Rinpoche in March 2025.

This is only the beginning of our work to seek justice for Tulku Hungkar Rinpoche, and over the summer we are planning further action to pressure the UK and international governments into seeking the truth and finding justice.

Tulku Hungkar Rinpoche's death may represent an increase in China's transnational repression, and the Tibetan diaspora deserve to know that they are safe from the Chinese government. We are urging governments to make statements of support for the Tibetan people living in their countries as a bare minimum.

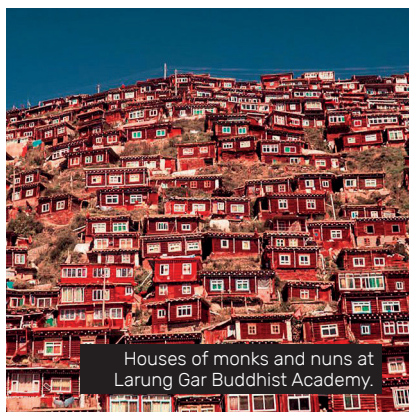
NEWS FROM TIBET

FURTHER EVICTIONS FROM LARUNG GAR

It has been revealed that, in late 2024, more than 1000 monks and nuns were evicted from Larung Gar Buddhist Academy in Serthar County, eastern Tibet. The evictions are part of a widescale planned residential demolition, restricting the community to just 5000 people.

The demolitions began in late November and continued into December, though due to tight restrictions and strict social media crackdowns no photos or videos have emerged.

Larung Gar was subjected to widescale demolitions in 2016 and 2017, which saw over 4500 monastic students expelled from the academy, and over 10,000 residences demolished.



VIDEO EXPOSES ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FROM MINING IN TIBET

A video circulated on Chinese social media in March 2025 which exposes the rampant ecological damage caused by government-approved mining in Drongri Village, Markam County.

A written note in the video details the scale of the damage, including: flooding affecting crop yields and soil quality, deposits from hillside erosion in grasslands, damage to homes from flooding, and deterioration of waterways, including the contamination of drinking water.

In the video, local Tibetans, including seniors, express their frustration with the mining companies and local governments prioritising their own interests and profits over the needs of the community.



DORJE TASHI'S LAWYER AND FAMILY DENIED VISITATION

A scheduled visit to Tibetan former businessman Dorje Tashi, 51, from his brother at Churshur Prison in Lhasa has been denied at the last-minute, contravening Chinese regulations. This is despite all legal documentation being submitted and the visit arranged one month in advance.

Dorje Tashi was arrested in 2008 and sentenced at a secret trial for loan fraud, where he was given a life sentence. The details of his sentence were only revealed in 2018, following an announcement from his lawyer. Legal experts have raised questions about the nature of the sentence, as the evidence given was not enough to constitute the charges, or to merit a life sentence.



IT HAS NEVER BEEN
MORE URGENT TO
SUPPORT HUMAN
RIGHTS RESEARCH

You and I both know how tightly China keeps Tibet locked away – but Tibet Watch cuts through the silence to bring the world the voices and truths of Tibetans. Support Tibet Watch now and ensure their essential work continues.

Combining **cutting-edge technology** with **first-hand testimonies** from courageous Tibetans on the ground, Tibet Watch delivers world-leading, accurate reporting on China's human rights abuses in Tibet.

Every gift you make powers Tibet Watch to **uncover the hidden crisis in Tibet** and fight for Tibetan freedom. Your support today sends a powerful message: **Tibetans matter, their voices matter, their freedom matters.**

Visit: tibetwatch.org/support-us-tibet-watch/



SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN WORK FOR TIBETAN FREEDOM

If you care for Tibet, now is the time to act.

Tibet is under attack — not just its land, its people, or its freedom. Now, even its name, the name that rallies our movement, is under threat.

China is pushing the term 'Xizang' to replace 'Tibet' — a quiet linguistic takeover meant to erase a nation from the world's consciousness.

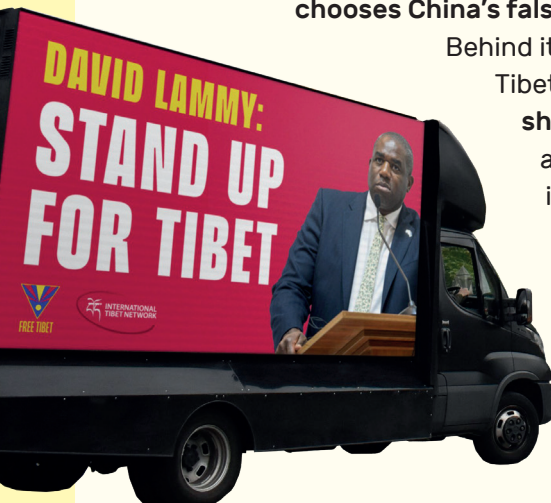
This is why Free Tibet launched the Tibet Not Xizang campaign: to **speak up before Tibet is written out of history**.

With your help today, we're defending Tibetans' right to decide **the Dalai Lama's succession**, equipping **young Tibetans to lead the resistance**, and **confronting every institution that chooses China's false narrative over Tibetan truth**.

Behind it all, **our campaigners work tirelessly** — exposing the persecution Tibetans face, both inside Tibet and in exile. They **report the truth**, **share urgent updates**, and **ensure you have the facts** — quickly and accurately. They advocate in Parliament, engage with global institutions, and build international pressure to keep Tibet on the world's agenda.

This work is **urgent**. It is **world-leading**. And it depends on supporters like you. Please use the donation form and Freepost envelope to give today.

Your gift will fuel our fight for truth, justice, and a free Tibet.



READY TO HELP?
START HERE...



WEAR YOUR SUPPORT, SHOP FOR TIBET

We've just launched our **brand new Free Tibet shop** — and we're inviting you to be one of the first to explore it.

Every T-shirt, tote, and hoodie is printed to order by Teemill using **renewable energy** and **sustainable materials** like certified organic cotton. That means no waste, no sweatshops, and no excuses. Just ethical, sustainable gear that stands up for Tibetan freedom.

Discover bold, original designs, from our latest *Tibet Not Xizang* campaign tee to the playful *Snow Lion* and striking *Tibet Graffiti* prints.

Our iconic Free Tibet logo designs are back too, now available in **t-shirts, long sleeves, tank tops, hoodies, stickers, and tote bags**.

Shopping at the Free Tibet Shop is taking a stand. It's you, **wearing your solidarity**, with Tibetans in mind, in heart, and on your sleeve.

We can't all march every day. But we can wear the message: **"Bo Gyal Lo!" — Long Live Tibet!**



Visit our shop now and help keep Tibet on the map:
store.freetibet.org