



HUMAN RIGHTS *update*  
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# HUMAN RIGHTS *update*

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## A brief report on TCHRD's activities in the last ten years (1996-2006)

December 10th is observed as the 58th Anniversary of United Nations since the drafting of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. On this very day the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was passed. Today, the day is celebrated as International Human Rights Day.

Since founding of the Centre in 1996, today Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) marks its 10th founding anniversary. On this momentous day, we extend our warm greetings to everyone and particularly our heartfelt thanks to international organizations, friends, individuals, who have rendered their admirable and remarkable support and assistance to us through out all these years. We extend special thanks to our generous funder, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Germany for their unflinching support and generosity.

Reflecting on the performance of our Centre in the past, we believe, we have attained remarkable achievements and gained ample experiences in our works and

campaigns. However, we wouldn't be contented with what we have achieved in the past but continue to set higher goals and achieve more milestones in protecting and improving the human rights of Tibetan people. We will never fail them in dedicating and committing our resources and manpower for the complete restoration of human rights in Tibet.

We are happy to release a brief summary report of the Centre's works and campaigns in last ten years. The report highlights our twin goals of monitoring human rights situation in Tibet and in carrying out awareness campaigns in promoting human rights and democracy in exile community.

### 1. Works on human rights and related issues inside Tibet

As per the Centre's main objectives, we monitor, promote and carry research on the human rights situation inside Tibet. Our findings are reported without any bias to United Nation Commission on Human Rights, international organizations concerned with human rights, governments, non-governmental organizations, etc. The news relating to human rights violations inside Tibet are communicated through various media and avenues for gaining wide coverage on the issues. Monthly newsletter and annual report are published both in English and Tibetan languages. Timely press releases and specials reports on various issues are also brought out.

Today various institutions and organizations cite TCHRD in their reports and publications recognizing the Centre as the prime advocator as well as monitoring agent of human rights situation inside Tibet. Simultaneously, many other media, human rights organizations and government bodies quote TCHRD as the source of their information. This clearly



TCHRD staff members during audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama

indicates that information provided by the Center is considered reliable and authentic.

## 2. Publication and distribution of reports

The gross violation of human rights inside Tibet by the Chinese authorities is documented in the special reports and annual reports. The Centre also funds the publication of a biography of Tibetan former political prisoners each year. Since 1996, the Centre has published 10 Annual Reports in English and Tibetan languages, 21 special reports in English language, and 5 biographies of former political prisoners of Tibet.

Moreover we also produced CDs, posters and calendar on human rights issues. We distribute them free of cost. In order to promote democratization in exile community, we employ all kinds of print and electronic media to address issues facing the exile community. The official website of the center was launched few years back to provide timely information on human rights situation in Tibet.

## 3. Programs conducted in exile community

Every year workshop on human rights and democracy are conducted for college students, organizational heads, and school teachers etc. The awareness talks series for general public is also conducted to educate the Tibetan masses about the concepts and principles of human rights and democracy. In our aim to reach out to the larger public, we tour the Tibetan settlements and educate them on human rights and democracy. On special occasions like Tibetan Democracy Day, we arrange talks by experts, organize public discussions, and conduct debates. This exercise has been going on for the last many years for a sole purpose of giving platform to public and to draw in the people's participation in our democratization processes. During elections of parliamentarians and Kalon Tripa, we brought out booklets related to democracy, election manual and democratization processes in exile community. In addition, we receive voluntary assistance from international volunteers from time to time.

## 4. Participations in International Conferences and Meetings

Every year the Center takes part in U.N High Commission on Human Rights now replaced by Human Rights Council meeting at Geneva where the issues of Human Rights violation in Tibet are raised. At various international conferences on human rights and democracy, the Center is able to draw attention on human rights situation inside Tibet. For instance in 2001 during the International Conference on Racial Discrimination, in Durban, South Africa, the Center was able to participate in the conference on its own identity despite strong opposition from the Chinese government.

## 5. Financial Support

Being a non-governmental organization, the financial sustainability is an utmost importance to the Centre. Since the inception of the Center in 1996, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Germany, has been our core funder and main source of monetary support. There are other organizations that extend financial support to us on smaller projects. Taking this opportunity we would like to extend our heart-felt gratitude and thanks for their unflinching support and we do hope that they will continue to support us.

## 6. Administration of the center

The Center is a registered non-governmental organization in India. It is a non-profit organization. His Holiness the Dalai Lama is our chief patron as well as the chief in our Advisory Board. There are other eminent international personalities as members in our Advisory Board. His Holiness appoints the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors (BoD) presides over important decisions and functions of the Center at the apex. The Executive Committee functions under the supervision of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director decides over the responsibility of running the daily functioning of the Center.

## 7. Providing Stipend to Former Political Prisoners

The Center with external assistance arranges financial support to Tibetan former political prisoners. The New Zealand Friends of Tibet

had supported 80 former political prisoners. At present the New Zealand aid is supporting 22 former political prisoners with a monthly stipend of Rs 500/-. Since 2004, we have been carrying out JAMPA Project, an aid provided by Global Peace Foundation. So far under the JAMPA Project, 13 former political prisoners had already received monthly stipend of Rs 900/ in the past and at present, 10 former political prisoners are benefiting under the project.

Comite de Soutien au Peuple Tibetan (CSPT), France, in collaboration with the Center has recently started to provide stipend for the former political prisoners. This year CSPT confirmed their aid and the first grantees are 49 former political prisoners.

## 8. The Center's staff

Zayul Lobsng Nyendak, former Kalon, was the Center's first Executive Director. He took charge in 1996. Ms Tsewang Lhadon succeeded him as the Executive Director in 2002. At present Mr Urgen Tenzin, a former Member of Tibetan-Parliament-in-exile is the Executive Director.

Since 1996, 13 staff members of our Centre had resigned from their posts at various point of time to pursue further studies or for personal grounds. Today, the Center consists of the Executive Director, Assistant Director, two Researchers, United Nations Affairs Personnel, Information Officer, two Field Officers, General Assistant, Office Assistant and a Driver. In total we have 12 staff members. We have 1080 membership around the world. All of our members receive monthly News Letters and other publications.

## 8. Future Missions

Leaving our success behind, we will continue to pursue our missions in future with full preparation and dedication. We will strive hard to empower the Tibetans in Tibet to enjoy freedom, happiness and human rights in future as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ♦

*Issued by  
Tibetan Center for  
Human Rights and Democracy*

profile

# POLITICAL PRISONERS

This is a regular section profiling political prisoners currently imprisoned in Tibet

## Biography of former political prisoner Chime Tsering

Chime Tsering, 34-years-old, was born in Namgyal Village, Gongkar County, Lhoka Prefecture, "Tibet Autonomous Region", ("TAR"). At the age of eight, he joined the village Elementary School and studied there for six years. After finishing sixth grade, he joined Sung-rab-ling Monastery in Lhoka Prefecture as per his parents wishes. He studied Buddhist philosophy and learned other religious scriptures for about four years in the monastery.

In 1989, he along with five other monks from his monastery pasted number of pro-independence posters in different areas in Lhoka Prefecture especially on the gate of local police station and buildings of major governmental offices. At that time, police tried hard to search and investigate the case, but was unable to get hold of them.

Again in March of the same year, he along with five monk inmates went to paste the pro-independence posters on the wall of government buildings. They tore official papers pasted on the wall and pasted posters calling for "free Tibet". At that time, local police officials saw and fired on them. No one was hurt by the shooting and all managed to escape. But police official managed to see one monk.

Due to that, police and army officials jointly came to Sung-rab-ling Monastery on the next day and asked all monks to assemble for a meeting. The officials searched all rooms of the monastery and found

pro-independence posters from one room. Hence, Chinese officials arrested two monks for having link with the pro-independence posters and one monk for raising "Free Tibet" slogan during the meeting on that day. But these monks do not belong to the group of six monks who are involved in the pro-independence posters. At that time only Yeshe Damdul was arrested from the group.

However, after four days of his arrest, Yeshe Ngawang and Tsultrim Jampa were also arrested. This was later followed by the arrest of Yeshe Tsering, Paljor Choegyel and Chime. They were taken to County Detention Centre, Gongkar County and thoroughly interrogated for 15 days. Later they were shifted to the Prefecture Detention Centre (PDC), Lhoka Prefecture, "TAR". They were again subjected to thorough interrogation over there.

Finally, in November 1989, People's Intermediate Court of Lhoka Prefecture allegedly charged them for "counter revolutionary" activities and "inciting anti-government propaganda" and subsequently sentenced Chime for 2 years, Yeshe Ngawang and Yeshe Damdul for 5 years, Yeshe Tsering for 4 years, and Tsultrim Jampa and Paljor Choegyel for 3 years respectively. They were later transferred to Drapchi Prison. In the prison, they were subjected to daily hard labour and inhuman torture.

In 1991, Chime was released from the prison after completing his two



years term, but he was barred from returning to his monastery. Hence, he survived by doing petty business in and around Lhasa City and later ran a small restaurant in Kongpo Prefecture with his former prison mate Dawa Tsering from Phenpo, who is also a political prisoner. But after a year, Dawa was arrested for his political activities and was sentenced to four years prison term.

Moreover, the authorities forcibly made them to close down the restaurant. Hence, Chime was deprived from leading his livelihood and also his movements were severely curbed. Due to lack of leading normal life in Tibet, he secretly left Lhasa via Sharkhambu to Nepal in 2002 and safely reached Tibetan Reception Centre, McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala. Later on he joined Sherab Gatsel Lobling and studied in the school for more than two years. At present, he is studying at school run by Gu-Chu-Sum Movement of Tibet (Association of former Political Prisoners). ♦

## TCHRD Press Statement on International Human Rights Day

10 December 2006 marks the 58th International Human Rights Day. And today the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) commemorates its 10th founding anniversary also. For a decade the Centre has strived hard to highlight the state of human rights in Tibet. Over the past ten years, TCHRD has endeavored to uncover human rights violations in Tibet and reveal its findings to the rest of the world. As TCHRD prepares to embark upon another decade of human rights research, it remains firmly committed to realizing the goals set out in its mission.

Throughout 2006, various human rights abuses in Tibet were reported affecting both the civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights of the Tibetan people. Arbitrary arrest, detention and imprisonment continue to be appalling as ever in Tibet. The plight of the Tibetan people came to attention of the international community on 30 September when the world saw cold-blooded killings at Nangpa Pass in the Himalaya. The video, photographic, and independent testimonies by climbers showed the brutality of the China that is otherwise a regular happening in the high Himalayan escape routes. Despite the shock and condemnation expressed by individuals, non governmental organizations and diplomats, the Centre is disappointed that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) chose to remain silent over the incident.

In May 2006, high-level Chinese Communist Party (CCP) members of the so called "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") in a meeting from 15-16 May 2006 resolved to strike hard against the Tibetan freedom activists and intensification of "patriotic re-education" campaign in the monastic institutions in Tibet. On another instance in November this year, the "TAR" CCP general body meeting resolved to stamp out "separatism" completely. Tibetan nationalists who become the focal point

of the campaigns are subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention and imprisonment and a host of other violations of rights enshrined in the international bill of human rights. The monastic community is a regular target for implementation of the Chinese campaigns to enforce loyalty to the state. The political campaigns in the monastic institutions reign over the peaceful lives of the monks and nuns and greatly hinder their spiritual studies. Much against their wishes, they are forced to denounce the Dalai Lama thus creating a religious blasphemy. TCHRD documented 22 known Tibetans arrested for alleged political activities in 2006.

Chushul (*Ch: Qushui*) Prison in Tibet, which began operational around mid 2005, came into prominence this year. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr. Manfred Nowark, in his report to the UN Human Rights Council this year described the abominable conditions of the prison and called for the release of three prisoners (Jigme Gyatso, Bangri Rinpoche and Lobsang Tsultrim) who he was able to meet convicted "of a political crime, possibly based on information extracted by torture". The Chinese authority in Tibet use the new prison to imprison Tibetans served with long-term prison term. Dolma Kyab, a 29-year-old writer

sentenced to 10 years jail term and Sonam Gyalpo, a 44-year-old fervent Tibetan nationalist sentenced to 12 years jail term, are known to be imprisoned in the prison this year along with many Tibetan political prisoners transferred from the notorious Drapchi Prison. TCHRD is highly concerned at the Tibetan political prisoners in Chushul Prison.

Poverty is widespread in Tibet. Chinese occupied Tibet remains one of the poorest regions in the People's Republic of China. Education, healthcare and subsistence issues remain to be issues of concern. Discrimination of Tibetans coupled with lack of broad based educational opportunities makes the enjoyment of fundamental human rights by the Tibetans a distant dream.

On the occasion of the 58th International Human Rights Day, TCHRD urges the government of People's Republic of China to stop abusing human rights of the Tibetan people. The Centre once again appeals to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to question the authorities in China over the cold-blooded shooting upon the fleeing Tibetans and investigate the status of the 32 unfortunate Tibetans who were arrested from the group. ♦



Newly built Chushul Prison seen in the background

## Lowest representation of Tibetans in Chinese Communist Party's committee in Lhasa

The representation of Tibetan people in high-level position of the Chinese Communist Party's committee in Lhasa, "Tibet Autonomous Region" ("TAR") was reduced considerably during the recent appointment of officials. According to Lhasa Evening News report on 30 September 2006, during the annual congress of the Lhasa City Party committee, Qin Yizhi, was appointed as a new party secretary, the first ethnic Chinese leader of the city since July 1980. The seven previous holders of this position since 1980 were all Tibetans, of whom three went on to become governors of the Tibet Autonomous Region. It was also reported that Dorjee Tsedrub, Lobsang Gyurmed, Hong Shen Ming, Yang Won Phu, Hong Teng Phu were appointed as deputy secretary of the Chinese Communist Party of Lhasa.

The Chinese Communist Party committee in Lhasa is one of the highest organisational positions in Lhasa. Its jurisdiction covers all the areas that come under Lhasa Municipality i.e, Toelung Dechen County, Taktse County, Lhundrub County, Meldro Gungkar County, Chushul County, Nyemo County, Damshung County and Lhasa City. Moreover, Lhasa being the capital of "TAR" is the main center of Tibetan politics, economic and cultural activities.

In a statement released by Human Rights Watch on 7 November 2006, appointments made in September to the Chinese Communist

Party's committee in Lhasa, have a lowest representation of Tibetan than at any time in the last 40 years. In 1986, 80 percent of the members of the city's party committee were Tibetan, and in 1997, 55 percent of its leading members were Tibetan – but only eight of the 30 members of the new party committee of Lhasa are Tibetan. At just over 26 percent, this is believed to be the lowest percentage of Tibetans on a party committee in the city since 1966. ♦

### Ethnic representation

Lhasa Party Committee dates	Total number of members	Number of Tibetan members	Number of women members	% Tibetan
1951-57	16	0	1	0
1959-66	40	3	0	7.5
1966-72	0	0	0	0
1972-76	51	15	5	29.4
1976-77	38	15	4	39.5
1977-86	65	32	12	49.2
1986-87	31	25	2	80.6
1997*	9	5	1	55.6
2006	30	8	1	26.7

*\*The 1997 figures are for the standing committee only, not the full committee. Figures are not available for the periods 1987-96 or 1998-2006. Figures for ethnicity in the 2006 list are inferred from names.*

Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW)

### Background on Lhasa City Communist Party Committee

Party Secretary	Years of Term	Ethnicity
Luo Ming	1977 - 1980	Ethnic Chinese
Dorje Tseten	1980 - 1983	Tibetan
Yang Youcai	1983 - 1986	Tibetan
Choegyul	1986 - 1991	Tibetan
Legchog	1991 - 1996	Tibetan
Lobsang Dondrup	1996 - 1997	Tibetan
Jampa Phuntsog	1997 - 2003	Tibetan
Gonpo Tashi	2003 - 2006	Tibetan
Qin Yizhi	2006 -	Ethnic Chinese

Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW)

## Nancy Pelosi calls for global support to the Tibetan cause

Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker-Designate of the U.S House of Representatives, called for international support to the Dalai Lama's efforts for negotiations with the Chinese Government and to promote human rights in China in a statement released by her to mark the International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2006.

The statement said, "It is fitting that this day also marks the 17th anniversary of his

Holiness the Dalai Lama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. The Dalai Lama has made the human rights situation in Tibet an issue of international concern. Under Chinese occupation, hundreds of thousands of Tibetans have died and religious and political expressions are severely curtailed. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has asked for international support for his efforts to engage the Chinese government. As global citizens, we must double our efforts to bring freedom to the Chinese and Tibetan people."

Pelosi will take over as the Speaker of the House of Representatives when the 110th Congress convenes in January 2007. ♦

## UN watchdog urged for discussion on the Human Rights Violations in Tibet

Elizabeth Cassidy, Assistant Executive Director of UN Watch, a UN monitoring organisation, made an oral statement before the 3rd Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 1 December 2006. She welcomed the special session on Darfur, and urged "the UN Human Rights Council to consider the human rights situations in the other 16 countries and 3 disputed territories that are listed by the leading NGO Freedom House as being the world's worst. These include repression of political dissent and of the media in China, as well as human rights violations in occupied Tibet."

The statement concluded, "We hope that at least some of these very grave situations will be among the Council's next priorities."

UN Watch is a non-governmental organization based in Geneva whose mandate is to monitor the performance of the United Nations by the yardstick of its own Charter. ♦



# TCHRD ACTIVITIES

*Bulletin*

## TCHRD Commemorates its 10<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary

### Program for Eminent Dignitaries

Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) celebrated its 10th Founding Anniversary on 10 December 2006 at Staff Mess Hall, Gangchen Kyishong, Dharamsala. A grand function was held at 2.00 pm to commemorate the anniversary where Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, Kalon Tripa, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Other guests of honour includes Mr. Karma Choephel, Chairman, Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies (ATPD); Mr. Namgyal Tsering, Chief Justice Commissioner; Mr. Lobsang Dhargay, Chairman, TCHRD Board of Directors.

More than 70 eminent personalities attended the function, including Members of Tibetan-Parliament-in-Exile, Justice Commissioners, Commissioners of Autonomous Bodies, Secretary of the different departments, representatives from monasteries, nunneries, non governmental organizations and nearby schools. Also present were some key partners of the Centre and media personnels.

Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director of the Centre welcomed the guests and presented a brief report on the Centre's activities in the last ten years. Mr. Jamphel Monlam, Assistant Director read the press statement of the Centre to mark the International Human Rights Day, which also falls on 10 December.

Professor Samdhong Rinpoche presented thanks giving momentos to centre's core funder Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) and Certificate of Appreciation to Adelheid Doenges, a German, for being the most active member of the Centre. He also distributed prizes to first three winners of the essay contest conducted by TCHRD in various schools on Human Rights topic. Kalon Tripa later spoke on various issues related to human rights.

The entire guests were presented with mementos of a TCHRD conference bag and 2007 Calendar. The formal ceremony was followed by traditional Tibetan dances and songs performed by Thangthong Lugar Dance Troupe.



Mr. Lobsang Nyendak, a former Kalon during the function at McLeod Ganj.

### Program for Tibetan Public

On 17th December 2006, TCHRD organized a special program to mark its 10th founding anniversary for resident Tibetan public at Thekchen Choling Temple, McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala. A large number of public gathered for the event. Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director; presented a brief report on the Centre's activities in the last ten years. Mr. Lobsang Nyendak Zayul, a former Kalon; Chief Guest for the function spoke on issues related to human rights of the Tibetan peoples. The program was followed by cultural show by Thangthong Lugar Dance Troupe and distribution of momentos to the public.

### Program for Indian Public

To mark the Centre's 10th Founding Anniversary, TCHRD conducted Human Rights Awareness Program at Government College, Dharamsala, on 22 December 2006. The students were distributed books and pamphlets of the Centre's Publications and Calendars of 2007 were also presented as a mementos. ♦



Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, a Kalon Tripa, gracing the occasion



# TCHRD ACTIVITIES

*Bulletin*

## TCHRD Recruits New Staff

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) welcomes Ms. Dickyi Dolker as a new Field Officer of the Centre. She joined the Centre on 1 December 2006. She was recruited following a written test and interview. Ms. Dickyi did her schooling from T.C.V Bylakuppee and Bachelor in Banking Management from Ethriaj Women College, Chennai. She also holds a Master Degree in Human Rights. Before joining TCHRD, she has worked at Ghu-Chu-Sum since 2004.



## TCHRD releases 10 Year's Report

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) released its Ten Year's Report titled "TCHRD 1996-2006 - A Decade of Human Rights Research" on 10 December 2006 during its 10th founding Anniversary in Dharamsala. Reports covered wide range of human rights issues in Tibet for the last ten year's ; Strike Hard Campaign, "Patriotic Re-education" Campaign, Campaign against Religious Figures, Education Policy, Economic, Social and Cultural Problems and Environmental Destruction.



## Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Programme in Spain

Mr. Tashi Choephel, Researcher attended 2nd Pax Romana-ICMICA Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Internship Programme 2006 in Bilbao, Spain from 10 to 19 December 2006. During the programme participants held discussion with resource



Mr. Tashi Choephel with participants of the programme.

persons, visited religious sites in Spain and in France and also held a public conference on the theme "Can we live together in different cultures and religions: youth perspective". The participants also released a final statement calling for "promotion of intercultural sharing in all forms of education, both formal and informal, the creation of awareness of religions based on personal sharing, and the incorporation of the inter-cultural dimension and inter-religious issues at all level."

Mr. Tashi also briefed participants on the current human rights situation in Tibet during the programme. The participants comprised of young people from five continents representing a diversity of cultural, religious and spiritual background. ♦

## Chief Guest for Cultural Show

Mr. Jampa Monlam, Assistant Director was invited as a Chief Guest on 17 December 2006, by Sarah Youth wing of Regional Tibetan Youth Congress, Dharamsala during their cultural show at TIPA Hall, Mcleod Ganj.



## TCHRD attends HBF welcome and farewell event in Delhi

Heinrich Boell Foundation welcomed Dr. Michael Koeberlein as the new director of its Delhi office and bid farewell to Dr. Clemens Spiess. The event held on 18 December 2006 at the India International Centre in Delhi was marked by the presence of Mr. Klaus Linsenmeier, Head of International Department HBF and Ms Julia Scherf, Head of Asia Desk HBF in Berlin.

: Amongst a host of partners gathered for the event, Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Executive Director, and Mr. Tenzin Norgay, UN Affairs Personnel, represented TCHRD at the event. Mr. Urgen made a presentation about TCHRD and its long-standing collaboration with HBF. He also described the Centre's achievements through its various activities gratefully supported by HBF. ♦



Left to right: Mr. Urgen Tenzin, Klaus Linsenmeier, Julia Scherf, Michael Koeberlein, Tenzin Norgay and Clemens Spiess.