

ACTION: Protests and self-immolations in Tibet

In the past few years there has been a significant number of protests by Tibetans inside Tibet. Despite increasing surveillance and harsh punishments by the Chinese authorities, Tibetans continue to risk their lives by protesting against China's repressive policies. The first self-immolation took place in Tibet in 2009. By April 2017, 147 Tibetans had self-immolated inside Tibet. In 2017, two self-immolations have taken place in Tibet.

[Click here for case profiles and background information to the self-immolations.](#)

TAKE ACTION

China **MUST** be called to account over its appalling ongoing policies in Tibet and urged to uphold international standards for basic human rights. If China wants to play a role in the free world, it is time for the ruling regime not only to end the current crackdown in Tibet, but also to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Tibetan people.

China's economic progress cannot continue to be at the expense of human rights and rule of law. The British government **MUST** acknowledge this and make it clear that China is no different from any other country when it comes to adherence to international human rights norms. To this end the British government must publicly express grave concern over the current situation and, along with other international governments, persuade China to ease the increasingly tense situation by withdrawing its troops from Tibetan regions, review its repressive policies in Tibet and grant universally recognised human rights to the Tibetan people.

1. Write to the Chinese Ambassador
2. Contact your MP
3. Sign the global pledge to 'Unite for Tibet'

1. Write to the Chinese Ambassador

Call on the Chinese government to:

° ease tensions in Tibet by exercising restraint when dealing with protests, withdrawing armed forces and ending the martial law conditions imposed across Tibetan areas. Also to allow access to Tibetan regions to foreign media, humanitarian agencies and independent observers;

° release all Tibetans detained or imprisoned for expressing their views, a right guaranteed under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and provide independent legal counsel for all those facing charges;

° end the policy of collective punishments, in particular for those related or alleged to be connected to self-immolators, and allow families to hold traditional funerals for the deceased;

° confirm the condition and location of the following Tibetans who have self-immolated, were subsequently taken away by security forces and either have not been seen since or placed under heavy security in hospital. Also ensure family visits are allowed:

Kunchok (16 September 2014; Gade, Qinghai)
Dolma (29 March 2014; Bathang, Sichuan)
Sungdue Kyab (2 December 2012, Gannan, Gansu)
Samdup (7 November 2012, Aba, Sichuan)
Dorjee Kyab (7 November 2012, Aba, Sichuan)
Tenzin (25 October 2012; Naqu, TAR)
Dickyi Choezom (27 June 2012; Yushu, Qinghai)
Lobsang Gyatso (13 February 2012, Aba, Sichuan)
Sonam Rabyang (9 February 2012; Yushu, Qinghai)
Kelsang Wangchuk (3 October 2011; Aba, Sichuan)
Lobsang Kelsang (26 September 2011; Aba, Sichuan)
Lobsang Kunchok (26 September 2011; Aba, Sichuan)
Tapey (27 February 2009; Aba, Sichuan)

° conduct a thorough investigation into the causes of the self-immolations in Tibet;

° respect the fundamental rights of the Tibetans, in particular the freedom of expression and to freedom to practice their religion.

In the UK:

Address: Ambassador Liu Xiaoming, Chinese Embassy, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1B 1JL.

Email: ambassador@chinese-embassy.org.uk

Note: The Embassy occasionally disables this email address (so your email is returned). If that is the case please try political@chinese-embassy.org.uk and/or press@chinese-embassy.org.uk. If these also fail please send a letter.

Outside the UK:

Check the Chinese government's webpage listing embassies for contact details of your nearest ambassador and embassy.

Please send us a copy of any reply you receive from the Chinese Ambassador. This helps us to monitor political activity. [Click here for Tibet Society contact details.](#)

2. Contact your MP

a. Tell your MP about the growing resistance inside Tibet, i.e. peaceful demonstrations by Tibetans against China's repressive policies; the self-immolation of 144 Tibetans calling for the return of the Dalai Lama and freedom for Tibet; and the response of the Chinese authorities with arbitrary arrests, collective punishments, security lockdowns and the

imposition of de facto martial law.

b. Ask your MP, as a matter of urgency, to write letters to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary and/or table parliamentary questions that:

° call on the Prime Minister to make a public statement of concern on the deteriorating human rights situation in Tibet and condemning China's use of force against peaceful demonstrators;

° call on the British government to support the Dalai Lama's request that the Chinese government carries out a thorough investigation on the causes of the self-immolations;

° call on the British government to urge China to ease tensions in Tibet by using restraint when dealing with protests, withdrawing its armed forces from Tibetan regions, releasing Tibetans arbitrarily detained or imprisoned for involvement in protests, and allowing access to foreign media, humanitarian agencies and independent observers;

° urge the British government to work multi-laterally with other international governments, to encourage the Chinese regime to resolve the Tibetans' underlying grievances; also to initiate the establishment of an International Contact Group of concerned governments to facilitate information sharing, discussion of strategies and coordination of initiatives that work to bring positive progress to rule of law and human rights in Tibet.

c. Ask your MP to write to the Chinese Ambassador in the UK:

° urging restraint by the Chinese authorities in Tibet, the withdrawal of troops from Tibetan regions and for international observers and media to be allowed access to Tibetan regions. Also request the Chinese government releases all Tibetans detained or imprisoned for expressing their views, a right guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

d. Ask your MP to sign the Global pledge to 'Stand up for Tibet' (see Point 3).

In the UK, to find your MP go to www.writetothem.com or findyourmp.parliament.uk. If you live outside the UK please write to your parliamentary representative. Please send us a copy of any reply you receive from your MP. This helps us to monitor political activity. Click here for Tibet Society contact details.

3. Sign the Global Pledge to 'Unite for Tibet'

Ask your friends, family and your MP to also sign the pledge at <http://bit.ly/STpledge>. The pledge calls on world leaders to "Unite for Tibet". Global diplomatic intervention is needed to ensure China ends the crackdown in Tibet.

(This world-wide initiative has been created by the International Tibet Network, of which Tibet Society is a member.)

Click here for latest updates on the self-immolations, case profiles and background information.

Tibet Society, the world's first Tibet support group, was founded in 1959. Funded by its members, it has been working for over 50 years to seek justice for Tibet through parliamentary lobbying, campaigns and actions. Help keep Tibet alive by joining Tibet Society today. (Annual membership £24; Family £36; Life £500)

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