

Reclaiming Tiananmen 2014: Report

[10 June 2014] To mark the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre, Tibet Society worked alongside Chinese, Uyghur and Tibetan activists to remember those who lost their lives, highlight the need for truth and justice and continue the campaign for human rights, freedom and democracy in China.

Reclaiming Tiananmen 2014 was a series of events in London held between 28 May and 5 June, to remember and highlight the Tiananmen protests and massacre. The events were organised by Chinese Uyghur Tibetan Solidarity UK (CUTS UK), of which Tibet Society is a founding member, in conjunction with Amnesty International UK.

Tibet Society's participation in CUTS UK is based on the belief that freedom for the Tibetan people can be achieved through democratic reform in China. CUTS UK works to promote human rights, freedom and democracy in China and self-determination for the people of Tibet and East Turkistan.

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1. Tank Man in Trafalgar Square

On 31 May, the famous scene of an anonymous Chinese man stopping a convoy of tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989 was re-enacted in Trafalgar Square by members of Chinese Uyghur Tibetan Solidarity UK.

The tanks, depicted on large boards, moved across Trafalgar Square before being intercepted by a solitary protestor. The boards were then flipped over to reveal messages including: "4 June 1989: Tiananmen Square, Beijing. Over 1,000 killed. Thousands imprisoned" "Truth for June 4th" and "Freedom, Human Rights, Democracy".

[Click here to watch video and read more](#)

2. Exhibition: 64+25=89

A public exhibition of photos was held at Amnesty International UK, from 28 May - 5 June, depicting the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre. The images showed the beginnings of the student protests in Beijing in April 1989, how they grew over the subsequent weeks with students, workers and even party officials taking part, and concluded with tragic consequences as armed forces killed hundreds of protestors on 3 and 4 June.

The title "64+25=89" derives from 64 representing June 4th, 25 for the anniversary and 89 for the year of the protests.

3. Panel discussion

On 3 June, a panel discussion on the impact and legacy of the Tiananmen protests and massacre was hosted by Amnesty International UK. The panel included two generations of Chinese protestors, Wu Renhua and Shao Jiang, student protest organisers in 1989, Wang Ti-Anna, an activist born in 1989, plus Dr Jonathan Mirsky, a journalist who was in Beijing at the time of the protests.

Wu Renhua, Shao Jiang and Dr Mirsky all gave moving testimony to events in Tiananmen Square on 3 and 4 June 1989, including witnessing many Chinese protestors shot by Chinese troops and run over by tanks.

Wang Ti-Anna told the audience how she had been named after the Tiananmen incident and her ongoing campaign to free her father, Wang Bingzhang, who is serving a life sentence in China for his political activism.

[Click here to read biographies of the panel](#)

4. Press Release

To coincide with the 4 June anniversary, Chinese Uyghur Tibetan Solidarity UK issued a press release calling on the Chinese Communist Party to end its denial of the massacre and for justice for the victims. CUTS UK also called on the international community to insist the Chinese government upholds human rights, in particular the freedom of expression for all the peoples of China including Han, Uyghurs and Tibetans.

The press release quoted Shao Jiang, one of the student protest organisers in 1989 who now lives in the UK and is a member of Chinese Uyghur Tibetan Solidarity UK. "The wound of Tiananmen Square 1989 remains unhealed. We must seek the truth, expose the perpetrators of the massacre and bring justice for all those who lost their lives on 4 June 1989."

[Click here to read the press release](#)

5. Flower-laying ceremony

On 4 June, survivors from Tiananmen Square, Chinese activists, Tibetans and representatives of human rights NGOs (including Tibet Society) laid 25 bouquets of flowers outside the Chinese Embassy in London to mark the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

As the first bouquet was laid near the door of the Embassy, jointly by activist Wang Ti-anna and Amnesty International UK Director Kate Allen, two Embassy officials emerged and pushed the two activists away from the Embassy, picked up the flowers and threw them away. The incident was captured by gathered media, including the BBC.

After the police shepherded the Embassy officials back inside, the ceremony continued. Tiananmen survivors Wu Renhua and Shao Jiang laid bouquets (pictured below right). Philippa Carrick (CEO) and Riki Hyde-Chambers (Chairman) laid bouquets on behalf of Tibet Society (pictured below left).

Further reading: [Telegraph article](#) | [BBC article & video \(1:43\)](#) | [Channel 4 video](#)

[Click here for more photos of ceremony via facebook](#)

6. Candlelit Vigil

A candlelit vigil was held on the evening of 4 June, opposite the Chinese Embassy in London, to remember all the victims of the Tiananmen massacre.

Despite high winds and driving rain over 150 people attended the vigil. Special guests Wu Renhua and Wang Ti-anna and addressed the crowd along with Amnesty International UK's Director Kate Allen.

Following a minute's silence for all the victims of the massacre, the names were read out of all those who died and have been identified. Of over a thousand believed to have died only 202 bodies have so far been identified. The rest remain unknown or missing.

The evening concluded with the reading of a poignant poem written in 2011 by imprisoned activist Zhu Yufu.

It's Time

It's time, people of China! it's time.

The Square belongs to everyone.

With your own two feet

It's time to head to the Square and make your choice.

It's time, people of China! it's time.

A song belongs to everyone.

From your own throat

It's time to voice the song in your heart.

It's time, people of China! it's time.

China belongs to everyone.

Of your own will

It's time to choose what China shall be.

[Click here for photos of vigil via flickr](#)

7. Statements & reports

The following is a selection of statements and reports issued on and around the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Statements

[The Dalai Lama I UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

NGO reports and statements

[Amnesty International: Tiananmen's 'Most Wanted': Four inspiring activists remember the crackdown Pt 1 | Pt 2 \(includes Shao Jiang\)](#)

[Human Rights Watch: China, the world remembers Tiananmen massacre](#)

[Human Rights Watch: Q&A: Witnessing the Aftermath of the Tiananmen Square Massacre](#)

[Radio Free Asia: Tiananmen Didn't End in 1989. Interview with Rowena Xiaoqing](#)

[Radio Free Asia: Tibetans, Uyghurs Remember Own Crackdowns on Tiananmen Anniversary](#)

[TCHRD: 'For the values of democracy and equality': Remembering Tiananmen Heroes](#)

Media reports

[BBC: Timeline: Tiananmen protests](#)

[BBC: In pictures: Beijing's Tiananmen Square protests](#)

[BBC: Archive: Tiananmen Square protesters battle Chinese troops \(report by Kate Adie from 1989, video 3:34\)](#)

BBC: A revolution which almost succeeded (by John Simpson)

BBC: 'I witnessed 46 deaths at Tiananmen', says John Simpson (audio 2:41)

BBC: Miao Deshun: China's last Tiananmen prisoner?

Guardian: Tiananmen square protests and crackdown: 25 years on

Guardian: 'Every person in the crowd was a victim of the massacre' by Ma Jian

Foreign Policy: The Square: A look back at Tiananmen - then, now, and the 25 years in between

Foreign Policy: A Time-Lapse Map of Protests Sweeping China in 1989

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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