

2014 News Headlines

News headlines for 2014 with links to articles

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Tibetan nomad teenager dies after self-immolation protest

[23 December 2014] A 19 year-old female nomad has become the second Tibetan to die this month from self-immolating. Tsepey Kyi set fire to herself on 22 December in Ngaba county, Amdo. She died at the scene. Sources say her protest was "against China's repressive policies"... [read more](#)
Tibetan dies after ninth self-immolation protest of 2014

[19 December] On 16 December, a Tibetan father of two became the ninth Tibetan to self-immolate in Tibet this year. Sangyal Khar's protest took place outside a police station in Amchok. Reports indicate that Chinese police confiscated the body and have refused to hand it over to his family... [read more](#)

Tortured prisoner dies two days after being released

[16 December] On 5 December, Tibetan political prisoner Tenzin Choedak died two days after being released from prison. He had served less than six years of a 15-year sentence and was in extreme ill-health when he was released. It is suspected he died of injuries sustained from torture and maltreatment... [read more](#)

UK policy on Tibet comes under attack during parliament debate

[11 December] On Human Rights Day, the issue of Tibet and freedom of expression was debated in the UK parliament. MPs criticised the UK's policy on Tibet and its relationship with China. The government's response was weak, gave no indication of a more robust approach and seemed to use language to appease Beijing... [read more](#)

Human Rights Day solidarity vigil

[10 December] A candle-lit vigil was held outside the Chinese Embassy in London, in solidarity with all Tibetans, Uyghurs, Hong Kongers and Chinese oppressed by the Chinese regime... [see details on facebook](#)

Tibet to be debated in UK Parliament on Human Rights Day

[5 December] A parliamentary debate on Tibet is due to take place on Wednesday 10 December, Human Rights Day. The debate, titled "Tibet and Freedom of Expression", will be led by Fabian Hamilton MP. Action: contact your MP and encourage them to join the debate. Attend the debate or watch online... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

US diplomat: No freedom for Tibetans in Tibet

[28 November] A top US government official has said there is no freedom for Tibetans living under Chinese rule. The US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues made the statement after meetings with the Dalai Lama, the Sikyong (Prime Minister in exile) and Tibetan refugees who had recently fled Tibet... [read more](#)

Two monks jailed for protesting with hand-drawn Tibet flags

[19 November] Two monks have been jailed for up to three years for staging peaceful solo protests, involving hand-drawn versions of the banned Tibet flag and shouting slogans calling for the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet... [read more](#)

China jails eight Tibetans for links to self-immolation protest

[18 November] Eight Tibetans have been imprisoned for up to five years by the Chinese authorities for an alleged

association with a self-immolation protest. One of the accused is said to have protested their innocence during the trial despite suffering torture and beatings during an 11-month detention... [read more](#)

Twelve-year sentence for monk who 'incited protests'

[11 November] A senior monk has been jailed for 12 years by the Chinese authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region for allegedly inciting others to protest against Chinese rule. There are concerns for Tsangyang Gyatso's well-being and that he did not receive due process... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Reporting from a state-controlled trip to Tibet

[29 October] Irish broadcaster RTE has transmitted several reports from Tibet. RTE was participating in a state-controlled media trip, described as "carefully choreographed". RTE challenged the authenticity of China's version of Tibet, saying a true picture "remains out of reach"... [read more](#) & [watch reports](#)

Khenpo Kartse's lawyer: charges "not compatible with reality"

[20 October] UPDATE: According to a Radio Free Asia source, senior monk Khenpo Kartse was sentenced to two and a half years in a secret trial that took place two to three months ago in Chamdo. Khenpo's lawyer has said the charges were "not compatible with reality"... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Senior monk sentenced to two years' imprisonment

[17 October] BREAKING NEWS: Khenpo Kartse, a senior monk and prominent community leader from Yushu, eastern Tibet, has been sentenced to two years in prison. Details of the trial are not yet known. Khenpo was originally detained in December 2013 on spurious charges... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

UN human rights chief in talks to visit Tibet

[17 October] The new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has said, in his first media briefing, he is "discussing the issue" of visiting Tibet with Chinese officials. Tibet Society calls on China to give the High Commissioner Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein unfettered access to all regions of Tibet... [read Reuters report](#)

What do the Hong Kong protests mean for Tibet?

[16 October] The democracy protests in Hong Kong have reignited interest in political reform for China. Commentators are already considering the long-term impact on the Chinese government and the ethnic minorities under its rule... [read more](#)

Tibetans openly call for release of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

[16 October] Tibetans in Lihang have held a prayer ceremony calling for the release of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. Speeches criticised Chinese officials for the imprisoned monk's plight... [read more](#) | [Take action for Tenzin Delek Rinpoche](#)

Recent news from Tibet: China's continued clampdown

[10 October] China's continued disregard for human rights and the rule of law in Tibet is exemplified by a number of recent cases. Peaceful protestors have been fired upon by security forces, arrested and handed harsh prison sentences. Also, three detainees have been tortured by drunken police officers... [read more](#)
Two self-immolations in Tibet; first in five months

[7 October] Two Tibetan men have self-immolated in recent weeks, the first such protests in Tibet since April. Lhamo Tashi died from his injuries while Kunchok remains in critical condition. Both were protesting against China's oppressive policies. There have now been 132 self-immolations in Tibet in the past five years... [read more](#)

Standing up for Hong Kong democracy in London

[1 October] Press Release: A coalition of Tibetan, Uyghur and Chinese activists and organisations, including Tibet Society, calls on China to allow real freedom and democracy for the people of Hong Kong and to release all political prisoners, including Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and Ilham Tohti... [read press release](#)

Hong Kong solidarity protest in London

[30 September] Tibet Society, as part of Chinese Uyghur & Tibetan Solidarity UK, supports the call for democracy in Hong Kong. Join the protest outside the Chinese Embassy in London, 7pm-10pm, Wednesday 1 October... [details](#)

China's contempt for the rule of law in Tibet: report

[12 September] Tibet Society has handed in a report to the UK Foreign Office outlining recent cases in Tibet where the Chinese government has blatantly disregarded the rule of law. Tibet Society has asked for these cases to be raised with Chinese officials in upcoming meetings and dialogues... [read more](#) | [download report](#)

Senior lama blesses Tibet Society's new office

[11 September] On 8 September, Tibet Society and Tibet Relief Fund's new office in Haggerston, London, was officially opened with a blessing by senior lama Chime Rinpoche. Guests included Chonpel Tsering, the newly appointed Dalai Lama's Representative for the UK and Northern Europe... [read more](#)

Defiant monk jailed for five years

[9 September] Jigme Guri, a monk from Labrang monastery renowned for speaking up against China's oppressive policies in Tibet, has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment for "splittist activities". Jigme Guri has been in detention since August 2011. The exact reason for his arrest is still not known... [read more](#)

Loshu: two more deaths, detainee beaten, two arrested for photos

[4 September] Update: Further details have emerged from Loshu; a Chinese policeman died from 'friendly fire' in the 12 August incident; the wife of a detainee has committed suicide; a woman has been severely beaten whilst in detention; and, two men have been arrested for taking photos of the protest... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Imprisoned Tibetan lama found to be in serious ill-health

[28 August] A senior Tibetan lama, in custody since 2008, has been found in serious ill-health due to torture and harsh prison conditions. In other news from Tibet, a monk has been jailed for nine years on unknown charges and a blogger has been detained for criticising China's welfare policies in Tibet... [read more](#)

Three more Tibetans die from injuries after Loshu shooting

[20 August] UPDATE: The death toll from the Loshu incident on 12 August has reached five, as three more Tibetans have succumbed to their injuries. One of the dead is the uncle of Wangdak, the village chief whose initial arrest prompted the protest in Loshu, eastern Tibet... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Take action on the shooting of protestors in Loshu

[19 August] Write to Chinese officials calling on the authorities in Loshu to provide medical treatment for those injured during the violent suppression of the 12 August protest, and to release all those detained. Join the vigil in London at 6pm on Wed 20 August to express solidarity with Tibetans in Loshu... [Take Action](#) | [Join the vigil](#)

'Unanimous approval' at Chinese forum on Tibet rejected

[18 August] A state-run forum in Lhasa, attended by international delegates including the UK's Lord Davidson, ended

with a declaration that Tibetans live in "social harmony" and "enjoy a happy life". However, the claim of unanimous approval for the declaration was rejected by a New Zealand politician in attendance... [read more](#)

Two deaths after protest shootings; injured denied treatment

[18 August] Two Tibetans involved in the Loshu protest on 12 August have died, one from untreated wounds, the other committed suicide whilst in detention. There are accusations the Chinese authorities are denying medical treatment to those injured during the protest... [read more](#) [I Take Action](#)
Chinese police open fire on Tibetan protestors; ten injured

[15 August] At least ten Tibetans were seriously injured when Chinese police fired into a crowd of protestors in Sichuan province on 12 August. The protestors were calling for the release of a detained village leader. Many Tibetans have been detained, as security is tightened in the region... [read more](#) [I Take Action](#)
Senior UK politician tells China media 'people live happily' in Tibet

[14 August] Lord Davidson, whilst attending an international forum in Lhasa, has been quoted by Chinese state media as complementing the development of Tibet, saying "people live happily", and criticising western media for painting a distorted picture of Tibet. It is not clear if the remarks were taken out of context... [read more](#)

Greenpeace exposes illegal mining on Tibetan plateau

[8 August] Chinese-owned open-pit coal mines are endangering the fragile ecosystem of the Tibetan plateau and some are operating illegally in protected nature zones, according to a new report published by Greenpeace... [read more](#)

Harsh jail sentences for protestors; detainees "severely beaten"

[7 August] China has jailed six Tibetans for up to 12 years for taking part in anti-mining protests; eight Tibetans have been sentenced for up to nine years for alleged links to a petrol bomb explosion; and a further group of Tibetans have been "severely beaten" whilst in detention... [read more](#)

New campaign calling for release of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

[31 July] Take a "solidarity selfie" and add your voice to the global campaign calling on the Chinese government to release Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a senior Tibetan monk serving a life sentence on false charges. Tenzin Delek has been in jail since 2002 and there are now serious concerns for his health... [read more](#) [I Take Action](#) [I facebook](#)

Tibet Society has moved

[24 July] Tibet Society has moved offices. We have left Finsbury Park after 13 years and are now located in Haggerston (near the trendy Shoreditch). New address: 2 Baltic Place, London N1 5AQ. Tel: 020 7923 0021. (Note: post sent to our old address will be redirected.)

Human rights activists call on China to end repression of Uyghurs

[4 July] On the eve of the 5th anniversary of the Urumqi massacre, Tibet Society has joined with Uyghurs and human rights activists, to call upon China to investigate the massacre, account for the dead and missing, and end the repression in East Turkestan... [read press release](#) [I join London demo 3pm, 5 July](#)

Concerns for Khenpo Kartse as denied bail and charges changed

[27 June] Khenpo Kartse, a senior monk detained in December 2013, has been refused bail and had his charges changed to "illegal harbouring" and "divulging state secrets". Khenpo is in serious ill-health, has limited access to his lawyer and is being denied access to a doctor and visits by his family... [read more](#) [I Take Action](#)

Cameron silent on Tibet as Premier Li confronted by protests

[20 June] The UK government sidelined Tibet and human rights in favour of trade during the Chinese Premier's visit to London. However, despite the failure of the Prime Minister to express concern, Tibet Society helped to keep Tibet on the media's agenda and ensure Premier Li was aware Tibet had not been forgotten... [read more](#)

Demonstrations during Chinese Premier's visit to UK

[17-18 June] Join the protests in London. Show your support for Tibetan freedom and call on Cameron to raise Tibet and human rights with Premier Li. Updates on twitter @tibetsociety... read more | See latest protest photos on facebook

Deputy PM says China guilty of 'large scale' human rights abuses

[16 June] Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has said that China is guilty of "large scale and systematic" human rights abuses. He also said he hopes to meet the Dalai Lama again. The comments came as Chinese Premier landed in the UK for a three-day visit... read more

Cameron: Do not allow China to buy your silence on human rights

[16 June] Press Release: David Cameron is urged to use the Chinese Premier's visit to speak out on human rights and make a public statement calling on China to uphold human rights values, adhere to the rule of law and implement political reform... read more

Chinese Premier demands meeting with the Queen

[13 June] China has threatened to cancel Premier Li's upcoming UK visit unless he is allowed to meet the Queen. The meeting is now expected to happen next week. Tibet Society responded saying, "Such acquiescence [by the UK] must not be at the price of speaking out on Tibet and human rights"... read more | Take Action

Chinese Premier to visit UK 17-19 June 2014: Take Action

[12 June] Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is due to visit the UK on 17-19 June, during which time he is expected to meet the Queen, Prime Minister Cameron and various business leaders. Take Action: Write to David Cameron and urge him to raise Tibet with Premier Li. Demonstrations to be announced... read more | Take Action

Reclaiming Tiananmen 2014: Report

[10 June] To mark the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, Tibet Society worked with Chinese, Uyghur and Tibetan activists to host a series of events to remember those who lost their lives, highlight the need for truth and justice and continue the campaign for human rights in China... read report

Tibetan filmmaker Dhondup Wangchen released from prison

[5 June] Dhondup Wangchen, imprisoned in 2008 for making a documentary in Tibet, has finally been released, several months after his six-year sentence expired. Though likely still under police surveillance, Dhondup has spoken to his cousin in Switzerland saying he hopes to recover his health soon... read more

Tiananmen Square: The wound that remains unhealed

[3 June] PRESS RELEASE: On the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, Chinese Uyghur & Tibetan Solidarity UK calls on China to end its censorship of the 1989 protests and massacre, stop the persecution of survivors and instigate measures to bring about justice... read press release

Tiananmen 'Tank Man' re-enacted in Trafalgar Square

[2 June] The famous scene of an anonymous Chinese man stopping a convoy of tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989 has been re-enacted in Trafalgar Square to highlight the 25th anniversary of the Beijing protests and massacre... read more & watch video | view photos (via flickr)

Reclaiming Tiananmen 2014 - events in London

[28 May] A series of events to mark the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, including an exhibition, panel discussion and vigil... [read more](#) (Organised by Tibet Society, Amnesty International UK & Chinese Uyghur Tibetan Solidarity.)

Jigme Gyatso escapes from Tibet, arrives safely in exile

[21 May] Former political prisoner Jigme Gyatso arrived safely in Dharamsala, northern India on 18 May, having managed to evade capture and escape from Tibet. The monk and activist is probably best known in exile for assisting Dhondup Wangchen on the film *Leaving Fear Behind*... [read more](#)

UK urged to denounce China's policy in Tibet at bilateral dialogue

[16 May] Press Release: Tibet Society urges the UK government to use the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 20-21 May to stand up for Tibet and call on China to end its crackdown in Tibet and peacefully resolve the grievances of the Tibetan people... [read more](#)

Call on your European Parliament candidate to sign Tibet pledge

[9 May] Tibet Society is supporting International Campaign for Tibet's European Parliament elections campaign 2014 for Tibet. The elections take place on 22 May. Ask your MEP and candidates to sign the pledge and stand for the rights and freedoms of the people of Tibet... [read pledge](#) | [who has signed](#)

UK government fails to address Tibet Lobby concerns

[8 May] The UK government has failed to address specific concerns raised during Tibet Lobby 2014, including urging China to repeal the death penalty in connection with self-immolations and ensuring Tibet is incorporated into the UK's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Two Tibetan political prisoners in international spotlight

[7 May] The cases of two Tibetan political prisoners have been given international prominence with the award of the 2014 Vaclav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent to Dhondup Wangchen and the recognition of Jigme Gyatso as one of 100 "information heroes" to mark World Press Freedom Day... [read more](#)

London to host world premiere of UK-Tibetan movie *Little Tibet 2*

[30 April] PRESS RELEASE: The world premiere of *Little Tibet 2*, hosted by Tibet Society, will be held on Saturday 17 May 2014 at the Prince Charles Cinema, Leicester Square, London. "The film is both compelling and, at times, unexpectedly moving." "It is an amazing achievement."... [read press release](#)

Tibet's missing Panchen Lama turns 25

[25 April] Today is the 25th birthday of the Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. Gedhun was abducted by the Chinese authorities in 1996 at the age of six, just days after the Dalai Lama recognised him as the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Lama... [read more](#) | [Take Action: call on China to release Gedhun immediately](#)

Harsh measures continue as self-immolations reach 130

[17 April] On 15 April, Thinley Namgyal became the 130th Tibetan in Tibet to self-immolate in protest against China's rule. The Chinese authorities continue their policy of confiscating self-immolators' bodies, cremating them without family consent and arbitrarily detaining relatives and colleagues... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Tibet Society talks directly to UK Foreign Secretary

[10 April] At the launch of the UK's annual Human Rights Report, two activists, from Tibet Society and Students for a Free Tibet UK, had an unexpected opportunity to speak directly with Foreign Secretary William Hague. Key issues on Tibet were raised during the four-minute conversation with Mr Hague... [read more](#)

China calls off human rights dialogue with UK

[10 April] Tibet Society has just learned that the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, due to take place on 14-15 April, has been cancelled. Sources say that China unilaterally called the meeting off due to disagreements with the UK... [read more](#)

12 Years A Prisoner: Tenzin Delek Rinpoche

[7 April] Twelve years ago today, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a highly respected Tibetan monk and community leader was arrested by the Chinese authorities. Falsely accused of "causing explosions", he is now serving a life sentence. Take action calling for his release... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

ACTION: Call on UK to raise Tibet at human rights dialogue

[3 April] The UK-China Human Rights Dialogue takes place on 14-15 April. Tibet Society, as part of a coalition, has submitted a briefing paper to the UK government outlining key concerns and recommendations that should be raised during the Dialogue. Take Action: Call on the UK government to raise concerns over Tibet as well as Tibetan prisoner cases that have just come to light... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Uprising 2014 report: "I Am What I Am - Tibetan!"

[20 March] A full report on events held in the UK to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising. Events included a wreath-laying ceremony at Westminster Abbey, a lobby of parliament and the Tibet Freedom March and Rally in London... [read report](#)

UK MPs, Tibetans and Tibet supporters in round-table discussion

[19 March] On 12 March, Tibetans and Tibet supporters met members of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet during the Tibet Lobby at Houses of Parliament in London. A lively round-table discussion was held with questions being asked of MPs and a discussion on a variety of topics... [read overview of discussion](#)

"I Am What I Am": Speeches from the Tibet Freedom Rally

[18 March] The Tibet Freedom March & Rally in London on 15 March attracted over 500 Tibetans and Tibet supporters. A full report will be published soon. Read speech by Tibetan artist Ugyen Choephell, speech by Tibet Justice Center's Iona Liddell and the Sikyong's 10 March statement. [View photos on facebook](#)

Uprising Day letter delivered to PM, Chinese Embassy refuses

[17 March] On 15 March, to mark the anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising a letter from a coalition of Tibet groups was delivered to 10 Downing Street. The Chinese Embassy refused access to deliver a similar letter (which has since been posted.) Read [letter to the Prime Minister](#) & [letter to the Chinese Ambassador](#)

Obama reiterates support for genuine autonomy for Tibet

[24 February] After meeting the Dalai Lama, President Obama has reiterated his support for the 'Middle Way Approach' (which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet) and for the preservation of Tibet's religion, culture and language. Obama also expressed "deep concern" over the worsening human rights situation in Tibet.... [read more](#)

President Obama due to meet the Dalai Lama

[21 February] The US President is due to meet the Dalai Lama in Washington today. China has already responded, calling for the meeting to be cancelled and saying the meeting would "seriously impair China-US relations"... [read more](#)

Self-immolator's family denied traditional funeral rituals

[20 February] A former monk, who self-immolated on 13 February and died two days later, has been cremated without his family's consent. Lobsang Dorje's family were denied the opportunity to perform traditional funeral rituals, despite appealing to the authorities to hand over the body... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Action: Urge Spain to resist pressure from China over Tibet

[10 February] Sign the international petition calling on the Spanish government not to bow to pressure from China over a ground-breaking Tibet lawsuit. The Chinese government wants Spain to reverse a judicial decision that implicates Chinese leaders of genocide in Tibet... [Sign petition](#) | [Reuters article \(7 Feb\)](#)

Protestor dies in detention; two others given harsh sentences

[7 February] A Tibetan man, detained following his participation in protests against mining operations in Driru, has died in custody. It is feared Konchok Dakpa was tortured to death. Dorje Dragtsel (pictured) and Kelsang Choklang have received lengthy prison sentences for their alleged roles in recent protests in Driru... [read more](#)

First self-immolation in Tibet in 2014

[7 February] A Tibetan man set himself on fire in Malho, eastern Tibet on 6 February, in the first self-immolation protest to take place in Tibet this year. Phagmo Samdrub was taken away by Chinese security forces but is not known if he survived... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Hundreds detained for expressing Tibetan unity

[31 January] Chinese authorities in the Chamdo region of Tibet have detained nearly 500 Tibetans for taking part in a grassroots unity campaign. In a separate incident a Tibetan has been detained and tortured after Dalai Lama photos and speeches were found on his mobile phone... [read more](#)

China sentences Xu Zhiyong to four years' imprisonment

[27 January] A Chinese court has jailed Xu Zhiyong, a Chinese rights advocate and Tibet supporter, for four years on charges of "gathering crowds to disrupt public order". On being sentenced, Xu told the court that "the last shred of dignity of China's rule of law" had been destroyed... [read BBC report](#) | [Huffington Post analysis](#)

Detained monk in ill-health; refused access to lawyer and family

[24 January] UPDATE: Khenpo Kartse, a senior monk detained in December on suspicion of "endangering state security", is understood to be in seriously ill-health. His family and lawyer have been refused access. However, sixteen monks, previously detained calling for his release, have been released... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Tibet campaigners call on China to release Xu Zhiyong

[21 January] PRESS RELEASE: A global coalition of Tibet organisations, including Tibet Society, has expressed concern about the trial of Xu Zhiyong, a Chinese rights advocate and Tibet supporter, who is being tried on charges of "assembling a crowd to disrupt order in a public place"... [read press release](#) | [BBC report on trial](#)

16 Tibetans detained for urging release of senior monk

[16 January] On 21 December, 16 Tibetans were detained in relation to mass protests calling for the release of Khenpo Kartse, a senior monk who was detained earlier in the month on suspicion of "endangering state security". Amnesty International has issued an Urgent Action on behalf of those detained... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Driru monasteries forced to close; three jailed over protests

[10 January 2014] China's crackdown in Driru continues following the refusal last year by local Tibetans to fly the

Chinese flag from their homes. Monasteries have been forcibly closed, three Tibetans jailed for up to 13 years for allegedly instigating protests, and three others detained on suspicion of burning a Chinese flag... [read more](#)

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