

## Action: Call on China to stop Larung Gar demolition

[17 February 2017] UPDATED: Take action calling on the Chinese government to immediately halt the demolition and expulsions at the Larung Gar Buddhist Institute. Write to the Chinese authorities; write to your MP; and more.

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### Take Action

#### 1. Write to the Chinese authorities

Write to the Chinese authorities listed below, calling on the Chinese government to:

° Immediately cease the demolition of living quarters at the Larung Gar Buddhist Institute, Serthar county, Garze prefecture, Sichuan province.

° Stop the expulsion of residents and students at both Larung Gar and Yachen Gar (also in Sichuan) and allow those who have been expelled to return.

° Allow all students and residents at Larung Gar and Yachen Gar to freely practice their religion and to run their own affairs without government interference.

° Allow an immediate diplomatic visit with unrestricted access to Tibet, including Larung Gar and Yachen Gar, and urge dates be agreed for a visit to China and Tibet from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as agreed during the UN Universal Periodic Review of China in 2013.

° Respect religious freedom at Larung Gar and across Tibet, as guaranteed under Article 36 of the Chinese Constitution and Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 36 of the Chinese Constitution states, "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief."

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion... either alone or in community with others, and ... to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Sun Chunlan

Head of the United Front Work Department

135 Fuyoujie

Xicheng District

Beijing 100800

People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Sun Chunlan

Wang Dongming

Party Secretary of Sichuan Province

Sichuan Provincial General Office

30 Duyuanjie

Chengdu

Sichuan 610016

People's Republic of China

Salutation: Dear Party Secretary

Email: [yingwen\\_yyzx@sc.gov.cn](mailto:yingwen_yyzx@sc.gov.cn)

Note: China often disables email addresses. If your email bounces please write a letter.

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming

Chinese Ambassador to the UK

Chinese Embassy

49-51 Portland Place

London W1B 1JL

Salutation: Your Excellency

Email: [press\\_uk@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:press_uk@mfa.gov.cn) and/or [zj\\_uk@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:zj_uk@mfa.gov.cn).

Note: Put "For the attention of Ambassador Liu Xiaoming" in the subject line. If these emails bounce please send a letter.

Note: the embassy-listed address [ambassador@chinese-embassy.org.uk](mailto:ambassador@chinese-embassy.org.uk) is currently refusing emails.

Outside the UK: check the Chinese government's webpage listing embassies for contact details of your nearest ambassador and embassy.

## 2. Write to your MP

Inform your MP of the situation at Larung Gar and Yachen Gar and call for him/her to:

° Press the Foreign Secretary to raise the issue of Larung Gar, Yachen Gar and religious repression in Tibet with the Chinese government.

° Urge the UK government to make a public statement expressing concern over the ongoing situation at Larung Gar and call on China to respect the Tibetans' right to religious freedom.

To find your MP's contact details: go to [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) or send a message directly via [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com).

Outside the UK: Please write to your parliamentary representative urging your government raises the issue with China.

Note: Letters/emails in your own words are most effective, though please feel free to use the sample letter below.

Sample letter:

Dear [Name of your MP]

I am writing to ask you to raise a case of religious repression in Tibet with the Foreign Secretary.

Last year, the Chinese government began demolition work at Larung Gar, one of the world's largest and most influential Tibetan Buddhist institutes. Thousands of Tibetan students have already been expelled and many of their dwellings demolished. China aims to reduce the population by half, to 5,000, by September 2017, possibly even earlier.

As well as the destruction of dwellings and expulsion of residents, the authorities are increasing surveillance, implementing entry screening procedures and forming new management committees to be led by a majority of government officials.

Another Buddhist Institute in Sichuan, Yachen Gar is also facing a severe crackdown. 1,000 nuns are reported to have been expelled and told they are not allowed to join any other religious institutions.

All of this interference in Tibetan Buddhist affairs is counter to China's own Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both of which guarantee religious freedom for all.

Please ask the Foreign Secretary to raise this as a matter of urgency with his Chinese counterparts. Also, please call on the Foreign Secretary to make a public statement calling for an immediate halt to the demolition work at Larung Gar, an end to the expulsions at both Larung Gar and Yachen Gar, for all those expelled to be allowed to return, for the residents of the institutes to be allowed to run their own affairs without government interference, and for all Tibetans to be allowed to freely practice their religion.

Yours sincerely

Please send copies of any replies you receive to Tibet Society - email [info@tibetsociety.com](mailto:info@tibetsociety.com) or post to Tibet Society, 2 Baltic Place, London N1 5AQ - as this helps us to monitor the government's actions.

### 3. Further Actions

° Send an online message to your Foreign Secretary via Students for a Free Tibet. [www.standwithlarunggar.org](http://www.standwithlarunggar.org) (go to 'Action' at bottom of page.)

° Set up a twibbon on your twitter and/or facebook account. For further details and instructions go to [twibbon.com/support/i-stand-with-larung-gar](http://twibbon.com/support/i-stand-with-larung-gar)

° Use the hastag #StandWithLarungGar on social media. Retweet and share our messages on twitter @tibetsociety and facebook [www.facebook.com/TibetSociety](http://www.facebook.com/TibetSociety)

° Download and use the following images on social media (click to open larger version):

### Background

The Chinese government has ordered the expulsion of half of the population of Larung Gar (pictured right), one of the world's largest and most influential Tibetan Buddhist institutes.

According to an official government order, the 10,000 population is to be reduced to 5,000 by September 2017. The demolition of dwellings began on 20 July 2016. However, in January 2017, Chinese authorities called for demolitions and evictions to be completed by March 2017.

The population reduction is part of a strategy by the Chinese authorities to place the Institute under government control and ensure it conforms to Party policy. The strategy includes increased surveillance, "ideological guidance" and the creation of management committees led by government officials.

Larung Gar is located in Serthar county, Kardze prefecture, in the traditional Tibetan province of Kham (now incorporated into China's Sichuan province).

Expulsions are also taking place at Yachen Gar, another large monastic institution in Sichuan province. 1,000 nuns have been forced to return to their homes and told they cannot join any other religious institutions.

Read more:

[China expelling half the population of influential Tibetan Buddhist institute](#)

(Tibet Society, 10 August 2016)

[Three nuns commit suicide at Larung Gar in protest against demolition](#)

(Tibet Society, 6 September 2016)

[Larung Gar nuns told to voluntarily leave or face religious ban](#)

(Tibet Society, 11 October 2016)

[Demolitions and evictions recommence at Larung Gar](#)

(Tibet Society, 17 February 2017)

[Global Day of Action: 19 October 2016](#)

On Wednesday 19 October 2016, Tibet groups around the world held a day of action in support of the Larung Gar Buddhist Institute.

In London, there was a peaceful demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy, organised jointly by Tibet Society, Free Tibet, Students for a Free Tibet UK and Tibetan Community in Britain. Approximately 100 people took part... [read more](#)

[Report on London protest | Photos \(via facebook\)](#)

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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