

2016 News Headlines

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Human Rights Day: Tibetans, Uyghurs and Chinese in solidarity

[13 December 2016] Tibet Society marked Human Rights Day on 10 December 2016 by holding a solidarity vigil with Tibetan, Uyghur and Chinese activists and supporters. A letter was delivered to 10 Downing Street, followed by a procession to Trafalgar Square, where a vigil was held... [read more](#)

Family detained after self-immolation in eastern Tibet

[9 December] On 8 December, a Tibetan died after carrying out a self-immolation protest in Machu, eastern Tibet. Tashi Rabten shouted slogans calling for freedom for Tibet and the return of the Dalai Lama before succumbing to his injuries. Members of Tashi's family have since been detained... [read more](#)

Human rights overshadowed by trade at UK-China summits

[28 November] Over the past month, two UK-China Dialogues have taken place. Unfortunately, the UK placed considerably more significance on the Economic Dialogue, as signified by the presence of the Prime Minister, whilst the Human Rights Dialogue was left to a newly-appointed junior minister... [read more](#)

Tibet Society briefs Foreign Office prior to UK-China Dialogue

[18 November] Prior to the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue held at the end of October, Tibet Society submitted a report on political prisoners to the Foreign Office and met with the new Minister for Asia and the Pacific. Though Tibet was raised during the dialogue, no official statement has been made... [read more](#) | [download report](#)

New product: Tibet shawls [SOLD OUT]

[14 November] Tibet Society is excited to offer a new product to our supporters - the Tibet shawl - just in time for the colder weather! Each shawl costs £22 (plus £3 p&p per order) THIS ITEM IS NOW SOLD OUT... [read more](#)

China condemns meeting between Sikyong and Speaker of House

[8 November] China criticised the UK government for allowing the Sikyong to meet the Speaker of the House, John Bercow MP, calling Dr Sangay a "separatist" and the leader of an illegitimate government. The Speaker also welcomed the Sikyong to the House during parliamentary proceedings... [read more](#) | [video of Speaker's welcome](#)

Sikyong meets MPs; urges UK government to support Middle Way

[1 November] Today, Sikyong Dr Lobsang Sangay met with MPs at the Houses of Parliament and urged the UK government to support the Middle Way Approach. The Sikyong also called for "a coordinated approach" between the UK, US and EU to tackle China over Tibet... [read more](#)

Take action for Larung Gar & religious freedom in Tibet

[28 October] Call on China to halt the demolitions and expulsions at Larung Gar. Write to the Chinese authorities and your MP. New points to raise and a new sample letter. Download a twibbon, social media banners and sign an online petition... [Take Action](#)

MPs urge China to halt demolition of Buddhist institutes in Tibet

[27 October] On International Religious Freedom Day, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet has issued a statement expressing its deep concern over China's crackdown at Larung Gar and Yachen Gar, urging an immediate halt to the expulsions and demolitions, and calling on the UK government to make a public statement... [read more](#)

London protest on Global Day of Action for Larung Gar

[22 October] On 19 October, approximately 100 Tibetans and Tibet supporters gathered in London to take part in the Global Day of Action in solidarity with Larung Gar. Approximately 20 protests and actions took place in cities across the world, including Dharamsala, New York, Tokyo and Toronto... [read more](#) | [photos](#)

Global Day of Action for Larung Gar: 19 October

Take action: Call on China to end religious repression in Tibet. Join the Global Day of Action on 19 October. Attend the peaceful protest in London. 4pm - 8pm, outside the Chinese Embassy, 49 Portland Place, W1A... [Take Action](#) | [Protest details](#) | [Media advisory](#)

Larung Gar nuns told to voluntarily leave or face religious ban

[11 October] Authorities have threatened nuns at Larung Gar with a ban from religious studies if they do not volunteer to leave. Video footage has emerged showing the expulsions and demolitions. 1,000 dwellings are to be demolished by December. Yachen Gar is also experiencing mass expulsions... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)
Two monks jailed for sharing information about self-immolation

[6 October] Two Tibetan monks who were arrested in connection to a self-immolation in 2015 have each been given 18-month prison sentences in a secret trial. Kelsang Monlam and Jinpa Gyatso were charged with sharing information and pictures of Sangyal Tso's self-immolation on 27 May 2015... [read more](#)

Singers released after four-year jail term for 'political' songs

[6 October] Two Tibetan singers jailed for singing songs deemed to be politically sensitive, including about the Dalai Lama, have been released after serving their full four-year terms. Pema Trinley and Chakdor were freed on 3 October from Mianyang prison in Sichuan province... [read more via TCHRD](#) | [Phayul](#)

Tibet Society attends international conference on Tibet

[14 September] The Seventh International Tibet Support Groups Conference, opened by the Dalai Lama, concluded on 10 September with a resolution to strengthen efforts to bring peace and freedom to Tibet. President Norman Baker and Campaigns Coordinator Paul Golding attended on behalf of Tibet Society... [read more](#)

Action: Call on China to stop demolition of Larung Gar

[6 September] Write to the Chinese government and call for an immediate end to the demolition and expulsions at Larung Gar. Write to your MP asking them to raise the issue with the Foreign Secretary and ask for a statement... [Take Action](#)

Three nuns commit suicide at Larung Gar in demolition protest

[6 September] Three Tibetan nuns have committed suicide in protest against the demolition at Larung Gar. Two of the nuns left notes expressing their extreme distress at the destruction. In addition, families of Larung Gar residents could face punishment if their relatives fail to comply with expulsion orders... [read more](#)

Benefit Night in aid of Tibet Society

Saturday 3 September: The Tibetan Community in Britain is delighted to co-host an evening of culture, fun and positive vibes in support of Tibet Society. Admission is free. 5.30pm - 10pm at The Hive, 260-264 Kingsland Rd, London E8... [full details](#)

China to expel 5,000 residents from major Buddhist institute

[10 August] At the end of July, Chinese authorities began demolition work on Larung Gar, one of the world's largest and most influential Tibetan Buddhist institutes. The Chinese government aims to halve the academy's population and

strictly control its future operation... [read more](#)

A Visit to Dharamsala

[8 August] In mid-July, Tibet Society's President Norman Baker visited the Tibetan exile community in Dharamsala. Whilst there, he met with the Dalai Lama and the Karmapa. Norman has written a short essay on his experience... [read more](#)

Tibetan Film Premiere: A Mother's Son

[25 July] Tibet Society hosted the premiere of A Mother's Son on 22 July 2016 at the University of Westminster. The film examines the consequences of a young Tibetan's self-immolation on the exiled Tibetan community... [read more](#) | [trailer](#)

Khenpo Kartse released after serving full prison sentence

[19 July] Renowned Tibetan religious leader Khenpo Kartse has been released from prison in Chengdu after serving his full two and a half year sentence. However, he is not allowed to return to his monastery and remains under close surveillance by the Chinese authorities... [read more](#)

Yeshe Choedron awarded inaugural 'Medal of Courage'

[14 July] A new international award has been bestowed upon Tibetan political prisoner Yeshe Choedron, who is currently serving a 15-year sentence. The 'Tenzin Delek Rinpoche Medal of Courage' recognises the actions of current or released Tibetan political prisoners to promote freedom and human rights in Tibet... [read more](#)

Tory Commission slams UK government's relationship with China

[7 July] A Conservative Party commission has published a report last week condemning the UK's relationship with China. The scathing report, which includes contributions from Tibet Society, calls on the UK government to "conduct a thorough review of its China policy" and to "meet regularly" with the Dalai Lama... [read more](#)

Tashi Lhunpo Monks in London, 5 July

On Tuesday 5 July, Tibet Society will host the Tashi Lhunpo monks for their only London performance this year. 6.30pm at St James's Church, Piccadilly. Tickets (£15) available on the door... [read more](#) | [ticket info](#)

Internationally renowned Tibetan film director detained in China

[30 June] An award-winning Tibetan film director, who recently had his latest film showcased in the UK, has been detained by the Chinese authorities. Pema Tseden has since been taken to hospital having sustained injuries whilst in custody... [read more](#)

Obama meets Dalai Lama and encourages China-Tibet dialogue

[16 June] The Dalai Lama met President Barack Obama in Washington DC on 15 June amidst criticism from China. Following the meeting, Obama expressed his "strong support" for the protection of Tibetans' human rights and called for the resumption of Sino-Tibet dialogue... [read more](#)

MPs call on UK to raise Tibet at UN Human Rights Council

[15 June] The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet has called on the UK government to ensure China's human rights record in Tibet is raised at the ongoing session of the UN Human Rights Council. The MPs urged the Foreign Secretary and the UN Permanent Representative to "stand with Tibetans in Tibet"... [read more](#)

Second Tibetan writer imprisoned in 2016 for expressing views

[10 June] A second Tibetan writer has been jailed this year by the authorities in Tibet after writing articles critical of China's policies. Lobsang Jamyang, pen-name Lomik, has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison on charges of "leaking state secrets" and "engaging in separatist activities"... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Report: The Human Rights Situation in Tibet: 2013-2016

[13 May] Tibet Society's new report summarises the human rights abuses suffered by the Tibetan people since Xi Jinping came to power in 2013. Produced for the Conservative Party Human Rights Commission, it includes case examples, links and recommendations for the UK government... [read more](#) | [download report](#)

China attempts to cover-up self-immolation in Tibet

[10 May] The Chinese authorities have attempted to censor Tibet's second self-immolation this year by destroying photographic and video evidence of the protest and cutting communications in the region. News of the self-immolation, which took place on 23 March in the Ngaba region, has only recently come to light... [read more](#)

Observing Tibetan democracy in action

[29 April] In March, Norman Baker, President of Tibet Society, took part in an international delegation to observe the Tibetan exile parliamentary election. The delegation commended the election process. In personal observations, Mr Baker said the election was "a credit" to the Tibetan people... [read more](#)

Lobsang Sangay elected to second term as Tibetan PM in exile

[29 April] In the recently held Tibetan exile parliamentary elections, Dr Lobsang Sangay, the incumbent Sikyong (Tibetan Prime Minister in exile), returned to office with 57% of the vote. Dr Sangay, who will serve a second and final five-year term, said the democratic election sent a "message of hope" to Tibetans inside Tibet... [read more](#)

UK Foreign Office to answer human rights questions on Twitter

[27 April] UK Foreign Office Minister Baroness Anelay will be answering questions on human rights live on Twitter at 12 noon on Thursday 28 April. Take action: Ask the Minister what action the UK government plans to take on Tibet... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Action: Call for release of Tibetan language advocate

[21 April] Tashi Wangchuk, an advocate of Tibetan language education, has been detained by Chinese police in Yushu, eastern Tibet and charged with "inciting separatism". His work had previously been highlighted by The New York Times. He could face up to 15 years in prison and is at risk of torture... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

MPs criticise UK government policy on human rights

[8 April] The Foreign Affairs Committee has published a report criticising the UK government over its approach to human rights. The report questioned "how energetically the Government is raising human rights issues" adding there is a "perception" it has deprioritised human rights, citing China as an example... [read more](#)

Jailed Tibetan blogger appeals sentence with assertive letter

[7 April] Shokjang, jailed for three years on charges of "inciting separatism", has written an eloquent appeal to the Chinese authorities, not only expressing his innocence but providing remarkable detail of how his actions did not relate to separatism and are guaranteed under China's constitution... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

"A mere palm cannot hide the sun": Uprising Day 2016

[17 March] Report on events in London on 10 March, which marked the 57th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising, including a wreath-laying ceremony, a protest rally and march, and an evening of commemoration... [read report](#)

10 March 2016: Tibet Uprising Day

Commemoration of 57th anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising. Show your support for freedom and justice for Tibet and express solidarity with Tibetans inside Tibet. Events in London on Thurs 10 & Sat 12 March

David Cameron called upon to meet the Dalai Lama

[9 March] PRESS RELEASE: On the eve of the 57th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising, Tibet Society calls on David Cameron to meet the Dalai Lama and urges the UK and international governments to stand by the principles of freedom and democracy and urge China to seek a peaceful resolution to the Tibet crisis... [read press release](#)

Two teenagers self-immolate in separate independence protests

[3 March] Two young Tibetans died after self-immolating on 29 February in separate incidents. Both protested for Tibetan independence. Kalsang Wangdu died shortly after setting fire to himself in Tibet. Dorjee Tsering died three days after his protest in northern India... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Popular Tibetan blogger imprisoned for three years

[29 February] China's continued crackdown on any form of dissent in Tibet has been further exemplified by the imprisonment of Tibetan blogger Druklo (pen-name Shokjang). He was jailed for three years on 17 February on charges of "inciting separatism" after writing articles critical of China's policies in Tibet... [read more](#) | [Take Action](#)

Tibet second only to Syria for lack of freedom

[5 February] Tibet has been ranked as the second worst place for freedom and human rights in 2015. According to Freedom House, only Syria had a worse ranking on overall freedom than Tibet. Even countries with notoriously poor human rights records, such as North Korea, Somalia and Saudi Arabia, fared better... [read more](#)

Golog Jigme, former political prisoner, to speak at UK Parliament

[22 January] Monk and former political prisoner Golog Jigme will be giving a public talk at the UK Parliament on 27 January. The talk, hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, Students for a Free Tibet UK and Tibet Society, is part of a worldwide tour to highlight China's abuse of Tibetan political prisoners... [event details](#)

China omits Dalai Lama from database of "verified" living Buddhas

[22 January] The Chinese government has published a database of "verified" living Buddhas supposedly to crack down on fraudulent monks. However, the omission of the Dalai Lama from the list, indicates its true purpose of exerting even tighter control over Tibetan religious activities... [read more](#)

Tibet-related events in the UK

[15 January 2016] Check out our events listings for Tibet-related events in the UK, such as: Escape from Tibet film screening (Chester, 28 Jan), and Tibet's Secret Temple, exhibition at Wellcome Collection (London, until 28 Feb)... [see all events](#)

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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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