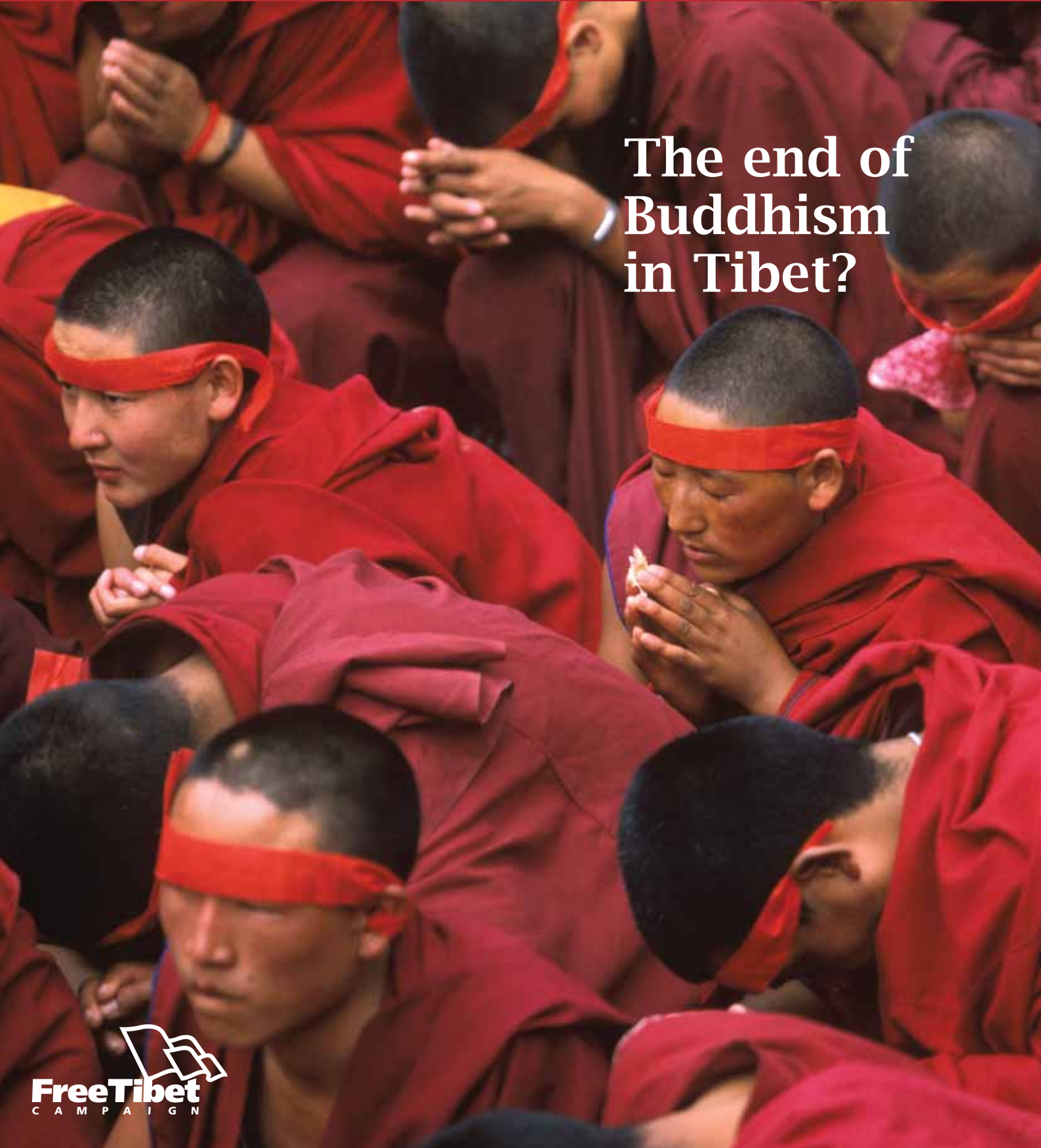


FREE TIBET

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The end of
Buddhism
in Tibet?



FreeTibet
CAMPAIGN

• Beijing Olympics • New Panchen Lama campaign • Nangpa la update •



Yael Weisz-Rind, Director

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to write my first message to you as Free Tibet Campaign's Director and to present a new look for our *Free Tibet* magazine.

In the last few months we have been reviewing our publications, with the aim of making them more accessible and bringing them up-to-date. I hope you will enjoy the fresh design and inspiring message and accept my apologies for the limited communication in recent months.

Free Tibet Campaign has already been phenomenally busy in 2007 and I am happy to report that we started this year with a success.

Following a massive response from our supporters writing to their MPs and to Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett, we managed to pressure the EU and UK Governments to raise concerns with China over the shooting of Tibetan refugees on Nangpa La Pass. In an unprecedented about-face, China admitted that the incident was “an exception to its policy”, a brazen reversal of their previous claim that China's soldiers were acting in self-defence. You can read more about this on page 6.

Our plans for the one year countdown to the 2008 Beijing Olympics are featured on pages 4 & 5. China has dubbed the Games the “greatest show on earth” and

with the world watching it provides a unique opportunity to make Tibet a key issue whenever the Olympics are discussed. We need everyone to get actively involved in this campaign. See how you can join in on page 5. Your support is essential to our success.

On page 3 you can read about our upcoming report on religious repression in Tibet. The research behind it is provided by Free Tibet Campaign's new sister organisation, Tibet Watch. Based in Dharamsala, Tibet Watch is dedicated to providing vital information on the current situation in Tibet.

During the last year we have been re-organising some of our programmes and activities; preparing for the campaigning challenges ahead. I would like to thank the Executive Board for their active role and support in the process and during the transition period.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new staff and thank again Alison Reynolds, our former Director, for her nine years of service to the organisation.

I hope you enjoy the new look magazine and feel inspired to take action to free Tibet.

Contents



- 3 Religious Repression in Tibet**
China claims there is freedom of religion in Tibet, a new report will expose the reality.



- 4-5 Countdown to Beijing Olympics**
The Tibet movement is gearing up to the one year countdown campaign in August.

- 6-7 Campaigns**
Nangpa la shooting update; New Panchen Lama campaign; Speaker tour report; Free Tibet in the media.



- 8-9 News**
Belgium snubs Dalai Lama; Railway update; Mining news; China's new investment plans; Uprising Day report; News in Brief.



- 10 Supporter Page**
Meet the staff; Appeals update; Events diary.
- 11 Spring Merchandise Offers**
Grab yourself a bargain, t-shirts and cards on special offer.



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Free Tibet Campaign stands for the Tibetans' right to determine their own future. It campaigns for an end to China's occupation of Tibet and for the Tibetans' fundamental human rights to be respected. Founded in 1987, Free Tibet Campaign generates active support by educating people about the situation in Tibet. It is independent of all governments and is funded by its members and supporters.

Views expressed in *Free Tibet* are not necessarily those of Free Tibet Campaign.

Design & layout: Catherine Quine

Cover: Tibetan monks and nuns praying on the day of the red band initiation at the Kalachakra ceremony, Ki Monastery, Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, India. © Ian Cumming / Tibet Images

China targets Tibetan Buddhism



JAN CUMMING

“In Tibet we are always afraid and careful. We never feel that our path of being a monk, which is supposed to be a lifetime spiritual path, is guaranteed and safe. It is always on our mind that there might be a time when you won't be able to continue to stay in the monastery.”

Monk from Chabcha County, Amdo, January 2007.

Recent research has revealed how the avowedly atheist Chinese State has identified Buddhism as its greatest threat in Tibet. Despite repeated claims by the Chinese Government that Tibetans are free to express their religious beliefs a report by Tibet Watch, Free Tibet Campaign's new sister research organisation has uncovered increasing repression.

For Tibetans, Buddhism is their unique cultural heritage and is seen as the root of their identity. By controlling religion the Chinese authorities can manipulate Tibetan society, its identity and its political future. The abduction of the 11th Panchen Lama, who recently turned 18 in Chinese custody, is one of the most shocking examples of China's ruthless control of Tibet's religion.

Now research has uncovered the intensification of patriotic re-education campaigns. This escalation was encapsulated by Tibet's Communist Party Secretary Zhang Qingli, who proclaimed in May 2006 that the Party is engaged in a “fight to the death struggle” against the Dalai Lama and his supporters.

Re-education campaigns, conducted by officials who stay at monasteries from 2 days to 3 months, require monks and nuns to denounce the Dalai Lama, Tibetan independence and even Taiwanese independence. Those who refuse are fined or expelled.

In 2005 a number of protests took

place at monasteries and nunneries during these campaigns. At Gyabrag 16 nuns were expelled after refusing to be filmed denouncing the Dalai Lama. Drepung Monastery was temporarily closed following protests over the mysterious death of a monk who had publicly condemned the sessions.

Another area of China's interference in religion is the recognition of reincarnate lamas. The atheist Chinese Government officially presides over the selection of lamas and refuses to approve any lama recognised by the Dalai Lama or lamas living in exile. They also set quotas for each monastery, limiting the number of monks and nuns. Recent reports indicate a new policy of reducing a monastery's quota if one of their monks is found escaping from Tibet.

Popular religious leaders who are perceived to pose a threat to the authority of the Party, such as Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche and Bangri Rinpoche, have been arrested and imprisoned.

Recently the lay community in Tibet also encountered an increase in religious restriction with bans on celebrating religious festivals, visiting monasteries and the offering of incense. The ban on the photos of the Dalai Lama has also been stepped up.

Tibet Watch is monitoring the latest developments concerning religious freedom in Tibet and will publish a detailed report this summer.

Above: Monk reading prayer book, Sertang Monastery, Langmusi, Amdo



CLARO CORTES / REUTERS

One world, one dream; double standards

With over 22,000 journalists expected to be in China for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, there has never been a better opportunity to turn the world's attention to the situation in Tibet.

Excitement is mounting in Beijing as the start of the 29th Olympic Games draws closer. In August 2008 the Games will arrive bringing an expected contingent of over 22,000 journalists and with them the attention of the world.

Under the official 2008 Olympic slogan of 'One World One Dream', China hopes to showcase itself as a modern, efficient, industrial superpower and above all, a harmonious united society.

Already in Beijing, it is impossible to avoid the five Olympic mascots chosen by China to embody "the dreams and aspirations of people from every part of the vast country of China". They are displayed everywhere in a dizzying array of products, from piggy banks to pencil cases, toys and teapots, Communist China has taken mass marketing to its heart.

Yingying is the Tibetan antelope mascot, chosen as a symbol of China's commitment to a green Olympics despite being hunted to near extinction and its habitat destroyed by aggressive Chinese development. Similarly, the 'dreams and aspirations' of millions of Tibetans for a free and independent nation, have been conveniently whitewashed out of the Olympic message.

Olympic contract broken

When China was awarded the Games in 2001, Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympics Committee (IOC), declared he was convinced the Games would improve human rights in China.

China promised the IOC unrestricted access for foreign journalists to report on all aspects of society. This new freedom was announced last September, yet in the same breath the Olympics Press Chief announced that special permission is still required for journalists wishing to report from Tibet and neighbouring Xinjiang, making it practically impossible to report from there.

With the huge number of journalists expected to be visiting China for the Games a key focus will be China's rise to economic dominance and the fascination and fear this creates for the West. Human rights will also be high on journalists' agendas, and that is why China wants to keep them out of Tibet.

Support for Team Tibet

Tibet of course is not able to send a national team to the Olympics, and whilst the Chinese line-up has yet to be announced, it is notable that no Tibetan has been selected to represent China since they re-entered the Games in 1984.

Above: Olympic mascots pose on stage during mascot launch ceremony in Beijing

The absence of a Tibetan team painfully illustrates more than half a century of the international community's failure to recognise Tibet's plight.

As a challenge to this, Free Tibet Campaign, together with an international coalition of Tibet groups, is creating an alternative 'Team Tibet'. Bringing together exiled Tibetan sportspeople and sporting celebrities around the world, the aim is to inspire sports fans and the public alike with a powerful message about corruption of the Olympic ideal.

Team Tibet invites everyone to register their support and call on China to take this historic opportunity to make a peaceful solution for Tibet.

Lighting the way to freedom

Team Tibet will also be leading the alternative Olympic Torch Relay.

When China announced its route for the Olympic torch in April there was a clear political message in routing it through Lhasa, Everest and Taiwan. The Torch Relay is being promoted as a "journey of harmony, bringing friendship and respect to people of different nationalities, races and creeds", yet it passes the very place where last year two young Tibetans were shot and killed by Chinese soldiers as they attempted to cross into Nepal. The survivors, including children, were arrested and tortured before being released some months later.

Team Tibet's alternative torch relay, as it travels the world, will highlight the distance between China's facade of friendship and respect and the reality of its human rights violations in Tibet.

A tainted inheritance?

By now it is clear the IOC has no intention of holding China to the promises made in its Host City Contract to improve human rights and allow media freedom for the period of the Olympics.

Free Tibet Campaign will be working hard to expose this hypocrisy and to ensure that London will not inherit an Olympics tainted by propaganda in 2012.

On 4 August this year we will launch our one year countdown campaign to take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to bring the story of Tibet's illegal occupation to the world.

We will encourage journalists to challenge China's restrictions and report from within Tibet. We will ensure worldwide media have all the latest stories on the Tibetan situation - on the

economic exploitation of Tibet's natural resources and the environmental devastation it brings; on the increasing militarisation of the Tibetan plateau; the marginalisation of Tibetan people in their own country and of course on the gross human rights violations, torture and imprisonment of ordinary people expressing their wish for a Free Tibet.

Critically, Free Tibet Campaign will be calling on China to take a positive step and use this opportunity to make Beijing 2008 an Olympics of peace by inviting the Dalai Lama to meet with President Hu Jintao before the Games and discuss a peaceful solution for Tibet.

You can be part of this enormous opportunity by joining Team Tibet and making your voice heard in support of Tibetans around the world.

For more details on how you can join Team Tibet and upcoming events see www.freetibet.org/teamtibet.

“The Olympic Games will improve human rights in China.”

Dr Jacques Rogge,
President of the
International Olympic
Committee, April 2002.

Action

The Beijing Olympics provides an unprecedented opportunity to bring Tibet into the mainstream media and into the lives of millions of people. Tibet needs your support now – whether it is by joining our Urgent Campaign Scheme, wearing the Olympic campaign t-shirt (on sale from July), writing to your MP, or by simply talking about Tibet to your friends.

Support Team Tibet and bring Tibet to the 2008 Games!

An Olympics Campaign Pack will be available from the beginning of July. The pack will include background to the Olympics campaign and will give ideas on the various actions and ways you can support Team Tibet in the run up to the Olympics. Email campaigns@freetibet.org for a pack, go to www.freetibet.org/teamtibet or call 020 7324 4605.

- Buy a Team Tibet t-shirt and sticker (available online from July).
- Cycle for Tibet – join the route of the Tour de France from London to Canterbury on 7-8 July. Get sponsored and don't forget to wear your Team Tibet t-shirt!
- Contact your local media any time the Olympics is mentioned and make sure Tibet is not forgotten.
- Write to the IOC President, Jacques Rogge, and ask why he is not keeping his promise to act on China's human rights abuses.
- Organise a fun sports day to raise funds and raise awareness for Tibet.
- Look out for national screenings from August of *Forbidden Team*, a moving and entertaining film about the Tibetan National Football Team.
- Check www.freetibet.org/teamtibet for the latest information on 'One Year Countdown' events and activities.



Nangpa la shooting survivors tortured

Tibetan youth tells of beatings and forced labour

New testimony given in January to International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) has shed light on the fate of a group of Tibetans captured by Chinese border guards on 30 September 2006 at Nangpa la Pass. The group was detained and tortured following the cold blooded shooting by Chinese soldiers which resulted in the death of Kelsang Namtso, a 17 year old nun, and Kunsang Namgyal, a 20 year old man.

Jamyang Samten, who was part of the detained group, told ICT that his group consisted mostly of Tibetans under 20 years of age including children as young as seven. Jamyang, 15, said that the children 15 and over and the adult men, mostly monks, were interrogated for days, chained to walls and beaten with electric prods. "It went on until I fainted," he said. Women were beaten with belts. Those under 15 were forced to do cleaning work and were

only allowed outside to play for one hour each weekend. The children were only released once their parents paid a fine. Those not collected by their parents remained in detention for months.

Following his release from detention, Jamyang managed to escape successfully from Tibet and is now living safely in India.



Captured refugees are taken into Chinese custody following the shootings at Nangpa la

MOUNTEVEREST.NET

Free Tibet Campaign in the media

Free Tibet Campaign has featured prominently in the media in 2007, voicing its concerns at China's ongoing and brutal occupation of Tibet. Here is a selection from the extensive coverage.

On 26 April *The Independent* printed a double-page feature article on the ongoing detention of the Panchen Lama, timed to coincide with his 18th birthday. Press Officer Matt Whitticase was quoted, saying that the abduction of the Panchen Lama was "a clear demonstration of the lengths to which China is prepared to go to

control, and ultimately crush, both Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan identity". Matt Whitticase also discussed the Panchen Lama's case on BBC Radio Scotland's Newsdrive programme in April.

Articles in the *Metro* newspaper (19 March) and in CNN's monthly *Money* magazine (March) highlighted Free Tibet Campaign's concerns over the Gormo-Lhasa railway. *Metro* focused on the tourism aspect and the involvement of UK travel companies such as GW Travel, whilst *Money*

examined the railway's role in the exploitation of Tibet's natural resources.

Xinhua, China's official news agency, announced in March record levels of investment in Tibet over the next four years (see page 9). In an article in *The Guardian* (28 March) Free Tibet Campaign pointed out that such investment "will be focused on infrastructure projects... which are aimed at cementing China's control over Tibet, as well as facilitating China's extraction of Tibet's natural mineral wealth." The *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe*, also covering the investment, referred to Free Tibet Campaign's concerns at ongoing Chinese repression in Tibet.

A panel discussion on religious repression in Xinjiang and Tibet was broadcast on the Sky network in March with Matt Whitticase outlining China's intensification of its patriotic re-education and anti-Dalai Lama policies.

A Free Tibet Campaign press release issued in April protesting the IOC's agreement to the Olympic Torch Relay to be routed through Tibet and over Mount Everest, was picked up by Associated Press and subsequently syndicated worldwide, including in *Sports Illustrated* and *The International Herald Tribune*.



Panchen Lama turns 18 in Chinese custody

Join the online petition to demand his release!

An online campaign video and petition, directed to the new UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon, was launched on 25 April by Free Tibet Campaign. The petition calls upon Ban Ki Moon to start his new role by actively supporting Tibet by pressing China for the Panchen Lama's release.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima disappeared in 1995 at the age of six just days after the Dalai Lama recognised him as the 11th reincarnation of the Panchen Lama. He has not been seen since, despite numerous calls on China by foreign governments and the UN.

Six months after Gedhun's abduction China announced that it had selected Gyaltzen Norbu, a Tibetan boy from the same region as Gedhun, to become the Panchen Lama. Since his selection Gyaltzen has

lived and been educated in Beijing and makes regular visits to Tibet although he finds no recognition or support from the vast majority of Tibetans.

The Panchen Lama is one of the highest ranking religious leaders in Tibetan Buddhism and traditionally has had the responsibility of choosing the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, making him a key political player for Tibet's future.

The short campaign video highlights the case of the Panchen Lama as he turns 18 years old and draws attention to the tragedy of his lost childhood.

We ask all our supporters to sign the petition and to pass the link on to their friends. With a simple click we can galvanise more and more support for the Panchen Lama and help bring about his release.



China stole a boy, it is time they return the man!

To watch the video and sign the petition go to www.freetibet.org/panchenlama.

Tibetan underground activist in UK

Tibetan monk and human rights defender on speaker tour

Free Tibet Campaign hosted a 10 day speaker tour across the UK by Tibetan activist and human rights defender, Sangye Dewatsang, in March. Sangye's passionate talks highlighted the plight of political prisoners after their release and the ongoing lack of religious freedom in Tibet.

Sangye (pictured below leading the Uprising March in London on 10 March) escaped from Tibet in 2005 after years of working secretly for the welfare of



former political prisoners in Lhasa. Sangye collected donations from foreign tourists to aid political prisoners following their release as they face hardships even after leaving prison. Employers are afraid to hire former political prisoners for fear of association, many are physically too weak to work or simply have lost touch with their families who could support them.

Sangye gave talks in Northampton, Bristol, London, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Bromley. He also raised the Tibetan national flag with the Mayor of Northampton, Colin Lill, met with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and met with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Interfaith Office. Thank you and well done to our local groups for hosting Sangye!

Action

Contact the new Prime Minister

By the end of June Gordon Brown will take office in 10 Downing Street. It is essential that the new PM and his Cabinet receives a clear message calling for support in resolving the Tibet issue. Please write to Gordon Brown when he takes office:

1. Welcome and congratulate the new PM and Cabinet.
2. Call on the PM to put the Tibet issue at the centre of the UK's relations with China.
3. Ask that the British Government seizes the opportunity of the 2008 Beijing Olympics to press China to engage in negotiations with the Dalai Lama and bring about a peaceful solution to the Tibet issue.

Address: 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Fax: +44 (0)20 7925 0918

Email: via www.pm.gov.uk

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Railway already 'overwhelming' Tibet

Rail link leads to increase in tourists and in mining activities

The number of tourists arriving in Tibet has jumped dramatically as a result of the opening of the Gormo-Lhasa Railway in July 2006. Under the headline "Tourism Begins to Overwhelm Tibet", the official *Shanghai Daily* reported in March that 2.45 million tourists visited Tibet in 2006, up 40% from 2005. Tourism officials expect 3 to 4 million tourists to visit Tibet in 2007, a huge amount given the population of the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) is 2.7 million. Approximately 90% of such tourists are from China.

The Dalai Lama has voiced the concerns of the Tibetan people over the railway in recent statements. In May he stated, "The large-scale Chinese population transfer on the Tibetan plateau is leading to the socio-economic marginalisation of the Tibetan people. It is also posing a serious threat to the preservation of our unique ancient Tibetan culture, including our spirituality."

In January in Mumbai, the Dalai Lama accused Beijing of using the rail link to flood Tibet with the destitute and prostitutes, saying that "their number is huge". He also noted that "jobless people facing difficulty in Chinese mainland are coming to Lhasa."

Tibetans also fear the railway will be used to finally allow China to exploit and extract Tibet's vast mineral wealth. Such fears are well-founded; in January the official Xinhua news agency quoted China's top geological official, Meng Xianlai, announcing the discovery of vast new deposits of copper, iron ore and zinc in direct proximity to the route of the railway. The reserves are thought to total more than 20 million tons of

copper and 10 million tons of lead and zinc.

Following the protest against the railway staged in Beijing in July of last year, Free Tibet Campaign has continued to campaign against the use of the railway to plunder Tibet's mineral wealth, with extensive coverage of concerns being given in both online mining media and publications such as CNN Money.com.



The first passenger train on the newly built Gormo-Lhasa railway arrives in Lhasa, July 2006

ANDERS ANDERSON / TIBET WATCH

Protest on Mt Everest

A protest at Mount Everest base camp on 25 April resulted in the detention of four pro-Tibet activists by the Chinese authorities. The group, from US-based Students for a Free Tibet, was protesting the IOC's impending decision to allow China to carry the Olympic torch to the summit of Mount Everest and through Tibet next year.

During the protest at the base camp the activists unveiled a banner proclaiming "One World, One Dream, Free Tibet 2008", sang the Tibetan national anthem and lit a symbolic torch for Tibetan freedom. "[The IOC] has no business promoting the Chinese government's political agenda by allowing the torch to be run through Tibet," said Lhadon Tethong, Executive Director of Students for a Free Tibet, in an interview with the press following the protest.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said the group had been detained for "carrying out illegal activities aimed at splitting China". The activists were held for 2 days before being released and deported to Nepal.



Tibetans protest in Lhasa

On 14 March an extremely rare open display of defiance against Chinese rule took place in Lhasa. Radio Free Asia (RFA) reported that 500 Tibetans gathered to take part in an incense-burning offering for the long-life of the Dalai Lama. Chinese police reacted quickly to stop the offerings and security was tightened in the city.

"Normally Tibetans aren't allowed to gather in huge congregations for prayers or incense burning," a source told RFA. Another source said that "Chinese security officials stepped in and blocked the Tibetans" from participating. Police were then reported to have been deployed around Lhasa. Witnesses said it was "very difficult to move around freely" and that shops in central Lhasa were closed. Free Tibet Campaign has subsequently learned from credible sources that monasteries were closed to both pilgrims and tourists for 10 days following the incident, an indication of the recent intensification of China's crackdown on religion in Tibet. The same sources reported that the atmosphere in Lhasa was "tense".

In December 2006 the Lhasa Evening News announced the banning of the popular Gaden Ngachoe religious festival. Normally such a ban would extend only to Party members, but the ban specifically included students and Tibetan Government staff.

Belgium snubs the Dalai Lama

There was universal condemnation of the Belgian Government's decision to request the Dalai Lama not to travel to Belgium in May. Belgium had been pressured by China to refuse a travel visa to the Dalai Lama on account of the upcoming trade talks between the two countries.

A spokesperson from the Tibetan Government in exile accused China of "outright bullying" and said that the incident had set an "an unfortunate trend in international diplomacy".

Representatives of the Tibetan Government in exile, the Belgian Parliament and the EU Parliament all denounced the Belgian Government's

acquiescence to China.

Lynne Jones MP tabled an EDM in the British Parliament to register concern on the matter with China. (Please ask your MP to sign EDM 885.)

The Dalai Lama was due to address the 5th International Conference for Tibet Support Groups held in Brussels from 11-14 May. Over 300 delegates from 56 countries, including Free Tibet Campaign representatives, attended the conference and resolved to increase international cooperation. Key new focus areas identified included the engagement of Chinese people on Tibet issues and the degradation of Tibet's environment.

Uprising Day 2007

Tibetans and Tibet supporters commemorated the 48th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising in London on Saturday 10 March.

Over 400 people marched from the Chinese Embassy through central London via Downing Street and Parliament Square. Along the route Tibetans staged street-theatre depicting the shooting of refugees by the Chinese military at Nangpa La Pass and a costume yak entertained marchers and bystanders alike.

Letters from Tibet organisations calling for action on Tibet were delivered to the Chinese Embassy and

to 10 Downing Street. The post-march rally featured a "Free Tibet" rap by Tony Dorjee and speeches by underground activist Dewatsang Sangye and Tenzin Samphel, Chair of the Tibetan Community in Britain.

The Dalai Lama's 10 March statement was read to a packed audience at the afternoon event. The Tibetan Community in Britain performed traditional Tibetan music and dance and speeches were made by Alison Reynolds of the International Tibet Support Network and by Sonam Frasi, member of the Tibetan Parliament in exile.

- **The Tibetan refugee centre in Nepal won't reopen** according to Nepal's Maoists, who joined the Nepalese Government in April. The Maoists said they do not want to jeopardise Nepal's "good relations" with China. However, they also stated that they would not repatriate refugees already in Nepal. The Kathmandu-based centre was closed in January 2005 due to pressure from the Chinese Government. (*IANS*)
- **100bn Yuan (£6.5bn) is to be invested in the TAR** over the next four years, China announced in March. This represents a 40% increase of the total amount China invested in the TAR in the past 10 years. It is expected to be largely spent on huge capital-intensive projects such as the construction of Tibet's fourth airport in Ngari, an extension of the railway from Lhasa to Shigatse, building hydro-electric dams and mining projects. (*Xinhua*)
- **Four Tibetan rivers are in danger** according to a report released by the World Wildlife Fund in March. The report, which identified the 10 rivers in the greatest danger in the world, cited the Yangtze, the Salween, the Mekong and the Indus from the Tibetan region. The rivers are under threat due to excessive damming, pollution, over-fishing and climate change. (*TibetNet*)
- **New restrictions for overseas tourists** were announced by the state-run China Travel Service (CTS) in May. Tourists, who have had increased freedom to move around Tibet in recent years, will now have to apply for special permission from authorities in Lhasa if they wish to travel outside of the capital. (*Times*)
- **Tibet Watch**, Free Tibet's sister organisation, was established last year in Dharamsala to obtain key research information on the latest situation in Tibet for the purpose of education and engaging in international advocacy on behalf of the Tibetan people.



FREE TIBET CAMPAIGN

Meet the staff...

Over the past year there have been a few changes within Free Tibet Campaign. We would like to thank all our previous staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication and introduce you to our current staff:

Yael Weisz-Rind is the current Director of Free Tibet Campaign. Previously Campaigns Manager, Yael has been with us for over two years. **Janet Fereday** is the Fundraising Manager. The most recent addition, Janet joined in February 2007. **Paul Golding** is the Information and Communications Manager and started originally as a volunteer back in 1993.

Matt Whitticase started as a volunteer in 2002; previously PA to the Director Matt is now the Press Officer.

Ben Amunwa is the Fundraising Officer. He originally started as a volunteer in May 2006.

Sophie Bod has been part of the organisation since 2003 and became the Campaigns Officer in July 2006.

Patricia Duffaud joined in August 2006 and is the Administration and Finance Manager.

Naomi Burt began as a volunteer in 2005 and is now the Membership and Fundraising Assistant.

Nessar Miah is the Finance Officer and looks after the day to day financial accounts. He started in December 2006.



Left to right: Paul, Ben, Yael, Matt, Janet, Naomi, Patricia

Your support makes a difference

We are very grateful to all our supporters for their generosity in responding to appeals. We realise that there are many demands on your finances and that most people support more than one charity, but as a campaigning organisation, Free Tibet Campaign faces an extra challenge.

Current UK law prohibits us from becoming a charity as the work we undertake is considered to be political. This means we cannot take advantage of tax concessions, like Gift Aid. In addition, to maintain our independence, we do not receive any money from governments; all our funds are raised from the generosity of individual supporters.

Last year we asked for your help in our campaign to release political prisoners Bangri Rinpoche and his wife Nyima Choedron. Thanks to your

incredible support we were able to apply the campaigning pressure necessary to secure the early release of Nyima after 7 years in Drapchi Prison. Sadly Bangri Rinpoche remains in detention, his health uncertain. We continue to campaign for his release.

Before Christmas we asked you to help us campaign for Tibetan freedom in the wake of the shooting of refugees on Nangpa La Pass. Thanks to campaigning pressure Chinese authorities admitted this was an exceptional incident and promised an investigation. We have yet to see if they keep their promise.

These successes are only possible with your continued support – so thank you for all you have helped us achieve in the last year and we look forward to more and bigger successes in the year to come.

Tuesday 19 June

LONDON Illustrated Talk *My Village and the People*, by Lobsang Tsekyi, from the Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sichuan Province. 7.00pm. Tibet Foundation Gallery, 1 St James's Market, London SW1Y 4SB. Contact: 020 7930 6001. www.tibet-foundation.org.

Sunday 1 July

ABERDEEN Sponsored Walk Grampian Tibet Support Group's annual sponsored walk. Meet at the Glendye Lodge at 10.30am for a 10 mile trek up and over Clachnaben. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact: 01224 314 127 or d.c.lindsey@abdn.ac.uk.

Friday 6 July

LONDON Illustrated Talk *The Sacred Sites of the Dalai Lamas in Tibet*, a film screening and discussion with filmmaker Michael Wiese. Time: 7.00pm. Venue tbc. Contact: 020 7930 6001. www.tibet-foundation.org.

Friday 6 July

LONDON Concert for the Dalai Lama A cultural performance in honour of the Dalai Lama's 72nd birthday. Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. Time & tickets: tbc. Further details: www.tibetancommunity.org.uk.

Saturday 7 July

DERBYSHIRE Benefit Party A special party in honour of the Dalai Lama's birthday. Proceeds to aid the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala. From 1.00pm. The Kings Head, Duffield, Derbyshire. Contact: Tracey on 07970 938 566.

Saturday 7 July

LONDON Dalai Lama's Birthday Celebration. With cultural performances, food, speeches and stalls. Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1. Time tbc. www.tibetsociety.com.

Saturday 4 August

GLOBAL An international day of action to launch the Olympic one year countdown campaign. For details call 020 7324 4605 or go to www.freetibet.org/olympics.

Every Wednesday: Vigil for Tibetan Freedom. 6pm-8pm. Opposite the Chinese Embassy, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1. Contact Tibet Vigil on 020 7813 1922.

Merchandise

Huge stock clearance: everything must go!

Get discounts on your favourite Free Tibet Campaign merchandise items

Knot of Eternity T-shirt

Sale price: **£12.99**
plus p&p.

This elegant design features a Tibetan 'knot of eternity', one of the eight auspicious symbols of Tibetan Buddhism. This best-selling top is 100% cotton and yours for a new bargain price. Available in S, M, L women's sizes and M, L, XL men's sizes.



Logo T-shirt

Sale price **£8.99** plus p&p. Show the world you believe in a Free Tibet with this bold design on a cotton t-shirt. Ideal for casual wear. Available in S, M, L women's sizes and M, L, XL men's sizes.

Butter Candle Cards



Sale price: **£2.99** plus p&p
These cards are ideal for any occasion and feature candles from the sacred Jokhang temple in Lhasa.

Tibet Flag Mousemat



Sale price: **£2.99** plus p&p
Brighten up your home or office with a vibrant Tibetan flag mousemat.

Envelope Re-use Labels



Sale price: **£3.00** plus p&p
Help to save the environment and promote the Tibetan cause by using our envelope re-use labels. Available in blocks of 100 labels.

Lotus Mug



Sale price: **£3.99** plus p&p
Start your day on a positive note with a Free Tibet mug! The lotus flower design is a symbol of purity, with calming pale blue and mint colours, on a navy mug. Made in England.

To order...

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Order online, quickly and securely, from our full range of merchandise.

Or call **020 7324 4605**

The 2006-07 merchandise catalogue is still available, which includes more t-shirts, incense and prayer flags. For a free catalogue call **020 7324 4605** or email merchandise@freetibet.org.



All proceeds help to fund our vital work for a free Tibet



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Every day the dream of a free Tibet comes closer to being a reality

At Free Tibet Campaign we work hard to make Tibetans' dream a reality, where they can live in safety in their own country, free to practice their religion, speak their language and free to express their opinions. But we are entirely dependent on the generosity of our supporters to enable us to carry out our work.

By leaving a legacy to Free Tibet Campaign you can help us plan our campaigns, sure of a secure income. The more support we have, the more we can do to create pressure for real change in Tibet.

No-one knows what the future holds but you can help to shape that future and leave a gift of hope for young Tibetans who have never known freedom

For more information and a free guide to making a Will, contact Janet on 020 7324 4605 or email janet@freetibet.org