



Tibet Society Newsletter

July 2018

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito"

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

News of the Tibet Society, what's happening in Tibet and the Tibetan Exile world, and news of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Tibet Water Campaign Gains Momentum!

Tibet Society, along with Free Tibet and consumer group SumofUs, sent a third letter to Billy Hogan, the Managing Director of Liverpool Football Club (LFC) on 10 July 2018, requesting a meeting with the Club to discuss their sponsorship deal with the controversial Chinese company Tibet Water Resources Ltd (TWRL).

We pointed out that the agreement between Liverpool FC and TWRL prompted immediate concerns, not just from the Tibetan community in the UK and Tibet supporters but also directly from the global public, UK MPs and Members of the European Parliament.

Our [petition](#) now has well over 80,000 signatures and national and international media continue to scrutinise the ethics of this deal. Liverpool FC supporters are concerned about the negative

impact that it has had on their club's image and are looking at ways of taking this further.

The concerns refer to the worsening human rights situation in Tibet under Chinese rule. Tibetans suffer wide-scale human rights abuses as a result of the Chinese occupation. A conservative estimate suggests that there are currently at least 2,600 political prisoners in occupied Tibet, many of whom have been tortured and detained for simply being Tibetan or expressing aspects of their Tibetan identity.

Companies such as TWRL in Tibet further entrench Beijing's rule over Tibet. In the area where TWRL is based in Tibet, large numbers of Tibetan families have had their ancestral land seized by Chinese authorities in order to make way for large infrastructure development, including for the extraction of natural resources (water and minerals).

TWRL's presence in Tibet is fully supported and encouraged by the Chinese government via the provision of financial incentives, which is linked to the repression of Tibetans.

As Tibetans and Liverpool fans have pointed out, a successful and highly-regarded club such as Liverpool FC risks legitimising the military occupation and the abuses that prop it up by entering into a deal with a company such as TWRL.

In light of the lack of response from LFC, look out for news of upcoming demonstrations and protests that will be taking place shortly!



Tibet Society Lobbies UK Foreign Secretary



Tibet Society has written to Mr Jeremy Hunt, the United Kingdom's new Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who arrived in China on 30 July 2018. The Society congratulated him on his new appointment and has asked him to raise a range of human rights concerns facing Tibetans as a priority during his visit.

We have specifically asked him to use his influence to call on China to admit international human rights observers to Tibet, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. We have also requested that he speak out for Tibet's political prisoners by directly raising the cases of Lomig, Shokjang, Tashi Wangchuk and Yeshe Choedron with Chinese officials and pushing for their immediate and unconditional release.

Across Tibet there are currently hundreds of political detainees and prisoners. Activists, writers and other perceived government opponents are frequently arrested and imprisoned solely for expressing views critical of the government. Many are held in harsh conditions, are in poor health and have been subjected to ill-treatment in detention.

Dozens of prisoners of conscience have died while in prison or immediately following their release.

Mr Hunt is expected to meet Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party's Central Committee Yang Jiechi. He will also co-chair the 9th China-UK Strategic Dialogue with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Tibet Society strongly believes that the UK government can and should play a stronger and more effective role in addressing these concerns and in protecting and promoting the human rights of Tibetans. We have urged Mr Hunt to take "immediate and bold action" to address these human rights concerns, starting with his first visit to China as Foreign Secretary.

Tibet News

7 July: Tibetans Beaten

Chinese police used tear gas against 100 Tibetan villagers in the Yushu prefecture in Qinghai province. They were protesting against a mining operation in the region carried out by private firms in collaboration with local Chinese authorities. Many Tibetans were beaten and left unconscious.

15 July: Tibet Supporter Detained

Hugues Picon, a French man, was detained by the Russian police after he posted photos of himself during the FIFA World Cup semi-final carrying the Tibetan national flag and wearing a French jersey with name of His Holiness the Dalai Lama printed on the back. He was prevented from entering the Luzhniki Stadium for the final match and instead kept in police custody but was later released.

1 July: 38th HRC Session

During the ongoing 38th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the European Union and Germany raised the issue of the human rights situation in Tibet, reiterating their call for the immediate release of Tashi Wangchuk, the Tibetan language rights advocate who was wrongfully sentenced to five years in prison on 22 May 2018 by the Chinese authorities.

Young Monks Forced to Quit

In Kardze region of Tibet, the authorities have forced over 200 monk students, aged up to 15 years, in Dza Sersbul Monastery to leave and disrobe, and to join Chinese-government established schools. Those refusing to comply have been warned of severe punishments and their monasteries risk being closed.



21 July: Detained at the Border

Two Tibetans, Kunga, 25 and Lophankhu, 37, together with a Chinese man, were detained by Nepalese border security at the Tatopani border point in Kodari in Sindhupal chowk district. The three men attempted to enter occupied Tibet through Nepal without valid travel documents. The two Tibetans claimed to be refugees in India who were going to Lhasa. The Chinese man was carrying an expired visa.

Tibetan Students Warned not to Engage in Religious Activities

The Chinese authorities in Tibet have issued an order to prevent students from engaging in any kind of religious activity during their summer break, with parents being forced to sign a six-point document. This follows similar restrictions in the Muslim region of East Turkestan (Xinjiang) where Muslims have been forced to eat pork during Ramadan.

13 July: Call on China

Two United States representatives, Nancy Pelosi and James McGovern, have called on China to allow His Holiness the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet in a joint opinion piece published in the Boston Globe news portal. They said that it would have been a wonderful birthday gift to His Holiness after nearly 60 years of not being able to return to his homeland.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Birthday

Tibetans and Tibet supporters across the world celebrated the 83rd birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness spent his birthday in Ladakh in North India on 6 July where he gave teachings to thousands of people who gathered to celebrate with him and hear him speak.

25 July: Interfaith Dialogue

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has visited Zanskar, a remote Muslim majority community, where Buddhists and Muslims together presented him with a letter pledging to move on from past disputes and promote interfaith friendship. "We owe it completely to His Holiness's vision and compassion for enabling us to reach this milestone," said Gulam, a spokesperson for the Muslim community.

11 July: Book Launch

Namgyal Lhamo Taklha, author and former Secretary of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), has released her book, *Costume and Jewellery of Tibet*, the first ever documentation of Tibetan costumes and jewellery. The book was launched by Dr Lobsang Sangay, the President of CTA, at the Tibet Museum in Dharamsala.

New Environment White Paper

China published a new White Paper, 'Ecological Progress on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau' on 18 July 2018 which claims that the Chinese government has always been mindful about environmental progress in Tibet and makes every effort to protect the environment. The White Paper has provoked angry responses from Tibetan groups who say that China's main goal is to promote their own economic development with little or no regard for the environment nor Tibetans.

10 July: Sympathy

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has written to Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressing his sympathy over the loss of lives, destruction of properties and hardship caused by the floods there and recommended that reciting the Heart Sutra would be of benefit at this sad time. Over 100 people were killed and many are still missing.



Tibet Society News

Tibet Society Chairman Honoured

Tibet Society Chairman, Fredric Hyde-Chambers, was honoured by the Office of Tibet at their London event celebrating the 83rd birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on 6 July 2018.

Fredrick, along with representatives of the Buddhist Society and Tibet Relief Fund, were presented with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of the decades of support given by him and the Tibet Society. The award was presented by Mr Chonpel Tsering, the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Europe.

The event took place at the Buddhist Society premises in London which is where both the Tibet Society and the Tibet Relief Fund were launched in 1959. Mr Tsering told the 100 invited guests that His Holiness the Dalai Lama is in great health and that the celebration to mark his birthday is part of a series of events being organised this year by the Tibetan Government-in-exile, to thank the many countries of the world who have supported the Tibetan people in their 60 years of exile.

Monks from Tashi Lunpo Monastery recited a Long Life Prayer for His Holiness and Tibetans from the Tibetan community in Britain performed a song for the occasion.

The Relevance of Tibetan Religious Traditions

This month's All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet (APPGT) meeting took place on 17 July 2018 in the Palace of Westminster, with roughly 40 people taking part. The meeting was in the form of a roundtable discussion focusing on the "Relevance of the Tibetan Religious

Traditions to the Present World" led by Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok, Kalon [Minister] for the Department of Religion and Culture in the Central Tibetan Administration.

This was a great opportunity for Society members as well as parliamentarians to meet Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok who is a long standing and leading member of the Tibetan Government-in-exile as well as a Buddhist scholar.

APPTG meetings are open to the public and Tibet Society members are always welcome. They consist of Members of Parliament from all parties who have a special interest in the subject - in this case, Tibet.



Get Involved!

We value every single member of the Society, it is your support that enables us to carry on with our work for Tibet. Would you like to get more involved?

One very effective way you can get involved is to persuade just one person to join the Society: every name counts when we lobby on behalf of you all. What else can you do? Join our vigils, protests and events, it sends a powerful message and it's fun! Or could you help with research or writing?

Contact Gloria in the office for more information.

Want to know more?

Do you want to find out more? Check out these websites:

[Free Tibet](#)—our partner UK-based

Tibet support group

[The UK Tibetan Community](#)

[Tibetan Government-in-Exile](#)

His Holiness the Dalai Lama's [official website](#)

[Contact magazine](#)—up to date news of Tibet and Tibetan issues

The [High Peaks Pure Earth](#) website provides insightful commentary on Tibet-related news and issues as well as translations from writings posted on blogs and social media in Tibet and the People's Republic of China.

The 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.

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