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**STUDENTS FOR A
FREE TIBET**

A Year in Review

2019



▲ **October 18, 2019** Tibet activists at Bardley's Center in NYC hold up their hands in solidarity with Hong Kong and their slogan "5 demands, not one less."

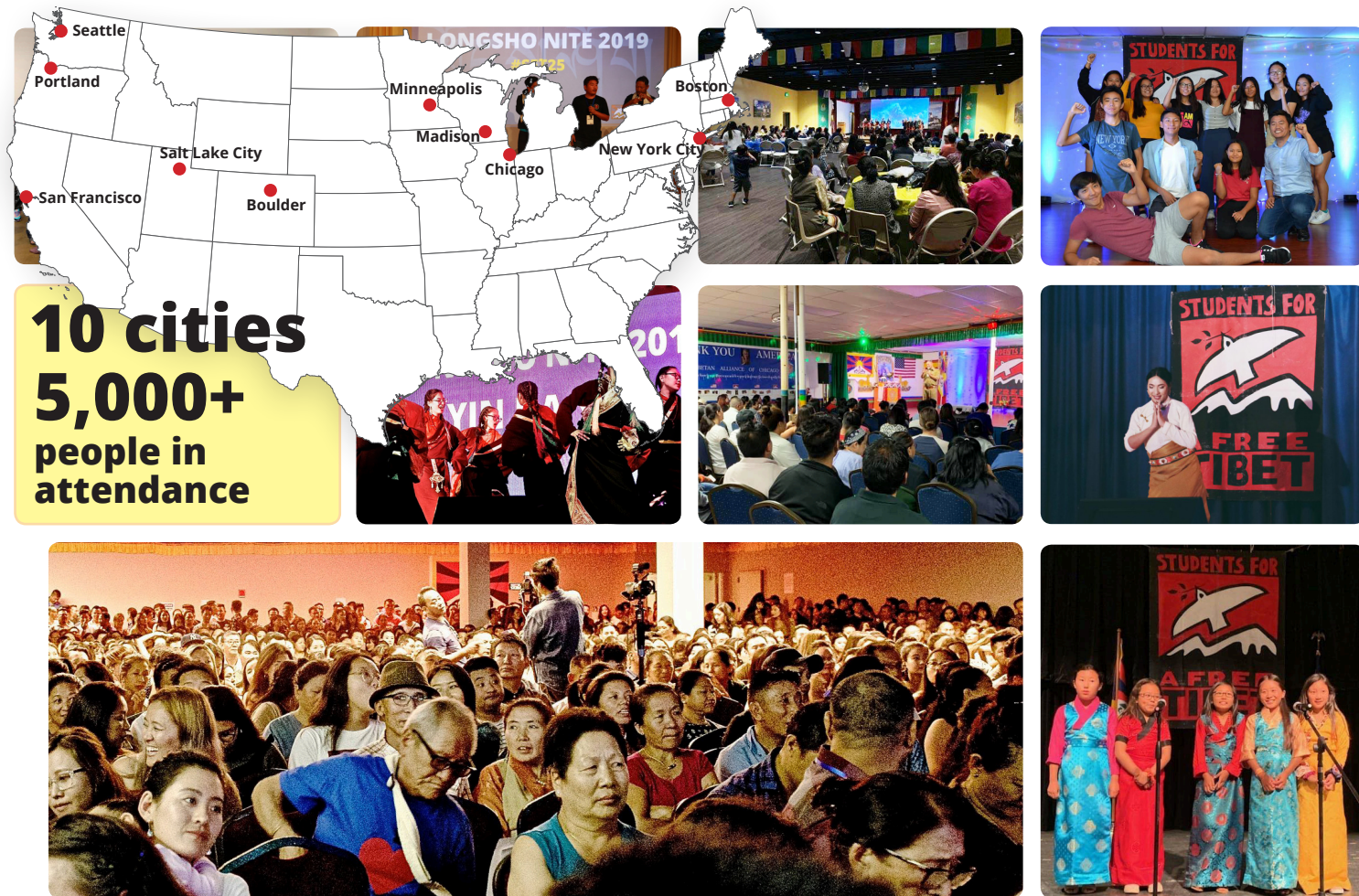
TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD THROUGH NONVIOLENT ACTION

— Activating the next generation of youth leaders —



SFT 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

From August to October of 2019, we celebrated 25 years of nonviolent action and grassroots organizing for Tibet with over 5,000 people, including community leaders, activists, local business leaders, student leaders, and Tibetan supporters with the USA Longsho Tour.



25 years ago in New York City, a small group of Tibetans and Tibet-supporters came together to bring Students for a Free Tibet to life. Since our founding, SFT has grown into a formidable force against the Goliath of Chinese occupation of Tibet and its oppressive rule. Today, we have hundreds of high school, university, and community chapters around the world taking action for freedom and human rights for Tibet."



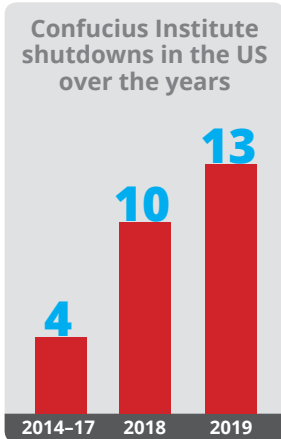
Dorjee Tseten,
SFT Executive Director



KEY VICTORIES FOR TIBET

✓ 13 CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES SHUTDOWN ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

In 2019, we witnessed multiple CI shutdowns across the United States. 13 American universities decided to close their CIs this year; the list includes:



- Arizona State University
- Indiana University-Purdue University
- Miami Dade College
- Northern State University
- San Diego State University
- San Francisco State University
- University of Hawaii Manoa
- University of Massachusetts Boston
- University of Minnesota
- University of Montana
- University of Oregon
- University of Tennessee Knoxville
- Western Kentucky University

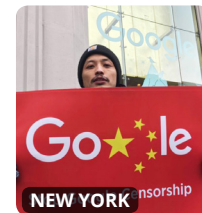


UMASS BOSTON:
Community organizers, students, faculty, and activists worked together to shut down the CI. They wrote letters to elected leaders, signed petitions against the partnership, protested at the Board of Trustees meeting, met with the university's administration, flyered in the freezing cold – and WON!

SFT chapters are currently undertaking 'Say "No" to CI' campaigns across the US. There is also growing momentum for 'Say "No" to CI' around the world, with students, faculty, and community members engaging in the campaign and the issue being raised at the highest government levels.

✔ GOOGLE CONFIRMS “NO PLANS TO OFFER A SEARCH ENGINE IN CHINA”

After nearly 10 months of campaigning, Google publicly confirmed at its shareholders' meeting that there are "no plans to offer a search engine in China"—this is a great victory for Tibet. SFT's worldwide network worked in partnership with Chinese and Uyghur rights activists, digital technology experts and ethical consumer rights campaigners to build pressure on Google not to pursue developing a censored search engine for China, code-named "Dragonfly." The official campaign coalition group included Free Tibet, SumOfUs, Tibet Action Institute, Tibet Network, Tibet Society, and SFT.



SFT members staged protests in over 10 major cities around the world on June 19, 2019, the day of Google's annual shareholder's meeting, to call for the immediate cancellation of Project Dragonfly. SFT Campaigns Director Sonamtsso, representing the coalition, confronted Google's role in aiding China's extreme censorship, propaganda, and surveillance during her proposal presentation at Google's shareholders' meeting in Mountain View, California. At this shareholder's meeting, it was confirmed that Google would cancel Project Dragonfly.

TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

Creating spaces to connect, learn, and grow has always been a priority for SFT. Our trainings and conferences are essential to building and cultivating continued grassroots leadership in the movement for Tibet. In 2019, we held 15 trainings and conferences around the world, including workshops on campaign strategy, nonviolent direct action, public speaking, media communications, and grassroots engagement.



▲ 2ND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR "CLIMATE CRISIS IN TIBET: RIVERS UNDER THREAT IN ASIA"

New Delhi, India • September 24, 2019

This year's conference was organized during Global Climate Strike Week with participation from students, academics, researchers, and NGO representatives.



▲ UK NATIONAL CONFERENCE

London, England • November 22-23, 2019

Organized by the SFT UK Network, this conference brought together new and long-time members and supporters of Tibet for a two day conference at the University of Westminster.



▲ FREE TIBET! ACTION CAMP

Dharamsala, India • October 20-27, 2019

This year's camp, hosted by SFT India, marked the 20th Action Camp organized by SFT. The week-long training included workshops, guest speakers, and community dialogue.



▲ YOUTH FOR TIBET "CONNECTING IDENTITIES, CREATING A MOVEMENT"

Paris, France • May 3-5, 2019

Youth for Tibet brought together activists from France, Belgium, Switzerland, and the UK. This summer leadership program was co-hosted by the Tibetan Youth Association of Europe.



◆ EAST COAST CONFERENCE

Amherst, USA • April 13-14, 2019

Over 30 chapter leaders from universities across the East Coast of Canada and the United States came together at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for two days of grassroots trainings, cross-chapter networking, and strategizing.

GRASSROOTS SPOTLIGHT



◀ **SFT staff and board, along with other Tibet group members, had an audience with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama during the November 2019 TSG meeting in Dharamsala.**

▼ **TAIWAN:** SFT Taiwan co-organized the March 10, Tibetan National Uprising Day in Taipei.



▲ **JAPAN:** SFT Japan joined a coalition of Tibetans, Uyghurs, Southern Mongolians, Hong Kongers, and Taiwanese to stage a protest with over 1,000 people during Xi Jinping's visit to the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on June 28, 2019.



► **INDIA:** SFT India's annual grassroots speaking tour from August-September included 15 different talks and film screenings on college and university campuses, engaging over 450 students in Pune, Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Guwahati, and Bangalore.



▲ **FRANCE:** SFT France increased its activity and grassroots building in 2019. Throughout the year, they've organized multiple protests, Lhakar events, and discussions.



▲ **UNITED STATES:** SFT members and chapters from across the US participated in US-Tibet Lobby Day, along with other Tibet groups. Inset photo of SFT's Executive Director Dorjee Tseten with US Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez at the NY/NJ Tibetan community Losar (Tibetan New Year) celebration.



▲ **UK:** SFT UK organized numerous successful programs including the SFT UK National Conference and a Longsho event for SFT's 25-year anniversary.



► **CANADA:** SFT Canada received NOW Magazine's Readers Choice Award 2019 for 'Best Activist Group' and runner-up for 'Best Youth Organization.'

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

STOP APPLE CENSORSHIP



On October 17, 2019—in coordination with coalition members (SumOfUs, Tibet Action Institute, Tibet Network, and SFT)—we staged a public protest at Apple's Grand Central Station store. The protest was joined

by Tibetan, Uyghur, Chinese, Hong Kong, and Taiwanese rights activists to press Apple to stop collaborating with China's censorship apparatus and unprecedented crackdown on freedom of expression. This protest kicked off our global campaign amidst reports of Apple's increased collusion with the Chinese government's efforts to repress and censor-free communication. Also, on December 10, 2019, International Human Rights Day, the coalition hosted an online media briefing to discuss the significance of the intersection of human rights and technology.

TIBET CLIMATE CRISIS

SFT members in Dharamsala, Greensboro, London, New Delhi, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto, etc., participated in the Global Climate Strike Week (September 20–27, 2019) and raised the importance of the climate crisis in Tibet as part of the larger narrative. Through this campaign, we were able to build stronger alliances with environmental and civil society groups, as well as climate experts and scientists working on climate crisis issues.



FREE TASHI WANGCHUK



at the Chinese Consulate in NYC. Our world members have also written to governments to provide updates regarding Tashi's case and the need for urgent action. This was part of the Global Day of Action for Tashi.

To mark the third anniversary of Tashi Wangchuk's detention, SFT created a new Free Tashi Wangchuk campaign video and staged an urgent protest along with other Tibet groups on January 28, 2019

NBA PROTEST



On October 18, 2019, an action team of 12 activists, organized by Students for a Free Tibet and Tibet Action Institute, took to the NBA Brooklyn Nets and Toronto Raptors game at Barclay Center in New York City. This action was in response to China's censorship and pressure, seeking to draw attention to the issue of China's occupation of Tibet. We sent a message to the NBA, Nets' owner Joseph Tsai, and LA Lakers' player LeBron James, that Houston Rockets' Manager Daryl Morey was right to express his solidarity with democracy protesters in Hong Kong. The protesters wore shirts reading "Free Tibet" in English, Tibetan, and Chinese, and displayed placards with powerful messaging like, "Don't let China buy our silence, people are dying to be free." This action garnered immense media attention—dozens of articles included information about our protest, tweets relating to our actions were retweeted and liked thousands of times, and Facebook posts were widely shared.



TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

March 10, 2019 marked 60 years of the iconic Tibetan National Uprising of 1959. This year, Tibetans and supporters in over 100 cities across more than 30 countries organized protests, vigils, and actions to mark this important day. At SFT, our offices and networks around the world play major roles in organizing these events. We marked the 60th commemoration with the theme of "REMEMBER, RESIST, RETURN!" In NY, alongside key Tibetan leaders, we invited Chinese democracy activists, Uyghur, Taiwanese, Hong Kongers, and Southern Mongolian movement leaders as speakers at the rally to strengthen our solidarity movement.



STAND WITH HONG KONG



SFT's worldwide network coordinated and participated in various Hong Kong solidarity rallies to stand for democracy and freedom. SFT India organized a solidarity action for Hong Kong in Dharamsala, India on June 21, 2019 where people signed a banner

which read, "Tibet with Hong Kong, No Extradition Law." This SFT solidarity banner was raised in Hong Kong.

MOMO CRAWL

SFT hosted more than 1,300 people at the 8th Momo Crawl event in New York on September 15, 2019. This event is a unique platform to introduce Tibet's rich culture and engage people on Tibet's history and current status as one of the least free countries in the world. This event was successful in garnering new members and supporters. New York State Senator Jessica Ramos was the special guest at the opening of the event.



30TH TIANANMEN MASSACRE ANNIVERSARY

On May 30, 2019, in Dharamsala, India, SFT and Tibet Network organized a panel discussion to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre. Over 150 people participated in the event to stand in solidarity with and remember the sacrifices of the thousands of Chinese people who stood up for freedom and democracy. SFT members around the world participated in and coordinated solidarity events in Toronto, London, DC, San Francisco, Portland, and more.

FREE PANCHEN LAMA



Tibet Network commissioned forensic artist Tim Widden to create an image of what His Holiness the Panchen Lama might look like today. Using this image,

SFT's worldwide network coordinated different actions. SFT India and Tibetan Youth Congress coordinated a joint bike rally from Dharamsala to Delhi, participated in by 30 Tibetan youth, symbolizing his 30th birthday. SFT France organized a rally outside the Chinese Consulate in Paris. SFT HQ coordinated a projection action at the Chinese Consulate in New York on the same day.

NEPAL-CHINA EXTRADITION TREATY



Xi Jinping made his first official state visit to Nepal on October 12, 2019 where he pressured the Nepalese government to sign a Nepal-China Extradition Treaty. The

treaty would put tens of thousands of Tibetan refugees currently living in Nepal at an even greater risk. Upon hearing the news, SFT and Regional Tibetan Youth Congress of NY/NJ quickly mobilized to organize a joint protest outside the Nepalese consulate in New York and submitted a petition to the Nepalese Consulate on October 11, 2019. SFT HQ, along with representatives from the Tibetan Community of NY/NJ and Regional Tibetan Youth Congress of NY/NJ, met with the US State Department to raise the alarm regarding the proposed treaty and secure confirmation that the State Department and US Embassy in Nepal would continue to monitor the situation.

TIBETAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

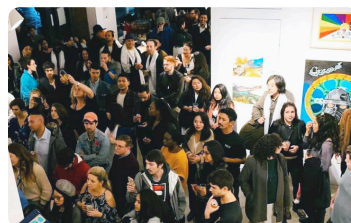
February 13, 2019, Tibetan Independence Day was observed around the world by SFT's network coordinating various events. In New York, SFT HQ



organized a special talk with Roser Caminals-Heath, a Catalan writer and a member of the Catalan National Assembly (ANC), to speak on the Catalanian Independence Movement alongside Tenzin Dorjee, a Senior Researcher, and Strategist at Tibet Action Institute. The speakers highlighted the history and current state of each movement. The event was a great opportunity to learn from each others' struggles, and discuss strategies and challenges.

ART FOR TIBET

The ninth Art for Tibet was held at Gallery 8 in Harlem, NY on November 7, 2019. The exhibit showcased more than 50 artists including Shepard Fairey, Al Diaz, Pema Rinzin, Karma Phuntsok, Rigdol, and Cey Adams, and featured a special performance by renowned Tibetan musician, Tenzin Choegyal. The event was a huge success that brought together over 300 artists, activists,



and supporters to celebrate and support Students for a Free Tibet's work on behalf of the Tibetan people's nonviolent struggle against Chinese occupation.

AROUND THE WORLD, THE SFT NETWORK ORGANIZED



50+ Protests
& Actions



15 Trainings
& Conferences



130+ Talks
& Events

ONLINE, SFT HEADQUARTERS ENGAGED



52K+ unique
website visitors



1.6M+
video views



113K+ social
media followers

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Sign up for email alerts

Join our mailing list at
studentsforafreetibet.org



Start or join a chapter

Become part of a global network of
activists working for Tibet



Organize an event

Help educate and inspire your peers
to take action for Tibet



Give to SFT

Donate on our website to train a new
generation of leaders for Tibet

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 studentsforafreetibet.org

SFT International

602 East 14th Street,
2nd Floor New York,
NY 10009 USA



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