



Xi Jinping shamed in India

On October 15, despite heavy security, SFT India successfully parachuted a giant banner reading “Free Tibet” on the popular Western Coast of Goa, where the BRICS Summit was held and attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Major international summits provide



critical opportunities for challenging China’s occupation of Tibet. Our direct action shamed and created a spotlight on Xi Jinping and China’s hardline policies inside Tibet. When the last thing China wants is any mention of “Tibet” during such a high-stakes summit, with our actions, we were able to make “Tibet” a media focus.

Khenpo Kartse released

We are excited to report that respected teacher and social worker, Khenpo Kartse was released from prison in July. While we know this isn’t freedom yet, as Chinese authorities continue to surveil, harass, and isolate political prisoners even after they are released, we are happy that he can be with his family and community again. Since the day we found out about Khenpo’s arrest in 2013, we have

worked to build an international campaign spotlighting Khenpo’s case. We believe, that faced with the potential of a life sentence, our collective international efforts in the early stages played a crucial role in securing a relatively short two and a half year sentence. We are happy that Khenpo Kartse is out of prison and we will continue to monitor his health and circumstances.



Tenzin Delek Rinpoche awarded the Democracy Service Medal

On June 15, the late Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was posthumously awarded the Democracy Service Medal by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in Washington, D.C. His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the 2010 recipient of the Medal, was the guest of honor at the event along with Members of Congress and Sikyong Lobsang Sangay. SFT’s staff accompanied Geshe Jamyang Nyima, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche’s cousin and family spokesperson, who received the award on Rinpoche’s behalf, recognizing and honoring his monumental contributions to the Tibetan people.



United Nations Universal Periodic Review

While the CCP has intensified its divide-and-rule strategies to erode international support for Tibet and the Dalai Lama, SFT has been working on lobbying like-minded governments to join forces and coordinate their efforts to

take joint action for Tibet. Since we launched our widely shared 'Tibet Solution' video, the Tibetan Freedom Movement has embraced the concept of a multilateral approach to solve the Tibet crisis. In February, in a rare act, embassies of the USA, the EU, Germany, Japan, and Canada sent a joint letter

of concern to the Chinese government over draconian new laws governing counter-terrorism, cyber security, and foreign NGOs operating in China. Also, in a major development in our 'Unite for Tibet' campaign, the United States and 11 other countries issued an unprecedented joint statement on March 10, during the United Nations Human Rights Council session in Geneva. We truly believe our collective efforts at the UN have led to these groundbreaking joint actions and we look forward to the future successes of our continued work.



Launch of 'Stand With Larung Gar' Campaign

China's wide-scale demolition plan for Larung Gar, the world's largest Buddhist institute, located in Tibet, could not go unchecked. Knowing that this destruction would evict and displace at least half of the 10,000+ residents, SFT responded by launching the #StandWithLarungGar campaign and mobilizing people around the world. Our international grassroots members and networks from 17 countries took part in our Global Day of Action on October 19, with participation from cities like Boston, Dharamsala, London, New York, Paris, San Francisco, Tokyo, Toronto, Vancouver, Vienna, and Washington, DC.



We also saw public statements of support from US Representatives McGovern and Pitts, and Canadian Member of Provincial Parliament Cheri DiNovo, among others. The wide range of support is evident by our campaign being endorsed by international human rights groups, as well as religious institutes, and Taiwanese, Chinese, Kalmyk, and Mongolian organizations.

Free Tibet! Action Camp XVII in New York



SFT organized Free Tibet! Action Camp XVII at Menla Mountain Retreat Center in Phoenicia, New York from June 20 – 26. SFT staff joined movement leaders, workshop trainers, guest speakers, and volunteers in providing a full-scale Free Tibet! Action Camp. Through an intensive week of training and discussion, we were able to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and networks necessary to become stronger Tibet activists in their respective communities. This year's Action Camp brought together 32 participants, welcoming folks from Taiwan, Austria, Canada, Chile, India, Nepal, and across the USA.

Justice for Tenzin Delek Rinpoche continues

In July, 2016, Nyima Lhamo, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's niece fled Tibet and arrived in Dharamsala, India. In a press conference in Dharamsala, she made this statement: *"I came out of Tibet to speak out to the world about Tulku Tenzin Delek. I urge China to reveal the true circumstances that led to Rinpoche's death and I hope that China's allegations against Rinpoche be thoroughly investigated."*



Since Nyima Lhamo's arrival, SFT Asia Director Dorjee Tseten has supported her in coordinating international media, translations, preparing messaging, and her testimony for the UN. SFT, as a part of the Tibet Advocacy Coalition, was able to organize a meeting with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression and Torture to testify for her uncle's case, the 13 years of torture he suffered, his suspicious death in Chinese detention, and her own persecution by the Chinese government.

Free Shokjang: The Might of the Pen

On February 17, after being arbitrarily detained for almost a year, 32-year-old Tibetan writer and intellectual, Druk-lo (penname Shokjang) was sentenced to three years in Chinese prison. His only 'crime' was writing courageously

about the effects of China's policies in Tibet. We immediately launched the website **FreeShokjang.org** and created a petition calling on leaders of the G20 countries to publicly raise Shokjang's case with the Chinese government and ask for his immediate release. On May 3, 'World Press Freedom Day' we launched a 'Global Day of Action' to mobilize grassroots support

for his case and on November 15, 'International Day of Imprisoned Writer,' we teamed up with Pen America, Human Rights China, and Uyghur American Association to engage in a multi-organizational push to highlight the extent of China's blatant repression of freedom of expression and press. Today, Amnesty International, Committee to Protect Journalists, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, and PEN International are among the numerous respected human rights groups who join us in amplifying Shokjang's voice and calling on his immediate release.



Tibet's Rivers, Asia's Lifeline

On September 23, our India network hosted a seminar titled 'Damming Crisis in Tibet: Threat to Water Security in Asia', bringing together panelists and participants from India, Bangladesh, Tibet, Thailand, the USA, Switzerland and Germany - the very first of its kind. Over 150 participants from key stakeholders in Asia's rivers were in attendance, including environmentalists, activists, researchers, media, and embassy officials representing the USA, Switzerland and Germany. The seminar secured wide media coverage in The Indian Express, Business Insider and Voice of America. The rivers campaign has created new cross-sections between the Tibetan Freedom Movement and the global movement for environmental protection. Visit **SaveTibetanRivers.org** for details.

Tibet Activists 'Reclaim Tibet'



This year, we commemorated February 13, Tibetan Independence Day with the theme of 'Reclaim Tibet' to highlight the historical map of Tibet and to expose the map of China's Tibetan Autonomous Region that almost entirely ignores the Tibetan provinces of Kham and Amdo. 'Reclaim Tibet' became viral in the Tibetan world, with over

12,000 people taking action to reclaim Tibet within weeks of the launch of our website: **ReclaimTibet.com**.

'Reclaim Tibet' highlighted how the 2008 Uprising, spreading to all three traditional provinces, reasserted the territorial map of Tibet.

Tibet Lobby Day

SFT helped coordinate the 8th Annual Tibet Lobby Day from February 29 - March 1 in Washington, DC. Over 100



Tibetans and supporters from across the country, many of whom are SFT members, took part in this event and met with Members of Congress and staffers of over 120 offices. In our meetings, we sought continued and increased support by raising awareness about the current situation in Tibet, and asked Representatives to take action by signing onto the 'Reciprocal Access to Tibet' bill (H.R. 1112), among other things. This particular legislation would restrict Chinese leaders' access to the United States, thus holding them "accountable" if China continues to ban US citizens access to Tibet, including officials, diplomats, and journalists planning to assess the human rights situation.

Say 'No' to Confucius Institute

As part of building wider and diverse support for our Say "No" to Confucius Institute (CI) campaign, SFT presented our victories and future plans on CI at the International Tibet Support Group Conference in Brussels. The conference is an important space for Tibet activists and leaders to come together to skillshare, engage in detailed strategic planning, and implement global campaigns. This particular conference brought over 250 prominent activists together from across the world. Our presentation was met with overwhelming support and was voted the number one campaign for groups to implement. We look forward to continuing our engagement with these groups in an effort to stop CI propaganda and censorship.



Marvel Studio's 'Doctor Strange'



Out of fear of what China might think, Marvel removed the Tibetan identity of one of its main characters in their new film, Doctor Strange. Named 'Ancient One,' the originally Tibetan character in the comics, was replaced by Tilda Swinton in the film. Responding to concerns about the identity change, screenwriter C. Robert Cargill gave

this problematic statement: "[Ancient One] originates from Tibet. So if you acknowledge that Tibet is a place and that he's Tibetan, you risk alienating one billion people who think that that's bulls—t and risk the Chinese government going, 'Hey, you know one of the biggest film-watching countries in the world? We're not going to show your movie because you decided to get political.'" In response to this, SFT organized a protest outside a Manhattan movie theater, which was covered by NBC Asia America and BuzzFeed, to convey to Mr. Cargill that Tibetans and Tibet do exist in spite of China's occupation.

Panchen Lama's 27th Birthday

In July, China held a state-controlled Kalachakra led by the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama, Gyaincain Norbu, while Tibet's Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, appointed by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama continues to be a prisoner of more than 21 years. Authorities reportedly went as far as making it mandatory for each Tibetan household to send two members to the Chinese government's Kalachakra. In response to China's attempt to exert political and social control over Tibetans through sacred religious rituals, which are an integral part of Tibetan life, SFT held an event in Dharamsala and a virtual counter-event titled "A Kalachakra by Tibet's Panchen Lama - Our Vision" at the same time as the 'fake' Kalachakra prayer was enforced in Tibet by Chinese Communist Regime. SFT also released a new animated video in honor of his 27th birthday as a way to counter China's propaganda. The moving video, addressed to the Panchen Lama, exposes China's abduction of the 6-year-old Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and urges supporters to sign the petition calling for his release. The video was widely shared with more than 63,000 views.

Introducing our national network leaders:

Over the last year, we have welcomed three smart, dynamic, and passionate women as National Directors to continue cultivating future generations of leaders and to help build a stronger grassroots movement for Tibet around the world.



Tenzin Tselha
SFT-India National Director

Tselha holds a Bachelor's in Education from Punjab University and a Master's in English Literature from Pune University, where she founded the SFT-Pune chapter. She joined SFT-India as the Grassroots Director in 2013, and has traveled across India to visit chapters, hold trainings, and inspire youth. Tenzin Tselha was appointed SFT-India National Director in November of 2015.



Sonam Chokey
SFT-Canada National Director

Sonam is completing her Bachelor's in International Development at York University in Toronto. Sonam's love and involvement with SFT started when she joined the SFT-York University chapter in 2010. Since then, she has played an active role in organizing, lobbying, and training. Sonam Chokey was appointed SFT-Canada National Director in November of 2015.



Ellen Lees
SFT-UK National Director

Ellen received her Bachelor of Law and Anthropology from London School of Economics (LSE). In 2013, after attending her first Free Tibet! Action Camp in Germany, Ellen founded the SFT-LSE chapter. She has volunteered at the UK office, helping with chapter visits, lobbying, and organizing the annual conference. Ellen Lees was appointed SFT-UK National Director in March of 2016.