



# TIBETAN BULLETIN

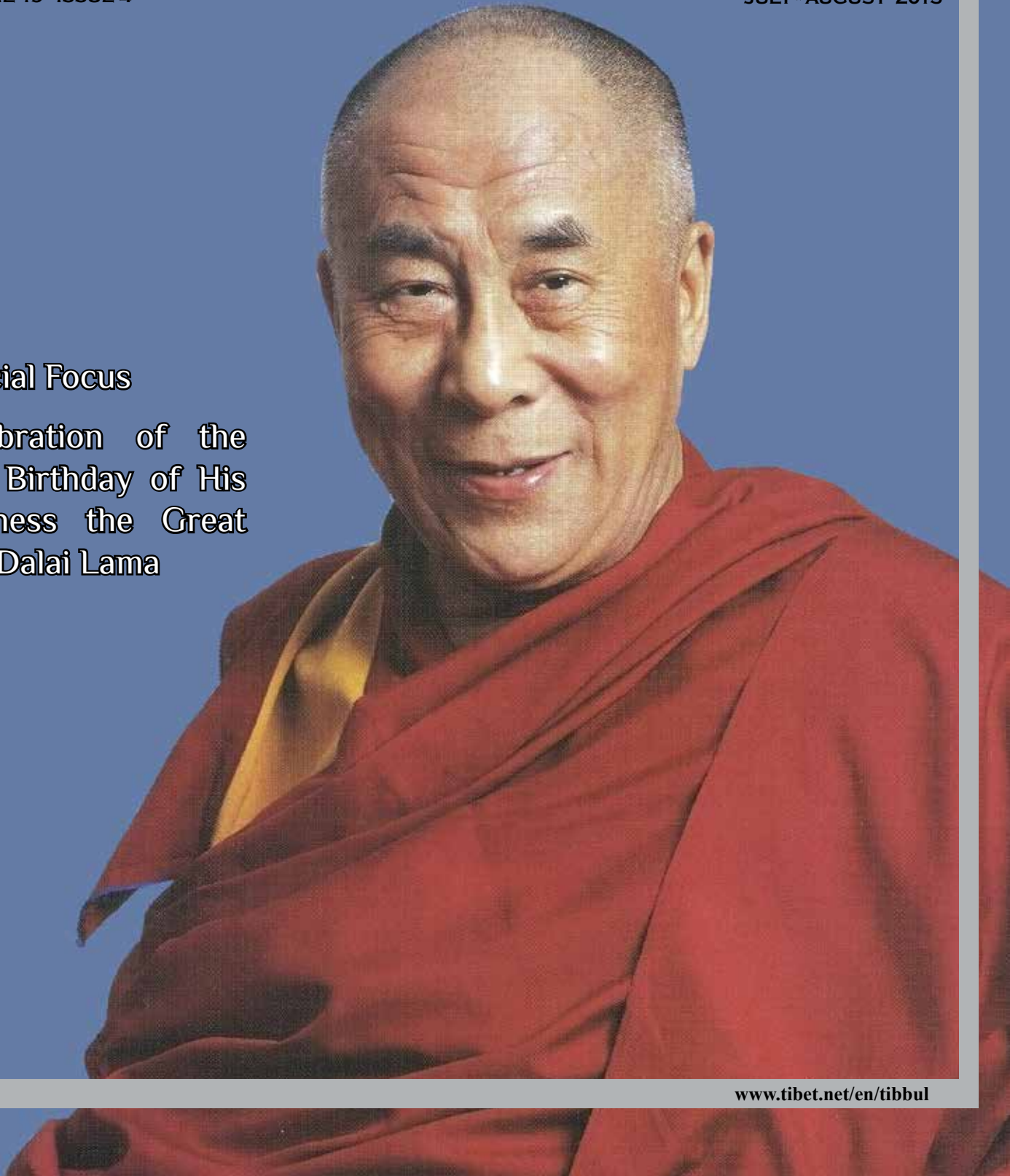
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION

VOLUME 19 · ISSUE 4

JULY · AUGUST 2015

## Special Focus

Celebration of the  
80<sup>th</sup> Birthday of His  
Holiness the Great  
XIV Dalai Lama





*US Representative Nancy Pelosi, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and President Obama's Special Representative Valerie Jarrett during Gratitude Celebrations for His Holiness at the Javits Center in New York, NY, USA on July 10, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama playfully greeting the musicians who welcomed him to the Javits Center in New York, NY, USA on July 10, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

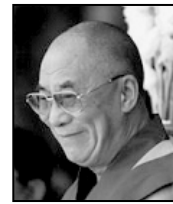
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## TIBETAN BULLETIN

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## Celebrating His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 80th Birthday

His Holiness the Great fourteenth Dalai Lama was born in a humble family in Taktser village on 6 July 1935 in the traditional Amdo province of Tibet. He was formally recognised as the reincarnation of the 13th Dalai Lama Thupten Gyatso in 1939 and was enthroned as the spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet at the tender age of 16 in 1950.

Since his enthronement, His Holiness dedicated himself to making a just, equitable and democratic Tibetan society. Unfortunately, due to China's invasion of Tibet, he was unable to see through these democratic reforms. However, his determination to move towards a democratic system remained unabated. After coming into exile in India in 1959, His Holiness the Dalai Lama initiated far-reaching reforms to build a genuine democratic Tibetan community. By building a strong foundation for the preservation of the Tibetan identity in exile, he has been successful in keeping the issue of Tibet alive. The Tibetan polity in exile has become fully democratized after His Holiness the Dalai Lama devolved his complete political authority to the democratically-elected Tibetan leadership in 2011. Hence, the Tibetan community in exile today has become one of the most successful refugee communities in the world with a vibrant culture of democracy.

Moreover, in addition to working for the preservation of Tibet's culture, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has committed his life for the promotion of basic human values and harmony among the different religions of the world. He has travelled to more than 67 countries and interacted with political and spiritual leaders, students and scientists to discuss on the ways to promote the basic human values.

His Holiness has received over 150 honorary doctorates, awards and prizes, including the Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of his efforts made in the promotion of peace, non-violence, inter-religious understanding, universal responsibility and compassion. Today, His Holiness has become an incomparable global voice for universal ethics, nonviolence, and harmony among world religions.

As a reaffirmation of their deep appreciation of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's messages, greetings poured in from people across the world and grand festivities were organised to celebrate his 80th birthday this year.

This special issue of the Tibetan Bulletin is dedicated to celebrate His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama's messages of peace, compassion and non-violence which have inspired countless millions of people around the world.

Editor  
Tibetan Bulletin

### His Holiness the Dalai Lama Thanks Devotees and Friends for Birthday Greetings

His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed gratitude to his devotees and friends for the extensive greetings and well wishes on his 80th birth anniversary.

His Holiness wrote on his official website [dalailama.com](http://dalailama.com),

"I would like to thank all my friends in the many different countries of the world for your greetings on the occasion of my 80th birthday. I am grateful for the kind words you have expressed."

"As you know, my life is dedicated to the service of all sentient beings, and in particular I try to help my fellow human beings in whatever way I can."

"What unites all sentient beings is that we all naturally seek happiness and try to avoid suffering. Therefore, we have a collective responsibility to try to bring about the well-being and happiness of all living beings and help them overcome their suffering."

"This is the basis of hope on which I make an appeal that we all work

enthusiastically to promote ethical values imbued with love and compassion and that we do our best to reduce, if not eliminate, the conflicts and violence that currently beset many parts of the world. Despite differences in their philosophical views, all the world's major religious traditions convey the same message of love and compassion. This is why we must strive to foster inter-religious harmony for the good of all humanity. In addition, to protect our natural environment we have to work together."

## Kashag's Statement on the Eightieth Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama



*Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, the democratically elected political leader of the Tibetan people, delivering the Kashag's statement on the 80th birth anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.*

On this joyous occasion of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, on behalf of Kashag and Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, I would like to express our deep reverence to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. We pray for his long life and reaffirm our unwavering loyalty and devotion to him. Tibetans both inside and outside Tibet, as well as millions of others touched by His Holiness the Dalai Lama's message of peace and non-violence, observe this special occasion with immense delight.

We take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's loving parents, Choekyong Tsering and Dekyi Tsering, for blessing us with their precious son, Lhamo Dhondup.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama was born on July 6, 1935 to a peasant family in Takster village in the Amdo region of Tibet. Enthroned as the 14th Dalai Lama at the age of five, eleven years later, at the tender age of 16, His Holiness had to take over the spiritual and temporal authority of Tibet. Faced with the tragedy of Tibet's illegal occupation by the

People's Republic of China, His Holiness the Dalai Lama had to do without any semblance of a normal childhood. The survival of Tibetan identity, and the future of an entire civilization, rested on his young shoulders. When His Holiness' utmost efforts to ensure a peaceful co-existence between the Chinese and Tibetans did not materialize, at the age of 24, His Holiness was compelled to go into exile in India.

In His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Tibetans have a rare and esteemed leader. Single-handedly and fortified by his people's devotion, he prevented Tibet from falling into historical oblivion. In exile, among multiple challenges and hardships, His Holiness' first priority was to establish separate Tibetan schools to impart both modern and traditional education to future generations of Tibetans. Through this education, many Tibetans were nurtured with a strong Tibetan identity, and the new generation born in exile now fills leadership roles in the Tibetan community as well as in the Central Tibetan Administration.

In order to preserve and promote the

unique religion and culture of the Tibetan people, the monastic centres of the four religious traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and of Bon were re-established and revived in exile. Since then, the different traditions have thrived in mutual respect and harmony. Similarly, His Holiness also established separate Tibetan settlements to ensure stable livelihoods within compact communities of Tibetan refugees. Also of great importance, His Holiness the Dalai Lama reformed and developed the exile Tibetan Administration, the legitimate and natural successor of the government established by the Great 5th Dalai Lama, into a full-fledged democratic entity capable of representing and uniting all Tibetans. Our gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for his supreme sacrifices and tireless endeavors in these 56 years of wise and able leadership knows no bounds.

Among the people of the entire Himalayan region, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has inspired new confidence to take greater pride in our common cultural and religious heritage. In an even wider sphere, for millions of Buddhists around the world, he is the human manifestation

of the Bodhisattva of compassion, the beacon of hope and light for all human kind.

But above all, for Tibetans, His Holiness is the life and soul of Tibet and the Tibetan people. Regardless of the baseless accusations made by the Dholgyal cult, Tibetan unity and harmony under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has never been greater. It is comparable only to Tibet under the reign of the three great dharma kings, more than a thousand years ago.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has exerted tireless efforts to fulfill his three commitments in life: promotion of human values, promotion of religious harmony and increased awareness and preservation of Tibet's Buddhist culture. Because of his unflinching devotion to these goals, millions of people around the globe admire and love him. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has travelled to 67 countries across 6 continents and has received more than 150 awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, the UN Earth Prize, US Congressional Gold Medal and the John Templeton Prize. Throughout the world, regardless of nationality, race or religion, millions of citizens consider His Holiness to be a beacon of peace and justice.

This global stature of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has provided a firm and steady support for the Tibet issue.

Tibetans inside Tibet sustain infinite hope and courage. They stand strong with patriotic fervor and look to His Holiness the Dalai Lama with utmost reverence and faith. The 140 Tibetans who self-immolated have made the universal demand for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and for freedom for Tibetans. It is our hope that the Chinese leadership will soon understand and accept the Middle Way Approach as a mutually beneficial solution and continue the dialogue process with the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the only way to resolve the issue of Tibet.

By the grace of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and support and solidarity of Tibetans in and outside Tibet, the 14th Kashag has largely been able to carry

out its responsibilities. The Kashag would like to compliment and thank all those who participated in observing 2014 as the "Year of the Great 14th Dalai Lama." Throughout this past year, many Tibetan-managed institutions and organizations based in India, Europe, USA and around the world voluntarily initiated numerous activities to express their deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It is also of great joy that the Central Tibetan Administration celebrated His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday as per Tibetan calendar on 21st June, along with Dhoday Association and International Gelug Association in Dharamshala. Despite restrictions, Tibetans inside Tibet enthusiastically participated in celebrating the 80th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama through prayers, recitations, and the rescue of live animals, among other meritorious acts which will undoubtedly help in the accumulation of good karma and unity

of the Tibetan people.

The Kashag would like to urge all Tibetans to engage in acts that are consistent with the wishes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and at the same time endeavor ceaselessly in preserving, promoting and acting upon traditional Tibetan values.

Also on this most special occasion, we are happy to have the chance to express our gratitude to the central government and state governments of India, and to all peace-loving people around the world who support the cause of Tibet in countless ways for these many years.

Finally, we ceaselessly pray for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. May all his wishes be fulfilled! May the non-violent cause of Tibet prevail!

KASHAG

July 6, 2015

## John Kerry Greet His Holiness the Dalai Lama on his 80th Birthday

Press Statement  
John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
Washington, DC  
July 6, 2015

I am pleased to extend warm wishes to His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the occasion of his 80th birthday on July 6.

People of diverse faith and non-faith traditions around the world are inspired by his messages of peace, compassion, and non-violence.

I have always appreciated His Holiness' humor, wisdom, and humility, as well as his dedication to his people and to humanity.

I wish His Holiness the very best on this auspicious occasion.

## Statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the 80th Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*Mr. Penpa Tsering, Honourable Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile delivering the statement of the Tibetan Parliament on the 80th birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.*

On this 20th day of the 5th month of the Wood-Sheep Tibetan calendar year 2142, falling in the 17th Tibetan Royal sexantry and corresponding to the 6th day of July 2015, the 80th birthday in accordance with the universal-calendar year of the omnisciently, greatly considerate His Holiness the Dalai Lama – the supreme protector of all sentient beings, including the gods in the heavens; the master of all the teachings on this earth of the Buddha; a great champion of world peace; and the protector and supreme leader of all Tibetans – is being marked with great solemnity and grandeur. In keeping with the auspiciousness of this momentous occasion, I, with prior offer of prostrations and with happiness, devotion and joy, offer greetings of good wishes on behalf of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile.

Out of a feeling of closeness arising from a sense of affection towards all sentient beings in general and, especially, towards the downtrodden devotees of the Land of Snows, His Holiness the Dalai Lama took a deliberate decision to enter the realm of our cyclic existence.

Accordingly he was born on the 5th day of the 5th month of the Wood-Hog Year in the Tibetan calendar's 16th Royal Sexantry, corresponding to the 6th day of July 1935, in Tagtser Village of Kumbum area in Domey Province as a son of father Choekyong Tsering and mother Tsering Dekyi. The birth was accompanied by numerous auspicious instances of admirably amazing signs. By the universal-calendar year system, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is now 80 years old. And he has not assumed, on any of his three secret body forms, even a tiny bit of an appearance of ill-health. On that basis, the Wheel of Life of his bodily form reveals all the reasons of one that is unwavering in flourishing in excellent health, like the perfections of Mt Meru, the King of all mountains. Not even a fraction of the gratitude we owe to him for all the advantages of the benefits we have derived thereby could be repaid even if we attempt to do so by offering him all the treasures of The Three Thousand World Realms over many great aeons.

It bears no mentioning that by

reincarnating in unimaginable range of births as kings, ministers, scholars and yogis, and so on, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has guided infinite numbers of devotees to the noble path of becoming exalted and enlightened beings, with those who follow his all-pervasive, timeless noble deeds being extant across all The Three Realms of existence. His Holiness the Great Fifth Dalai Lama oversaw the realization of the system of governance in Tibet which combined both temporal and spiritual aspects. Under the soothing cover of this unifying and noble canopy of political governance, all sentient beings of the Snowland of Tibet flourished in happiness and the precious teachings of the Buddha were enabled to flourish and develop in an atmosphere of ecumenism. In particular, His Holiness the Great Fourteenth Dalai Lama, being the timely fruition of the prayers of his successive predecessors, made a physical appearance in this world when the sentient beings in general and the religiously endowed Snowland of Tibet was plunged in such critical period as at present. Attaining all the symbolic

appearances of a noble being with perfect physical attributes, he became an accomplished bearer of all knowledge in both the general and specialized fields, including in the aspects of hearing, thinking and contemplating, and in the aspects of teaching, debating, and composing. The supremacy of his scholarship in Buddhism reached such level of accomplishment as to render him the apex ornament among all the learned scholars of the Snowland of Tibet and the precious jewel of their hearts.

In particular, when the barbaric communist forces of China invaded Tibet and, as a result, the country's political situation became critical, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, though only 16 years old at the time, took into his hands the golden wheel-emblem of being the temporal ruler of the Snowland of Tibet, with its system of combining in him the temporal and spiritual leadership of the country. And he immediately set out to implement as a new measure his cherished desire to initiate democratic reforms designed to try to bring the system then prevailing in Tibet in conformity with the general noble trend of democracy spreading across the rest of the world. In keeping with the requirements of the time, therefore, His Holiness the Dalai Lama newly set up a Reform Commission office and initiated other measures to start implementing his plans. Also, at a time when there was a real danger that the invading communist Chinese forces were planning to carry out their leaders' rapacious aim of destroying completely in one swift action the religion, government system and the people of Tibet, with the dangers of realizing it being very ominously real, His Holiness employed such strategy and compassionate tact against them through use of non-violent means as to ensure that for the time being many tens of thousands of Tibetans did not need to take up arms and risk their lives. He therefore ensured in an excellent way the saving and protecting of their lives. Nevertheless, under the brutal policies of the invading Chinese forces, which led to the invasion and occupation of Tibet, he was eventually forced to flee into exile.

Immediately after setting foot on Indian soil, His Holiness the Dalai Lama set out to fulfil his pre-existing plans and in 1960 instituted the setting up of a Tibetan parliament in exile whose deputies fully represented all the three traditional province of Tibet as well as all its different religious traditions. Gradually, over time, and in keeping with the prevailing circumstances, as well in harmony with the evolving genius of the Tibetan masses, His Holiness guided the Tibetan community on a path towards genuine democracy. Including after inviting suggestions from the Tibetan public, His Holiness proclaimed a democratic constitution for a future, free Tibet. And by petitioning the United Nations Organization with communications about the justness of the Tibetan cause, he was able to get its General Assembly to adopt a series of resolutions which demanded respect for the Tibetan people's human rights and recognized their right to self-determination. He established a Tibetan government in exile, including with its head and branch offices. In order to ensure the sustenance of Tibet's religions, culture and traditions, and for the purposes of integrating the potentialities of the Tibetan people, His Holiness ensured that they did not have to scatter to live in indeterminate places everywhere. For this purpose he worked for the establishment of new settlements in different places where exiled Tibetans could live in compact communities. His Holiness also very graciously helped to set up new offices or departments to ensure the provision of both traditional knowledge and modern education to the upcoming generation of Tibetans who are the future seeds of Tibet; to work for the economic well being of the government in exile and the Tibetan people; for the purposes of providing healthcare services, and so on.

With regard to the flourishing and spreading of the Buddhist religious faith, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has provided leadership and guidance by such means as the holding of 12 conferences thus far of the top lamas of all the religious traditions, with the participation also of other major lamas, tulkus, abbots, geshe and so on. As a result, throughout

India, Nepal and Bhutan, as well as in other foreign countries, the precious Buddhist religious faith is held in high esteem and flourishes in prosperity. This, in turn, has ensured that followers of the Tibetan form of Buddhism remain ever more true to their religious vows, like the oneness of the admixture of milk and water, with each side basking in the brilliance of the goodness of the other's gem-like radiance. His Holiness has also built a golden bridge of friendship and close relationship with other religious traditions of this world.

In particular, in an effort to ensure a spontaneous resolution of the just cause of the Tibetan people, His Holiness, while adhering to the strategy solely of non-violence as a fundamental basis, adopted a position based on a middle way policy. The essence of this policy is that the ordinary masses of the Tibetan people in Tibet, instead of remaining, as they currently do, in a state of enslavement under the current system of rule of the People's Republic of China, could enjoy self-governance for all the three traditional provinces of Tibet which would be united as a single administrative entity. This would be fully in keeping with the reality of the current situation and circumstances, is mutually beneficial, and is also a most accommodating approach made with the primary aim to resolve the issue. This policy has won admiration and ardent support from the general masses of the Tibetan people as well as from people and governments across the world. Over the years, successive fact-finding and other types of delegations have been sent to all the three traditional provinces of Tibet, while delegations of envoys had been sent to China to hold peaceful dialogues towards settling the Sino-Tibetan dispute.

In this age when practices under the influence of The Five Degenerations keep spreading with rising intensity, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has, with ever increasing vigour, worked to spread knowledge about the noble path towards imbibing the understanding of Emptiness and Compassion, the essence of Buddhism as taught by the Buddha out of kindness towards sentient beings.



On that basis, he has at all times, relying solely on the ideology and strategy of practicing a non-violent approach, and in keeping with the peculiarities of places and times, as well as in accordance with the genius and inclinations of the different audiences, assumed multitude of hardship to spread the message of universal responsibility. By this means of showing the way forward, he has, as he continues to, assumed enormous responsibility to bring peace upon the entire humanity. Besides, irrespective of the question whether one believed in any religion or not, he has, through the approach of the idea of secular ethnics, made efforts designed to benefit humanity in general and also the environmental conditions across the world. Likewise, working towards bringing inter-religious friendship, he has adopted a most liberal approach in going out to meet with leaders of different religious faiths and to hold discussions with them in attempts to dispel doubts and suspicions, and to do away with the causes of contradictions among the followers of the different religious traditions. Including, specifically, with his work for the Tibetan religious and temporal causes, His Holiness has thus adopted three main aims as the purposes of his life. And he has been highly praised for his outstanding efforts and achievements in all these noble areas and has been recognized with a series of hundreds of certificates, honours and awards across the world, including especially the world's most prestigious and famed award, the Nobel Peace Prize; The US Congressional Gold Medal; and the John Templeton Award in Great Britain. His fame as a great champion of peace has thus reached the whole wide world, spreading like a wind across the geographical barriers.

The extent of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's incomparable past and continuing current noble deeds are beyond all estimation. In the past one year alone, he very graciously undertook trips to numerous cities and provinces in a number of countries, including Germany, Canada, the United States of America, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Japan, Australia, and India. During those trips he met with high level religious

leaders, irrespective of their faith affiliations; serving as well as former Presidents and Prime Ministers, as well as members of parliaments and so on. They were all highly prominent political leaders, scientists, artists, intellectuals, and so on. He also interacted with students and the public in those countries, spreading among them his message that the fundamental basis for happiness and well being for now and in the future, and which is beneficial to everyone, is peace and compassion, practice of universal responsibility, positive transformation in inner values, and progress in secular ethics. To put it briefly, it remains impossible to repay His Holiness the Dalai Lama, for the nectar of the inestimable range of curative advisories he has given and continues to give in an attempt to direct the whole world to the path of righteousness, given the sheer magnitude of the gratitude owed to him.

That His Holiness the Great Fourteen Dalai Lama has, as wished by all the Tibetan people, whether presently living in all the three traditional provinces of Tibet or in other countries across the world, has ensured the maintenance of their national unity to such level as now, which is unprecedented since after the times of Tibet's ancient religious kings; and for the sake of Tibet's religious traditions and culture; and for the Tibetan race, is a cause for expressing especially high gratitude. Besides, he has also greatly benefited the Tibetan people in various other ways, such as by ensuring the laying down of a strong foundation for carrying on the current struggle for the realization of Tibet's just cause and its future prospects. To sum up, remembering from the depth of our hearts the gratitude we owe to him for his tirelessly uninterrupted, great, and wide ranging efforts for the purposes of ensuring the freedom, peace, and coexistence for Tibet's religious traditions, culture, governance, and race, and in other areas, we would like to reiterate a hundred times our offer of words of thanks and unlimited gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. At the same time we also pray that His Holiness, without ever abandoning us, continue to maintain his care and concern for us till the very end of the ocean of aeons, as

would parents towards their child. Such have been the words of a unanimous resolution of gratitude to His Holiness the Great Fourteenth Dalai Lama that we have been able to adopt recently.

During the past year, a man carried out a gun attack at a war memorial museum in Canada; Singapore's former President Mr. Lee Kuan Yew passed away; floods in the Jammu and Kashmir State of India caused calamitous disasters to people and loss of properties; and this year a devastating earthquake hit Nepal and other territories, resulting in enormous losses of lives and properties. They and other such developments resulted in hardships of various kinds. His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in keeping with his Bodhisattva vow of being particularly kind to those who are especially downtrodden offered prayers and messages of condolence, sympathy and solidarity while offering, as he continues to even now, donations whenever seen needed for carrying out relief work.

In the month of April earlier this year, the government of China published a white paper titled "Tibet's Path of Development is Driven by an Irresistible Historical Tide". Under it China sought to explain how it was developing Tibet by resorting to misinformation, falsification, and distortion of facts in all sorts of manners under five chapters, namely: 1) The End of the Old System Was a Historical Inevitability; 2) New Tibet Follows a Sound Path of Development; 3) The Essential Intent of the "Middle Way" Is to Split China; 4) A Veneer of "Peace" and "Non-violence"; 5) The Central Government's Policy Towards the 14th Dalai Lama.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our position that the leadership of the Government of China should change its hardline policy towards Tibet and the Tibetan people with the hope that a positive transformation which is beneficial to both Tibet and China based on the actual situation in Tibet and the aspirations of the Tibetan people will occur. Likewise, we reiterate our call on the Chinese leadership to immediately release all the innocent Tibetans, including especially the 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima,

who continue to be persecuted after being detained or arrested, jailed and in other ways and enable them to enjoy the happiness and well being that all human beings are entitled to. And we also reiterate our call on the Chinese leadership to take into account with deliberateness the totality of the issue of Tibet to realize as soon as possible a negotiated solution for the purpose not of separation but, rather, coexistence between Tibet and China.

The communist Chinese government had unleashed a fury of destruction on the whole of Tibet and its environment, resources and inhabitants. It has subjected the Tibetan people to unprecedented ill-treatment and torture. These have continued without any interruption. Unable to accept and endure anymore the hardline and repressive policies underlying them, the masses of the Tibetan people in Tibet have continued to carry out protests. In particular, over the past several years, a total of 140 nationally inspired heroic men and women among them have carried out protest self-immolations. One of the hopes and aspirations of utmost concern to the people of Tibet has been that His Holiness the Dalai Lama should be able to return home to his Land of Snows as soon as possible. If the Chinese leaders are genuine in practice what they outwardly claim about being caring and concerned about the well being of the Tibetan people, they should definitely give high consideration, as a matter of their unavoidable duty, to this thirst-for-water like desire of the general masses of Tibetans in Tibet and to the last messages and testaments left behind by the protest self-immolators. At the same time we take this opportunity to also reiterate our appeal to the entirety of those who are of our Tibetan Land of Snows to bear greater responsibility than before towards fulfilling this aspiration with unwavering selflessness and determination.

On the 25th of April this year and over days after that, Nepal's capital Kathmandu and many nearby areas were hit by devastating earthquakes, resulting in catastrophic losses in terms of both people and properties. The Tibetan Parliament in Exile was extremely con-



*Honourable Chief Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh feeds birthday cake to His Holiness the Dalai Lama to express greetings on the latter's 80th birthday, 24 June 2015.*

cerned and saddened by this tragedy and expressed profound condolences to the government and people of Nepal. We prayed with a single-minded devotion to the ocean of victorious beings in the realms of the Three Precious Jewels that not only such destructive earthquakes as those may never recur in future but also that all the sentient beings of Nepal may be able to enjoy a life of utmost happiness for all time to come. Nepal is a country with profound historical relationship with Tibet. In particular, since Tibet came under the military occupation of communist China in 1959, until now, the government and people of Nepal have helped, as they continue to now, more than 20,000 Tibetan people to have a livelihood, and in preserving and promoting their religion and culture and so on. We take this opportunity to again offer our condolences to the government and people of Nepal.

Recently, the Tibetan Parliament in Exile compiled and printed a book titled "A Brief Compilation for discerning Dolgyal related issues". The book brings together texts of speeches meant for enabling one to discern Dolgyal related issues, resolutions on these issues adopted by religious bodies and the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, announcements issued by the Kashag, besides speeches given by prominent current and former public office holders and others. This book is being released and formally publicized

on this occasion. We take this opportunity to make an emphatic appeal to Tibetans both in Tibet and in exile to pay special attention to study its contents and to thereby gain a proper discernment of the issue so as to remain on the right path.

It has been 56 long years since Tibetans first sought refuge in foreign countries, including India. In particular, India has become like a second homeland to us. Both the government and people of India have provided the Tibetan people help, benefits, and friendship on a wide-ranging scale. Being mindful at all times to remember the gratitude we owe to them, we take this opportunity to offer unlimited words of deep appreciation to the people and government of India. All Tibetan living in exile must strive to build profound friendship and good relations and coexist in harmony with the people of their respective local host communities. We take the opportunity to reiterate on this occasion that it is extremely important for everyone to subscribe what is beneficial to the reputation of the Tibetans as a people.

Finally, we pray that His Holiness the Dalai Lama live for a hundred aeons, that all his wishes be seen fulfilled with spontaneity, and that the just cause of Tibet be seen prevail with speediness.

The Tibetan Parliament in Exile  
6 July 2015

## Glastonbury Festival Sings for His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama, along with Ms. Patti Smith, waving to the crowd of over 120,000 people at the Pyramid Stage at the Glastonbury Festival in Glastonbury, Somerset, UK on June 28, 2015. Photo/Jeremy Russell/OHHDL*

It was raining when the helicopter carrying His Holiness the Dalai Lama from London landed on a high field near the village of Pilton, site of the Glastonbury Festival. He was welcomed on arrival by Michael Eavis, the founder of the Festival and owner of Worthy Farm on which it takes place, and his third wife, Liz.

Robert Richards, a principal organizer of the Festival led His Holiness to his car. They drove to the Festival Viewing point from where there is a clear view over the Festival area, the main stages, including the Pyramid stage, and camping grounds. This year 203,000 people are attending the event.

His Holiness and his party drove through the main Festival area to the King's Meadow, site of a modern megalithic stone circle, now also adorned with a Tibetan style chörten or stupa. The BBC's Alan Yentob met him and escorted him to a small wooden stage from where he introduced him to an audience of about 8500.

"Brothers and sisters," His Holiness began, "I can see you're enjoying this Festival,

on my way here, I noticed that everyone seems to be full of joy. I'm happy to have been invited to this Festival of people. As I always say, the purpose of life is to be happy. Who knows what tomorrow may bring, but we live in hope. Without hope our lives have no direction. The 7 billion human beings like us alive today all have a right to be happy. And it's sad to note that while you are here enjoying yourselves, in other parts of the world like Syria, Iraq and Nigeria, people are killing each other. Therefore, we need to promote a greater awareness that we are all human brothers and sisters, that we belong to one human family."

Arriving at the Pyramid Stage later, Robert Richards explained to His Holiness that whatever profits Glastonbury Festival makes go to charities such as: WaterAid, Oxfam and Greenpeace. When Patti Smith, who has played benefits in support of the cause of Tibet for sixteen years, met His Holiness backstage she told him that she'd been a 12 year old girl in 1959 when Tibet was in upheaval and His Holiness escaped. One of her prime concerns was his safety and welfare. She

went back out on stage to perform and shortly afterwards His Holiness came up to watch and listen.

Between songs Patti Smith announced His Holiness's presence to the 120,000 strong crowd and suggested it would be nice if they welcomed him and sang to celebrate his approaching 80th birthday. She read a poem in his honour and then led him out onto the stage to cheering approval. The crowd sang 'Happy Birthday' as a gorgeous cake bedecked with fruit and a single candle was presented to him. His Holiness responded:

"Dear sisters and brothers, I really appreciate it when so many of you express your warm feelings to me and I reciprocate. Every day I dedicate my actions of body, speech and mind to the benefit of others. When you show me such warm affection it strengthens my enthusiasm.

"Your voices and physical actions are youthful. That encourages me in turn, although I'm now 80, to be more active like you."

"Thank you"

## H.H the Dalai Lama Celebrates 80th Birthday at New York City



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama cutting a cake presented in honor of his 80th birthday during Gratitude Celebrations at the Javits Center in New York, NY, USA on July 10, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

A long life prayer offering and grand celebrations in honour of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday was organised in New York City by the North American Tibetan Association (NATA). Over 15,000 people, the largest gathering of Tibetans outside Tibet or India, assembled at the Javits Convention Centre for the event on 11 July.

Dignitaries at the ceremony include Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to President Obama, Ms. Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Richard Gere, Prof Ming Xia and Matteo Mecacci, President of ICT. Two ministers from the central government of India have also attended the 80th birthday celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama which was held at Dharamshala on 21 June.

Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay introduced Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to Presi-

dent Obama and former House Speaker and House Democratic Leader, Ms. Nancy Pelosi.

Ms. Jarrett, who spoke first, gave a very powerful and personal account of her relationship with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and how it changed her life after meeting His Holiness in Dharamshala.

She said: "His Holiness the Dalai Lama, monks, people of Tibet, dignitaries and guests, good afternoon. What an honour to be among so many friends. I am here on behalf of President Barack Obama to convey the warmth of the American people to His Holiness. Very few other people have made such a positive contribution to humanity as His Holiness with his unwavering message of compassion. We celebrate today an extraordinary leader, a good man, a man with amazing grace. I wish you health and vigour to live to 120." Her words were met with a

rousing applause from the public.

Ms. Jarrett is one of the most influential persons in the White House. She came to New York City solely to attend the birthday celebration and as a gesture of support stayed throughout the event, which went far beyond scheduled time.

Ms. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, was the first woman Speaker of the House and has led the House Democrats for 10 years, while representing California for 28 years.

"Good afternoon everyone," she began. "I was told there would be speeches, with some cultural performances in between. But how wonderful they've been."

Ms. Pelosi was showing appreciation of the many groups, including Canadian Tibetans; Mongolians and Mongolians

from Buryatia, Tuva and Kalmykia; Tibetan Americans from Minnesota; the Bhutanese Community of New York; Himalayan Communities of Nepal; Tibetans from New York and New Jersey; and Tibetans from the Capital Area who put on spectacular performances of song and dance, by turns graceful, athletic and alluring. She continued:

“Your Holiness, it is with profound gratitude and humility that we celebrate your 80th birthday. It was President Obama, at the National Prayer Breakfast earlier this year, who said that you are such a powerful example, speaking up for compassion and the dignity of all human beings, evoking a great response. President Bush similarly praised His Holiness when he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.”

Ms. Pelosi remarked that His Holiness has a long connection with American Presidents going back to Franklin Roosevelt who sent him a watch when he was a young boy as a token of friendship between the US and Tibet. Democrats and Republicans recently voted to celebrate his 80th birthday unanimously.

She added:

“In September 28 years ago, His

Holiness presented his Five Point Peace Plan to Congress. When he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize he was the first Peace Laureate to also be recognised for his work to create awareness of the need to protect the environment. When we awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal, we didn't have space for all the people who wanted to attend the ceremony.

“There is no better way to stand with His Holiness on his 80th birthday than to stand with the Tibetan people.

Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, in his address, thanked Valerie Jarrett, Ms. Nancy Pelosi, Richard Gere and all the other dignitaries present at the ceremony for attending the event as a gesture of respect for His Holiness and support to the Tibetan people.

He reiterated the Tibetan people's pledge to abide by His Holiness's advice, reminding everyone that these celebrations were a mark of gratitude and that it was important to let young people know the immense contribution of His Holiness the Dalai Lama towards the Tibetan people.

Speaker Penpa Tsering of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile also expressed

the Tibetan people's gratitude to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. “Despite the tragedy that we have undergone, the rest of the world gained an acquaintance with His Holiness. Everyone knows what he has done for us; I'd like to thank him on behalf of all Tibetans. We have a responsibility to preserve our culture and identity. If we remain united, external forces can't do much to us,” he said.

Speaker Penpa Tsering's address was followed by Hollywood actor Richard Gere, a longstanding friend of Tibet. As he greeted the audience, he said:

“Tashi Delek, my Tibetan brothers and sisters, Tashi Delek, my Inji brothers and sisters, there are 15,000 of us here, with Valerie and Nancy, a Sangha of Rinpoches and other leaders; let's never forget how fantastic it is to be here with His Holiness. What an opportunity it is to listen to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, to be able to see his face. How extraordinary this is for us all. Every day, His Holiness gives of himself for us, thank you.”

Gere recalled a private screening of Martin Scorsese's film of His Holiness's life, *Kundun*, in 1997 and the scene showing His Holiness wistfully watching his bodyguard of Khampa warriors riding back into Tibet as he reached the Indian border. His Holiness told him later that as he looked into India, with almost no friends beside him, he had no idea what was going to happen next.

“And now he has all the friends in the world. Let's make a date to be with him for his 90th, his 100th, his 110th and his 120th birthday.” The audience cheered to his every word.

The event came to a close with concluding remarks from Mr. Tashi Namgyal, Tibetan Parliamentarian from North America.



*Members of the Tibetan community in North America performing traditional songs and dances during the Gratitude Celebrations for His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Javits Center in New York, NY, USA on July 10, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

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## Remarks by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi at NATA's event to Honor His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama greeting old friend Ms. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader in the US House of Representatives and Former House Speaker.*

“Good afternoon everyone. When I was told about today’s festivities, I was told that there would be speeches from visitors and in between there would be cultural performances. As I sit here now, I think we’ve come for an afternoon of cultural performances with a few speeches in between. Aren’t we inspired by the cultural performances that we have seen today? How wonderful.

Your Holiness, it is with profound gratitude and humility that I am deeply honored for the privilege to join you for this blessed celebration of your 80th birthday—and to do it in the company of Rigdhen Dolma, Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Speaker Tsering, Richard Gere — oh my goodness, Richard Gere, thank you for your persistent advocacy, leadership, and long term dedication to His Holiness and the people of Tibet. And to join Valerie Jarrett, who early in President Obama’s Administration, right at the start, met with His Holiness in India, as she mentioned, on behalf of the President — thank you for bringing his greetings today. It’s an honor to be with the monks who are here. And I want to go from Valerie’s comments to say that it was President Obama who

earlier this year, at the National Prayer Breakfast in February, said this, he said that His Holiness the Dalai Lama “is a powerful example of what it means to practice compassion, who inspires us to speak up for the freedom and dignity of all human beings.” President Barack Obama, earlier this year.

I have some wishes on His Holiness’s birthday and I wish that you all could have seen the response that that statement made at that breakfast in appreciation—Richard, you were there, you saw the response, people watching on TV saw it, I wish you all could have. For many Presidents, His Holiness has been an enduring example of how world leaders must practice compassion and defend the dignity of the downtrodden. Again, another President, President Bush, I was blessed to be Speaker of the House when the Congress of the United States presented His Holiness with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 – Richard, you were there! I wish you could have seen at that ceremony President Bush called His Holiness, quote, “A universal symbol of peace and tolerance, a shepherd for the faithful, and the keeper of the flame of his people”.

But His Holiness — I come as a civic leader — I come also to brag about the connection His Holiness has had with our country, and with Presidents of the United States. Many Presidents have honored this keeper of the flame over the years. The first one was Franklin Roosevelt. As a young child, the Dalai Lama received a gold watch from President Franklin Roosevelt showing the phases of the moon and the days of the week. The watch is a symbol of the lasting friendship between His Holiness and the United States. His Holiness still uses the watch, and his teachings about the connection between science and religion remain an important and relevant part of his message. His Holiness says I’m always talking about the watch. Do you have it today, Your Holiness? [laughs]. Next time, 90th birthday.

The connection has always been present in his messages to Congress, where he has had a strong relationship. So I am proud to bring heartiest birthday greetings from His Holiness’ many, many friends in Congress, and they are truly friends—on both sides of the aisle, and on both sides of the Capitol, in the House and in the Senate. On recent occasion I saw him there with Senator Dianne Feinstein, a friend of His Holiness and of Tibet, and John McCain, on the same program. In our House this week, I joined with Republican Chairman Chris Smith, your friend, in celebrating the occasion of His Holiness’s 80th birthday when we unanimously—His Holiness brings people together, yes, as was mentioned, but he also brings Democrats and Republicans together because the vote to celebrate his 80th birthday, Valerie, was unanimous.

His Holiness’ relationship with Congress goes back many years. It was mentioned that I’ve been in Congress 28 years that would be in June. In September, 28 years ago, it was an honor for me to join my colleagues in welcoming His Holiness as he proposed the historic

Five Point Peace Plan for resolving the future status of Tibet, and he made that presentation to the United States Congress. I wish you could have been there to see that presentation 28 years ago. It did change our lives. In its five points, His Holiness was already emphasizing our responsibility to the environment. As it is stated in one of his points, serious efforts must be made to restore the natural environment in Tibet. Tibetans have a great respect for all forms of life. The inherent feeling is enhanced by the Buddhist faith, which prohibits the harming of all sentient beings, whether human or animal. That is in the five points. It's important to know that when His Holiness received the Nobel Peace Prize—when he received that, just a couple years after his visit to us—he was the first Nobel Laureate to be recognized for his concern about the global environment challenge, the first Nobel Laureate! A few years later, I wish you could have been there when our delegation to Rio, the earth summit in Rio in 1992, to see when His Holiness was so gloriously received at that Rio summit, having again recently received the Nobel Prize. It was for the environment, but it was also for consistently advocating nonviolence despite extreme aggression in Tibet. Many of us were privileged to be together 10 years ago—you were there, Richard—for his 70th birthday, in Washington, D.C. I had the privilege to introduce him to thousands of people; a crowd like this was there—seems like yesterday, Your Holiness. When we awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in the Congress, that takes place inside the Congress—but so many people wanted to be there that we had to have an outside program as well—thousands of people traveled from many distances, to be there, to be in the presence of His Holiness. Massive crowds, I wish you could have seen them, turned out to visit him.

When we went on a Congressional CODEL to Dharamsala, our delegation was so moved to see His Holiness in his setting. And yes, Valerie, it was so incredible to see the faces of the little children, being raised in the Tibetan culture, which many children in Tibet

would be deprived of that opportunity. It was also moving to see the anguished faces of people newly coming in to Dharamsala over the mountains just to report to His Holiness about the conditions in Tibet. I just associate myself with the characterization Valerie gave because she described it so well. I wish that you could all see how embraced His Holiness – you know how respected he is in the world, it's such a joy to see him in Dharamsala, of course we want to see him in Tibet. Of course, as we see him today, we know that people all over the world would do anything to seek an audience with His Holiness. Tibetans have walked and hiked for months across the freezing Himalayan mountain passes—it is the most perilous escape route on Earth. A month of walking over the mountains, in the freezing cold, they all do this to be in the presence of the Dalai Lama. How blessed we are today to be here for an audience with His Holiness on his birthday celebration.

For almost eight decades, because it started as a child practically, the visionary leadership of the Dalai Lama has been critical to amplifying the voices of Tibetans in Tibet and beyond. His clarion call of freedom for Tibet is a challenge to all who believe in justice, in dignity, and in the power of the human spirit. Indeed, the situation in Tibet remains a challenge to the conscience of the world. Under the Chinese government's continuing occupation of his homeland, Tibetans are losing their culture and their future, and the human rights situation is deteriorating. If freedom-loving people do not speak out against oppression in Tibet because of China's economic strength, then we have lost all moral authority to speak out on human rights anywhere in the world. When I say that to His Holiness, he said he prays that he can rid me of my negative attitudes, but anyway...

As a young person in 1960, though he's always young, His Holiness wrote a beautiful prayer entitled "The Words of Truth" which proclaims: "May all fears from unbearable war, famine, and disease be pacified to freely breathe an ocean of happiness and well-being". His Holiness' vision of happiness and

wellbeing, so similar to our founders' promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, ensure that people of every faith and every nation have a role to play in improving the lives of others. His Holiness has truly lived this truth.

In reading about His Holiness and the situation in Tibet, I came across a Sanskrit word, Satyagraha, and I learned that word in Sanskrit means nonviolence, and it also means insistence on the truth.

Nonviolence. Insistence on the truth. Isn't this exactly what His Holiness is about? Isn't it what we should all be about? And yes, under his leadership we must in a nonviolent way, a non-negative way, insist upon the truth of what is right for the world and what is right for Tibet. By speaking out against injustice we insist upon the truth by following the dedication of his life to the wellbeing of others and insisting on the dignity of every human being, His Holiness has indeed changed the lives of some of us, he has changed many lives—he has changed the world, he has changed history, and he is changing the future.

Richard Gere and I recently wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed in praise of His Holiness. We agreed that "there is no better way to honor the Dalai Lama on his 80th birthday than by standing with him and the Tibetan people, vowing to keep their cause alive".

Let us celebrate His Holiness with our actions, let us honor his cause with our commitment to justice, let us continue to work to fulfill the wishes of so many, who seek peace. Happy birthday again, Your Holiness. May you continue to change the world with your loving message of global peace through compassion. Richard has said I am looking forward to your 90th birthday. This doesn't sound like much after what Richard and Valerie said, but as we say in Italian, cento anni —may you live a hundred years; a hundred and ten, a hundred and twenty—you will always live in our hearts.

Thank you, Your Holiness."

## Remarks by Ms. Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama at NATA's event to Honor His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*Ms. Valerie Jarrett, Senior Adviser to US Preseident Barack Obama*

“His Holiness the Dalai Lama, to the monks and the people of Tibet, to the leaders and dignitaries and incredible performers who are here today, and to all of you, gathered in this amazing room, good afternoon.

And what an amazing afternoon it is. It is an honor to be among so many friends of His Holiness as we celebrate his extraordinary life of a man that we all admire and respect. I come here today on behalf of President Barack Obama, to convey the birthday wishes of the American people to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. There are very few individuals that have a truly global presence, and even fewer who have used that presence to make such a powerful and positive contribution to humanity. Both through his words and importantly his deeds, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has become an ambassador for peace, for justice, and for nonviolence. He has inspired us all to speak up for the dignity of every human being, and he has been unwavering in his conviction that there is most certainly more that unifies us than could possibly divide us. In this sense, he is a man for this moment: at a time when voices of intolerance seek to sow division along religious and

racial and ethnic lines, the Dalai Lama serves as a powerful counterweight, for he is a uniter. His teachings challenge us to promote religious harmony among all faiths and traditions, and the unwavering persistence of his message of compassion serves as a moral compass for all of us during this extraordinarily challenging time in our world's history.

But the Dalai Lama is not a billboard icon who merely looks good from a distance. I know this from personal experience that I am humbled to say. I had the incredible opportunity of visiting His Holiness in Dharamsala back in 2009. I spent time at his private residence and I visited the community that has thrived under his spiritual leadership in exile for 56 years.

The Dalai Lama and I discussed the importance of a lifelong commitment to giving voice to the voiceless, and by the example he has set, he truly gave me a renewed strength to never lose sight of our collective and our individual responsibility to be unwavering forces for good. I felt the profound connection between he and his many followers; I visited a monastery, I visited a school, I visited an orphanage—all that he had

established. I saw the extraordinary efforts that he had undertaken to preserve the Tibetan religious, cultural, and linguistic traditions. And I will never, ever forget the joyful healthy children who I met who were being raised by loving and nurturing adults in an orphanage that is 54 years old. And, in fact, I discovered that many of the adults in the orphanage had been raised in that very same orphanage and were giving back to the children of today. After that amazing trip to Dharamsala, I returned to the United States and I told President Obama that His Holiness had changed my life, and I meant it.

Now, I hasten to add that later His Holiness said to the President that he thought I was exaggerating when I said that, but I was not. He truly changed my life. And each time our paths have crossed since that very first visit to Dharamsala, the Dalai Lama has touched my heart, and has been an ongoing source of deep and true inspiration for me as I know he is for all of you.

On a personal note, I just want to say publicly what I hope you know privately, which is: I treasure you, and I am humbled, deeply humbled, to be able to call you my friend.

And so today, as we join here and so many people around the world in celebration of an extraordinary life of this great leader, a good and a decent man, a compassionate and honest man, a spiritual and intellectual man, a man, I hasten to say, with amazing grace.

And so I close the way I began, which is to say to you on behalf of President Barack Obama, I wish you Sir, a continued health, and strength, and vigor, for at least until you reach the age of a hundred and twenty.

Thank you very much.”



## Celebrations of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th Birthday at Anaheim, California



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama admiring the large birthday cake presented to him during celebrations honoring his 80th birthday at the Honda Center in Anaheim, California, USA on July 5, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*

His Holiness was welcomed to a special breakfast to celebrate his 80th birthday at the Honda Centre. Addressing the gathering, he told them we need to use our intelligence to promote loving kindness. He said the nature of compassion is not something new. It's something we are all familiar with. We all have the seed of compassion in us that we can cultivate. In the past we learned about this from our religious traditions, but today many people claim no longer to believe and of those who say they believe, many go through the motions in the place of worship, but bring nothing with them when they leave.

“Cultivating the kind of compassion we can extend to our enemies requires that we use our intelligence. We have to use reason just as we do to understand that anger destroys our peace of mind.”

As he was about to leave the breakfast, His Holiness called two fellow Nobel Peace Laureates, Jody Williams and

Shirin Ebadi, up to join him. He explained that they had last met at a gathering of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome, at the end of which they had announced a determination to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons. They had also declared that the announcement by itself was not enough, there needed to be a timetable for reducing and eliminating these weapons of mass destruction had to be set and nuclear states needed to be held to it. His Holiness said they would need to mobilize popular support.

He followed this with a meeting with Representative Ed Royce who is Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In an interview with Maria Hall Brown for PBS Southern California, His Holiness noted that 20 years ago little attention was paid to ethics or inner values, but over the last 10 years more and more people have begun to take an

interest. He said that increasing numbers of people realize the shortcomings of the current education system. That scientists too are showing interest in the workings of the mind is a source of hope. He told a correspondent for the local Orange County Reporter that as human beings we all have responsibility to promote the idea of the oneness of humanity especially in multiracial, multi-religious societies.

After lunch, Ann Curry escorted His Holiness onto the Honda Center stage before an 18,000 strong audience. Singing children had already set the scene and a video depicting scenes from His Holiness's life had been shown. Mayor Tom Tait introduced His Holiness to the crowd, explaining how he'd been to see him at home in Dharamsala and been made very welcome earlier this year. At the time His Holiness had been working on a 'Book of Joy' with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Founder of the Friends of the Dalai Lama, a prime organizer of the event, Ven. Tenzin Dhonden spoke next, expressing greetings to His Holiness and welcoming everyone in attendance. Among the many people he thanked for their support were Pierre Omidyar, Mayor Tait, the Honda Center staff and his own spiritual masters. He acknowledged His Holiness as someone who embodies compassion in person.

Facebook video greetings from #WithCompassion were shown featuring messages from Larry King, Arianna Huffington and many others. The video ended with a song 'We are One' by Runaground, who then appeared on stage to perform it again live, joined by a joyfully singing children.

Ann Curry then introduced an array of well-wishers who came forward to offer His Holiness words of appreciation. They included: actor Josh Radnor, Professor Robert Thurman, Bishop Desmond Tutu's grandson, Australian Cody Simpson, Dr Elahe Mir-Djalali Omidyar, UCI VC Thomas Parham, actor Wilmer Valderrama, actor Julia Ormond, oceanographers Walter Munk and Veerbhadrhan Ramanathan, comedian George Lopez, who had everyone laughing, musician Randy Jackson, rights activist and Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi, businessman Anthony Melikhove, peace activist and Nobel Peace Laureate Jodie Williams, musician MC Hammer, and on behalf of the Apache Nation Jonelle Romero.

Thirty Tibetan children from San Francisco sang a traditional Tibetan song. They were followed onto the stage by activist, rapper and musician Michael Franti who played, sang and led the audience in a rousing song for His Holiness.

After cutting a huge cake, His Holiness took his slice to the lectern and addressed the audience.

"Brothers and sisters," he told them, "I'm overwhelmed that so many speakers have expressed the importance of loving kindness. They have given

me encouragement and hope. I have generally thought that I would not see a compassionate world emerge in my lifetime. However, there seems to be real enthusiasm for the idea that the source of peace is within ourselves and that to change the world we all have to develop inner peace. Since scientists and educators are also showing interest in this, maybe we can achieve a peaceful world sooner than I thought. As my friend Jodie Williams says, 'We have to take action' and there is a Tibetan saying that if you fail nine times, nine times you should try again.

"I've faced many difficulties, but I've remained truthful, honest and determined. As time goes on the truth becomes stronger, while the power of the gun diminishes. A more compassionate world is in the interest of all sentient beings, and even the environment will benefit too. The kind of universal compassion, unbiased compassion, that can be extended even to your enemy is within the reach of all of us.

"We all come from our mothers. We all have a deep experience of affection, even those who are now referred to as 'terrorists'. In this large gathering I'd like to repeat that I am just one human being. We are all part of humanity. We are all the same and our future depends on others. Each day I dedicate my body, speech and mind to the welfare of all mother sentient beings. I say my favourite prayer:

*For as long as space endures  
And for as long as living beings remain,  
Until then may I too abide  
To dispel the misery of the world.*

As His Holiness got ready to leave, Ann Curry summed up the sense of the gathering in her comment:

"It's your birthday, but the rest of us seem to be the ones who have been made a gift."

"Thank you and happy birthday."

At the Anaheim Theater Mayor Tom Tait welcomed His Holiness to a special reception. In this newly announced City

of Kindness, His Holiness repeated his belief that progress towards greater kindness can be made through education. The Mayor described a project already run in local schools for children to create a million acts of kindness. He noted that reports of bullying are down and children are happier and more fulfilled. Mayor of nearby Santa Ana, Miguel Pulido, announced his plans to emulate the 'million acts of kindness' in the schools in his area.

At a further reception attended by 1000 people and organized by the City of Garden Grove, Mayor Bao Nguyen welcomed His Holiness, who spoke briefly.

"Respected brothers and sisters, inner values such as compassion and forgiveness bring us peace, comfort and inner strength, which are helpful to us. Anger and fear do us no good; they disturb our peace of mind. I see there are a lot of Vietnamese here. I've come across quite a number of communities like you in America, France and Australia, who have made an effort to preserve your cultural heritage and your Buddhist faith. I admire your determination."

His Holiness was offered a certificate by the Vietnamese Americans of the USA. The Mayor of the City of Westminster praised His Holiness as a role model and when the Mayor of Garden Grove presented him with a key to the city, His Holiness responded:

"Ah, and compassion is the key to open inner peace."



## Tibetans Celebrate Dalai Lama's Birthday in Defiance of Chinese Ban

Radio Free Asia



*Tibetans celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Dalai Lama's birth year, Qinghai province, China, June 21, 2015.*

Defying Chinese bans and threats of punishment, Tibetan monks and laypeople living in Qinghai and Sichuan provinces celebrated the 80th anniversary of the birth year of exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama over the weekend, sources said.

The celebrations came as Chinese authorities tightened restrictions across Tibetan-populated regions in advance of the Dalai Lama's July 6 birthday, posting warnings against celebrations of the politically sensitive event and blocking public gatherings that could be linked to it.

On June 21, Tibetan monks and villagers gathered at Churathang, an open area in Kardze (in Chinese, Ganzi) prefecture's Draggo (Luhuo) county, where they set up an altar and offerings in front of a large photo of the Dalai Lama, an exile-based Tibetan monk told RFA's Tibetan Service on Monday, citing local contacts.

"All those gathered at the site recited prayers for [the Dalai Lama's] long

life and burned incense," RFA's source, Ngawang Sherab, said, adding that a large banner had also been raised at the site offering good wishes for the Dalai Lama on the occasion of his birthday.

In Kardze's Choru area, too, "both laypeople and monks observed the day with different activities," a second exile source said, also citing local sources.

"But details are not available due to a [Chinese] clampdown on the Internet in the area," he said.

### Public and private celebrations

In Draser village in Qinghai's Golog (Guoluo) prefecture, local Tibetans evaded bans on celebrations by organizing events within their private homes, a local Tibetan source told RFA.

"But Tibetans living in [Qinghai's] Gepasumdo [Tongde] county organized public offerings of incense and set off fireworks to celebrate," the source said,

speaking on condition of anonymity.

In Qinghai's Pema county, Tibetans meanwhile conducted prayer ceremonies in local monasteries, while in another area Tibetans organized a fasting retreat but were prevented from proceeding by police.

"So the Tibetans went to a fish market and spared the lives of hundreds of fish, dedicating the merit of the act to the Dalai Lama's long life," he said.

The Dalai Lama, who turns 80 this year, fled Tibet into exile in India in the midst of a failed 1959 national uprising against Chinese rule, and displays by Tibetans of the Dalai Lama's photo or public celebrations of his birthday have been with harsh punishment in the past.

Sporadic demonstrations challenging Chinese rule have continued in Tibetan-populated areas of China since widespread protests swept the region in 2008, with 141 Tibetans to date setting themselves ablaze to oppose Beijing's rule and call for the Dalai Lama's return.

## Eleven Organisations Make a Long-Life Offering to His Holiness the Dalai Lama



*Monks making a ritual offering during the Long Life Offering for His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, HP, India on July 20, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Phuntsok/OHHDL*

To begin with this morning, His Holiness the Dalai Lama took his seat below the Tsuglagkhang to observe debates performed by monks and nuns from Nepal. They came from Kopan Monastery, Shelkar Chöde, Chuwar Gaden Drogen Ling, Shri Chusang Gompa, Samtenling Drubgön, Thukje Chöling, Serkong Gaden Jamgonling, and Gosok Phuntsok Chöling, as well as two nunneries, Kyirong Thukje Chöling and Kopan Khechö Gakyil Ling. They also submitted a report of their studies and activities. His Holiness commended them, noting that 40 years ago he had advised that even monasteries engaged mostly in performing rituals and nunneries should introduce programs of study. He told them that they not only need to study, reflect and meditate, they also need to integrate what they know in practice.

From the throne in the Tsuglagkhang, His Holiness announced that eleven different organizations had submitted requests to make a Ten-shug or Long-

Life Offering. They included the Gelug Association of Nepal, the Tibetan Youth Congress, people of U-Tsang province, Shang Gaden Chökhör Ling, the Taglung Kagyu Tradition, the Tibetan Women's Association, the Guchusum Movement, the Ngari Chithun Association, the Lodrik Association of Pokhara, Nepal, the Middle Way People's Association and the Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Society. Since there was insufficient time for each of them to make a separate offering, they had all been brought together today.

"Today, the fourth of the sixth Tibetan month, is when we celebrate the Buddha's first teaching," His Holiness told the packed crowd. "He manifested as an emanation body, which can be seen by ordinary people, and lived the life of a prince. Once he'd seen the four signs – birth, aging, sickness and death – he renounced the royal life and undertook austerities for six years. Meditating on selflessness he attained enlightenment and then sharing what he'd experienced

with others, he revealed the path.

"There were three Turnings of the Wheel of Dharma. In the first the Buddha taught the Four Noble Truths, in the second the Perfection of Wisdom and in the third the nature of the mind and Buddha nature. While the first Turning of the Wheel took place in public, the second was revealed only to a select group of disciples.

"Today, commemorating the First Turning of the Wheel of Dharma is an auspicious day. I'll give a long-life empowerment related to the White Tara Wish-fulfilling Wheel, and along with that we'll conduct a ceremony for generating the awakening mind. After that you can perform the long-life offering."

His Holiness spoke about the Tibetan Buddhist tradition having its origins in the Nalanda tradition, which was characterized by a sceptical analysis of the teachings. This was in accord with the Buddha's own advice to his

followers not to accept his teaching out of reverence for him, but only once they had convinced themselves of its integrity through analysis. He said that while the Tibetan word 'chö' has a connotation of transformation, the Sanskrit term 'Dharma' has a sense of restraint, withholding and protection.

He pointed out that all 7 billion human beings alive today want happiness and don't want suffering. And yet today's education systems seem to be dedicated only to material development, which is inadequate. What we need in addition, he said, is a sense of inner peace, mental peace. To achieve that we need to counter our disturbing emotions which are among the factors that destroy it. His Holiness suggested that although circumambulation and prayer have value, they won't help us overcome ignorance. Only wisdom and intelligence can do that. Although love and compassion are common to all religious paths, only Buddhism teaches a wisdom that overcomes the ignorance that involves a misconception of reality.

"In their report downstairs just now the monks and nuns from Nepal referred to an ongoing dialogue between Buddhism and science. I prefer to talk about a conversation involving Buddhist science and modern science. Where quantum physics says things lack any objective existence, for example, the Mind Only school says nothing has any external existence. What I wonder is whether such an understanding in a quantum physicist's mind has any effect on his or her disturbing emotions?"

"Tibetan Buddhism is vast and profound, but we should cultivate it on the basis of understanding, not on the excuse that it is what our parents believed. When Mao Zedong told me that religion is poison, I think he was referring to following religion with blind faith.

"For forty years or so, I've urged monasteries where there was no tradition of study to introduce it. These days I urge lay people to study too and increasingly many are doing so. The Nalanda tradition placed emphasis on logic and epistemology, which deals

with the nature, sources and limits of knowledge. We Tibetans have kept it up. This is our treasure; it can be a treasure for the world too."

His Holiness expressed gratitude for the kindness Tibetans have received from the Himalayan peoples. The many monks who have joined the re-established Tibetan monasteries have derived benefit themselves, but have also been helpful to the tradition. He mentioned Gyumey Lama Umzey, Gyen Lobsang, Shartse Abbot Jangchub Chöden, Chosphele Zotpa and Ganden Tri Rinpoche, Rizong Rinpoche as examples. He also recalled a story from the late Bakula Rinpoche's childhood at Drepung Monastery in Tibet. When Rinpoche's teacher scolded him for something Rinpoche apologised and asked to be excused because he came from a borderland. These days, His Holiness remarked, Ladakh is more like a central land.

"Although we are refugees," His Holiness said, "we have preserved our traditions and shared them with the world."

When he began to give the White Tara long-life empowerment, including a

ceremonial generation of the awakening mind of bodhichitta, he remarked that if we are to put the vast and profound teachings of the Buddha into practice we need to have a long life. He advised that if we can it is important to maintain a clear mind from childhood.

"If you don't die in the next couple of months, you may be able to create the causes for good rebirth. If you don't die for the next couple of years, you might be able to create the causes of lasting happiness," he said.

The moment the White Tara empowerment was complete, the assembly began to perform the long-life offering. During the customary procession to present symbolic and actual offerings, about 1300 people from the 11 participating organizations passed through the temple, many of them looking eagerly towards the throne in hope of catching His Holiness's eye. In the course of this happy occasion His Holiness remarked that while many regard their 81st year as unfavourable, for him it has been most auspicious. Long after he had returned to his residence, and despite the rain, people who had taken part in the ceremonies continued to sing and dance in the temple yard.



*Members of one of eleven groups waiting for their turn to make offerings to His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the Long Life Offering at the Main Tibetan Temple in Dharamsala, HP, India on July 20, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Phuntsok/OHHDL*

## The Dalai Lama Talks About Pope Francis, Aging and Heartbreak With TIME

By Elizabeth Dias, TIME Magazine



*Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama stands on stage before making a speech to an audience at the ESS Stadium in Aldershot, southern England, Monday, June 29, 2015.*

### On the morning of his 80th birthday

On Monday, the morning of his 80th birthday, His Holiness the Dalai Lama sat down with TIME in Anaheim, Calif. The Tibetan spiritual leader shared his advice on growing old and mending a broken heart and talked about maybe meeting Pope Francis. Below are excerpts from the conversation, which has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

The gap between the Tibet cause in exile and the situation on the plateau is widening. Some say that your message — which is so cheerful, hopeful, and, as we see here in Anaheim, appeals to upper-middle-class Westerners — is so counter to the situation on the ground in Tibet, where some feel that the exile government isn't doing enough for Tibetan Buddhists themselves. How do you see that tension, and its future?

It seems that regardless of how much censorship they impose, the people in Tibet do seem to be able to get the news ... Inside Tibet, is physically distant ... but there's a few who get some information, then that spreads ... There are organizations, their main responsibility is to look after the Tibetan refugee community, their education, and also the way for preservation of our own culture, mainly, and monastic institutions, to carry our

tradition and culture — I think quite sophisticated knowledge about the tradition. So then we are not representing, directly, inside Tibet. We have no direct responsibility like that, so by the way, say in our last, I think, 30 years, many Tibetans have the opportunity to come to India and join our school. ... So then after they get some education level, they return, they carry [that] inside Tibet ... Then these people now carry the main responsibility for teaching ... More of these connections are taking place on the personal, individual level, organic process, not so much through the centralized institution.

### **You have not yet met Pope Francis, correct? If you could have a meeting with Pope Francis, what would you want to talk with him about?**

Yes, not yet ... Recently he also has been showing genuine concern about the environment. Wonderful. A spiritual leader should speak — these are global issues. So I admire [him].

How do you find sense of purpose as you age, especially if you live in a Western society that values youth?

I believe in also telling people, when you are young is its own special beauty, doing active things. Then, getting older, its own beauty, more experience to share

with other people. One time in Sweden, I noticed, one small group of people, they have some kind of program, those retired people should take more active role taking care of young children. I think that is very good. Old people play, mixing with young children, the old people themselves feel something fresh. Sometimes, children see more love with grandparent rather than parent, that also happens. So I think children may do not attraction external beauty, old people, no longer any beauty, but smile, play, make joke, some sort of short stories, then children looked at. So if you age but then still feel bitter because you are not able to lots of things you could do when you were young, that is total, silly, unrealistic. Of course, the wider experience, the young people, youth, cannot do that — not yet.

### **I don't know if you've ever been in love, but I'm wondering — how do you heal a broken heart?**

Actually, you see, practice celibacy ... If you look at the nature of strong attachment, underlying that strong attachment is a clinging, grasping, and if you look at other reactive emotions that arise, actually it is strong attachment that underpins hatred, anger, jealousy, and so on, so if you somehow are able to look at this and recognize that a large part of the reception is perception, that could lose some of this strong grasping. I always remember, in a dream, if ... a beautiful woman or something like that, I remember I am a monk. It is very helpful.

### **And if you aren't a monk?**

I think the desire for sex goes extreme, always creates some trouble. So that I think, in Western culture, there is a lot of emphasis on sensuality, and sexuality is part of that.

Thank You!

## Tibet Isn't Free Yet; That Doesn't Mean the Dalai Lama Has Failed

By Freya Putt, Human rights activist & Deputy Director at Tibet Action Institute

In recent years, I've noticed an increasing trend of articles and commentaries examining the Dalai Lama's life and legacy that conclude Tibetans, and he as their leader, have failed in their cause to restore freedom to Tibet. Having worked for this movement for 18 years, I can understand having doubts about what the future holds. But really? Failed? It's a done deal?

Some voiced similar sentiments in the 1960s and 1970s, when most people had never heard of Tibet, and certainly no countries were bothering to advocate for Tibetan political prisoners or other rights. China had been "lost" by the west and Tibetans were unfortunate casualties.

But the gloom-and-doom analysis proved to be misguided then, as the mere handful of Tibetan refugees who had resettled globally built awareness and inspired activism. Huge protests in Lhasa in the late 1980s, as well as the Dalai Lama's Nobel Peace Prize, Hollywood and the Tibetan Freedom Concerts, drove Tibet into international public consciousness. Likewise, this frame of analysis is misguided now.

Perhaps I'm just too invested to acknowledge that the cause is lost. But I don't think so.

First of all, it's human nature that where there's injustice, there's struggle. People don't just give up trying to make their lives better because the odds are against them; the daily effort to resist indignities and oppose oppression continues regardless of what the endgame might be. Tibetans demonstrate this constantly, showing their opposition to China's occupation by wearing traditional clothes, patronizing Tibetan-owned shops, holding onto their language and fighting for its use in schools, deploying art, music and poetry to express themselves and rally each other, using blockades and other direct action to protect lands, and even making the extreme choice to light

themselves on fire in defiance of Chinese rule.

In fact, while state oppression has increased in recent years, resistance in Tibet has grown and deepened. A decade ago, opposition to Chinese rule seemed to manifest mainly through small, unplanned protests, which though symbolically powerful, are easily countered by China. Today, resistance is constant, sophisticated, and waged on many fronts.

And while our collective memory is short, it shouldn't be too much of a stretch to remember that many — perhaps most — conflicts about rights, territory and self-governance have taken decades or centuries to resolve. Think slavery and civil rights in the U.S.A., Irish independence, the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, Indian independence and decolonization the world over.

The conditions affecting rights and freedom for Tibet are daunting, to say the least. China has steadily gained economic clout and countries increasingly react in fear when it flexes its economic muscle. Tibetans number roughly six million, Chinese 1.3 billion. Tibet's high, mountainous plateau has kept it isolated and made it easier for China to severely limit both physical and virtual interaction between Tibetans and the outside world. And Tibet's mineral and water resources and strategic location in the heart of Asia make it an economic and geopolitical prize.

Looking at these factors, it shouldn't be a big surprise that the Tibetan struggle hasn't yet been won.

But not having yet won a struggle is very different from having lost it. Bill Moyer, an American theorist and activist, developed a strategic model for explaining the progress of social movements and used case studies to illustrate eight distinct phases. He emphasized that after substantial gains, such as building a mass

movement, achieving popular support and defining an issue as a problem on society's agenda, movements often find themselves mired in a sense of despair and powerlessness based on a misperception of their progress. The Tibetan freedom movement has made significant strides toward its goals: establishing the legitimacy of Tibetans' claims to freedom, building a mass base of popular global support, overpowering China's propaganda factory in the media, and making Tibet a constant challenge to China's reputation on the global stage. There is much more to be done, clearly, but the critical foundation has already been built.

In fact, amidst all the tragedy, suffering and daily hardship that Tibetans face, there is much to celebrate. Far from having failed, the Dalai Lama should be recognized as one of the global leaders of the 20th and 21st century who has made an indelible, positive impact on the world.

The Dalai Lama brought the issue of Tibet to the world and inspired tens if not hundreds of thousands of people to support the cause. He bridged the various religious, regional and other divides within the Tibetan community to unify Tibetans behind a strategic approach to the struggle that included making it visible internationally — despite China's constant objections and best efforts — and emphasizing the moral power of using nonviolence.

Tibetan Buddhism emphasizes nonviolence, but the current Dalai Lama raised it to the level of global politics. It permeates the thinking of Tibetans, particularly the new generation raised in exile, and will influence Tibetan political leadership far into the future. Although some young Tibetans legitimately ask why they should remain nonviolent when the world seems to pay attention only to violence, and wonder if armed insurrection

*(contd. on page 24)*

## Kundun: The Presence of an Absence

By Dechen Pemba, The Huffington Post

We Tibetans have many terms of respect for His Holiness the Dalai Lama; Yeshe Norbu, Gongsachog, Chenrezig, Gyalwa Rinpoche, Kundun... These are the names we use when we speak amongst ourselves and these were also the names I heard invoked many times when travelling around Tibet on my trips there in 1994, 2004, 2007 and 2008.

Upon hearing that I was a Tibetan from inji-lungba (literally, the land of English people), the first question would invariably be, have you ever seen or met His Holiness? From Lighthang in Kham to Labrang in Amdo through to Lhasa in central Tibet, in all three traditional provinces of Tibet, it was the same question over and over.

I almost felt bad to say that I had, on several occasions. I would never dare to answer truthfully, that I had seen him more times than I could even count. When I was little and growing up in Surrey, just outside of London, a Tibetan audience with His Holiness meant a day off school and a day trip to London, it was always exciting! In those days in the 1980s, there were barely 100 Tibetans in the whole of the UK.

Later when I became a student in Bei-

jing in 2006, I taught English as a volunteer to Tibetan students and had been warned not to make the classes “political” in any way. Imagine how I broke into a sweat when in my first ever class, a young man from Amdo decided to use the self-introduction round as a chance to speak in English about the situation in his home village, describing in detail how Chinese settlers were coming in large numbers and the lack of religious freedom. One of my other classes was on the topic of “holidays”. When I asked the class, where they’d like to travel to on holiday, one by one they all answered India. I should have seen that one coming really.

The term Kundun in Tibetan literally means “presence” but the Dalai Lama’s absence from Tibet is an all too real pain that is impossible not to feel. Or in a strange way, it could be interpreted as an overall presence in noting the absence.

In contemporary Tibetan songs and writings, themes of missing someone, often a parent, are common, as well as longing for a distant far off place. These poetic expressions are often ambiguous to avoid censorship and political problems, many have been translated into English on my website High Peaks Pure Earth.

In 2011, prominent Tibetan writer, poet and blogger Tsering Wooser wrote about having a Skype audience with His Holiness from her Beijing apartment. Her blogpost became the most read on High Peaks Pure Earth ever and the third most commented upon.

Wooser movingly wrote:

“I cried and I cried. When I, as Tibetans do, prostrated three times, silently reciting some prayers, holding a khata in my hands and kneeling in front of the computer with tear-dimmed eyes, I saw His Holiness reaching out both of his hands as if he was going to take the Khata, as if he was going to give me his blessings. I am unable to describe with words how I felt: I am really such a fortunate person; in Tibet, many people get into trouble simply for owning a photo of the Dalai Lama.”

It seems fitting on the occasion of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s 80th birthday to honour the Tibetans who patiently wait for him.

*Dechen Pemba is editor of High Peaks Pure Earth website.*

*cont. from page 23..*

could bring a quicker end to the human rights violations and suffering they or their families face daily in Tibet, the overwhelming number are committed to the path of nonviolence now and in the future, for moral reasons or because they believe it is the most certain route to victory (a belief supported by recent research showing that nonviolent struggles succeed more often than violent ones).

The Dalai Lama’s legacy of nonviolence reaches far beyond the Tibetan community. He has been a moral beacon for decades and his nonviolent message

has transcended the constant refrain of violent conflict and escalating responses that comes from our media and our politicians, giving people something we both need and crave: a vision of a peaceful and compassionate world. If even a few more global leaders emphasized the value of nonviolent struggle, our world could look very different.

Sadly, we are quick to overlook the impact of leaders such as the Dalai Lama and largely nonviolent movements like that of the Tibetans. Suggestions that either the Dalai Lama or the broader Tibetan struggle has failed ignore the importance of alternatives to violent conflict and also neglect to consider what real failure could look like: the death of

Tibetan culture and religion, hopelessness, infighting, mob violence and self-defeating attacks on the overwhelmingly armed Chinese occupiers.

Commentators, activists, elected officials and the many others who support the Dalai Lama’s nonviolent path, rather than reinforcing a frame of failure, should acknowledge what gains have been made and think strategically about what can be done next.

At age 80, the question is not whether the Dalai Lama has failed but if the world has failed this towering leader who has given so much to humanity. Let’s make sure the answer is no.



## Dalai Lama, Anything But “A Simple Buddhist Monk”

By Shashi Tharoor, NDTV

When the United Nations convened a Millennium World Peace Summit of religious leaders at its headquarters in 2000, one major religious figure was conspicuous by his absence. The Dalai Lama, the spiritual and political leader of Tibetan Buddhism, had not been asked to come. The implacable hostility of a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China, has made it impossible for him to set foot in a UN building anywhere, or to be received by any official of the UN, let alone its Secretary-General. Where millions see a revered seeker of peace and an admired advocate of love and reconciliation, the Government in Beijing sees only a “splittist,” a secessionist rebel who threatens Chinese sovereignty over his homeland.

This dichotomy has always been inherent in the role of the Dalai Lama. He is simultaneously the most visible spiritual leader of a worldwide community of believers, and (till a few years ago) the political head of a government in exile. As a Buddhist, he preaches non-attachment, self-realization, inner actualization and non-violence; as a Tibetan, he is looked up to by a people fiercely attached to their homeland, most seeking its independence from China, many determined to fight for it.

The Dalai Lama has been a refugee for five decades, but is the most recognized worldwide symbol of a country he has not seen in half a century. His message of peace, love and reconciliation has found adherents amongst Hollywood movie stars and pony-tailed hippies, Irish rock musicians and Indian politicians, but he has made no headway at all with the regime that rules his homeland, and has been unable to prevent Tibet’s inexorable transformation into one more Chinese province. His sermons fill football stadiums and he has won a Nobel Prize, but political leaders around the world shirk from meeting him openly for fear of causing costly offence to the Chinese.

As the Dalai Lama turns 80 today,

the world sees him as a public figure, viewed, heard and admired at religious gatherings and official meetings; as a private person, usually through the accounts of others, reflecting in conversations with various prominent people on the values and concerns that animate his life; and, somewhat less, as a politician on the global stage. The last is a role the Dalai Lama has officially relinquished, by giving up the leadership of the Tibetan Government in exile and permitting the election, by the Tibetan diaspora, of Lobsang Sangay to that responsibility. But though formally the Dalai Lama is out of politics, it is impossible for him to escape the burden of symbolizing the political aspirations of the Tibetan people. These he describes now as autonomy, cultural and administrative rather than political, and within the Chinese state, rather than the independence he acknowledges to be impossible to attain.

I first met the Dalai Lama in 1979 or 1980 in Geneva, when he had come to address the Diplomatic Club there. I was a young UN official in the early years of my career - no one of any consequence whatsoever. As he came down the aisle, he shook my hand and we exchanged a few words. I was overwhelmed by the gesture: here was a man whose followers would cherish the mere grazing of the hem of his robe, and he was holding my hand and talking to me! My admiration began then, and has been reinforced by many encounters over the years, mostly on public occasions or from a distance, though I have been privileged to enjoy two private audiences with him as well. The Dalai Lama’s easy grace upon entering a room, his infectiously loud laughter, his profound compassion and humanity all leap forth from his presence. So does his sense of being anchored in the present, and in “reality”.

To one author, Pico Iyer, even the Dalai Lama’s polishing his glasses suggests “a metaphor for what he’s encouraging all of us to do” - to polish our mental glasses and see the world around us, and beyond us, more clearly.

The Dalai Lama calls himself “a simple Buddhist monk” bound by 253 different vows, but he has proven himself to be anything but simple and so much more than a monk. To most Tibetans, he incarnates their homeland, as well as their faith, and even their sense of selfhood. His fame, too, is a worldly asset. To quote Iyer again: “in a world where celebrity is ever more a global currency, the spiritual celebrity is the one who can actually change the coin of the realm into something more precious or sustaining.”

The Dalai Lama does not pretend to have all the answers; but he has an astonishing talent for raising the right questions, and forcing us to interrogate ourselves in the same way. His spiritual message -- to build one’s home within oneself - is all the more relevant when one can no longer rebuild the external home that one has been forced to flee. Some impatient young Tibetans want freedom in this world rather than freedom from this world, but the Dalai Lama has long realized that the only transformation that is possible for his people is within themselves. Beijing does not seem to realize that the reviled secessionist is more interested in sovereignty over the self than in the sovereignty of his now-vanished state.

One of the striking things about the Dalai Lama is that his mind is always focused on the future, which after all can be changed, rather than to the past, which cannot. The fact that, thanks to him, Tibetan Buddhists have created a global networked community to substitute for the indigenous one they are unable to sustain at home might well assure that future.

As he turns 80, one cannot but marvel at all he has done to make that future possible, and to wish him health and peace as he continues his tireless journey towards a better world for all who listen to his wisdom.

## Tibet's Tough Road Ahead

By Carl Gershman, The Washington Post



The 80th birthday Monday of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, is an occasion to celebrate the life of an extraordinary individual. Since his flight from Tibet to India in 1959, the Dalai Lama has built religious, educational and political institutions to serve and unite the Tibetan community in exile. He has travelled the world to promote the Tibetan cause and expound the teachings of Tibetan Buddhism. And he has formulated a conciliatory "Middle Way Approach" to resolving the Sino-Tibetan conflict that respects China's sovereignty and territorial integrity even as it seeks to preserve Tibet's culture, religion and identity. These accomplishments, and the Dalai Lama's infectious laugh and warmth, explain why he is such a beloved and respected figure throughout the world.

As joyful as the occasion of his 80th birthday is, however, it comes at a grim time for the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan freedom movement. The Chinese government has broken off negotiations on Tibet's status, accusing the Dalai Lama of deceitfully trying to split China and of inciting the 2008 Lhasa uprising, charges that are offensive in addition to being entirely untrue. In April, it issued a white paper saying that talks would not be reopened until the Dalai Lama acknowledged that "Tibet has been an integral part of China since antiquity,"

something he cannot agree to since it is contradicted by the historical record and overlooks the fact that Communist China invaded Tibet and illegally annexed it in 1959.

Having rejected compromise and dialogue as the way to end Tibetan resistance to its rule, the Chinese government has opted for harsh repression, forced assimilation and the systematic effort to destroy the Tibetan religion, language and distinct national identity. Tibet has been flooded with Han Chinese settlers; monasteries have been placed under direct government control; writers have been arrested and tortured; and more than 2 million nomads have been forcibly resettled in urban areas, destroying their traditional way of life and disrupting the fragile ecosystem of the Tibet Plateau.

In response to these and other harsh measures, which the Dalai Lama has called "cultural genocide," more than 140 Tibetans have immolated themselves in desperate protest against Chinese oppression. This further enraged the regime, which called upon local security forces to "smash disorder, in order to maintain general harmony and stability." But as 29 dissident Chinese intellectuals said in a call for dialogue with the Dalai Lama, "A country that wishes to avoid the partition of its territory must first avoid divisions among its nationalities."

With the Dalai Lama turning 80, a contest is already developing over his succession. In Tibetan Buddhism, reincarnation is a fundamental tenet, and only the Dalai Lama has the authority to choose whether and through whom he will reincarnate. Yet Beijing has already approved guidelines giving the communist government control of the process. This contest takes place against the background of Chinese authorities having kidnapped in 1995 the 6-year-old boy identified by the Dalai Lama as the incarnation of the Panchen Lama, the

second most important figure in Tibetan Buddhism, and replaced him with another boy.

The fact that the Chinese-imposed Panchen Lama continues to be categorically rejected by Tibetans should indicate how inflammatory it would be if Beijing tried to impose its choice for the next Dalai Lama. But that's exactly what it intends to do, except that the Dalai Lama has hinted that he might not reincarnate at all. Zhu Weiqun, a top Communist Party official dealing with Tibet, angrily called the Dalai Lama's statement "a betrayal" of Tibetan Buddhism and accused him of taking "a frivolous attitude toward his own succession." Such shameless impudence by a spokesman for an atheistic party would be laughable were his words not the official policy of the Chinese government.

The Dalai Lama has said that he will consult with the high Lamas of Tibetan Buddhism, as well as with the Tibetan public and other concerned people, before taking a decision on "whether the institution of the Dalai Lama should continue or not." These words reflect a spirit of democratic inclusiveness that has characterized his leadership, including his decision to devolve political authority to a democratically elected exile government.

It is ironic that at a time of democratic malaise in the West, this "simple Buddhist monk," as he calls himself, from a remote non-Western civilization has emerged as a fervent defender of democratic values and arguably the world's leading exponent of nonviolence and religious freedom.

As we celebrate the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, let us remember the suffering of the Tibetan people and pray that it will come to an end.

*Carl Gershman is president of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).*

## Happy Birthday to Your Holiness

By Richard Moore

I am delighted and honoured to say I have met His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet on a number of occasions both in Ireland and when I visited him in India. I have had the wonderful privilege of hosting His Holiness in Ireland quite a few times now. However, the first time I met His Holiness was in 2000 when I attended an event in my home town of Derry, Northern Ireland where he spoke to a group of people from across the political and religious divide who had been directly affected by the conflict here. Like many of those in the room that day I bore the physical scars of the so called “troubles”, having lost my eyesight as a result of being shot by a British soldier when I was 10 years old in 1972 whilst on my way home from school. His message of compassion and forgiveness was very moving, extremely powerful and the impact on me of what he said that day was enormous.

His Holiness has an incredible ability to speak to everyone and manages to communicate some very profound messages in a very ordinary and sometimes humorous way. He helped me and I am sure many others not only in Northern Ireland but throughout the world to realise that forgiveness is a gift you can give to yourself. Forgiveness is not about the other person or in my case the British soldier who blinded me but is a way in which you can find peace and reconciliation within your own heart and mind. I realised after listening to His Holiness

that my ability to accept blindness and my sense of contentment was because I didn't harbour any feelings of anger or hatred. In fact, I always wanted to meet the British Soldier who blinded me and in 2006, almost 34 years after the incident, Charles and I met for the first time and have remained good friends ever since. I was also delighted to receive an invitation from His Holiness to visit him and in May 2010 Charles and I travelled to his residence in Dharamsala for a special audience with His Holiness. It was during this trip that His Holiness agreed to become Patron of Children in Crossfire, which was a great honour for me personally and the entire organisation. Children in Crossfire is an international NGO, committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable children caught in the crossfire of poverty. Children in Crossfire works in partnership with local organisations in Tanzania and Ethiopia to deliver projects on the ground, protect the rights of vulnerable children and provide access to improved health and education.

In celebrating His Holiness's 80th birthday we should celebrate the positive example he has continued to be in the world. There is perhaps no greater advocate for peace and compassion as respected worldwide as the Dalai Lama. He is a man of great warmth, depth, knowledge and insight. As a refugee from his native Tibet he has suffered a great deal alongside his people. His

extraordinary work for peace has been recognised by his Nobel Peace prize in 1989. However, it is the great admiration and esteem The Dalai Lama is held in, by people from all walks of life and all faiths, that makes him such an important figure in a world that is deeply grappling with complex economic, ecological and social problems, and the need to cultivate human understanding, connection and collective action.

On this occasion of his 80th birthday I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Holiness for his courage and incredible example of compassion.

*This article was published in The Huffington Post on 8 July 2015.*

*Mr. Richard Moore is founder and Director of Children in Crossfire. He was blinded by a rubber bullet shot by a British soldier in Derry in 1972, when he was only a boy of 10 at the height of Northern Ireland movement.*

*He founded Children in Crossfire to help other children across the world who are injured after getting caught in the middle of a conflict.*

*He had invited His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the keynote speaker at the International Conference on children's rights and "A Promise for the Future" in 2007.*



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## Saving Tibet's Unique Heritage

By Brahma Chellaney, *Japan Times*

The Dalai Lama is the Tibetans' god-king and also the embodiment of India's leverage on the core issue with China — Tibet. But with the longest-living Dalai Lama having turned 80 this month, the future of both Tibet, and the leverage that India has shied away from exercising, looks more uncertain than ever. Beijing is waiting for the exiled Tibetan leader to pass away to install a puppet as his successor, in the way it has captured the Panchen Lama institution.

The Dalai Lama's 80th birthday came just weeks after the 20th anniversary of China's abduction of the Tibetan-appointed Panchen Lama, one of the world's youngest and longest-serving political prisoners. And it will be followed by the 50th anniversary of the founding of what China deceptively calls the "Tibet Autonomous Region."

This, in reality, is a gerrymandered and directly ruled Tibet, half of whose traditional areas have been taken away and incorporated in Chinese provinces. Tibet was almost the size of Western Europe before it came under Chinese rule. China's conquest of the sprawling, resource-rich Tibet enlarged its landmass by more than 35 percent, turned it into India's neighbor, armed it with control over Asia's major river systems, and gave it access to a treasure trove of mineral resources.

The Chinese name for Tibet since the Qing Dynasty — Xizang, or "Western Treasure Land" — underscores the great value that this restive region, strategically located in the heart of Asia, holds for China. With its galloping, often-improvident style of economic growth, China has depleted its own natural resources and now is avariciously draining resources from Tibet. Tibet — holding China's biggest reserves of 10 different metals and serving as the world's largest lithium producer — is now the focal point of China's mining and damming activities, which threaten the fragile ecosystems and endemic

species of the Tibetan plateau.

The world's highest plateau, Tibet is one of the world's most biologically diverse regions, with the rarest medicinal plants, the highest-living primates on Earth, and scores of bird, mammal, amphibian, reptile, fish, and plant species not found anywhere else. As a land that includes ecological zones from the arctic to subtropical, this plateau has a range of landscapes extending from tundra to tropical jungles, besides boasting the world's steepest and longest canyon as well as its tallest peak, Mount Everest.

As Asia's main freshwater repository, largest water supplier, and principal rainmaker, Tibet plays a unique hydrological role. With its vast glaciers and permafrost, Tibet is called the "Third Pole" because it has the Earth's largest perennial ice mass after the Arctic and Antarctica.

No development since India's independence has carried greater implications for its long-term security than the fall of Tibet. Indeed, China's military and resource advantage gained by capturing Tibet — exemplified by the Tibetan plateau's increasing militarization and the damming of its rivers, such as the Mekong, the Salween and the Brahmaputra — is turning into a strategic and environmental nightmare for downstream countries in Southeast and South Asia.

Yet for China, capturing the Dalai Lama institution has become a priority, as if it were the unfinished business of its takeover of Tibet.

The aging 14th Dalai Lama, while coping with bouts of ill health, has publicly discussed a range of reincarnation possibilities that break from tradition, including his successor being a woman or being named while he is still alive.

To avert a Panchen Lama-type abduction, he has even suggested that

he be the last Dalai Lama or that the 15th Dalai Lama be found in the "free world" — among Tibetan exiles or in the Tibetan Buddhism citadels of Ladakh and Tawang in India. He, however, has yet to issue clear-cut guidelines on his reincarnation, raising the question whether it is a calculated move or a risky hesitation.

Nevertheless, it is doubtful that things would go China's way in Tibet merely if it installed a marionette as the next Dalai Lama. Given how most Tibetans despise the China-appointed Panchen Lama as a fake, Beijing would be hard pressed to make its Dalai Lama appointee acceptable to them. Its bigger problem, however, would likely be different.

The present Dalai Lama, with his espousal of nonviolence and his conciliatory "Middle Way" approach of seeking Tibet's autonomy without independence, has kept the Tibetan resistance to Chinese rule peaceful. But once he passes away, it is far from certain that the movement would remain peaceful or seek only autonomy. It is likely that his "Middle Way" approach would not survive after his death, thus closing Beijing's window of opportunity to resolve the Tibet issue by conceding meaningful autonomy and beginning a process of reconciliation and healing.

The Tibetan resistance movement, for its part, would become rudderless, fueling greater turbulence in a region that China has tried hard to pacify.

The 15th Dalai Lama chosen by Tibetans to take on Beijing's doppelganger appointee would be a small child. It was such a power vacuum that China exploited to invade and occupy Tibet when the present Dalai Lama was just 15. After the 13th Dalai Lama died in 1933, Tibet remained leaderless and wracked by fierce regent-related intrigues until the present Dalai Lama was hurriedly enthroned when the Chinese invasion started in 1950.

The next power vacuum in the Tibetan hierarchy could be historically momentous in sealing the fate of the Dalai Lama lineage, shaping Tibet's destiny, and having an impact far beyond.

With China's actions in Tibet posing a bigger challenge to India than any other country, New Delhi must not remain a mere spectator. India — home to a large Tibetan exile community, including the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile, and directly bearing the impact of China's activities on the Tibetan plateau — has a legitimate stake in Tibet's future.

Tibet is to India against China what Pakistan is to China against India. But in sharp contrast to India's qualms about playing the Tibet card, Beijing has had no hesitation to employ the Pakistan card against India, including by building Pakistan as a military and nuclear balancer on the subcontinent. Beijing even plays the Kashmir card against an inordinately defensive India.

Even as China politically shields

Pakistani terrorism against India — exemplified by its recent step to block United Nations action against the Pakistani release of U.N.-designated terrorist Zaki-ur Rehman Lakhvi — it has stepped up its own engagement with insurgent groups in India's vulnerable northeast, including funneling arms to them via the Myanmar route and encouraging them to coalesce.

Tibet is India's only important instrument of leverage against a muscular China bent upon altering the territorial, river-waters and geopolitical status quo, and fomenting terrorism in India's northeast, which is sandwiched between Myanmar, Bangladesh, Tibet and Bhutan. Unfortunately, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has resumed doing what his supposedly "weakling" predecessor Manmohan Singh had halted since 2010 — referring to Tibet as part of China in joint statements with Beijing.

Tibet, ever since China eliminated it as a buffer with India, has been at the heart of the Sino-Indian divide. It will remain so until Beijing pursues reconciliation and

healing there.

Modi, given his dynamic, forward-looking foreign policy, must work to gradually reclaim India's Tibet leverage against a China that openly challenges India's territorial integrity by claiming Indian areas on the basis of their alleged ecclesial or tutelary links with annexed Tibet. China's attempt at expanding annexation in this manner draws encouragement from India's imprudent acceptance since the 1950s of Chinese suzerainty over Tibet.

The Dalai Lama is India's strategic asset and ultimate trump card. If India is to safeguard its Tibet leverage for use, it must plan to act as a pivot in the Tibetan process to find, appoint and shield the next Dalai Lama.

With China's mega-dams, mines and military activities in Tibet set to increasingly affect Asia's environment and security, the world's leading democracies must consider playing a discreet role to help save the Tibetan plateau's unique heritage from becoming extinct.

## His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teaching schedule in November and December

**Conference in New Delhi, India on November 12 and 13:** His Holiness the Dalai Lama will participate in a 2-day conference on Quantum Physics and Madhyamika Philosophical View organized at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**Teaching in Hunsur, Karnataka, India from December 8 to 12:** His Holiness will give preliminary teachings on Tsongkhapa's In Praise of Dependent Origination (tendrel toepa) and Destiny Fulfilled (tokjoe dunlekma) & 7th Dalai Lama's Four Mindfulnesses on the Middle Way View (tatri denpa shiden) on the afternoon of December 8. He will confer the Guhyasamaja Initiation (sangwang dupa wang) on December 9 & 10. He will then give teachings on the Eight Great Tantric Commentaries of Gyudmey Monastery (megyud trichen gyas) on December 11 and 12 at Gyudmey Monastery.

**Inauguration & Teaching in Bylakuppe, Karnataka, India from December 20 to 23:** His Holiness will inaugurate the new Assembly Hall of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery on the morning of December 20. He will then give three days of teachings from December 21 to 23 on Dharmakirti's Commentary on Pramana-samuccaya (tsema namdrel) at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery.

**Teaching in Bylakuppe, Karnataka, India from December 24 to 28:** His Holiness will continue his teachings on the 18 Great Stages of the Path (Lam Rim) Commentaries at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery at the request of H.E. Ling Choktrul Rinpoche and Gaden Shartse Monastery. Contact Websites: <http://www.jangchuplamrim.org> and <http://www.jangchuplamrim.com>

## As the Dalai Lama Turns 80, Tibet Still Suffers

By Richard Gere and Nancy Pelosi, Wall Street Journal



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama with Hollywood actor Mr. Richard Gere and Ms. Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic leader of the US House of Representatives.*

On July 6 the Dalai Lama, whose spiritual wisdom and friendship have been touchstones for both of our lives, is turning 80 years old.

Since his harrowing escape from Chinese-occupied Tibet into exile on horseback through the high Himalayas into India in 1959, the Dalai Lama has become a towering figure on the world stage. He is a religious leader and a man whose message of peace and the universal values of love, compassion and respect has never mattered more.

Reaching one's 80th birthday is a significant milestone in any culture, none more so than in Tibet. It is a moment to celebrate.

It is also a moment for reflection. In the Dalai Lama's homeland, more than 140 Tibetans have set themselves on fire since 2009, giving their lives to protest oppression by the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party's vitriolic campaign against the exiled Tibetan religious leader. Two years ago Chinese troops opened fire on Tibetans peacefully gathered to celebrate the Dalai Lama's birthday. News has emerged recently of tightened restrictions in advance of his birthday this year, with a ban on celebrations to mark the occasion.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable achievements of the leader known to his people as "Kundun," meaning "presence," is his profound and unbreakable connection with the people of Tibet. They

sometimes offer a simple greeting to visitors: "Listen to him." It is too dangerous to say his name, but they mean the Dalai Lama. Many young Tibetans use a phrase in Chinese on their social-media profiles that means "I learn to be strong in waiting for the great teacher to return from afar."

Chinese people are also increasingly drawn to the Dalai Lama's teachings, Tibetan culture and especially its Buddhist religion. Making it absolutely clear that he is not anti-Chinese, the Dalai Lama has always distinguished between the Chinese government's policies and the Chinese people. Wherever he travels, he engages in dialogue with the Chinese he encounters, from state media journalists sent to monitor his news conferences to Buddhist devotees from across China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, many of whom have traveled on pilgrimage to Tibet and witnessed the hardships, including the constant threat of arrest and torture, imposed on Tibetans.

The quest by many Chinese for a new understanding of Tibet, inspired mainly by the Dalai Lama, is a development of great significance for China's future. For many of these Chinese, it is not an empty attempt to reach a mythical Shangri-La on the roof of the world. Often it is a painstaking and intellectually rigorous inner journey in which the realization of a shared struggle becomes apparent. At this critical moment, Tibetans and Chinese share a yearning for freedom and a determination for their voices to be heard beyond the darkness imposed by an authoritarian state.

The nonviolent nature of the Tibetan struggle should serve as an inspiration for a world riven by conflict and shattering acts of violence. Inside Tibet today, a younger generation now leads the nonviolent struggle to protect Tibetan freedom, religion and culture. Schoolchildren link hands and march to government education offices to protest when textbooks use Chinese and not Tibetan language. Teenagers write poetry in their own language in literary journals, expressing pride in their Tibetan identity. Young monks study the precepts of their religion in monasteries rigidly controlled by Chinese government cadres, even though the monks know that if they fail to denounce the Dalai Lama, they could be dragged away in the middle of the night and imprisoned.

At a time when China has increasing diplomatic heft, other nations grant too much accommodation to a government that imprisons its artists, free thinkers, lawyers, poets and human-rights activists. Indulging such a government undermines the values and interests of all democracies. We need to develop a more honest and clearheaded relationship with the current Chinese leadership—one that encourages China to become a better and more responsible global citizen.

During his long life, the Dalai Lama has shown that harmony between peoples is based on freedom of expression, the ability to speak the truth and mutual respect. Realizing the bold vision and goals of the Dalai Lama would not only make China more stable but also more genuinely secure, allowing greater strides toward modernization and responsible leadership in the world. There is no better way to honor the Dalai Lama on his 80th birthday than by standing with him and the Tibetan people, vowing to keep their cause alive.

*Mr. Gere, an actor, is chairman of the International Campaign for Tibet. Mrs. Pelosi is the Democratic leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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*The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, the Hon. Nabam Tuki, presenting His Holiness the Dalai Lama with a Buddha statue during celebrations honoring his 80th birthday at the Main Tibetan Temple in Dharamsala, HP, India on June 21, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL*



*His Holiness the Dalai Lama with special guests Dr Mahesh Sharma, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, and Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs after attending celebrations honoring His Holiness's 80th birthday in Dharamsala, HP, India on June 21, 2015. Photo/Tenzin Choejor*