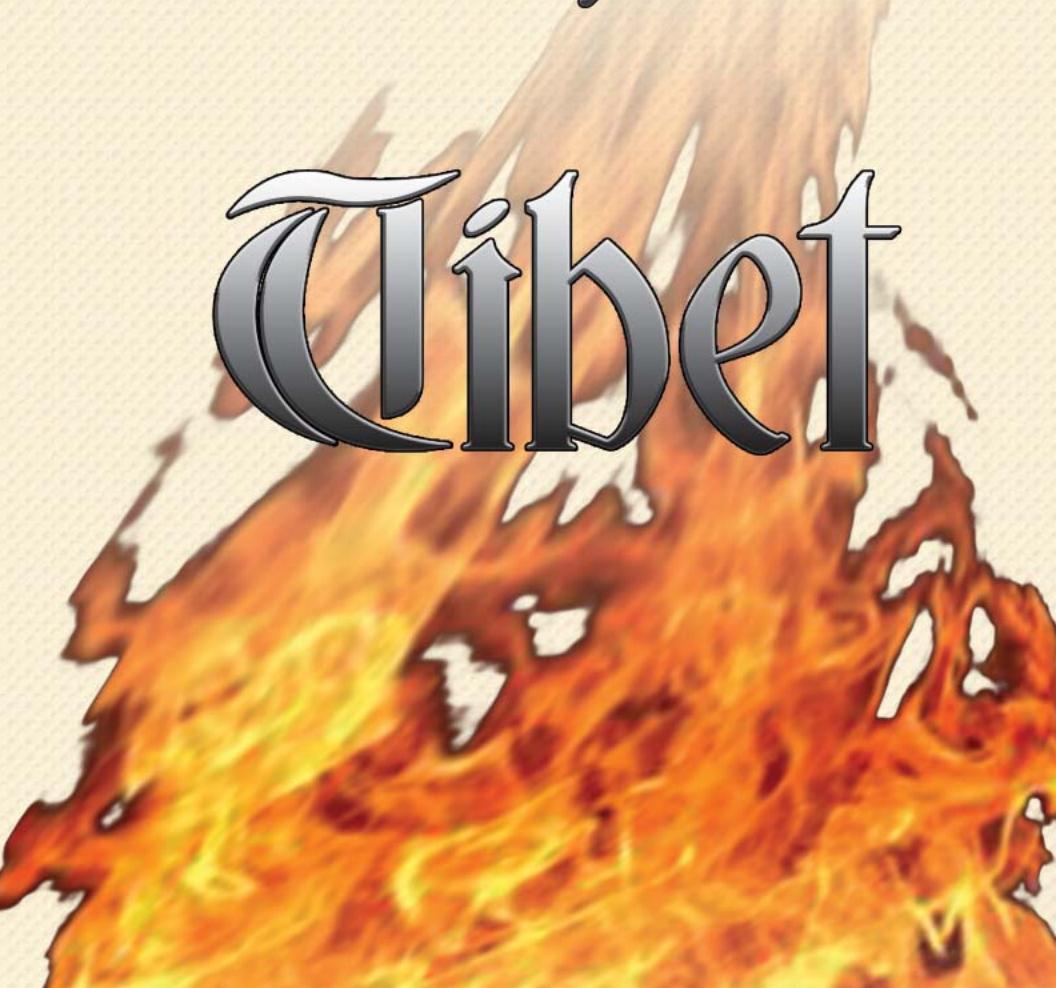


Section



Inside

Tibet





August 2012 - November 2012

Chronology of Self-immolation incidents inside Tibet

For our August to November 2012 issue of the quarterly newsletter, Voice, we have continued to publish the chronology of self-immolation incidents inside Tibet from the last newsletter (April-July). The number goes from 50 to 76.

This account of self-immolation incidents is our humble way of recognizing the highest sacrifices made by the martyrs and also to show our respect and solidarity with them and make their sacrifices known to the world.

50.

Name-Lobsang Kalsang

Age-18

Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-27 Aug,12

From-Kirti Monastery, Ngapa

Status-Deceased



Lobsang Kalsang and his cousin Lobsang Damchoe, both teens from Ngapa, self immolated on 27th August, 2012 near the eastern gate of Kirti monastery. Lobsang Kalsang was 18 years old and a monk from the Kirti monastery. Witnesses saw him walking with flames shooting from his body before he collapsed on the ground.

Chinese security personnel extinguished the flames and took both of them initially to the hospital in Ngapa town and later moved them to a hospital in Barkham. According to the Kirti monks in exile, both of them died in the hospital.

51.

Name-Lobsang Damchoe

Age-17 Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-27 August,12

From-Ngapa, Former Monk of Kirti

Monastery

Status-Deceased



1 7-year-old Lobsang Damchoe, a cousin of Lobsang Kalsang, was a former monk from Kirti monastery. He set himself on fire on 27 August,12 with his cousin near the eastern gate of Kirti monastery. Chinese security personnel extinguished the flames and took both of them initially to the hospital in Ngapa town and later moved them to a hospital in Barkham. According to the Kirti monks in exile, both of them died in the hospital.

52.

Name-Yangdang

Age-27 Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-29 Sept,12

From-Dzatoe County, Yulshul

Status-Deceased



Yangdang, 27-year-old man from Dzatoe County, Yulshul Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai province set himself on fire on 29th September, 2012 on the main road in Dzato county town around 7 pm. On fire, he shouted slogans calling for freedom in Tibet and for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Karmapa.

People around the area (including local Chinese ship owners) were able to put out the flames with buckets of water. Then security forces fenced off the area and took Yangdang's body to the

local hospital.

According to the sources, on the following day, local authorities informed family members that Yangdang would be transferred to a hospital outside the Tibetan area due to his serious condition. However, local authorities later informed family members that Yangdang died while in transport. Authorities have yet to release his body to the family.

53.

Name-Gudrub

Age-43 Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-4 Oct,12

From-Driru County, Ngachu

Status-Deceased



Gudrub, 43-year-old writer from neighboring Driru county, set himself on fire on 4th October, 2012 for the freedom in Tibet and for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. According to the VOA report, a group of Tibetans transported Gudrub's body to a hospital and from there; local authorities took him into their custody. Later, a doctor told the group that Gudrub had died, but authorities have yet to release his body.

54.

Name-Sonam Gyatso

Age-27 Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-6 Oct,12

From-Tsoe, Kanlho,TAP, Gansu

Status-Deceased



Sangay Gyatso, 27 years old young man set himself on fire on 6th October, 2012 near a local monastery in the town of Tsoe in the Northeastern Tibetan area of Amdo. According to witnesses, he called for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the rights of Tibetans to freely express their language and religion. It is believed that he died due to the serious injuries.

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55.

Name-Tamdin Dorje

Age-Early 50s Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-13 Oct,12

From-Tsoe, Kanlho,TAP,Gansu

Status-Deceased



Tamdin Dorje, a man in his early fifties, set himself on fire on 13th October, 2012 near a white stupa beside Tsoe Gaden Choeling monastery in Kanlho. He was the grandfather of a prominent young Tibetan reincarnate lama, the 7th Gungthang Rinpoche of Labrang Tashikyl monastary. According to the report, he died in the same place where he set himself on fire.

56.

Name-Lhamo Kyab

Age-Late 20s Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-20 Oct,12

From-Sangchu County, Kanlho,Gansu

Status-Deceased



A husband and a father of two children Lhamo Kyab (aged 10 and 7), in his late twenties, set himself on fire and died near Bora monastary in Sangchu county, Kanlho on 20th October, 2012. According to witnesses, he was seen running along the road in flames and calling for the return of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. The local polices tried to put out the flames along with a local man took off his shirt. to put Unfortunately, the blaze was too strong and he passed away.

57.

Name-Dhondup

Age-60s Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-22 Oct,12

From-Kanlho, TAP, Gansu

Status-Deceased



Dhondup, a man in his sixties from Amdo Labrang, set himself on fire on 22nd October, 2012 near a temple called Serkhang in Labrang Tashikyil Monastery, Kahlho. Graphic images of his burning body near the pilgrimage circuit of the monastery reached the hands of Tibetans in exile.

According to witnesses, Dhondup died after his self-immolation and troops took away his body. Authorities occupied the area in and around the monastery to calm down the intense environment.

58.

Name-Dorje Rinchen

Age-Late 50s

Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-23 Oct,12

From-Labrang, Kahlho,TAP,Gansu

Status-Deceased



Dorje Rinchen, a man in his late fifties from Sayi village in Labrang ablaze himself on 23rd October, 2012. According to the sources, he set himself on fire near the military camp and in front of the Gyugya market on the main street of Labrag, Kahlho. Local people did not allow troops to take away his body, instead they took his body to his village, Sayi, which is two kilometer far from Labrang monastery.

59.

Name-Tenzin

Age-25 Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-25 Oct,12

From-Bankar Monastery, Ngachu

Status-Unknown



Tenzin and Tsepo, 25 and 20 year old Tibetan monks set themselves on fire on 25th October, 2012 near a government

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building in Nagchu. The sources reported that they were cousins and both were from Bankar monastery and Bankar village in Driru in Nagchu.

60.

Name-Tsepo

Age-20 Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-25 Oct,12

From-Bankar Monastery,Nagchu

Status-Deceased



Tenzin and Tsepo, 25 and 20 year old Tibetan monks put themselves on fire on 25th October, 2012 near a government building in Nagchu. The sources reported that they were cousins and both were from Bankar monastery and Bankar village in Driru in Nagchu.

61.

Name-Lhamo Tseten

Age-Mid 20s Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-26 Oct,12

From-Amchok township in Sangchu county

Status-Deceased



Lhamo Tseten was in his mid twenties, was married to a local Tibetan woman named Tsiring and had a two year old daughter. He self immolated in front of the local military base and township administration in Amchok, Sangchu county, Kanlho.

62.

Name-Tsewang Kyab

Age-Early 20s

Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-26 Oct,12

From-Setri village in Sangkok township,
Sangchup county, Kanlho

Status-Deceased



On 26th October, 2012, Tsewang Kyab, a young Tibetan in his early twenties set himself on fire near the bus stand in Setri village in Sangkok township in Sangchu county, Kahlho. According to the sources, despite local officials attempt to intervene in the matter, he died due to the burns. Local Tibetans were able to recover his corpse with Khatags and took him to his home.

63.

Name-Dorjee Lhundup

Age-Mid 20s

Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-4Nov,12

From-Chuma village in Rebkong

Status-Deceased



Dorjee Lhundrup, a young Tibetan in his mid twenties set himself on fire on the morning of 4th November, 2012 on Taglung South Street, some kilometers west of Rongwo Monastery. He was a farmer from Chuma village in Amdo Rebkong and had two children; a two-year-old daughter and a four-year-old son.

64.

Name- Dorjee

Age-15

Gender-M

Self -Immolated on-7 Nov,2012

From-Ngoshul Monastery, Ngapa

Status-Deceased



Three teenage monks Dorjee(15), Samdup(16) and Dorjee Kyap(16) from Ngoshul Monastery, set themselves on fire on 7th October, 2012. They self immolated in front of a Public Security Bureau office calling for ‘return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’ and ‘Freedom for Tibet’.

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Dorjee died during the protest. Samdup and Dorjee Kyap were supposedly admitted to Ngapa County hospital by local Chinese security force.

Dorjee was the son of Tsering and Ghankar of Chukhatsang family, Thagwa nomadic camp in Ngoshul village. Ngoshul Monastery has around 130 monks and is situated over 12 miles north of Ngaba County.

65.

Name- Samdup

Age-16

Gender-M

Self -Immolated on-7 Nov,2012

From- Ngoshul Monastery, Ngapa

Status- Unknown (said to be hospitalized)



Three teenage monks Dorjee(15), Samdup(16) and Dorjee Kyap(16) from Ngoshul Monastery, set themselves on fire on 7th October, 2012. They self immolated in front of a Public Security Bureau office calling for ‘return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’ and ‘Freedom for Tibet’.

Dorjee died during the protest. Samdup and Dorjee Kyap were supposedly admitted to Ngapa County hospital by local Chinese security force.

Samdup is the son of Soedar and Passang of Thanglatsang family, Ngoshul Thangwa nomadic village,Ngapa. Ngoshul Monastery has around 130 monks and is situated over 12 miles north of Ngaba County.

66.

Name- Dorjee Kyap

Age-16 Gender-M

Self -Immolated on-7th Nov,2012

From-Ngoshul Monastery, Ngapa

Status-Unknown (said hospitalized)



Three teenage monks Dorjee(15), Samdup(16) and Dorjee Kyap(16) from Ngoshul Monastery, set themselves on fire on 7th October, 2012. They self immolated in front of a Public Security Bureau office calling for ‘return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’ and ‘Freedom for Tibet’.

Dorjee died during the protest. Samdup and Dorjee Kyap were supposedly admitted to Ngapa County hospital by local Chinese security force.

Dorjee Kyap is from Meu kyong nomadic camp in Ngoshul village, Ngapa. Ngoshul Monastery has around 130 monks and is situated over 12 miles north of Ngaba County.

67.

Name- Tamding Tso

Age-23 Gender-F

Self -Immolated on-7 Nov,12

From-Rebkong, Qinghai province

Status-Deceased



23-year-old Tamding Tso, a mother of a child, self-immolated on 7th November, 2012. She set herself on fire around 5:30pm near the Ghemar Thang and she called for the ‘Return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’.

Monks from Dowa Monastery carried her dead body to her home and more than two thousand Tibetans gathered in the region to pay homage and call for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

68.

Name- Unknown

Age-Unknown

Gender-Unknown

Self -Immolated on-7 Nov,12

From-Bankar Village, Driru County, TAR

Status- Unknown



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According to the sources, it is confirmed that a Tibetan self immolated on 7th October, 2012 in Bankar village of Driru county in Nagchu Prefecture. Other than the location, additional details are still unknown.

69.

Name-Jinpa Gyatso

Age-18 Gender-M

Self Immolated on-8 Nov, 12

From-Rongwo town, Rebkong

Status-Deceased



Kalsang Jinpa, an 18-year-old nomad set himself on fire on 8th November, 2012 at the Dolma Square in front of the Rongwo Monastery. According to the sources, he was a former monk of Rongwo Monastery and while on fire, he raised a white banner with slogans calling for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Rights of the Tibetan people. Kalsang Jinpa passed away during his protest. He was the son of Choepa and Dechok Kyi and a former monk of Rongpo Monastery.

70.

Name-Gonpo Tsering

Age-19 Gender-M

Self Immolated on-10 Nov,2012

From-Tsue, Kanlho

Status-Deceased



Gonpo Tsering, a 19-year-old Tibetan from Tsue region of Eastern Tibet self-immolated on 10th November, 2012. He set himself on fire around 2 pm (local time) in demand for the ‘Return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’, ‘Freedom for the Tibetan people’ and ‘Freedom of Language’. Even though local Tibetans tried to extinguish the flame as soon as possible, unfortunately Gonpo Tsering passed away after two hours.

According to the sources, Gonpo Tsering is the son of Tashi Sonam and Nyinglo. His mother Nyinlo passed away when he was three and since then he was raised by his step mother Gonpo Kyi. In 2011 he married to Dukmo chuk. In the region, he was well known for his excellence in studies and determination toward the preservation of Tibetan language and culture.

71.

Name-Nyinkar Tashi

Age-24 Gender-M

Self-immolated on-12 Nov,2012

From-Rebkong

Status-Deceased



Nyinkar Tashi set himself on fire around 3:15pm(local tibet) on 12th November. While on fire, he prayed, “Long live His Holiness the Dalai Lama” and demanded “Freedom for Tibet”. Nyinkar Tashi left a testament, where he expressed his reasons, demands and prayers.

According to the sources, Nyinkar Tashi was the son of Tashi Namgyal and Khando Tso. He was married to 23-year-old Dukmo Tsering.

72.

Name-Nyingchag Bum

Age-18 Gender-M

Self-immolated on-12 Nov, 2012

From-Dowa region of Rebkong

Status-Deceased



Nyingchag Bum, an 18-year-old Tibetan, set himself on fire around 7:18 pm (local time) on 12th November, 2012. This was the second self-immolation for this day. According to the sources, Nyingchag Bum burned himself on the main street of Dowa town, Rebkong, Tibetans gathered around the protest loca-

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tion and carried his dead body in Dowo Monastery and also held a long prayer session.

Ningchag Bum was the son of Lhachuk and Tsering Tso; he had two younger sisters; Dukmo Tso and Tseduk Kyi.

73.

Name-Tangzin Dolma

Age-23

Gender-F

Self-immolated on-15 Nov,12

From-Rebkong, Qinghai

Status-Deceased



Tangzing Dolma, a 23-year-old female from Rebkong self-immolated on 15th November, 2012. She set herself on fire at around 12pm(local time) in Tsemo region of Rebkong. She was the daughter of Bhulo and Tashi Dolma and was married to a Chinese man.

74.

Name-Kharbum Gyal

Age-Teenaged

Gender-M

Self-immolated on-15 Nov,12

From-Rebkong, Qinghai

Status-Deceased



Kharbum Gyal, a teenaged Rebkong self-immolated on 15th November, 12. Further details are unknown at this time.

75.

Name-Chagmo Kyi

Age-Unknown Gender-F

Self-Immolated on-17 Nov,12

From-Rebkong, Qinghai

Status-Deceased



On 17th November, 2012, Changmo kyi, a mother of two children set herself on fire in Dolma Square in front of Rongwo Monastery in Rebkong. According to the reports, she set herself at around 4 pm (local time) and passed away during her protest. Her body was taken to the Rongwo Monastery where thousands of Tibetans gathered to offer prayers.

76.

Name-Sangdang Tsering,

Age-24 Gender-M

Self-Immolated on-17 Nov,12

From-Rebkong, Qinghai

Status-Deceased



24 years old and a father of 3 years old son, Sangdag Tsering self-immolated on 17th November, 2012. He set himself on fire in front of a local Chinese government office in Dokar Mo town in Rebkong region around 7 pm (local time).

According to the sources, Monks from two nearby monasteries along with thousands of local Tibetans gathered at the protest site and carried his body to the Gonshul Sangag Mindrol Dargeyeling for his cremation.



Action in Exile

Section II

2

August 2012 - November 2012

Tibetan Women's Association Gives Tribute to Tibet's Heroes to Mark 28th Re-founding Anniversary in Exile



Public listening to the panel discussion.

On September 10, 2012, Dharamsala, the Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) commemorated its 28th year of re-founding in exile. It paid heartfelt tribute to Tibetan martyrs for their supreme sacrifices, which continue to keep the spirit of Tibet alive and hopeful even after 53 years of China's brutal suppression.

The TWA was founded in Lhasa on March 12, 1959, when Tibetan women from all three provinces of Tibet gathered and stood united for the first time in Tibetan history and challenged the brutal clampdown by the Chinese government. The Tibetan women started a peaceful resistance against the repressive Chinese regime. Under the indomitable leadership of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the peerless efforts of the Tibetan women in exile resulted in the reestablishment of TWA on September 10, 1984 in India. TWA is not just the most powerful women's organization in Tibetan history, but also an only Tibetan women's NGO in exile. TWA advocates human rights for women inside Tibet and is committed to empowering women in exile. TWA

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remains steadfast in resolving Tibet issue through our action in exile.

Committed to resolve the injustice inside Tibet, TWA's expansion of 56 regional chapters spread across four continents: Asia, America, Europe and Australia, totaling about 16,000 members in exile, further strengthens the advocacy objective for social justice. At TWA, we consider ourselves as the successful continuation of the absolute determination and efforts put forward by our elder generation.

Considering the critical on-going situation inside Tibet, more than 60 Tibetans have opted for supreme sacrifice by offering their lives for the nation; calling for the freedom inside Tibet, return of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and restoration of basic human rights in Tibet. TWA remains gravely concerned about the status of the martyrs whose status remains unknown and involves hospitalization and the denial of family visitation rights. TWA pays tribute to their sacrifices and deem their act as the ultimate form of non-violent protest.

Thus to draw attention to the on-going situation inside Tibet and to garner international support, TWA has come out with a short documentary featuring the martyrs' acts and our appeals. We also have a pamphlet casing the photos of the martyrs and our appeals to the masses. This pamphlet will be also distributed all over by our regional chapters through local newspaper. In addition, a panel discussion was organized to address the 'Middle Way Approach; its Past, Present and The Future'.



A woman asking question

A Tibetan man asking question

Finally, Central TWA, joined by its 56 chapters, on its 28th re-founding anniversary focused on some appeals and requests to the worlds' leaders and the masses:

- To the global leaders and the community: We Tibetans, numbering among the 7 billion humans in this world, have suffered tremendous oppression under the Chinese communists for the past 53 years since the occupation of Tibet in 1959. We urge you all to speak for Tibet and save Tibet from the on-going oppression by China. We ask the governments to urge the UN High Commissioner for Human rights to visit China and Tibet.
- To the Chinese Government and the people of China: Chinese Government allegations against His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile as the perpetrator of the self-immolations are completely untrue and groundless. We, in fact, hold the Chinese Government and its hardliner policies on the Tibetan people responsible for these immolations. The same is shared by people of conscience around the world, which have been evident through various news outlets. Therefore, TWA holds the Chinese Govt. accountable for these immolations.
- To the Indian Government and the people of India: So far, more than 40 countries including the Government of the United States and European countries have expressed their solidarity and passed resolutions expressing concerns on the self-immolations. Yet it pains us to see that till date, India, a country close to Tibet and dear to its people, has not officially voiced on this issue. India and Tibet both in culture and in religion share a very strong historical relationship which is emphasized often by His Holiness the Dalai Lama through that of the Guru and the Chela/ Teacher and the disciple relation. Moreover Tibet and India share a geographical and environmental significance for which it is vital that both countries continue this cordial relationship therefore, we urge the Govt. of India and its people to pay immediate attention to the plight of the Tibetan people.

“The Past, Present and the Future Status of the Middle Way Policy’-Panel Discussion to Mark 28th Re-founding Anniversary in Exile

On September 11th, 2012, the Tibetan Women’s Association (TWA) held a panel discussion with distinguished members of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, in order to inform the public regarding the policy that Tibetans adhere to with the goal of attaining autonomy. This came as a way to commemorate 28 years of re-founding in exile on September 10th, 1984. The organization was originally founded in Lhasa, Tibet on March 12, 1959 and is now the only NGO in exile that supports Tibetan women.



The discussion began with TWA president, Tashi Dolma, giving a statement to address and pay tribute to the Tibetans who have died as a result of self-immolation. She explained that world leaders should communicate with China regarding Tibet and that the China government’s “allegations against His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile as the perpetrator of the self-immolations are completely untrue and groundless.” She further noted that the Chinese government should be blamed for

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the deaths as a result of “its hard-line policies on the Tibetan people.”



Dhardon Sharling

A member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-exile

The first person to speak on the panel was Dhardon Sharling who is a member of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. She focused on the historical background of the Middle Way Policy

and discussed the fact that although the policy was not labeled until 1988, the Dalai Lama has taken the approach with China since 1951. Additionally, she noted that the Tibetan people show “consistent and massive support” for the policy and TPiE members back it unanimously. She said “the ideological foundation, guiding principles and the facets of the middle way policy testifies the far-sightedness and benevolence of this policy which



*Former education minister
Mr. Thupten Lungrik*

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the Chinese government has till date spurned.”

Next to speak was former education minister, Thupten Lungrik who concentrated on the present achievements of the policy. He shared that Tibet began to be recognized once the policy was universally accepted among Tibetan people in 1979. It was only when autonomy became the focus instead of independence,



Bawa Kalsang Gyaltsen

that other parts of the world showed some support. “The unflinching international support towards the Tibetan cause and the period of relaxation in Tibet during which Tibetans inside and outside Tibet could enjoy free access and mobility are the achievements of the policy which envisions a peaceful and a mutually beneficial solution to the crisis inside Tibet,” Lungrik said.

The last person to speak was Bawa Kalsang Gyaltzen who is another member of the Tibetan-Parliament-in-Exile as well as an expert in China Studies. He centered on the future scope and direction of the Middle Way Policy. He expressed that

“the Chinese communist society is in essence a rigid and a tapered society and there is absolutely minimal chance for the Chinese leadership and the masses to heed to the demands for an independent Tibet.”



Pema Choedon, a writer

The audience was then given an opportunity to ask any questions to the speakers. Following this, TWA showed a short video recognizing the growing number of self-immolations in and outside of Tibet.

August 2012 - November 2012

Along with major NGOs, Tibetan Women Association participated in ‘Xi Jingping’s Tibet Challenge’ Event

7th and 15th November, 2012
Dharamsala



Facemasked-Xi-ingping and elected members

In the wake of the new leadership transition of the Chinese Communist Party, four NGOs, coordinated by Tibet Network group organized two key events in November to highlight the responsibility of these new leaders to take action regarding the inhumane situation in Tibet. The four NGOs involved were the National Democratic Party of Tibet, Gu-chu-sum, Students for Free Tibet (SFT) and the Tibetan Women’s Association (TWA).

The first event took place the 7th of November, 2012 in Dharamsala and was coordinated by the International Tibet Network along with the four NGOs listed above. The event was in the form of a

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protest to demonstrate against Xi Jingping and the new Politburo Standing Committee concerning the crisis that must be resolved in Tibet.

“At this critical moment in history, as China’s Communist Party is on the cusp of handing power to a new generation of leaders, Tibetans in large numbers are taking every opportunity to denounce six decades of policy failures in Tibet; policies that have created this self-immolation crisis” said Tashi Dolma, President of the Tibetan Women’s Association. “It is increasingly clear that Tibetans in Tibet are determined to shape their own future. China’s Communist Party leaders will ignore this at their peril; or the 5th generation could be the last generation.”

“Ultimately China has failed to crush the Tibetan desire for freedom, and the resistance we see in Tibet today is stronger, more unified and more widespread than ever before” said Dorjee Tseten, SFT India National Director.“Xi Jinping must now decide whether he can afford to continue down the same path of repression and brutality, or find the courage to face the Tibet challenge and seek a constructive resolution to the occupation of Tibet.”

In the protest, we branded Xi Jinping as the man with the urgent problem of Tibet on his hands and highlighted Tibetans’ continuous protest as our diverse resistances. We used various suggested actions, resources and promotional tools to make it both educational and attractive to all. Some activities at the event included: Xi facemasks, Speech Bubble Message photos, a Photo Booth, and a Xi Karaoke Contest. We even introduced a Xi Tibet Challenge on Facebook as well as a new “Xi” Video in order to spread these protests to other parts of the world.

On the 15th of November, 2012, the second event took place. In light of the ongoing 18th Party Congress in Beijing and convening of the special International Tibet Support Group Meeting, another public protest was organized.



Public gathered at the event

Prior to the event, we distributed flyers with background information on Xi-Jingping in Tibetan Language and protest details in English. On the event, we used facemasks and the huge Xi Jingping head to represent several elected members of the Politburo Standing Committee along with Xi Jingping himself. The event started with messages to upcoming Chinese leaders from the presidents of each organization, and was followed by the comments and opinions shared by the large public who had gathered to participate. There were people of all ages, both locals as well as tourists. Many of them also expressed their solidarities on critical situation of present Tibet.



Public gathered at the event

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Xi Jingping and the 5th generation of China's leaders will inherit China's illegitimate rule over Tibet. The biggest challenge that they have to face is to resolve the unrest in Tibet. The unstoppable crisis that Tibetans inside Tibet have been facing for more than half of the century cannot be resolved through brutal crackdowns and unacceptable policies. Instead, these crackdowns and policies have served as the main reasons for the continuous protests occurring within Tibet. Therefore, these events took place in order to remind China as well as the world, that Tibet's issue will remain as one of the most intense issues that the 5th generation of Chinese leaders needs to deal with.

Not only in Dharamsala, but across the globe, Tibetans and Tibet support groups in various countries challenged Xi Jingpings through the 'Xi Jingping's Tibet Challenge.' There were protests outside Chinese embassies, in front of government buildings and also through online actions. NGOs and Tibet support groups earnestly spread the message that the 5th generation leaders must take this opportunity to resolve Tibet's serious crisis.



TWA President, Tashi Dolma la

August 2012 - November 2012

A Report from Women Development and Environment Desk; bringing most vulnerable Tibetan communities to the fore:

The Workshop organized by
Phagma Drolma and Tibetan Women's Association



In collaboration with
Ordiziako Udala, Andoaingo Udala, Legazpiko Udala,
Villabonako Udala and Bide-Berry



Workshop on Gender, Domestic Violence and Environment and Health in Sonamling settlement, Ladakh



Aims and Objectives:

This workshop focused on educating the Tibetan women and men of highly impoverished Tibetan settlements in India about some of most sensitive issues in the society such as domestic violence, gender sensitization, as well as creating awareness on both global environmental issues and those of Tibet. The purpose of focusing on these important issues is to improve quality of life within these communities by creating a relationship between surrounding environment and health needs.

Learning Method

The workshop was participatory in nature by focusing on discussion based learning and working in groups to explore issues through role-plays. Each activity emphasized a different topic and promoted participant contributions to enhance learning about such sensitive societal issues.

Participants

During all three days of the workshop including one day of assessment, we had around 55 participants, many of which were members of the RTWA (regional Tibetan women's Association). There were four participants from each of the twelve camps of the Sonamling settlement.

Organization and Funding

The workshop was organized by the Central Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) in Dharamshala through its Women's Environment and Development Desk (WEDD). The workshop was also organized in collaboration with Phagma Drolma, with funding from Ordizia city council, Villabonako Udala, Bide-berri, Legazpiko Udala, and Andoaingo Udala.



An icebreaker activity was introduced for the first part of the day in order to clear everyone's mind and create a friendly environment. We then had Ani Tselha begin the program with a brief introduction of TWA, history and mission.

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Next, the topic of the day “Domestic Violence” was discussed. When asked what domestic violence means, a number of volunteers shared their ideas. We then had the participants divided into groups to define D.V. in their own words among a smaller group to encourage more participation. The small groups then shared their ideas within the group and they learned that domestic violence is something that is not limited to an action between husband and wife or wife and the mother in law, but it can also happen between siblings and between parents and children. The day continued with activities like role-playing by the participants to understand the wheel of power and the cycle of violence in a relationship. In addition, they learned through sharing their own experiences, why it is important to have equality in any relationship. Furthermore, they discussed different forms of domestic violence and how it can be physical and also mental abuse.

Day Two: Gender



We had a very active day filled with group discussions and different activities. Before starting anything, the participants were told to draw a male and a female doing some activity. The drawings of

the participants were used to highlight the fact that gender roles vary among cultures and locations. The activity led into several discussions about how gender stereotypes and roles are created and maintained as well as how these factors affect women, men, families and the community. As we continued with the workshop, they learned more about gender, gender stereotypes, gender roles and gender socialization through role-plays and another drawing activity. They also gained in-depth information about the importance of gender equality.

Day Three: Environment and Health

The morning session included power point presentations, manuals, screening of documentaries, and games. During general discussions, we came to know that a few years back, a private organization started a waste management project in the settlement, which failed and waste management is no longer addressed in the community. The short-term solution is a big hole that has been dug in the community in order to dispose of their waster. This highlighted the importance of having the participants have a willingness to make an effort in keeping the environment clean. We also discussed the importance of 3 R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle) since that seemed the best solution until there is a proper waste management system in the community.

The most recurring health problems in the settlement are currently joint pain, Gastritis and Hepatitis B. We invited two Doctors, one allopathic doctor from the local Tibetan health center and the other doctor from local branch Men-Tse- Khang (Tibetan Medical and Astrology Institute) to give an educational health talk. The doctor from men-Tse-Kahng concentrated on the common health problem in the community, the cause of these diseases, treatment, home remedies, and prevention, which is the most important focus of all. The allopathic doctor educated the participants about the reproductive system and about the importance of mother and child health care in general.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the workshop, participants were able to identify the gender inequalities in their own community as well as the consequences they have on women's rights. They recognized different forms of gender and domestic violence including their causes and the cycle of violence in a relationship. In addition, everyone took a pledge to take action against domestic violence by choosing not to remain silent and instead, be a voice for victims. The participants also learned about the critical crises of climate change in Tibet and the Chinese policies regarding the issues around nomad displacement. Furthermore, they learned how to keep the environment clean by reducing, reusing and recycling their waste.



During the event

Feedback:

"The workshop was interactive because it had lots of activities which made it easier for us to understand the depth of the trainings. I thank TWA for coming so far to give such workshops which are very much needed." -Tsering Yangzom, Sonamling settlement, Ladakh

Acknowledgement:

The Tibetan Women's Association would like to pay its hearty thanks to PhagmaDrolma and the sponsors for their financial and moral support to this workshop. We would also like to thank the RTWA team as well as the Office of the Chief Representative Sonamling Settlement for their assistance, support and cooperation.

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Report from Empowerment through Action (ETA) Desk of Tibetan Women's Association

Empowerment of Women and Promotion and Support of Democracy, September 2011 – February 2012: The project is funded by the City Council of Donostia-San Sebastian and supported by Phagma DRÖLMA Elkartea based in Basque country.



TWA began the 'Empowerment of Women and Promotion and Support of Democracy' project in September of 2011. The goal is to provide grassroots empowerment programs focusing on Democracy, Gender Sensitization and Awareness of Domestic



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Violence to all 36 Tibetan settlements based in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. The first phase toured eleven settlements in the six Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Uttarkhand, Karnataka, Jammu, Kashmir and even Delhi.

The second phase of the project focused on three Tibetan settlements around central India during September of 2012: Phuntsokling Tibetan settlement in Orissa, Phendheyling Tibetan settlement – Mainpat in Chhattisgarh and Norgyeling Tibetan settlement – Bandra in Maharashtra. TWA's Executives (General Secretary, National PRO and out stationed Executive) led the trainings at these sites.

An Overview of the Two Days of Training

Day One:

The first day of the training began with an introductory speech about the Tibetan Women's Association. It gave insight into its history, the initial struggle of Tibetan women and the establishment of the Tibetan Women's Association. In addition, it ex-



plained how each settlement could continue to move forward through the ongoing and current projects and activities of TWA.

The training on **Democracy** began with an introductory activity wherein the participants were encouraged to see and feel

the value of democracy through role-play. The participants then worked in small groups to define democracy and by sorting given headings into democratic and non-democratic categories. We then tried to see what a standard picture of democracy in practice would look like through an activity in groups of three.

Democracy in Tibet in Exile was the next topic that we discussed. It was important to recognize that democracy in every country is different. Thereafter, we brought together the concepts and practicalities of democracy and discussed these ideas. Some agreed and some disagreed thus coming to the conclusion that because there is no clear answer, one's opinion must be valued because no one can be considered right or wrong. The participants then looked back at the features of the Central Tibetan Administration and analyzed what features make the Central Tibetan Administration democratic and undemocratic.

Along with educating the group on democracy, we also included 'Elevator Pitch' as an activity. The participants were paired in twos and given time to prepare for a role-play in which they were each given thirty seconds to explain whether the Central Tibetan Administration is really democratic. It was a small test through an activity to see how the participants gave their opinions quickly and concisely. This activity taught that condensing ideas also enables one to understand and remember exactly what one thinks.

The participants then discussed in groups the benefits of democracy and saw what challenges there can be in a democratic system. They also discussed in groups ideas for potential solutions. We concluded the day with the message that democracy and people are like two sides of a coin and thus as much as democracy empowers people, people equally empower democracy.

Day two: A women drawing a picture

The concepts for the second day of training were **Gender Sensitization** and awareness about **Domestic Violence**. The first ac-

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tivity given to the participants was “Gender Drawings Part 1” which gathered baseline data about how participants view men



and women through their drawings and the colors they used. After sticking the drawings on the walls, we asked the participants to define sex and gender, which provided an opportunity for complex discussion. We also gave out an information sheet, which had detailed definitions and examples to explain the differences between sex and gender. We then continued with “Gender Drawings Part 2”. This activity reinforced the differences between sex and gender learned so far and also allowed the participants to examine their own social constructs of men and women. The participants then had to describe whether their drawings depicted sex or gender characteristics.

We then looked into gender stereotypes to increase participants’ understanding of the stereotypes in general. The participants, in small groups, were given a scenario that has stereotyped characteristics of both boys/men and girls/women. The female groups role-played the scenarios with male characteristics and vice versa. This activity made it very clear to the participants that these stereotypes are often so fixed within societies that we tend not to think about them.

Thereafter we identified and examined the issue of gender roles. We handed out pictures depicting people performing different tasks or jobs and the participants had to tape their picture under either the “female” or the “male” column. We concluded the morning session with a brief explanation of gender roles, incorporated the participants’ comments during the discussion and described how gender roles and gender stereotypes are related to and affect each other.

The afternoon session focused on domestic violence. The participants were introduced to the concept and definition of domestic violence and discussed the different forms in small

groups. Then we looked at a few statements relating to domestic violence. The participants were asked whether they believed the statement to be true or not. The idea of this activity was to emphasize that a person of any age, sex, race, culture, religion or marital status can be a victim. It also highlighted that domestic violence is mainly about power and control and that an abuser wants to dominate the victim and uses violence to establish and maintain authority.

The next part was about the dynamics of domestic violence. We studied the power and control wheel together, which shows the treatment of domestic violence and diagrams the mechanisms used by abusers to get control over their victims. We then ex-



plained the cycle of violence to the participants. Domestic Violence often follows a set, predictable pattern in three phases. The participants in groups had to role-play the three phases of the cycle of violence (we made it optional if anyone was uncomfortable doing the role play). Thereafter we distributed purple ribbons and asked the participants to wear it as the symbol of HOPE and to show to the community that domestic violence will no longer be silenced or ignored.

The most complex issue we discussed regarding domestic violence was the problem of victims staying in an abusive relationship and simply not breaking the cycle of violence. The

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participants had to create a profile of someone who is a victim of domestic violence or imagine such a profile and find out reasons why they might stay in the relationship. The community can play a major role in addressing this very sensitive subject. There are options for the victims and a way to find safety to be free from the violence. We discussed what we can do as individuals and as a community. The legal rights and protection under the Indian Law was quite beyond the thought of many of us, but it gave many of our participants a sense of having a way out if the situation gets beyond control.

The end of the day's program touched positive aspects of life by looking into the 'Equality Wheel' and the 'Pledge'. The Equality Wheel illustrates the concepts of equality in a relationship where there is respect, equality and non-violence. To conclude, all the participants stood in a circle and took the pledge to take action against domestic violence. They promised to speak up for those in their neighborhood and to join with others to end violence in the community.



Phuntsokling:

Orissa – 17 and 18 September 2012

The two day training at Phuntsokling Settlement, Orissa was well received by the women. A total of 62 women from diverse age groups participated in the training. The TWA team had been to Phuntsokling seven months ago with another training package and it was impressive for trainers to see such a huge positive change in the participants in terms of their self-confidence and self-esteem. They seemed to be more participatory, willing to face the gathering, and able to share their thoughts and ideas more frankly.

Trainer's note: One thing that we noticed through our visit around the settlement is that there are hardly any profitable or lucrative ventures in the area. It would be nice to see women entrepreneurship opportunities such as running restaurants, shops, chemists, Internet centers and even tailoring centers. This can be an area of importance to work on in the future for Tibetan Women's Association and our partner sponsors.

Quotes from participants

"It is the second time TWA is giving training on women empowerment at Phuntsokling settlement and I personally feel the positive impacts of the training and appreciate coming back yet again to empower and educate our women." -Tenzin Yangchen, 32yrs

"I am Tenzin Youdon and I am 20 years old. This training organized by the Central TWA is very interesting and helpful to me. It encourages local people to participate and share ones feelings and build up confidence in self. More of such workshops will be of great help in future."

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“It is a great learning platform and I noticed that there has been improvement in our people here in terms of confidence and belief. So it will be nice if such programs are held in our settlement.”- Dechen Wangmo, 45yrs,

President, RTWA Phuntsokling

Phendheyling:

Mainpat 22nd and 23rd September 2012

The serene landscape around the Phendheyling Tibetan settlement comforted us as we travelled through to the area. The settlers in the locality thought we arrived at the best time to conduct training because it was just before people left for the winter sweater selling business ventures during the months of October through January every year.

A total of 72 people participated in the two-day training program. The best part was that some men, leaders at the local level, participated in the training and this was good for the whole group to share and understand each other; our expectations and hopes from each other and how often our perception plays a role in deciding things around us.

Trainer's note: We hope to return to Phendheyling to provide more training packages in future that specifically focus on empowerment issues. We need to work towards building their self-confidence so they are not as shy and timid during discussions and activities.

Quotes from participants:

“I am very happy to take part in this workshop and learn many new things. I wish and hope you will organize such workshops three times a year.”- Choezom, 37, Executive Rtwa Mainpat

“Two days training from TWA Central regarding democracy, gender sensitization and domestic violence; I personally felt importance of these concepts/ topics. This kind of workshop will be useful for the settlement people and it will be very productive to

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organize more such workshop at Mainpat in future. " -

Sonam, Rtyc Mainpat, President

"Today I noticed that the workshop is very good and informative with manuals and power point presentations and mind games; making it easy to understand. Since Mainpat is a remote settlement, it will be useful to organize workshop like this in future." -Kunga Tashi, 40 yrs, Mainpat.



A lady standing to share her opinion

Norgyeling:

Bandra 25th and 26th September 2012

Norgyeling Tibetan settlement training did not happen as we expected due to some unforeseen circumstances. We had a really hard time getting people to the training. Two other events were happening during the same time our training was scheduled: The Flame of Truth and the central school's Annual Sports Day. As a result, there wasn't a consistent attendance between the two days. Overall, there were 64 people who participated in total. Because

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it did not go as well as planned, we hope to conduct more programs at Norgyeling in the future.

Trainer's note: TWA should go back to Norgyeling with training package to empower and educate our people there. Trainings like these surely help in building confidence, self-esteem and dignity, in order to allow the people to have the ability to decide and choose for themselves.

Quotes from participants:

“The two day training happened to be very active and engaging. It was good for the public to know what TWA is doing for the community especially with the young women taking the lead for the Association.” -Tsering Wangmo, 62yrs old, Rtwa Norgyeling, President

“I have never been to any training before and I learned how important and helpful these trainings can be. Thank you TWA for coming to our settlement.” -Sherab Choekyi, 25yrs old, Norgyeling

Conclusion:

Tibetan Women’s Association remains thankful to our sponsors and supporters for continuing to contribute the much needed financial support. We would also like to thank the regional executives for their support and cooperation in arranging the space and logistics as we traveled through each settlement.

Along with CTA, TWA participated in the program ‘Women’s Interfaith Journey’ organized by ‘Interfaith Coalition for peace’

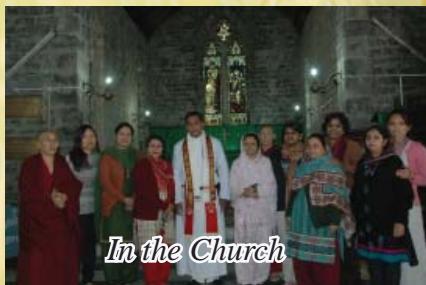


During the round table discussion



with TWA executive

‘Interfaith Coalition for Peace’ is a secular nonprofit organization. It aims to enable people from different faiths to achieve the full realization of their rights as human beings and to attain and sustain equitable and dignified life. The organization continuously works on peace, reunion and impartiality among the different faiths.



In the Church



At Gurudwara

This program, ‘Women’s Interfaith Journey’ started on the afternoon of 3rd November and concluded on 5th November, 2012. Tenzin Tsela and Tenzin Dickey from TWA took part in this unique program. Participants included two ladies from Hindu, Muslim and Christian beliefs, one from Sikh and five from a Buddhist perspective.

All the participants gathered in Gangkyi Kashag Hall around 2:30 pm and the session started with warm introductions among the participants. Mr. Choedak, Secretary of Reli-



Archives and Nechung Monastery. While visiting, participants from other faiths asked numerous questions regarding the practice of Buddhism in laypeople's daily life. After the visit, they gathered and shared their experiences and had effective discussions.

On the second day, participants had an opportunity to visit a gurdwara, a masjid (mosque), a church and Bhagsu Temple. According to Ms. Tenzin Dickey of TWA, the visit was quite interesting and educational. She said, "even though we are local people in Dharamsala, we never visit these holy places before and today's opportunity fed us with new experiences and knowledge.

" In the afternoon, they explored Tsuglakhang, Tibet Museum, Tonglen hostel and Sahara College (college for higher Tibetan Studies). The day's program was summed up with productive discussions about how local Tibetan women work on bringing peace in the region.

On the final day, they visited Dolmaling Nunnery and the Norbulingka Institute. After lunch, participants visited the Tibetan

Women's Association office and met with TWA's executives and staffs. After an exchange of information regarding the organizations, a few participants vol-



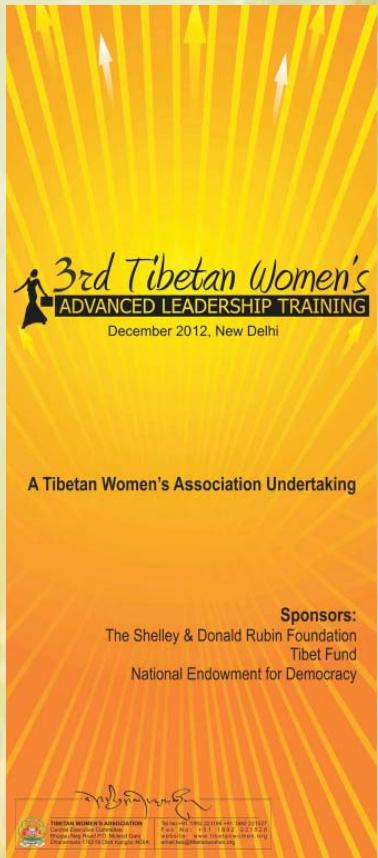
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united to be members of TWA. The three-day program fruitfully concluded at TIPA with an interfaith roundtable discussion including leaders from each of the main religions focused on throughout the experience. A cultural performance by TIPA and dinner hosted by the Department of Religion and Culture were the last events of the enlightening program.

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3rd Advanced Tibetan Women's Leadership Training



Tibetan Women's Association is honored to launch the third series of the Advanced Tibetan Women's Leadership training. **The training is scheduled from 18th – 27th December 2012 in New Delhi.**

The registration will be open until 5th December 2012 – see below for full registration details. The selection committee will select the participants.

This training will explore the different aspects of leadership; from identifying to building with practical implementation of the skills learned. There will ample practical exercises, exposure trip, event management shows, panel discussion with women leaders and professionals (Tibetans and non-Tibetans).

***Registration closes on 5th De-**

cember 2012. Full schedule available by December 10.

Accommodation and travel: Tibetan Women's Association pays for accommodations and transportation of the participants and guest speakers, as well as rental fees for the space. We also provide participants with the necessary learning tools such as study materials, papers, notebooks, folders and pencils. This year's leadership program is extremely important to continue the platform for empowerment and advancement of women.

Registration fee: Please note that you will have to contribute

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Rs.250 as registration fee if you get selected. **This will be fully refundable upon completion of the training.**

If you have problems completing the registration form below contact General Secretary of Tibetan Women's Association Nyima Lhamo via email – twaetadesk@gmail.com, or feel welcome to telephone with any queries – 01892 221527 or 09882502821 .

What to expect... More about last year's 2nd Advanced Tibetan Women's Leadership Training

The ten-day 'Advanced Leadership Training' (November 21 – 30) was held at the Tibetan Youth Hostel, Rohini. 28 Tibetan women attended from many parts of India and beyond – (Pokhara-Nepal, Tenzinghang –Arunachal Pradesh, Kalimpong, Chennai, Bangalore, Mandi, Dharamsala and Delhi) and from various backgrounds. There were graduate students, professional workers, settlement officers, journalists and political activists. The training course was divided into three phases – identifying, building and practicing leadership skills.

The first phase of the training led by TWA trainers and Vicki Robinson from Canada, gazed into personal effectiveness, time management, team building, visualization, goal setting, communication, media and digital empowerment. Delhi based professional trainer Lynda O Lepcha from Holistic Training Solutions, led the second phase on 'Building Leadership Skills'.

The final phase of the training provided ample practical experiences – exposure trip, event management, lobbying Indian leaders and the panel discussion with women leaders (Indians and Tibetans). The highlights included: active participation in the NDTV studio debates such as 'NDTV special 'Is Tibet a lost cause,' chaired by Bharkha Dutt' and 'NDTV Left, Right and Centre' hosted by Nidhi Razdan. On November 28, a planned hour-long observing session at the Lok Sabha house of Indian Parliament to witness the ongoing winter session was cancelled after the unexpected adjournment of the House at 12 Noon. Nevertheless, the participants staged daylong ambush lobbying of the Indian leaders at the Parliament grounds which resulted in four Members of the Indian Parliament signing the 'Stand up for Ti-

bet' pledge.

The Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, through the Tibet Fund based in the United States, supported this major venture of TWA with much-needed financial impetus. The National Endowment for Democracy also provided financial resources.

"Thank you TWA for such an initiative and it's worth sacrificing my bar exam for this training. Gladly met many beautiful women and great brains, thank you all"

"Everything was so perfect, not only the training, but also all other facilities you have provided was really impressive. Keep up the great work and I wish you all the very best for future. Hope you keep doing these training and empower more and more Tibetan women."

"It has been a great pleasure getting to know you all and I am feeling good to know that the Free Tibet cause is in good hands. I am absolutely blown away by everything that this whole group produced throughout the training, keeping creativity alive and thriving." Vicki Robinson, Trainer, Canada.

Observational Report on ‘Stitches of Tibet’ A project of Tibetan Women’s Association



At work

Stitches of Tibet

Stitches of Tibet (SOT) is a non-profit vocational training program initiated by the Tibetan Women’s Association (TWA) in 1995. The project provides opportunities for Tibetan women to become self-reliant. Priority is given to those refugees who have recently arrived from Tibet. An eighteen month course is given to approximately ten women in traditional Tibetan tailoring skills, western shirts and trousers. In addition the women receive an education in English, computing and basic mathematical skills. TWA ensures that 80% of the positions are reserved for newly arrived refugees and 20% of the positions are reserved women based in exile. Priority is given to those applicants from low socio-economic backgrounds. SOT project aims to help these enthusiastic young Tibetan Women to become self-sustaining individuals. The positive effects of this program greatly improve the lives of many children and families living in exile. We strongly believe that with more women being educated, our Tibetan community grows stronger and more empowered.

For this edition, we are pleased to include a report on SOT’s activities from Mrs. Ellen Besso from Gibson, BC, Canada:

From October 25th to November 13th, 2012, I had the privilege of facilitating a group of women in the Stitches of Tibet program.

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It was a combined English class and Women's Empowerment/ Assertiveness Coaching group.



The Coaching was on Buddhist mindfulness and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. The format of the group was a life skill class. Each day we began the class with warm up exercises, followed by discussion of a quote about women's strength. The actual lesson start with an exercise designed to develop awareness and increase the women's sense of empowerment. After this, we spent a short time for stretching and doing yoga exercises, and rest of time focused specifically on English language studies.

English practice was woven through the sessions because the group was divided into two levels of English. While taking the class, English-Tibetan translation played an important role in our classes. Each woman brought a deep commitment and enthusiasm to our teamwork. I must say that they were not only keen to improve their English, but also interested in the Women's Empowerment theories and practices. I must acknowledge that they were able to grasp and work with sophisticated concepts.

I believe I can speak for all of us when I say that our time together was very special. I was constantly moved and impressed by the strength and commitment of these women and all Tibetan women.

TWA
Exclusive

Section

3

Report of activities of Regional Chapters of TWA, August 2012-November 2012

BANDARA:

20th October 2012: RTWA Bhandara gave a warm welcome to the Indian supporters who organized a bike relay for the Tibetan cause. The relay started from Vardaand went till Nagpur. There were 28 Indian brothers and 15 Tibetans.



25th October 2012: The torch relay reached the Bhandara Nor-gyeling Tibetan settlement. There, RTWA Bhandara joined with the RTYC settlement office and Indian supporters to give a warm welcome to the participants.



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2nd August 2012: RTWA Bhandara celebrated Indian festival Raksha-Bandhan and tied up rakhi to the Indian dignitaries to symbolize strong relations.



BJR:

10th October 2012: RTWA Bir organized a mass prayer and lit butter lamps in the settlement. The local Tibetans took part and prayed for the peace and noble souls of the self-immolators. They prepared dinner and tea for those who stayed the whole day praying for them.



BYLAKUPPE and HUNSUR:

On 2nd August:

RTWA Bylakuppe and Hunsur went to Mysore city and Celebrated RakshaBandhan to strengthen the Indian and Tibetan Relations.

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tionship. They tied rakhi to Indian dignitaries (DCP office, SP office, RC office and all the English and Kannada Press Reporters)



On 12th August: RTWA and RTYC jointly organized a mass prayer in the Evening at 1st Camp stupa for Pawo Lobsang Kal-sang La and Pawo Damchoe la from Amdo Ngapa.



On Sept 27: RTWA and RTYC jointly organized a Candle Light Vigil to observed the 25 year anniversary of the 27th Sept, 1987 peaceful uprising in Lhasa.



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On 2nd and 7th Oct: RTWA and RTYC jointly organized a mass prayer at Camp 1 Stupa in the evening for those martyrs who recently self immolated themselves for the cause of Tibet.



Dalhousie:

August 10 2012: RTWA Dalhousie lit butter lamps for all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Tibetan Cause.



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DELHI:

August 2, 2012: RTWA Delhi celebrated the Indian festival RakshaBandhan by tying rakhi on the hand of Indian diplomats.



August 22, 2012: RTWA Delhi lit up butter lamps for the self-immolators and prayed for their souls to rest in peace.



DHARAMSALA:

August 2, 2012: To strengthen the relationship between Tibetans and Indians, RTWA Dharamsala organized a function in the Environmental Hall at 2pm to celebrate the Indian festival Rak-

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sha-Bandhan. Prior to function, the RTWA members along with RTWA president Kalsang Youdon, went to the Indian dignitaries' office to tie a rakhi in advance.



August 7, 2012: Around 6pm, RTWA and RTYC Dharamsala organized a candle vigil from McLeod to the Martyrs Memorial (Tsuklakhang Temple). A large number of people joined in the vigil to show solidarity with the martyrs. Invited monk, Lobsang Yeshi from Kriti monastery (Dharamsala), spoke a few words about the current situation inside Tibet.



August 11, 2012:

RTWA and RTYC organized a candle light vigil to pay tribute and show our solidarity with 24-year-old Pawo Chodpa who self-immolated for the freedom of six million Tibetans. More than 300 people, including both Tibetans and foreigners, joined the

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vigil and marched into the street of Mcloed Ganj to PawoDoring (Tibetan National Martyr Memorial).



August 13, 2012: RTWA Dharamsala organized a candle light vigil from the main square of Mcloed Ganj to the Great Martyrs Pillar near temple to show solidarity to all those who self immolates for the cause of Tibet.



August 15, 2012: The Regional Tibetan Women's Association with other nongovernmental associations celebrated the 66th

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Indian Independence Day in Dharamsala. They invited Indian brothers and sisters for the function and Tibetan children performed Tibetan Traditional dances to say ‘Thank You’ to India.



DHONDUPLING:

September 2, 2012: RTWA Dhondupling organized a Sangsol and prayer session for the noble souls of all the martyrs who self-immolated for Tibetan cause recently.



September 19, 2012: The Flame of Truth torched relay reached to Clemen Town. RTWA took an active part and collected signatures from Tibetan people as well as many Indian brothers and sisters. We were delighted and encouraged by Indian people who have showed their solidarity with us.



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September 27, 2012:

RTWADhunduplingalong with other non-governmental organizations, commemorated the 27th September,1987 peaceful uprising in Lhasa, by organizing a candle vigil in Deharadun's main market. More than 350 people joined to show their solidarity and respect to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of Tibet.



Continuous prayer sessions and candle light vigils:

To pray for the noble souls of all the martyrs, RTWA Clemen Town organized candle vigil marches on 7th, 14th, 22nd and 23rd October,2012.



DICKYILING:

October 1, 2012: RTWA Dickyiling organized a mass prayer in the settlement hall. Deckyiling people prayed for the self-immolators who had recently sacrificed themselves.



September 10, 2012: RTWA Dickyiling celebrated the 28th re-founding anniversary of TWA. For the function, they invited Mrs. Tsering Dolma, an ex parliament member, as a chief guest and many other representatives from governmental and non-governmental offices. The event was followed by distribution of pamphlets and posters of self-immolators around colleges, a railway station, the ISBT bus stand, the main chowk and in the city heart.



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September 20, 2012: The torch relay, Flame of Truth, reached Dickyiling at 8am. RTWA with other NGOs and local people of Dickyiling welcomed the torch event with great respect. The public of Dekyiling gathered in Dekling hall and they invited Indian supporters as chief guests. After the function, RTWA members were divided into groups and sent around Dehradun to gather signatures from Indian people for the campaign event. In the evening, they organized a candle vigil for all the martyrs who self immolated themselves for Tibetan cause.



GANGTOK:

27th August and 29th October, 2012:

RTWA Gangtok organized a prayer for all the martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of Tibet.



10th September 2012:

RTWA Gangtok distributed and displayed posters of self-immolators around the area and headed toward the residence of Indian Parliamentarians with Mrs. Santasree Chaulhuri (friend of Tibet) to present documents related to the current critical situation in Tibet.

They even were able to distribute the poster of self-immolators in local newspapers.



HERBERTPUR:

20th September 2012: RTWA Herbertpur organized mass prayer for the all the self-immolators who sacrificed their precious human life for the cause of Tibet.



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On 2nd August 2012: RTWA Herbertpur celebrated Indian festival RakshaBandhan and tied rakhi to Indian Dignitaries staying in their localities.



KALIMPONG:

August 27, 2012: RTWA Kalimpong and local Tibet people of Kalimpong gathered to pray for the self-immolators and lit butter lamps in hopes that their souls would rest in peace.



November 4, 2012:

RTWA Kalimpong organized a mass rally to show their solidarity with all the martyrs who died for the cause of Tibet.



MAJnpat

August 2, 2012: RTWA Mainpat celebrated Raksha Bhandan and tied rakhi to local Indian dignitaries.



September 9, 2012: Mainpat Tibetan Women organized candle light vigil for the self-immolators, where local Tibetans and CST Mainpat students joined to show their solidarity.



19th September 2012: Along with RTWA Mainpat and local Tibetans, many Indians including a Tibetan support group, welcomed the torch relay event, Flame of Truth.



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MUSSOORJE:

September 25, 2012: RTWA Mussoorie welcomed the torch relay event, Flame of Truth.



August 2, 2012: RTWA Mussoorie celebrated Indian festival Raksha Bandhan and tied rakhi to the Indian dignitaries.



August 15, 2012: RTWA Mussoorie wished happy Independence Day to all the Indian teachers of C.S.T and T.H.S, and also to some government officials for their dedication and support towards Tibetan people and the country.



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August 17, 2012: RTWA Mussoorie organized a mass prayer for all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for freedom.



NAJNITAL:

October 2, 2012:

RTWA Nainital organized a mass prayer for the martyrs. One hundred butter lamps were also lit as an offering for the noble souls and for their supreme sacrifices for the cause of Tibet. RTWA members and local Tibetans gathered in the prayer hall at 9am and prayed till noon.



September 10, 2012: RTWA

Nainital celebrated the 28th re-founding anniversary of the Tibetan Women's Association. RTWA members gathered at Gaden Kunkyopling monastery at Sukh Niwas and prayed for everyone and organized a Sangsol. The Statement from Central TWA was read out to the members. Then RTWA member went around the

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town to display posters of the self-immolators.



On 2nd August and October 29, 2012:

RTWA Nainital organized a mass prayer in front of the Tibetan market for all the martyrs and lit butter lamps to wish for their souls to rest in peace.



August 2, 2012:

RTWA Nainital celebrated Raksha Bandhan and tied rakhi to the Indian brothers to strengthen the relationship between Tibetans and Indians.



11th August 2012:

RTWA Nainital organized mass prayer at Gaden Kunkyopling monastery for all those who have self-immolated in last 2 years.

On 27th September 2012: Nainital gave a grand reception for The Flame of Truth event. Tibetan residents in complete Tibetan traditional attire gathered at Tallital bus stand holding Tibetan National flags and ceremonial scarves to receive the flame.



ORISSA:

10th September 2012: RTWA Orissa distributed the posters of the self-immolators throughout local newspapers and displayed many posters within the town.



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POANTA SAHIB:**

12th September 2012: RTWA Poanta Sahib gave a warm welcome to Flame of Truth torch relay and actively took part in the event.



2nd August 2012: RTWA Paonta Sahib celebrated the Indian festival, Raksha-Bandhan and tied rakhi to the Indian dignitaries from their localities.



SHILLONG:

27th October 2012: In the presence of State Chief Minister Shri. Mukul Sangma, State Home Minister Shri. Robert G Lyngdoh and the State Urban Affairs Minister Smti. Ampareen Lyngdoh, RTYC, RTWA Shillong participated in Shillong's half marathon 2012.



27th October 2012:

RTWA Shillong organized a mass prayer and other rituals for all the brave patriots who have sacrificed their lives for our nation. They plan to organize a prayer session every Sunday for the month of November.

12th October 2012:

RTWA Shillong offered khata to Bharat Mata and the organizers for their dedication and support for the cause of Tibet. Shri. Indresh Kumar addressed the gathering regarding Tibet and how it will attain its freedom along with some emphasis on the strong, lasting relationship between India and Tibet. He also expressed his respect and faith in His holiness Dalai Lama.



TSERING DHONDEN:

27th September 2012:

RTWA Tsering Dhonden along with RTYC and Tibetan Democratic Party of Doon Valley (Dehradun), organized a candle light vigil in the main market. Ajay Sharma was a chief guest of the event.



2nd August 2012:

RTWA Tsing Dhonden tied rakhi to the Indian dignitaries. In addition to the event, they also sent a card to 20 different states and 7 union territories, expressing the gratitude of India. The card included a list with details about all the self-immolators. They also printed out a card, which explained the importance of the Indian brothers to the Tibetan cause.



8th August 2012:

RTWA Tsing Dhonden organized a Sangsol in the morning and invited ten monks from Nyingma Gompa for a 1 day monlam for the self immolators.

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10th August 2012: RTWA Tsering Dhonden organized a candle light vigil for the martyrs who sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of Tibet.



LADAKH:

September 10 2012: RTWA Ladakh celebrated the 28th re-founding anniversary of the Tibetan Women's Association in their locality for the first time. RTWA celebrated the day to express their solidarity and pay tribute to all the brave martyrs for their selfless acts for the cause of the nation. The pamphlet containing the photos of the martyrs was distributed and about 50 posters of the martyrs were displayed in and around the locality.



October 27 2012:

RTWA Ladakh invited the president of Ladakh Buddhist Association, the president of Ladakh Gonpa Association and other distinguish guests to attend the march organized to show their solidarities and respect for all the martyrs.



On 29th November:

RTWA Ladakh along with Regional Tibetan Freedom Movement organized a prayer session. Under the blessing of Thiksay Khenpo Rinpoche, the prayer service (monlam) was offered by around one hundred monks and local people.



August 2012 - November 2012