

Summer Edition

April - July 2015

Volume 10

Issue 1



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CHRONOLOGY OF SELF-IMMOLATION INSIDE TIBET



TWA pays tribute to the brave souls who self-immolated to protest against the Chinese occupation and decades of oppression to crackdown the Tibetans. TWA publish the names and brief information about the self-immolators in its every quarterly newsletter 'VOICE' to pay homage. For this newsletter, we have continued the chronology of self-immolation from the last edition (Dec 2014-March 2015). The number goes from 138 to 142.

138. Name: Yeshi Khando Date: April 8, 2015

Protest Îocation: Kardze, Sichuan

Age: Forties

Current whereabouts/wellbeing:

Believed to be deceased

A Tibetan nun in her forties called Yeshi Khando set fire to herself on April 8 in Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) and is believed to have died, according to Tibetan sources. She called for the long life of the Dalai Lama, for the Dalai Lama to be invited to Tibet and for freedom for Tibet as she set herself alight, according to the same sources.

139. Name: Neykyab Date: April 16, 2015

Protest location: Ngaba, Sichuan

Age: Forties or fifties

Current whereabouts/wellbeing:

Deceased





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The Tibetan man was named by Tibetan sources as Neykyab, believed to be in his forties or fifties. The same sources said that he was the brotherin-law of another Tibetan from Ngaba, Dargye, who set fire to himself in Lhasa on May 27, 2012.

A local source from Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan (the Tibetan area of Amdo) told Radio Free Asia: "He was protesting against Chinese policies in Tibet. His body was taken away by police." Another source told RFA: "He had received [religious] recognition for his vow not to harm others in personal disputes—a vow that he took in honor of all those who have sacrificed themselves in selfimmolation protests for the cause of Tibetan freedom" the source said." (RFA report, April 16, 2015).

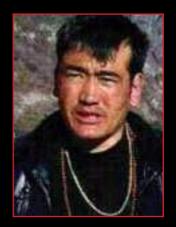
140. Name: Tenzin Gyatso Date: May 20, 2015 Protest location: Tawu, Sichuan

Age: Early thirties

Current whereabouts/wellbeing:

Unknown

A Tibetan father of four set fire to himself in Tawu apparently in response to tightened security in the buildup to the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday. Tenzin Gyatso, the fourth Tibetan to selfimmolate this year, was taken away by armed police and it is not known if he is still alive. He set fire to himself outside a government building where political education was carried out, according to Tibetan sources.



141. Name: Sangye Tso
Date: May 27, 2015
Protest location:
Chone, Kanlho

Age: 36

Current whereabouts/wellbeing:

Deceased



Sangye Tso set fire to herself and died on May 27 in a township in Chone (Chinese: Zhuoni) county, Kanlho (Chinese: Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture) in Gansu Province, according to Tibetan sources. The location she chose to self-immolate was significant – outside a government building near the monastery of Tashi Choekhorling in Dorkok town. A Tibetan exile source in contact with Tibetans in the area said: "The specific location was the Party and government offices, including the local police station, symbolic to locals of policies of injustice against Tibetans, as well as the main offices to enforce the crackdown against police protest in 2008."

142. Name: Sonam Tobgyal

Date: July 9, 2015

Protest location: Kyegudo

Age: Late twenties

Current whereabouts/wellbeing:

Unknown



A Tibetan monk in his late twenties, Sonam

Topgyal, set fire to himself in the main square of Kyegudo (Yushu) (July 9), in an atmosphere of heightened security imposed around the period of the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday on July 6. According Tibetan exile sources, Sonam Topgyal was taken away by armed police while still alive and is believed to be in hospital, although his whereabouts and welfare is not known.

WORLD EARTH DAY

Tibetan Women's Association joined Clean Upper Dharamsala Programme for their mass clean up event on 'World Earth Day' in Mcleod Ganj.

World Earth Day is celebrated every year as an annual event by the people all across the world on 22^{nd} of April in order to increase the awareness among people about the environment safety as well







as to demonstrate the environmental protection measures. First time, the world earth day was celebrated in the year 1970 and then started celebrating annually on global basis by almost 192 countries.

Our Earth is the only planet in the Universe where life is possible till date. It is very necessary to maintain the natural assets of the earth in order to continue the life on the earth. In the rush of the crowd, the most intelligent creature of the God called human is slowly losing its humanity and forgot to take care of the planet that gave it life and started using its resources very ruthlessly.

SAVE EARTH FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL SENTIENT BEINGS!

1 1TH GENERAL BODY MEETING



(6-day crucial meeting to assess past and frame future activities)

117 grassroots women leaders belonging to 26 regional chapters of Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) have converged in Dharamsala for the 6-day



(May 8-13, 2015) General Body Meeting (GBM), the 11th in the series of TWA's history. Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Tibetan Political leader(Sikyong), Mrs. Rinchen Khando, founding President of Tibetan Women's Association and former Kalon and Mr. Penpa Tsering, Speaker of Tibetan Parliament in Exile graced the opening ceremony as the Chief guest and Guest of Honours.

The GBM convened after every three years is the highest decision making body of TWA and is empowered to amend the association's working charter. The 11th GBM elected the 11th central executive officers. The concluding ceremony included the announcement of the election results on May 13th – the final day of the general body meeting.



Tibetan Women's Association honoured the group of Tibetan women who strove vigorously and effortlessly to reinstate Tibetan Women's Association in Exile in the early 1980s which led to the reestablishment of the Association on 10thSeptember,1984. Ms. Rinchen Khando, founding President of Tibetan Women's Association and former Kalon was honoured for her continued leadership

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and guidance in the Tibetan community. Ten Central and Regional Executives were honoured for their 12 years of service and contribution to Tibetan Women's Association at the regional and central offices.



The dignitaries also launched three Tibetan Women's Association's publications in Tibetan; the publications are titled "History of Tibetan Women Leaders", "Tibetans Intermarriages inside Tibet and Exile" and "History of Regional Tibetan Women's Association".



The Central TWA has drafted a 7 point agenda covering a wide range of issues: political, social, educational, advocacy and empowerment initiatives to reinforce capacitate and strengthen the role of Tibetan women in the Tibetan freedom struggle. Adequate time was provided for discussions, brainstorming sessions, and deliberations, on the agenda. All resolutions derived from these broad agendas will serve as the action plan for TWA and its chapters for the next three years (2015 - 2018).



Tibetan Women's Association's executive members, staffs and the representatives of the RTWA chapters are blessed to get an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama at his residence. It was a very special moment of the GBM.



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From a humble beginning in 1984 in exile India, TWA is today the second largest NGO (17,000 members) in exile and the only women's NGO in Tibetan history with a global network of 56 regional chapters spread over 4 continents.



In the course of TWA's history, Tibetan women have had a steadfast presence in- empowering women in the Tibetan freedom struggle, amplifying the suppressed voices of Tibetans in Tibet, lobbying world leaders, empowering women in exile on social, political, educational and economic front, strengthening democracy in exile, advocating for Tibet's environment and in strengthening the TWA organizational structure and influence.



TWA's slogan is 'Advocacy for Home and Action in Exile.'





20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GENDUN CHOEKYI NYIMA, THE 11TH PANCHEN LAMA OF TIBET:

Tibetan Women's Association marked 17th May 2015, 20 years since the 11th Panchen Lama, Gendun Choekyi Nyima was abducted by Chinese government at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. TWA Central joined by 23 regional chapters across India organized a peace march from Rajghat to Jantar Mantar followed by a sit-in campaign at Jantar Mantar.



TWA staged an all India signature campaign on 25th April, 2015 which marked the 26th birthday of the 11th Panchen Lama with a petition letter addressed to The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), c/o OHCHR-UNOG.



Tibetan Women's Association delivered petition letters and sum of signatures collected worldwide by our Regional chapters on 25th April to the UN office and the embassies based in New Delhi.



PETITION LETTER

To,

The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), C/o OHCHR-UNOG, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Dear Sir/Madam,

17 May 2015 is the 20th anniversary of the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama of Tibet.

When he disappeared, along with his family, in 1995 Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was just six years old. Just days prior to his disappearance he had been recognised by the Dalai Lama as the 11th incarnation of the Panchen Lama, the second highest Tibetan Buddhist leader. Now aged 26-years of age he is still missing.

The enforced disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, is a continuous crime being committed by the People's Republic of China and we welcomed the statement by the WGEID at the UNHRC in 2012 which said, "concerning Gedhun Choekyi Nyima known as the 11th Panchen Lama. He disappeared in 1995 when he was six years old. While the Chinese authorities have admitted taking him, they have continually refused to divulge any information about him or his whereabouts, making his case an enforced disappearance. A number of human rights mechanisms including the UN Committee Against Torture, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, have all called for his whereabouts to be revealed, to no avail."

We call on you now to re-engage authorities in Beijing to express further concern for his continued enforced disappearance and urge them to comply with the numerous urgent appeals about Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. In particular we appeal to you to urge the Chinese government to:

- Provide concrete information about the specific whereabouts and well-being of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima.
- Release Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family immediately and unconditionally. And ensure that the future safety of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family must be guaranteed.
- Allow the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) of the UN Human Rights Council to meet Gedhun Choekyi Nyima and his family.

TWA has 56 regional chapters with over 17,000 members outside Tibet. It is the second largest Tibetan NGO and the only women's NGO in exile. It advocates human rights for Tibetans in Tibet and empowerment of Tibetan women in exile. TWA's tagline is 'Advocacy for Home, Action in Exile.'

Yours Sincerely,

Tibetan Women's Association Central Executive Committee Bhagsunath Road P.O. McLeod Ganj Dharamsala 176219 Kangra, HP India

Phone Number: 91-1892-221527 or 91-1892-221198

Official Email:

tibwomen@gmail.com / twa@tibetanwomen.org







WORLD Environment day







On 5th June, also known as World Environment Day, Tibetan Women's Association organized an awareness programme at the Central School for Tibetans, Chauntra. Following a drawing competition and visual presentation on the importance of sustainable lifestyles, the young students also took pledges to better the environment.



World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging global awareness and action to preserve the environment. Over the years, it has served as a 'people's day' to encourage positive momentum toward sustainability, beginning with individual action and transforming into a collective movement to generate an exponentially positive impact on the planet.



The physical and economic welfare of the living beings on this planet ultimately depends upon responsible management of the earth's natural resources. However, people are consuming far more natural resources than the planet can sustainably provide.





Therefore, the WED theme this year is "Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care." Living within planetary limitations is the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy future. Human prosperity need not cost the earth; living sustainably is about doing more and better with less. We believe WED will be an excellent opportunity to call for greater sustainability at every level.



On the same day at the Mcleod Square, Tibetan Women's Association, Students for a Free Tibet-India and International Tibet Network observed World Environment Day by raising awareness on the crucial environmental situation inside Tibet.

Participants carried banners reading 'Tibet, Sustainable Lifestyle Under Attack.'The activists highlighted the Chinese government's systematic exploitation of Tibet's rivers, minerals and other natural resources.





Because this year's UN-declared theme focuses on sustainable living, the three Tibetan NGOs aimed to encourage the general public to adopt a more sustainable way of living. Individuals took their personal responsibilities and pledged to strive toward a sustainable society in the future.

OATH TAKING CEREMONY OF THE 11TH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



The ceremony took place at TWA Central's office. A simple tea party began with TWA's first president Mrs.Rinchen Khando la, Tibetan Settlement officer Mr.Sonam Dorjee la, ex president Mrs.Tashi Dolma la and the representatives from various Tibetan NGOs and settlement office.

TWA's new executive members took oath in front of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's photo.

The new executive members are Mrs Dolma Yangchen (President), Miss Tsering Dolma (Vice-President), Miss. Tsering Choezom (General Secretary), Miss Tenzin Tselha (Joint Secretary), Mrs



Kalsang Youdon (Public Relation Officer), Mrs Tashi Choedon (Out station executive) and Miss Dechen Dolker (Out station executive).





All the well wishers present at the ceremony put traditional scarves to the new executive members and wished them a successful term. Mrs. Rinchen Khando la gave a short talk at the end, encouraging the executive members & staffs with her words of wisdom & experience.

CELEBRATION OF H.H.THE DALAI LAMA'S 80TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



On this joyous occasion of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, Tibetan Women's Association's executive members thanked and presented packet of laddoos to those Indian officials in and around Dharamsala who are very supportive to the Tibetans in Dharamsala. Tibetan Women's Association would like to 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 are touched by His Holiness the Dalai Lama's message of peace and non-violence.



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 unflagging devotion to these goals, millions of people around the globe admire and love him.



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.



TWA 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!

MEETINGS AND INTERACTION WITH NATIONAL AND I NTERNATIONAL GROUPS

Tibetan Women's Association assigns great importance to meeting and interacting with students, researchers, journalists, activists and delegates to raise global awareness of the critical situation inside Tibet. Through such meetings, TWA can increase international pressure for the improvement of Human rights for Tibetans living in occupied Tibet.

From April to July 2015, the TWA team met several groups and activists from different countries.



Tibetan Women's Association's executives had an interactive session with the heroes behind the Spanish National Court's historic Tibet Lawsuit - Jose Molto and Alan Contos.



TWA had interactive time with interns and volunteers of Initiatives of Change (IofC), Asia Plateau, India



TWA interacts with students from Tulane University, New Orleans, Los Angeles.



Interaction and discussion with the participants of Little Lhasa Program-SFT.



TWA's General Secretary Choezom la having an interactive session with volunteers of LHA charitable Trust.





TWA's president Dolma Yangchen la having an interactive session with SFT Taiwanese students.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Commemoration of 'Women's Day' in collaboration with Yes Bank.



Kalon Dicki Chhoyang of Department of Information and International Relations, CTA and Pema Chedon, the research and media officer of Central Tibetan Women's Association attended the 5th biennial Nobel Women's Initiative international conference DEFENDING THE DEFENDERS in The Netherlands.



Representatives of TWA and other Tibetan major NGOs had attended 2 days conference on 'Strengthening Democracy in Asia: Inclusion, Participation, and Rights @ New Delhi. The first day was blessed with the presence of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Tibetan Women's Association in collaboration with Gu Chu Sum Movement of Tibet, NDPT and Students for a Free Tibet-India collected donations in Dharamsala to people in Nepal. Donations were sent to help Nepalis and Tibetans who are affected by the earthquake in Nepal.



TWA took part in the talk series organized by Gurukul 2015 at Gangchen Kyishong.

TWA gave a talk on the topic "The Quiet Revolution:Tibetan women in Tibet & in exile"



TWA's President & vice president with other Tibetan officials & representatives from major Tibetan NGOs meeting the vice chancellor of Central University of HP on 24th June in his office.



Tibetan Women's Association organized a week long educational program for the students from Canada and United States. The students were introduced to major Tibetan NGOs and institutions to know more about Tibet, Human Rights, Environment situation inside Tibet, Buddhism and Science, Tibetan medicine and astrology. The students were also very lucky to receive an audience with His Holiness the Karmapa Rinpoche.



Tibetan Women's Association is pleased to announce fellowship to one Tibetan female candidate who would like to pursue a specialized study in Gynecology.

Qualification:

MBBS or Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Requirement:

- Covering letter addressed to the President
- Brief introduction of yourself and family background along with a statement explaining why you deserve to be the TWA Fellowhip recipient.
- Two passport size photographs
- Attested copy of updated Green Book and Refugee Certificate (RC)
- Degree Certificates
- Medical Certificate

In order to apply, applicants must be enrolled in or already accepted into a university or medical college in India.

Email: twafellowship@gmail.com / tibwomen@gmail.com or registered post:

Central Office
Tibetan Women's Association
Central Executive Committee
Bhagsunath Road
P.O. Mcleod Ganj
Dharamsala 176219
Kangra, HP India

To gather more information, please don't hesitate to call us at 91-1892-221527 or 91-1892-221198

Priority will be given to those whose mothers serve as a member of Tibetan Women's Association.

The applicants would be required to go through an interview.

CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL FOR TENZIN DELEK RINPOCHE

Tibetan Vomen's Association with other four major NGOs - Tibetan Youth Congress, Students for a Free Tibet - India, Gu Chu Sum & NDPT organ sed a candle light vigil to honor the life and legacy of martyr Tenzin Delek Rinpoche who demise in police custody.

It is disheartening to hear the stacking and very sad news of the sudden demise of Trulku Tenzin L. Lek, a Tibetan hero centenced to life imprisonment up ter false charge, died in a Chinese prison on 12 July 2015. Ever since his arrest in 2002 the Tibetan people inside and outside Tibet and the supporters all bround the world protested the Chinese government's action and demanded his release.



Sequence of appeals were sent to the United Nations and other concerned governments to raise their voice against the Chinese government however nothing constructive was done in this regard, although human rights topic was always raised at the United Nations. Can we ask the United Nations what they have done to release Trulku Tenzin Delek till now as he died in Chinese prison or was he murdered?



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His health has been deteriorating over many years but China denied him medical care. For all his contribution to the Tibetan people as a social reformer, religious teacher, and environmental activist, China first sentenced him to death, then sentenced him to life, and now practically sentenced him to death. His death is in every sense a political murder, a long, drawn out execution.

We now wonder what would be the consequences for His Holiness the Panchen Lama & other political prisoners.



MARCH FOR JUSTICE IN SOLIDARITY WITH TENZIN DELEK RINPOCHE



The march from Tsuglakhang to the District administrative premises (Kacheri) was organized by Tibetan Women's Association, Tibetan Youth Congress, Students for a Free Tibet - India, Gu Chu Sum Movement and National Democratic Party of Tibet to protest not only the 'death in detention' of a prominent Tibetan teacher but the irreparable and reckless handling of the aftermath that followed in places such as Nyachula and Chengdu both in Sichuan province where peaceful protesters were shot and beaten who were pleading for the body of the deceased.





At least a thousand people including foreigner supporters took part in the procession with placards, banners, posters, Tibetan national flags and photos of Tulku Tenzin Delek. "Murdered in cold blood, Justice for Tulku Tenzin Delek" a banner with a portrait of Tulku read.

At the closing of the march, the bereaved cousin of the Tulku, Gyeshe Nyima, vowed to launch continued action until clear answers and explanation are made public surrounding the death of the Tulku from Lithang.



OBSERVATIONAL REPORT ON STITCHES OF TIBET

The Valiant Face of Tibetan Women

Priya Judge Intern

Reflecting on my summer stint at the Tibetan Women's Association (TWA), I have come to realize the significance of TWA's impact on not only the Tibetan community in Dharamsala, but also on settlements across India and even the world. I arrived at the office a little over a month ago with little idea of how an NGO like TWA operated, let alone made differences in the lives of ordinary Tibetans. By working closely with and teaching English through the Stitches of Tibet program, I have gained more than I think I could have ever given to the women whom I was teaching. While I taught them about past, present, and future tenses, they gifted me with the unspoken lessons of resilience and hope.

As I sat down every day for our two-hour English class, I would ask the same three questions. *How are you? What is today's date? Are you enjoying today's weather?* And while the answers to these questions



came slowly, the smiles behind them were immediate. Despite their ever-cheery countenances, however, I knew that these women had endured struggles—struggles that could be partly traced back to the pervasive and crippling gender inequality that still plagues Tibetan communities today, whether these challenges be a lack of female representation in Tibetan governance or domestic violence.



What I find appealing about TWA's approach to women empowerment is that it doesn't take an entirely feminist stance. Rather, TWA strives to socially, economically, and politically better the entire Tibetan community by fostering the inclusion of women in spheres of power—many of which are not necessarily political. By dividing its time between issues like environmental sustainability and legal empowerment, TWA ensures that an exclusive demographic does not become the sole beneficiary of the organization's work. Rather, Tibetan women have become a courageous vehicle through which to strengthen the Tibetan people as a whole. This movement, a non-violent struggle in its own, has revealed to me new perspectives—new bold, enduring faces—of the female Tibetan community.

I am thrilled to have been able to witness TWA's community outreach efforts from within the office, and will never forget the new face that TWA has put to the Tibetan women of today.

LONG LIFE PRAYER FOR HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA



Tibetan Women's Association with ten other organizations offered Long life prayer for His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Choekor Duechen commemorating Lord Buddha's first sermon and teaching of the Four noble truth.

(The executive members & staffs of TWA blessed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as seen in the picture above)

TWO DAYS WORKSHOP FOR THE RTWA'S EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

TWA conducted two days workshop on 21st and 22nd July 2015 for the RTWA's executive members who came to Dharamsala for the long life prayer for H.H The Dalai lama. The workshop covered four important topics- Debate on Tibetan Women's Association & its regional chapters: the challenges and way forward, Evolution of Tibetan Democracy in exile, Rules & regulations of election and Origin of Middle way policy.



The first day of the workshop started with five minutes silence in solidarity with the martyrs of Tibet followed by national anthem. The topic for the morning session is Debate on Tibetan Women's Association & its regional chapters: the challenges and way forward. Our president Mrs.Dolma Yangchen la in her speech stressed on having healthy connection between Central TWA and Regional TWAs, to have proper documentation of the official documents, to keep the copies of the email sent from the office in a file & other important tips to carry on the activities of TWA smoothly.



The vice-president of TWA Mrs. Tsering Dolma la also guided the participants on the important activities of TWA. After that it was debate session where the participants came out with lots of questions on the challenges they are facing in their regions. The President and vice president of TWA suggest the solutions for the problems the regional executive members encountered while doing their noble jobs. The debate session turned out to be very productive to all those present in the workshop.



The afternoon session was led by Miss Tsering Tsomo la, Director of TCHRD on the topic Evolution of Tibetan Democracy in exile. It was very informative and the participants listened with keen interest. She said Tibetan democracy is the biggest gift His Holiness the Dalai Lama offered to the Tibetans in exile. She also explained briefly about the Tibetan parliament in exile. Tsering Tsomo la quoted that Tibetans in exile are very lucky as we are getting maximum democracy to choose our parliamentarians unlike some other countries in which the public have not much freedom to choose their leaders. She also explained clearly on the three pillars of Tibetan Democracy as questioned by one of the participants. She said "Right to vote is a part of democracy and we should grasp the opportunity." The questions/answers session went very well.



The second day of the workshop began with a talk by Mr.Shosur Sonam Choephel la, election commissioner of CTA, on the topic Rules & regulations of Election. He began his talk by starting from the birth of Tibetan Democracy which was on 2nd June 1960 and is celebrated as the Democracy day by the Tibetans in exile. He also stated the importance of the green book and cleared the misconception about some rules of voting system in Tibetan society. The participants have lots of questions on this very topic.



The afternoon session'Origin of the middle way policy' was conducted by Miss Kalden Tsomo la, under secretary of DIIR. She said we shouldn't follow middle way policy blindly without having the knowledge about it.



She further added it is crucial for the Tibetans to know about the middle way policy so that we can answer anyone who ask question on it. The workshop includes group activities and the participants had a thorough discussion on the questions given to them. Some books, pamphlets and flyers related with the Middle way policy are distributed to the groups.



The session was interesting and all the participants took the opportunity actively. Miss Kalden la with two of her colleagues tried their best to instill a proper knowledge of Middle way policy within the participants.



Finally Mr. Tashi Phuntsok la, information secretary of DIIR, sums up the workshop with a talk including more information on the middle way policy. The participants of the workshop are very glad to gain lots of knowledge from the two days workshop and are willing to share the knowledge to other Tibetans in their settlements. The evening of their last day was very joyous with Tibetan folk dance and other entertainments.

TWA AT THE CENTRAL ASIAN MEETING OF PASTORALIST



Tibetan Women's Association's general secretary Miss. Tsering Choezom la attended the Central Asian Meeting of Pastoralist under the FAO project "The Pastoralist Knowledge Hub" from 26-29 July, 2015 at Hustai National Park, 100 km from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The other participants are from Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Siberia. The speakers at the meeting are Mr. Pablo Manzano, coordinator of Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, Mr. Atai Ayatkhaan, chairman of MANIP (Mongolian Alliance Of Nomadic Indigenous People),



Mr.B.Batzorig,Vice minister of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia, Mr Yon Fernandez de Larrinoa,Focal point Indigeneous people from UNFAO and Mr. Santiago Carralero Benitez, Executive Director of YURTA Association.



RECORD OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONAL CHAPTERS OF TIBETAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

RTWA BYLAKUPPE



RTWA Bylakuppe celebrated International women's day at Mysore in collaboration with Odanadi sevasamesthe.



RTWA Bylakuppe celebrated the World Environment Day for positive environment action. Workshop was given to all group leaders to make (garbage enzymes) enzymes that is produced by fermentation of fresh kitchen waste (fruits and vegetables waste).

RTWA DEKYILING



RTWA Dekyiling did a signature campaign due to the demise of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche in Chinese prison at mall and market.



RTWA Deckyiling showed solidarity with martyr Tenzin Delek Rinpoche with the Tibetans from the settlement by praying, offering butterlamps and organizing a candle light vigil on 15th July 2015.

RTWA SAMYELING



On 4th July 2015, three executive members of RTWA Samyeling, Delhi attended the panel discussion on H.H the Dalai Lama and his contribution towards humanity held at Multipurpose hall at Art gallery, iic.



RTWA Samyeling, Delhi took part in a programme to boycott Chinese goods organized by Bharat Tibat Sahyog Manch.

RTWA DHARAMSALA



RTWA Dhasa celebrated World Health Day in collaboration with department of health of CTA and Kunphen by organizing an awareness campaign on food safety & healthy eating habits on 7th April 2015.



RTWA Dharamsala in collaboration with RTYC and SFT-India celebrated the 26th birthday of His Holiness the Panchen Lama.

RTWA DHONDUPLING



RTWA Dhondupling organized a prayer session on Saka dawa (holy day)



RTWA Dhondupling did signature campaign demanding justice for martyr Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

RTWA GANGTOK

Tibetan community takes out candle light march in Gangtok in solidarity with Tibetan leader's death

Staff Reporter

GANGTOK, July 27: in Gangtok on Sunday evening organized a silent candle march to express condolences and solidarity with the sudden death of fulls. Tenzin Delek Rinfoche, one of the most prominent TiSetan political prisoners and a highly respected spiritual figure, in

The rally which started from Chokasum at Namnang



was participated by around community from Gangtok. authorities to 250 members of Tibetan The raily covered Decrail, prescretese.

and Kazi road before concluding near Assembly House.

"Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was a highly respected Tibetan spiritual figure and one of the most prominent Tibetan political prisoners. He died under mysterious circumstances on Sunday while serving a life amtence in Chandong prison in the southwestern Chinese Provincial city of Chengda. He was arrested by Chinese authorities in 2002," reads a

RTWA Gangtok organized a candle march on 27th July to express solidarity with the sudden death of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. (The news was featured in Gangtok newspaper)



RTWA Gangtok performing Tibetan dances on H.H the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday on 6th July 2015.

RTWA Mussoorie



On H.H the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, RTWA Mussoorie visited the Indian school for underprivileged children and distributed books & pens to 75 students.





RTWA Mussoorie cleaning the sorrounding on World Environment Day (5th June 2015)

RTWA Hunsur



RTWA Hunsur showed deep condolences to the victims of the earthquake victim in Nepal by organizing a prayer session.



RTWA Hunsur celebrated the 80th birthday of H.H the Dalai Lama by hosting a grand dinner for the Indian dignitaries.

RTWA MINNESOTA



To promote Mothers Day Potluck Gathering (5/10) RTWA Minnesota asked all its current members, Who is your hero? & to share why?? (Women that have had an influence on your life) RTWA-MN General Secretary, Tenzin Lhamo: "My amala, for never giving up on me and

teaching me about love, compassion, forgiveness, and integrity. You are my rock and inspiration! Thank you for everything that you do for us and loving us unconditionally. Happy Mother's Day my dear Amala!



RTWA Minnesota took part in the prayer service for the victims of Nepal's earthquake on 2nd May 2015.

RTWA NY/NJ



RTWA NY & NJ are blessed to get an audience with Professor Samdhong Rinpoche (the former Tibetan Prime minister).



RTWA NYNJ participated in the NY 29th Annual Immigrants Culture Parade representing the Tibetan society and culture in the Big Apple.

RTWA ONTARIO



RTWA Ontario had the honour to host breakfast for Ama Jetsun Pema la.



RTWA Ontario organized a dental Hygiene workshop for kids.

RTWA Switzerland



RTWA Switzerland organized a fund raising event(party) for TWA Central's new building project.



RTWA Switzerland calls on the Chinese government to disclose the whereabouts of Panchen Lama of Tibet.

RTWA



RTWA Tsering Dhonden invited Congress MLA Mr. Heera Singh Bisht, Congress women president Mrs Sarojini Kenthura and star jeweller owner Mr.Gurjeet Singh as the chief guests during the celebration of H.H the 11th Panchen Lama.

RTWA SHIMLA



RTWA Shimla released fishes into the river on Saka Dawa (sacred day).



RTWA Shimla performing Tibetan dance on H.H the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday (6th July 2015).

RTWA Tashi Palkheil



RTWA Tashi Palkheil, Pokhara's relief work for the victims of earthquake in Nepal.



RTWA Tashi Palkheil, Pokhara organized a cleaning program in the settlement, the main road behind the camp and also the Old Age Home on 5th June, World Environment Day.

RTWA Tashiling



RTWA Tashiling, Pokhara organized a Tibetan & Nepali cultural dance performance and the Nepali audience enjoyed and gave huge applause.



RTWA Tashiling, Pokhara organized a prayer session for the swift rebirth of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

RTWA Rajpur



On 15th July 2015, RTWA Rajpur lighted 108 butterlamps for the swift rebirth of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.



Advocacy for Home, Action in exile

Tibetan Women's Association was originally founded on March 12, 1959 in Tibet. On this day – known as Women's Uprising Day- thousands of Tibetan women in Lhasa gathered together to protest against the illegal occupation of Tibet by Communist China. Protesting peacefully outside the Potala Palace, hundreds of these women suffered brutally at the hands of the Chinese troops. They were arrested, imprisoned, tortured and beaten without trial. A period of transition for TWA followed this uprising when many Tibetan women were forced to flee Tibet to live in exile in India. From 1959 to 1984 many Tibetan women's groups were established in India, such as in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Dharamsala, and Rajpur. Some of these groups initiated handicraft centers for women in their localities. These handicraft centers helped not only to preserve the arts and crafts of Tibet, but also imparted skills to Tibetan women so that they can earn their livelihood during the early refugee life.

On the 10th of September 1984, with the blessings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan Women's Association was officially

reinstated with 12 branches throughout India. Today, the TWA has over 16,000 members and 56 branches worldwide including branches in: India, Nepal, Europe, Japan, the United States of America and Canada. TWA sees itself as the natural continuation of our many brave sisters who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and protection of Tibet.

TWA's main objective is to raise public awareness of the abuses faced by Tibetan women in Chinese-occupied Tibet. Through extensive publicity and involvement in national and international affairs, TWA alerts communities to the gender-specific human rights abuses committed against Tibetan women in the form of forced birth control policies such as sterilizations and abortions, and restrictions on religious, political, social and cultural freedoms.

In exile, TWA places great priority on the contributions of Tibetan women towards the preservation and promotion of the distinct religion, culture and identity of the Tibetan people. TWA serves the Tibetan community as a whole with activities addressing religious and cultural issues, educational needs, social welfare, the environment and the political participation and social empowerment of women.

To best achieve our goals, TWA functions as a democratic organization. The members of the Central as well as the Regional Working Committees are elected by their respective members for a fixed term. The headquarters of TWA is in McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala, and it is from here that TWA issues guidelines and directives to the branch offices for the coordination of their activities.



OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES: The aims of the Tibetan Women's Association:

- To raise global awareness of the critical situation inside Tibet, and to exert international pressure for the improvement of human rights for Tibetans living in occupied Tibet.
- To promote the social, political, and economic equality of Tibetan women, in Tibet and in Tibetan exile communities.
- To address the drastic human rights abuses committed against Tibetan women in Tibet including rape, physical violence, and the denial of fundamental reproductive, religious, and political freedoms and to address other cases of gender-based discrimination in the Tibetan exile communities.
- To ensure Tibetan women have access to adequate educational information about health care, child care and family planning.
- To assist the needy in the Tibetan community through sponsorship programs that help to support economically disadvantaged families, single parents, children, nuns, the handicapped, the sick, and the elderly.

- To preserve and promote Tibetan culture, language, tradition, and the arts through community education, literacy and publications.
- To join hands with the women of the world to promote peace and justice for all.

We work hard to achieve these aims with the following key activities:

- Supporting women in Tibet by publicizing human rights abuses and seeking opportunities to support development inside Tibet
- Actively working for women's empowerment by running regular workshops across the exile community
- Empowering and supporting women in the exile community through studies fellowship, vocational training school Stitches of Tibet and sponsorship programmes
- Raising awareness of the harmful policies affecting Tibet's environment as part of the Tibet Third Pole campaign group
- Maintaining an international presence, to advocate for the rights of women in and outside of Tibet on a global stage
- Rigorously campaigning for issues and injustice affecting the lives of women within the exile community and inside Tibet
- Producing regular research and media in order to support international advocacy and campaigning work

TWA'S TEAM: CURRENT EXECUTIVES & STAFFS

Current Executives

DOLMA YANGCHEN – PRESIDENT



Tibet and escaped to India with her parents in 1959. She first studied in C.S.T Mussoorie and later studied in Convent of Jesus & Mary at Mussoorie and completed Senior Cambridge. In 1974, she along with her parents joined Tibetan Refugee Settlement at Bylakuppe, South India. Soon after that she was enrolled in London Chamber of Commerce Secretarial Course in Bangalore. She was appointed

as the Secretary at MYRADA, an NGO which established three Tibetan Refugee Settlements in Karnataka State. Her job was connected with the Tibetan students' scholarship and re-settlement of Tibetans in various Tibetan settlements in the south.

During her work at MYRADA she was closely connected with rural developments and landless people's projects all over the south. She left MYRADA in 1998, by then major works with the Tibetans were completed. She started her own business of Interior works with her

husband whom she married in 1983. During that period she was enrolled for a distant education for B.A. In 1993 she was invited to join Lugsung Samdupling Tibetan settlement to take part in the development in Infrastructure of the settlement. During her tenure as Project Officer at Lugsam, a few important and beneficial projects were executed. Some of the most significant projects were "Old People's Home" and the Solar Irrigation Project in Purang Camp which provided her an opportunity to visit Norway in 2004. This visit gave her an opportunity to interact and create awareness among the Norwegian people about Tibet and Tibetans in Tibet & in Exile. She took retirement from the esteemed job in the year 2013.

She was elected as the president of Regional Tibetan Women's Association Bylakuppe in 2001 and served for two consecutive terms. She also served as the Central executive member from 2006 to 2009 in the south. During the first term, RTWA office and the Tailoring Training Centre were built from 2002 to 2003 and also set up Marketing Outlet of finished products. A very important event was the effort made to save the lives of over hundred and fourteen sick, old and male cattles by shifting them to a Cow Shelter Home, "Prinjarpole" in Mysore on the occasion of His Holiness's Birthday. The most talked about project and event was the "Peace March" from Pune to Mumbai in 2005 as part of Women's Uprising Day on 12th march. The Peace March was led by a group of over 600 RTWA members from 5 southern Tibetan Settlements. They received tremendous response and support from various NGOs and local Indian people. That was the most memorable, fulfilling experience and a very successful event under her leadership. She also served as an advisor to RTWAs in the south. She was also one of the founding members of Indo-Tibetan Friendship Society in Bylakuppe. Through this organization she was able to contribute her service to the Tibetan community.

VOICE - TWA Newsletter

After retirement she was elected as the Board of Director for Dickyi Larsoe Tibetan Settlement and served for one year. She had to resign the post after being elected as the President of the Tibetan Women's Association at the Head Quarter, Dharamshala. It is gratifying to know that she had spent thirty five years of her life in the service of her community under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

TSERING DOLMA - VICE PRESIDENT



TSERING DOLMA completed her schooling from CST Dalhousie, India. She worked as a teacher at Lekshedh-Tsal school in Pokhara, Nepal for more than a decade before joining Central Tibetan Women's Association (TWA) as a Joint Secretary.

She is the founding member and the President of Regional Tibetan Women's Association, Jampaling. She has also worked with Regional

Tibetan Youth Congress as an Executive Member. She is grateful for support from her previous colleagues, settlement officer and the people, enabling her to gain lot of experience.

In April 2012, during the 10th General Body Meeting of TWA, Tsering Dolma was elected to be the Executive Member of Central Tibetan Women's Association for a period of three years (2012-2015). She was reelected as the Executive Member of Central Tibetan Women's Association for another three years (2015–2018).

TSERING CHOEZOM – GENERAL SECRETARY



TSERING CHOEZOM was born in India. She studied at Central School for Tibetans at Shimla and later completed her 12th grade from Scholars Home SR Sec. School, Debradun

She completed her Bachelor's Degree in Humanities from D.A.V. (P.G.) College, Garhwal University, Dehradun. Tsering Choezom was elected as the executive member of RTWA Rajpur/Tsering Dhonden from the year 2006-2009. She worked as a

Sr. Process Associate in Axis Telecom Inc. Gurgaon from January 2012 to May 2015.

During the 11th General Body Meeting of TWA, she was elected as the executive member of Central Tibetan Women's Association for a period of three years (2015-2018). She feels fortunate and thankful to the association for giving her the platform to work and learn more about Tibetan community. She is very happy and honored to be a part of Tibetan Women's Association.

TENZIN TSELHA – JOINT SECRETARY

Born in Tibet, Tenzin Tselha is a nun from Gaden Choeling nunnery in Dharamsala. She worked as a secretary for 7 years at the nunnery.

VOICE - TWA Newsletter



Her experience working with Central Tibetan Women's Association dates back to 1997 when she was appointed as the Joint Secretary during the 5th General Body Meeting. She was also oversaw "Stitches of Tibet" during that tenure. Later during the 6th General Body Meeting, she was reelected as an Additional Secretary. She has experience serving as a member of Election Commission and Local Assembly, Dharamsala.

In April 2012, during the 10th General Body Meeting of TWA, Tenzin Tselha was elected to be the Executive Member of Central Tibetan Women's Association for a period of three years (2012-2015). She feels fortunate to have been elected again to serve at TWA and would like to thank all the members of Tibetan Women's Association.

KALSANG YOUDON - PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER



Kalsang Youdon was born in Dharamsala. She studied at TCV school. In 1989, she became self-employed. In 1997 she was elected as an auditor and introduced fixed rate policy in Potala Ranchi sweater association. From 1997 to 2003, she was elected as the cashier of Central Ngari chithun Association.

She was elected in Regional Tibetan Women's Association of Dharamsala as the President from 2006 to 2009. She was elected in Central Ngari Chithun Association as vice president from 2011 to 2014. She was reelected as the president of RTWA Dharamsala from 2012-2014. She had attended the first Tibetan National General Meeting at Bylakuppe in 2010, 2nd Special General meeting at Gangchen kyishong in 2011 and 2nd Tibetan National General meeting at Upper TCV in 2012 .During the 11th General Body meeting of Tibetan Women's Association, she was elected as the central executive member for three years (2015-2018). She pledges to do her work with sincerity and contribute her best to the Tibetan Women Association.

Current Staffs

TENZIN DOLKAR - OFFICE ACCOUNTANT



TENZIN DOLKAR did her schooling from Upper T.C.V School and completed her 12th standard from S.O.S T.C.V Bylakuppe. She did her Bachelor degree of commerce from Teresian College under Mysore University and then pursued her Master degree from Symbiosis college of Arts and Commerce under Pune University. Currently she is working at Tibetan Women's Association as office

Accountant. She feels fortunate to work in TWA as she can serve Tibetan community in best possible way.

LHAMO TSERING – RESEARCH & MEDIA OFFICER (ENGLISH)



LHAMO TSERING did her schooling from SOS TCV Ladakh and joined Arts stream in TCV Gopalpur. She did her primary teacher training in Dharamsala and worked as English teacher in TCV Ladakh for six years. She completed her BA via correspondence from IGNOU. She worked as coordinator cum teacher in Tibet Charity for a year. She also worked as the director of Tibet Hope Center in year 2014.

Currently she is working in Tibetan Women's Association as Research and media officer (English). Her mother who is an active member of RTWA Ladakh wish to see her serve TWA and she is living out her mother's dream. She is full of enthusiasm to work diligently for TWA.

TSERING YANGZOM - OPERATION OFFICER



Kham, eastern Tibet and came into exile in 1999. She was enrolled in T.C.V Gopalpur for her schooling and then completed her 12th Standard from T.C.V Bylakuppe. Later she pursued Secretarial course from T.C.V Vocational Training Center (VTC), Dehradun.

To further polish her secretarial course, she completed seven month training at Tibetan Women's Association, Central. It was her hard work and excelled in team work contribution that she received one year contact work at the central office of TWA.

Currently she is working in Tibetan Women's Association as Operation Officer. Yangzom is happy to be a part of Tibetan Women's Association where she can serve her community in best possible way.

NORZIN DOLMA – WOMEN ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



NORZIN DOLMA did her schooling from SOS TCV Bylakuppe and completed her 12th standard from TCV Gopalpur. She did her Bachelor degree of English (hons) from Ethiraj College for women, Chennai and then pursued her master degree in Library and Information Science at Baroda, Gujarat. She joined Tibetan Women's Association on 1st August 2015. She feels honoured to be a part of TWA.



TIBETAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION Central Executive Committee Bhagsu Nag Road P O Mcleod Ganj

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