



Committee of 100 for Tibet

Newsletter - May 2011

“When the land you’re accustomed to living in, and the land of the culture you identify with, when the lifestyle and religiosity is suddenly changed into a ‘modern city’ that you no longer recognize; when you can no longer find work in your own land, and feel the unfairness of lack of opportunity, and when you realize that your core value systems are under attack, then the Tibetan people’s panic and sense of crisis is not difficult to understand.” -- Gongmeng Law Research Center, Beijing, May 12, 2009

During this past year, the already desperate situation in Tibet has worsened. Tibetans both inside the TAR and in Eastern Tibet (Kham Amdo and Golok) have endured increased intimidation and repression. In 2010, the PRC authorities downgraded the teaching of the Tibetan language in schools and recent protests by monks and lay people have been violently suppressed. Today the Chinese government has displayed an alarming trend toward greater domination and extreme brutality in Tibet.

The Committee of 100 for Tibet (C100) remains dedicated to educating people throughout the world about the tragic situation in Tibet. Tibetans continue to be deprived of their basic human rights and freedoms, are marginalized and impoverished by unjust and discriminatory policies, and their unique culture and Buddhist religion – an ancient heritage of inestimable value to all humanity – is in peril.

With your help, we are embarking on new projects in 2011 that we hope will enable many more people in the world to understand why the situation in Tibet should matter to them, how they can learn about events inside Tibet, and how together they can take action to support and help the Tibetan people.

Underpinning this effort is our continuing mission to advance the Tibetan people’s legitimate right to self-determination which we believe is essential for their survival as a people with a distinct culture, religion, ethnic origin, language and national identity.

1. Tibetan Self-Determination Initiative

We have significantly expanded the information about Tibetan self-determination on our website at c100tibet.org/Self-Determination.html. New material covers the principle and legal foundation for self-determination and the United Nations-recognized right of the Tibetan people. All pages on c100tibet.org can now be read in different languages using Google’s automated translation.

C100 chairman Tenzin N. Tethong and director Christiaan Klieger attended the 12th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies in Vancouver, Canada in August 2010. Christiaan, who chaired a session on Tibetan self-determination, noted that the case of Kosovo showed that unilateral declarations of independence can be recognized under international law if specific conditions are met. The conference was well attended, including a whole new generation of younger scholars some of whom came from Tibet and China.

In November 2010, the C100 sponsored and organized a talk by Dr. Michael Van Walt at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, California. Dr. Van Walt discussed “Challenges and opportunities for Tibet in a changing world” to an audience of Tibetans and Tibet supporters from the Bay Area.

Also in 2010, the C100 was invited to participate in the 10th anniversary of the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University. Director Barbara Green represented the C100.

2. The Missing Peace Project

Together with the Dalai Lama Foundation (DLF), the C100 is co-sponsor and organizer of the international art exhibition and educational project “The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama”. The exhibition celebrates and explores the many paths to peace and has been visited by nearly 500,000 people since its inception in 2006. In 2010, The Missing Peace exhibition was on display at three venues: the Frost Art Museum (Florida International University) in Miami , the Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu, Romania, and the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden.

After 5 years of touring, the final exhibition is being held at the San Antonio Museum of Art in Texas (March 12, 2011 - July 31, 2011). A smaller set of 26 artworks will then be shown at the Santa Clara University in California allowing students, faculty and visitors to participate in programming together with artists of The Missing Peace.

The companion book, website and “The Missing Peace in a Box” have provided alternative ways to experience The Missing Peace. The website, tmpp.org, includes a virtual tour of the exhibition as it was first installed at the Fowler Museum in Los Angeles and has been taken by over 5,000 people. Hundreds of teachers, students and parents have also downloaded the educational poster activities and curricula created by the DLF for libraries and middle school and high school students.

Fifteen sets of The Missing Peace in a Box - a portable exhibition of fourteen large-sized prints of selected artworks together with the project's educational programs - are currently circulating in Nigeria, Kalmykia Russia, Belize, India and the U.S. where they are shown in schools, community and peace centers, and prisons.

As originally intended, the artworks will be sold and auctioned in fall 2011 and spring 2012, with funds going to the DLF and C100 to benefit their peace initiatives.

3. Tibet Documentation Project

The main goal of this project is to document stories that tell of the survival of the early Tibetan refugees, the gradual rebuilding of their lives and the reestablishment of their cultural and religious institutions in exile. A project center has been established in Dharamsala in collaboration with ExileLens, an online project started by young Tibetan photographers.

C100 chairman Tenzin Tethong and his co-workers have so far collected and scanned over 22,830 photos from Tibetan institutions and donors in Dharamsala and continue to expand this with personal and family photographs from Tibetan settlements in Eastern and South India. Gathered together, this documentation will create a rich tapestry of the lives of Tibetans in exile.

4. Online Activities

We have launched a new companion website, tibetcentral.net, to provide a continuously updated overview of the latest worldwide news, blog, digital media and social web activity about Tibet and the Tibetan people. Information is aggregated from multiple sources and presented in a compact, easily digestible form allowing readers to quickly see what's new and interesting to them and click through to the original source web pages and blogs. We created this service as part of our overall mission

of educating people throughout the world on the tragic situation in Tibet today and the aspirations and struggle of the Tibetan people.

We also expanded our presence on the web: our youtube.com/c100tibet, flickr.com/c100tibet, blog.c100tibet.org pages contain the latest news, articles, videos, photos from the C100. We can be found on facebook.com/c100tibet and twitter.com/c100tibet.

5. Other Activities

C100 president Geoff Lewis and director Giovanni Vassallo attended the Sixth International Conference of Tibet Support Groups held near Delhi, India in November 2010. The conference, facilitated by the Tibetan Government in Exile's Department of Information and International Relations and convened by the Core Group for the Tibetan Cause - India, was attended by 258 participants from 57 countries. Working groups focused on objectives for building political support, Chinese outreach, human rights, and environment and development issues. A video of the conference can be found at tibetonline.tv/videos/277/6th-tsg-conference,-surajkund-part-i.

In our outreach to ethnic Chinese, both overseas and in the mainland, C100 has been implementing the approach of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to speak out for a real, genuine, and meaningful autonomy as a legitimate outcome of the Tibetan people's right to self-determination.

In addition to its own activities, the C100 has been endorsing and contributing to the work of other key organizations, such as the International Tibet Network, supporting Tibet and the Tibetan people and whose goals align with those of the C100.

6. Committee members who passed away in 2010

Claude Levenson, writer and activist from Lausanne, Switzerland, author of several books on Tibet including "Symbols of Tibetan Buddhism" and "Tenzin Gyatso: The Early Life of the Dalai Lama". A tireless advocate for Tibet, we remember Claude and her many contributions with gratitude.

Help Us Continue Our Work

Please help us continue our work, which has only been possible through your generosity and kind support. We are very dependent on individual contributions - both large and small. Any contribution - even as little as \$25 - will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

To make a donation using any major credit card, click on the PayPal button on our website c100tibet.org/Donate.html or mail a check to "Committee of 100 for Tibet, PO Box 60612, Palo Alto, CA 94306". All donations are fully tax deductible.

On behalf of the Board of the Committee of 100 for Tibet, I send you our best wishes and Tashi Delek.

Geoff Lewis

President, Committee of 100 for Tibet

www.c100tibet.org