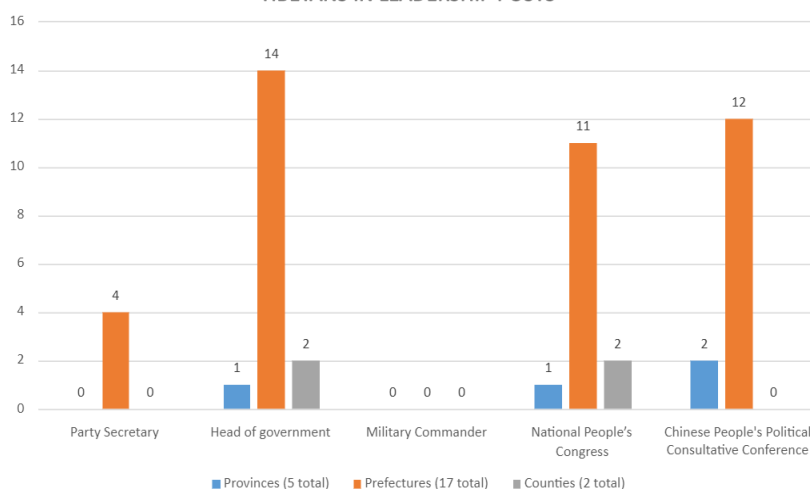


## NEW ICT ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT TIBETANS ARE DENIED EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ROLES

TIBETANS IN LEADERSHIP POSTS



**THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT UNDER ITS RULE, TIBETANS HAVE “BECOME MASTERS OF THEIR OWN DESTINY,” AND ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. BUT NEW ANALYSIS BY ICT SHOWS THAT TIBETANS ARE BARRED FROM THE MOST IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THEIR OWN HOMELAND.**

To create its analysis, ICT compiled a list of current position holders in the Tibet Autonomous Region, as well as Tibetan prefectures and counties in Sichuan, Qinghai, Gansu and Yunnan provinces. None of the positions are democratically elected.

According to ICT's analysis:

- No Tibetan has ever served as party secretary, the highest-ranking party position, in the TAR. Wu Yingjie, the current party secretary of the TAR, is Chinese.
- Of seven prefectures and prefecture-level cities in the TAR, only two (Lhasa and Shigatse) have Tibetan party secretaries. The other five positions are held by Chinese.
- Tibetans are also absent from top party positions in the Tibetan areas in other provinces. In Qinghai, where there are six Tibetan prefectures, only two have Tibetans as party secretary. In Sichuan (which has two Tibetan prefectures), Gansu (one Tibetan prefecture) and

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Yunnan (one Tibetan prefecture), none of the prefecture party heads are Tibetan.

Tibetans do serve as the head of the TAR government and head of government in five of the region's seven prefectures. There are also Tibetan government heads in prefectures in the other provinces and Tibetans in the National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Tibetan areas. However, all of these positions are subservient to the party leadership. In addition, there are no Tibetan military commanders in any Tibetan areas.

Although China claims Tibetans have equal opportunities to serve in government, one reason for their absence from positions of power could be the Chinese leadership's mistrust of Tibetans and underlying racism towards them.

[Read ICT's report, "Position without Power—Tibetan Representation in the Chinese Administrative System."](#)

## ICT WELCOMES EU GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS SANCTION REGIME, URGES ITS USE IN TIBET

**AS THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION THIS MONTH ADOPTED A NEW FRAMEWORK TO SANCTION HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS, THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET HAS CALLED ON THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES TO USE IT TO TARGET CHINESE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TIBET.**

The [EU Global Human Rights Sanction Regime](#), adopted on 7 December, targets individuals, entities and bodies responsible for, involved in or associated with serious human rights violations and abuses, regardless of where they occurred.

Under this new mechanism, perpetrators of grave human rights abuses, such as genocide, torture, slavery, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests or detentions, will face travel bans and asset freezes in the European Union. The decision to list names under the new regime will be taken by Member States, acting unanimously at the Council of the European Union.

Welcoming the adoption of the new regime, ICT's EU Policy Director Vincent Metten said: *"In Tibet, there is strong evidence that several Chinese leaders and bodies at the local, provincial and national levels are responsible for serious human rights violations and abuses. In particular, acts of torture, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests or detentions have become widespread and systematic in Tibet. These examples clearly fall under the framework of this new sanctions regime, and we therefore urge competent authorities in EU Member States and the European Commission to identify and sanction Chinese leaders responsible for these acts."*

## CHINESE RESPONSE TO UN EXPERTS ON PANCHEN LAMA IS ABSURD HISTORICAL FALSEHOOD

**IN A [RESPONSE TO A UN COMMUNICATION MADE PUBLIC RECENTLY](#), THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS BLUNTLY REFUTED CONCERNS BY UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS ON ITS INTERFERENCES WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF TIBETAN BUDDHIST LEADERS.**

In a [formal communication sent in June and made public in August 2020](#), five UN human rights specialists and expert bodies had expressed grave concerns about the continued refusal by China to disclose the precise whereabouts of the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, and had called for an independent monitor to visit him. They also stated that the Chinese government's rules on the appointment of

Tibetan Buddhist leaders "may interfere and possibly undermine[s], in a discriminatory way, the religious traditions and practices of the Tibetan Buddhist minority."

The communication by the UN experts referred to a compilation of human rights principles with regard to the rights of religious communities to appoint their leaders free from government intervention. However,

the Chinese government response, sent in July, merely and inaccurately stated that the "religious status and titles" of the Dalai Lama and the Panchen Lama had been established by the "central government" and denounces the concerns of the UN experts as "foreign meddling". There is no reference or explanation given in response to the legal arguments brought forward by the UN experts.



## FIRST VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR HEAD OF TIBET GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TIBETAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE 60 YEARS AGO, ITS HEAD, LOBSANG SANGAY, WAS RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE LAST MONTH AMID HEIGHTENED TENSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA.



Lobsang Sangay (left), President of the Tibetan Government in Exile, and Ngodup Tsering, Representative of the Dalai Lama to North America, in The White House on 20 November (Photo: Central Tibetan Administration)

Sangay reportedly met with representatives from the office of the US president and vice-president, along with key personnel working on Asia and China-related issues. *"We discussed the urgency of the Tibet issue, the middle way path and our struggle for meaningful genuine autonomy,"* Sangay said in an interview with Voice of America. *"I expressed my wish for the Tibetan situation to change for the better and my desire for basic freedom for Tibetans in Tibet."*

Prior to this meeting, Sangay became the first head of the Tibetan Government in Exile to be invited to the State Department. There he met with assistant secretary Robert Destro, the US Special coordinator for Tibetan issues.

## CHINA REWARDS TIBETANS WORKING IN SECURITY APPARATUS

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS INCLUDED SEVERAL TIBETAN OFFICIALS WORKING IN STABILITY MAINTENANCE IN RESTIVE TIBETAN REGIONS ON A LIST OF HONOREES IN 2020, SENDING A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT THOSE WORKING WITHIN THE CHINESE SECURITY APPARATUS WILL BE REWARDED.

[Chinese state media announced](#) that 1,689 "National Model Workers" and 804 "National Advanced Workers" received awards from President Xi Jinping on 24 November. Thirty of them were Tibetans, including a militia platoon leader, the head of a county Public Security Bureau checkpoint, and the staff of public security bureaus in the restive Tibetan regions of Nagchu (Chinese: Naqu), Ngaba (Aba) and Kardze (Ganzi) that have seen protests and/or self-immolations.

Although according to official media the purpose of the awards

is to promote "the spirit of model workers", the "spirit of labor" and the "great character of the Chinese working class and the working people", it is also a way to signal that Tibetans helping China to secure its control of Tibet will be rewarded.

In a related development indicating Chinese authorities' continued propaganda about "stability maintenance" in Tibet, a propaganda film about securing Tibetan borders was also [honored at this year's Golden Rooster Awards](#), the main film awards event in China.



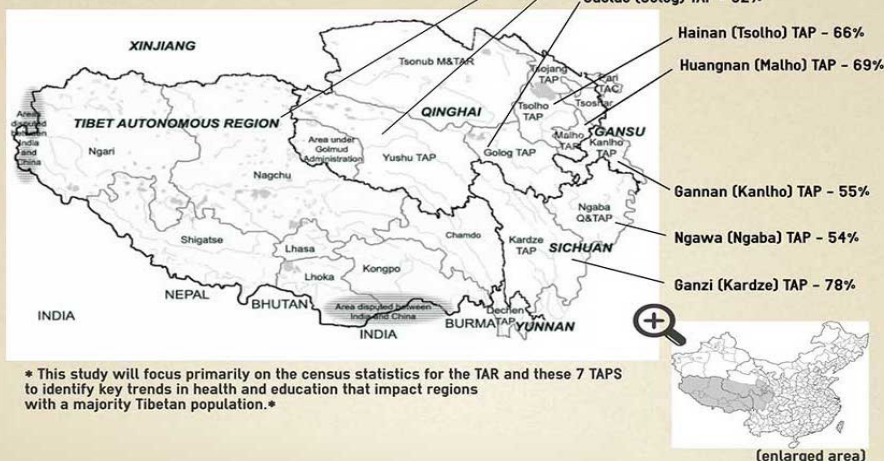
Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Wu Yingjie meeting some of the "model workers" and "advanced workers" in Lhasa on 27 November.



## CHINA'S SEVENTH NATIONAL CENSUS A TOOL FOR CONTROLLING CITIZENS

CHINA UNDERTOOK ITS 7<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL POPULATION CENSUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR, AND WHILE IT CLAIMS THE COLLECTED DATA IS NEEDED TO SHAPE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, THERE ARE FEARS IT COULD BE USED TO FURTHER TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER THE PEOPLE.

**TAR + Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures (TAPs) with over 50% Tibetan Population in 2010 (fig. 1)**



The Tibetan population (in percentage terms) in Tibet as contained in the 2010 census.  
(Picture: <https://chinacensusintibet2010.wordpress.com>)

the census will be used to further tighten population control.

According to a [Reuters report](#), survey respondents must now disclose the number of family members who are residents in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, or are foreign nationals. This requirement could have negative implications for Tibetans, especially in view of the arrest last June of Lhamo, a Tibetan herder [charged with sending money to family members or other Tibetans in India](#).

State media outlet [Economic Daily](#) also [reported](#) that for the first time, the ID numbers of census subjects will be collected; the census collection system will electronically link the information collected to ID numbers, making it possible for authorities to use it for political ends.

According to Chinese State media, about seven million staff were scheduled to visit homes to collect information that will inform policymakers and help shape social and

economic policies in the years to come. This is an exercise undertaken once every 10 years, but some changes in the forms this year raise questions about whether

Finally, since a person's ethnicity now has to be entered on the census form, the census makes communities like the Tibetans susceptible to being identified and selected for indiscriminate state persecution.

## POLITICAL PRISONER FOCUS

### FORMER POLITICAL PRISONER TAKNA JIGME SANGPO PASSES AWAY



ON 17 OCTOBER, TAKNA JIGME SANGPO, TIBET'S LONGEST SERVING POLITICAL PRISONER PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 94 IN HIS EXILED HOME OF TURBENTHAL, IN SWITZERLAND.

Born in 1926, Takna Jigme Sangpo was first arrested in 1960 while teaching at Lhasa Primary School and charged with 'corrupting the minds of children with reactionary ideas.' He was further convicted for 'counter-revolutionary' propaganda in 1970, 1983, 1988, and again in 1991 after he shouted 'Free Tibet' slogans during a visit by a Swiss delegation to a Lhasa prison.

In 2002, the Chinese government [released Sangpo on medical parole](#) as a result of international pressure while he was serving his most recent sentence of 28 years on charges of "counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement." After initial treatment in the United States, he later took asylum in Switzerland, where he continued his relentless advocacy for the Tibetan cause.

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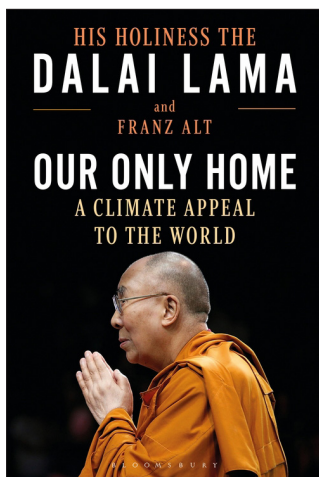
# TIBET BRIEF

DECEMBER 2020

A REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR TIBET

## READING SUGGESTION

### OUR ONLY HOME: A CLIMATE APPEAL TO THE WORLD, BY HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA & FRANZ ALT



Saving the environment is our collective duty. With each passing day, climate change is causing Pacific islands to disappear into the sea, accelerating the extinction of species at alarming proportions and aggravating a water shortage that has affected the entire European continent. In short, climate change can no longer be denied - it threatens our existence on earth. In this inspiring new book, the Dalai Lama, one of the most influential figures of our time, calls on political decision-makers to finally fight against deadlock and ignorance on this issue. He argues that we all need to stand up for a different and more climate-friendly world, and to allow the younger generation to assert their right to regain their future. From the voice of the beloved world religious leader comes this eye-opening manifesto that empowers the generation of today to step up, take action and protect our world.

Click [here](#) to buy this book.

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An irrepressible champion of human rights and staunch supporter of Tibetan freedom, Takna Jigme Sangpo spent 37 years - almost half his life - in various Chinese prisons. He represents the indomitable spirit of the Tibetan people and was a reminder to the international community

about the aspirations and determination of the Tibetan people under Chinese rule.

*In 2017, the International Campaign for Tibet supported the English publication of Sangpo's memoir, "Swirling Red Dust, the story of Tibet's longest-serving political prisoner." Anyone who would like a copy should e-mail: [support@tibetwrites.in](mailto:support@tibetwrites.in)*

## TIBET TALKS EUROPE



### 'HARDER TO VISIT THAN NORTH KOREA': THE LACK OF ACCESS TO TIBET FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

For years now, China has ranked as one of the worst countries for press freedom in the world, and Tibet – along with Xinjiang – is regarded as one of its “red zones”, and regularly described by journalists as harder to visit than North Korea.

What obstacles and challenges do foreign journalists who try to visit Tibet and report about the situation there face? What is China trying to hide in Tibet, and what does the lack of independent reporting on the ground mean for accountability? Coinciding with the World Press Freedom Conference, this episode of Tibet Talks Europe explored these questions through the first-hand testimonies of Ursula Gauthier, Garrie van Pinxteren and Brice Pedroletti, three journalists who have tried to uncover the reality of the situation in Tibet.

[Click here to watch Tibet Talks Europe #9 - Lack of access to Tibet for foreign journalists.](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **1 JANUARY:** Start of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **21 JANUARY:** Nepal's third cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council
- **22 FEBRUARY-19 MARCH:** 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council