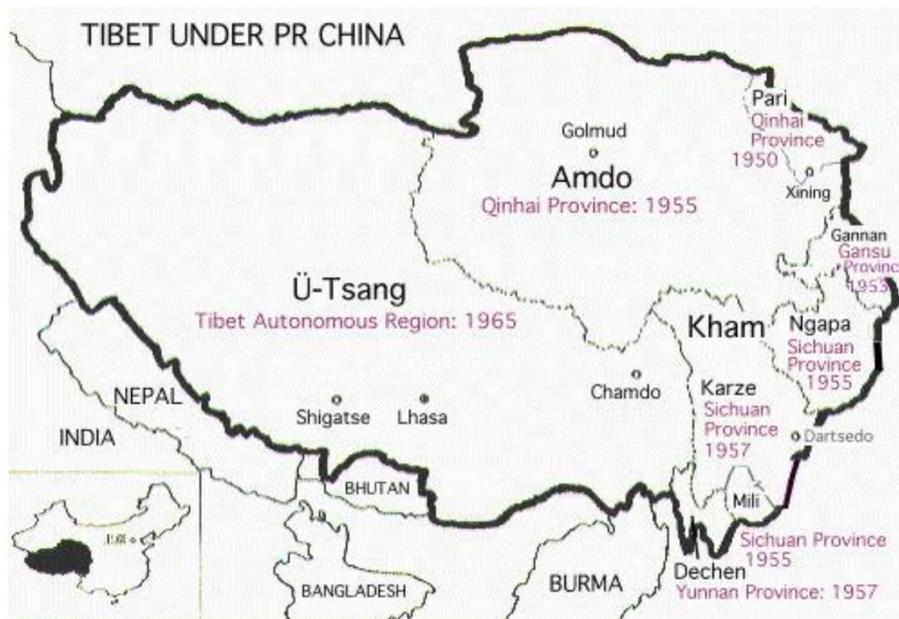
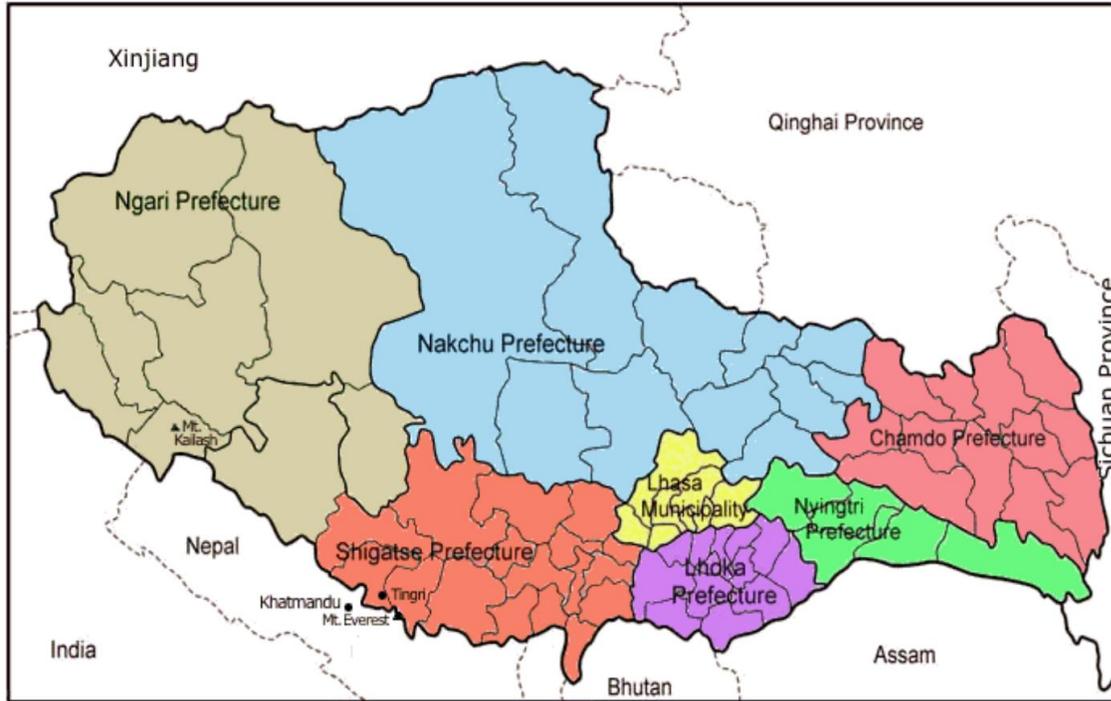




**TIBET INSIGHT 1-15 FEBRUARY 2021**



## TAR NEWS

### **Main highlights from the Work Report of the TAR People's Congress**

February 04, 2021

Chairman of TAR People's Congress, Lobsang Gyaltzen presented his work report of the past year at the fourth session of the 11th TAR People's Congress on January 21, 2021. The Chairman declared that the TAR People's Congress fulfilled the tasks and deployments made during the third TAR People's Congress, specifically the Central Party Committee's strategy of governing Tibet in the New Era, and that Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese Characteristics were implemented conscientiously, including but not limited to his thoughts on the "four consciousness", "Four self-confidences" and "Two Safeguards" among others, in 2020. He said the Standing Committee of TAR People's Congress held 10 meetings, reviewed 12 drafts of regulations, passed 10 of them, assessed 38 "special work reports", and conducted 12 "special investigations". In short, he highlighted the following execution of work deployments in 2020:

1. Adherence to 'Xi Jinping and the Party as the Core', 'maintenance of the Party's authority' as fundamental norms and political principles. He said 'Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era', his speeches, etc were propagated through 42 theoretical study sessions and seminars.
2. Implementation of the Party's "clear-cut stand against separatism and maintenance of national security". He stated that the TAR People's Congress under his leadership had firmly studied the overall concept of national security, executed the CCP Central Committee's stand against the "14th Dalai Lama and the Dalai Clique", intensified actions against "anti-separatist" activities, exposed the "illegality of the Tibetan government-in-exile" and cracked down on the "Dalai Clique's separatist activities". Gyaltzen added that the TAR People's Congress countered international public opinion's attempts to distort facts, smear and level accusations against China's rule in Tibet, and also issued a statement with regard to the Tibetan Policy and Support Act passed by the US. He said the TAR People's Congress took their responsibility in safeguarding national sovereignty in critical moments seriously.

3. Shouldered responsibilities in maintaining social harmony and stability. To maintain social stability, he said, officials under the TAR People’s Congress conducted inspections during “sensitive times”, went to grassroots levels, border frontiers, into religious institutions and propagated the “the four standards to become exemplary monks and nuns” and widely publicized the Party’s regulations on religious affairs. He went on to add that they have put forward opinions on improving entry-exit management and control systems and border infrastructures.

4. Another highlight of the work report was how the TAR People’s Congress worked on and promoted legislation in key areas of concern. Lobsang Gyaltzen shared how legal rules were used as instruments to maintain unity, oppose divisions, build national security and that ‘Regulations on Anti-Espionage and Security of TAR’ had been formulated.

In his concluding remarks, he reiterated that 2021 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and the 70th anniversary of the “peaceful liberation of Tibet”, the first year for the implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan and the long-term goal of 2035. Lobsang Gyaltzen opined on building Tibet into a socialist state, and said that the four main areas of focus for 2021, are stability, development, ecological protection and consolidation of borders. These needs to be attended to diligently.

### **Officials call for more climate change cooperation between China and the US at the trans-Himalayan forum**

February 04, 2021

Officials and scholars from 16 countries and 3 international organizations including China, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the International Center for Comprehensive Development of Mountain Regions called for more international cooperation, especially between China and the US to address climate change at an international forum held in Beijing and Lhasa, with people from around the world joining online, on February 2. The China Tibet Trans-Himalaya Forum for International Cooperation was co-hosted by China’s Foreign Ministry and the TAR government. China’s Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui said at the opening ceremony that transnational cooperation is needed to address transnational problems.

Qi Zhala, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Chairman of TAR People's Government made a keynote speech, and Xie Zhenhua, the special adviser on climate change affairs of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, also spoke. Diplomats and experts from other countries including Pakistan, India and Canada shared their views on climate change and transnational cooperation between countries in these regions. Since 2018, the TAR People's Government has hosted two such forums in Nyingtri, Tibet, aiming to facilitate regional connectivity, communications and cooperation which yielded fruitful results.

From the Asian financial crisis in 1997 and the September 11 attacks in 2001 to the international financial crisis in 2008 and the COVID-19 pandemic that is still raging the world, all show that the non-traditional security challenges pose great threats to survival, security and development of humanity. Xie Zhenhua, the special adviser for Climate Change Affairs of China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment, said (February 2) at the forum that the trans-Himalaya region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. According to him current emission trends could cause the average temperature to rise by 5 C at the end of this century and two-thirds of the region's glaciers will melt away. Even if the world's average rise in temperature is no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, the temperature in the trans-Himalaya region could rise by 1.8 degrees and a third of the region's glaciers would melt.

### **300,000 farmers, nomads relocated as nearly half of TAR placed under 'strictest ecological protection'**

January 24, 2021

China has placed nearly half of the land area of TAR under the strictest ecological supervision, rendering it off-limits for Tibetans who had for centuries cultivated their land and taken their herds of animals for pasture there. Previous reports have said hundreds of thousands of Tibetans had been resettled in the region in new towns and villages, many of them close to the border with India, as a part of territorial security measures. China's online Tibet news (eng.Tibet.cn Jan 12) reported "Since 2015, Tibet has relocated nearly 300,000 farmers and herders from uninhabitable areas, creating better lives for them all." Qi Zhala, Chairman of the TAR government, was quoted by

China Daily as saying that the ecological protection area, which covers more than 539,000 square kilometres, makes up 45 per cent of the region's area.

### **TAR Security Command held a video conference to assess the stability**

February 06, 2021

Under instruction from the TAR Party Committee, the TAR's Security Command held a video conference to convey the Central Ministry of Public Security's guidelines on maintaining stability during the Spring Festival and new year.

Zhuangyuan Cai, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee, Executive Vice-Chairman of TAR People's Government and the Commander-in-Chief of TAR Security Command convened the meeting. He emphasised the need to implement the minutes of the fifth Plenary Session of the CCP Central Party Committee and the Seventh Tibet Work Forum in addition to Xi Jinping's thoughts on Socialism with Characteristics in the New Era, his instructions on governing Tibet, and for strengthening the propaganda campaigns such as "four consciousness", "four self-confidences" and "two maintenance". He reported that in the past year, stability maintenance in the TAR was good, that concerned officials have firmly adhered to principles of national security concept, made sure "risks" were caught before they even occur, the cadres he said maintained standard discipline and shouldered their responsibilities efficiently, eventually creating social harmony and stability in the region.

### **Recently promoted Official calls meeting of Media heads in Tibet**

February 06, 2021

On the instruction of TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie, Yan Jinhai convened a news propaganda meeting on February 4 for media persons from China stationed in Tibet as well as media people in TAR. Yan Jinhai, of Tibetan nationality was promoted to TAR as the Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of Lhasa Municipality Party Committee in August last year. He was formerly a member of the Standing Committee of the Qinghai Provincial Party Committee and Vice Governor, also an alternate member of the 19th CCP CC and delegate to the 19th Party

Congress. At the meeting, the persons-in-charge of the People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China Central Radio and Television, China Daily, China News Agency and other central media in Tibet shared their opinions on their work in Tibet and the way ahead in promoting Tibet's news and propaganda work.

After listening to them, Yan Jinhai said "central media persons based in Tibet have adhered to the correct political position, public opinion orientation, and propagated stability maintenance work". He said the media played an important role in creating strong borders. He emphasised the significance of 2021 as the beginning of the 14th five-year plan, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Party and the 70th anniversary of the "peaceful liberation of Tibet" and requested the media personnel's support for a "united, pioneering effort". He told them to focus on the centenary of the Party, the 70th anniversary, four major targets, and promote Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era while publicizing the achievements in Tibet.

### **Head of TAR's United Work Front Department inspects major monasteries**

February 10, 2021

Ahead of the Spring Festival and the Tibetan New Year, Danke (Tib: Tenkho), standing member of TAR Party Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR PPCC, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Congress and Head of TAR United Front Work Department inspected major monasteries of Tibet including the Drepung Monastery, met Monastic Cadres, and monks. He was accompanied by Tang Mingying, Deputy Secretary of the TAR People's Congress and Ren Wei, Vice Chairman of TAR People's Government.

Danke greeted everyone with Khata (white scarves) and reported that in 2020, everybody implemented Xi Jinping's thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, the Party's strategy for governing Tibet in the New Era, guided by the "Four standards to become good monks and nuns" and overall contributed to a "strong frontier". He urged the monks and monastic cadres to study and grasp the party's laws on religion and religious affairs, the minutes

of the fifth Plenary session and the Seventh Work Forum on Tibet. Danke also oversaw the conditions of the firefighters, presumably to prevent another self-immolation during the festivals.

### **Miling County claims to have successfully implemented the Civil-Military integration at the border, Nyingtri**

January 28, 2021

An article published by Nyingtri's official website highlights the success of civil-military integration in Nanyi Town, Minling County, Nyingtri. It reads, 'We are the red flag bearers who guard the frontiers of the motherland'. According to the report article, Minling (in Chinese: Milin), as one of the seven border towns, has thoroughly implemented the important expositions and strategy of Xi Jinping on governing borders and stabilizing Tibet, and the spirit and idea of General Secretary of Yumai Township, Zhilongzi County. It says "The spirit and reply to two sisters Dolkar and Yangzom innovated a new direction of border party-building referred to as "four forwards" as forward flags, forward positions, forward activities, and forward services" is to build the idea that "everyone is a sentry, every family is a post, every village is a fortress, grazing is patrolling, and every party member has the responsibility of guarding the border."

There are three administrative villages in Nanyi Luoba Nationality Township, with 24 households with 94 people. The article stresses that "Raising the Chinese flag with "four forward" as the main direction is how the Party consolidates its foundation and governance at the border area. The work team and task force always regard party-building as its greatest political achievement.

### **Head of CCP UFWD meets Chinese Panchen**

February 09, 2021

On February 8, You Quan, Secretary of the CCP CC Secretariat and Head of the CCP CC United Front Work Department met the Chinese appointed Panchen Lama in Beijing. You Quan congratulated the Panchen Lama and people in Tibetan Buddhist circles on the Spring Festival and the Tibetan New Year. You Quan affirmed the progress made by the Panchen Lama in all aspects, and hoped that he would deeply study Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese

characteristics in the new era, and consciously maintain the unity of the motherland and national unity; further strengthen the study of religious knowledge, and continuously improve his Buddhist attainments and religious practice. He said the direction of Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism has made new achievements in promoting the adaptation of Tibetan Buddhism to a socialist society.

The Panchen Lama presented a white scarf to You Quan, expressing that he resolutely maintains a high degree of consistency with the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core, intensively studies, serves the believers, always adheres to the direction of Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism, and strives for national unity, religious harmony, and people's happiness in Tibet.

### **Nyingchi City held a video dispatch meeting for the National Security Headquarters**

February 9, 2021

The Municipal National Security Headquarters held a video meeting to implement the 133rd Municipal Standing Committee meeting's spirit. Zhang Xiuwu, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; Ren Weidong, Deputy Mayor and Director of the Municipal Public Security; and Jampa Yangzom, Vice Mayor, attended the meeting on February 7. Zhang Xiuwu warned about maintaining national security during the Spring Festival and the Tibetan New Year and its importance to the overall situation

The key emphases of the meeting are as follows:

\*To firmly establish a national security concept, adhere to the word "stability" and resolutely overcome laxity and paralysis, establish a firm bottom line and strengthen awareness of danger and risk to the national security

\*To be responsible for keeping the land, and effectively enhance the people's sense of security by strictly implementing various stability maintenance work arrangements, improve the joint defence mechanism of the Party, government, military, police, and civilians, and continue to strengthen social management and control

\*To promote the special struggle against criminals and evil by deepening the investigation and resolution of contradictions and disputes

\*To Strictly control online public opinion on religious affairs as per the law and regulations of the Management Religious Affairs

### **Nyingtri hosts a tea party for the Tibetan representatives from all levels before Losar**

February 9, 2020

Zhang Xiuwu, Deputy Secretary of Nyingtri, hosted a tea party and extended greetings to representatives of all ethnic groups on behalf of the Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Government. He told Nyingtri PPCC members to give the Party's message to non-party patriotic ethnic and religious people and returned Tibetans, resident troops, armed police forces, central enterprises, state-owned enterprises, farmers, and herdsmen, and retired veterans cadres who have made important contributions to the development of Nyingtri. He also remembered the Eighteenth Army and veterans of the Anti-US Aided Korea war and their descendants.

He appealed to people of all ethnic groups in Nyingtri to begin Losar with a higher political stand and strengthen the Party's propaganda on "four consciousnesses," "four self-confidence," and "two safeguards". He told the representatives, "We must make a good start with greater political responsibility; we are the Party's policy preacher, the protector of the interest of the masses and promoter of social harmony."

## DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

### **Shen Chungyao suggests banning 'Ethnic Minority language' as a medium of teaching in the SCNPC meeting TCHRD**

February 1, 2021

On January 20, the Director of the Legal Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress, Shen Chungyao, announced that schools in "minority areas" were no longer allowed to teach their own languages, declaring such education to be "unconstitutional." In a report he presented, Shen Chungyao emphasised the superiority of national laws over local laws in autonomous provinces and regions by stating that all local regulations violate "the country's major reform directions" and "the provisions of the higher-level law." He said, "Some local regulations stipulate that ethnic schools at all levels and the types of ethnic schools should use the spoken and written language of their own ethnic group or the spoken and written language commonly used by the ethnic group for teaching. However, the above-mentioned provisions are inconsistent with the provisions of Article 19, paragraph 5 of the Constitution on the state's promotion of Mandarin language and other relevant laws that allow the language nationalities in the minority area to be one of the official language and medium of education".

(Comment: In August 2020, the Inner Mongolian government mandated that primary and secondary schools must use Mandarin (Putonghua) and not Mongolian, as the language of instruction. The authorities implemented a unified Chinese language teaching plan. Hou Yuan, then Director of the Education Department, claimed that "textbooks reflect the will of the Communist Party and the State" and the use of unified textbooks was a "major decision" made by the CCP Central Committee. The policy triggered widespread resistance among Mongolians and more than 300,000 students staged protests and demonstrations in the Nei (Inner) Mongol capital of Hohhot in which government employees also joined. People worried that the unique Mongolian language and culture will be extinguished as a result of these policies).

## **Tseming was detained for spreading rumours about Covid death**

January 30, 2020

Tseming, a Tibetan from Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, was arrested and detained for eight days for allegedly spreading rumours about a Covid death in his locality. He was arrested on January 25 under article 25 of the National Security Law. He was accused of causing harm to the social stability by distributing a video recording where he reported the death of someone who ate dried meat, which was recently exported from the Tsolho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu. In the video, he warned about the resurgence of Covid in the region and distributed it in several WeChat groups and social media.

## **Sichuan has 411 registered 'Tibetan Living Buddhas'**

February 5, 2021

The United Front Work Department of the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee, the Tibetan Affairs Office of the Sichuan Provincial Party Committee, the Sichuan Ethnic and Religious Committee, and the Sichuan Buddhist Association issued a directory containing the latest list of 411 "Tibetan Buddhist living Buddhas" approved by the government in Tibetan Prefectures and counties in Sichuan. After entering keywords, one can find information such as the name, ethnicity, living Buddha certificate number, lineage, temple, sect, and photo of the living Buddha' approved by the Chinese government. This came as measures to prevent the alleged 'fake Buddha', and the standardised management will help to maintain the faith of believers in Tibetan Buddhism. This kind of standardised management intends to enhance the role and significance of Tibetan Buddhism in "maintaining the normal order of Tibetan Buddhism and promoting social harmony and stability."

## **China bans Public gatherings in Tibet during 2021 Losar**

February 16, 2020

China issued circulars and held meetings before Losar informing Tibetans 'to stay at home during Losar' barring all kinds of social, cultural, and religious gatherings. They issued special instruction

to the monasteries to close down during Tibetan New Year. In Lhasa, the major monasteries like Sera, Drepung, Gaden, Potala, Jokhang, etc., were shut down for at least a week. Normal monastic rituals were not allowed to perform, and similar notices were issued in Tibetan areas outside. Some areas were stricter than the others, like in Nyarong and Chamdo, where Tibetans were barred from even closed indoor gatherings. They were told to: "stay at home, and anyone found violating these restrictions will be punished." In Qinghai, many Tibetans were stranded as they came from far off to visit the Kumbum monastery, but it remained closed during Losar.

Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture imposed a 10:00 p.m. curfew in the name of "social stability" and "sanitation". According to RFA, security personnel have been dispatched to restaurants, hotels, internet cafes, and all places of recreation, and anyone caught out after curfew risks punishment, including imprisonment and severe physical abuse.

### **Wang Yang attends the Spring Festival symposium for religious leaders**

February 08, 2021

On February 7, Wang Yang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, attended the Spring Festival Symposium held for the heads of national religious organizations. He urged all religious Heads to thoroughly study as well as implement the spirit of the fifth plenary session of the CCP CC and work towards uniting religious believers for a "good start to the 14th five-year-plan, for sinicization of religion in China.

Wang Yang opined that religious organizations are the bridge between the party and the people and that religious heads should "strengthen communication with religious circles, support religious groups in their work, and help solve practical difficulties". You Quan, Secretary of the Secretariat of the CCP CC and Head of the United Front Work Department attended among other Officials including the Persons-in-Charge of the Chinese Buddhist Association, the Chinese Taoist Association, the Chinese Islamic Association, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, and the Chinese Christian Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee.

## DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

### **Covid-infected New York cop who spied on Tibetans for China gets bail on \$2m bond**

February 13, 2021

New York Daily News (February 12) reported that the Brooklyn district federal judge on February 12 approved a new bail package for the NYPD officer accused of spying on Tibetans for the Chinese government, allowing him to be released on house arrest. Assistant US Attorney Matthew Haggis objected to the decision, arguing that if Baimadajie Angwang, 34, entered the Chinese consulate in New York, the government would have no ability to recover him “short of an act of war”. However, US District Judge Eric Komitee reversed his prior ruling denying Angwang bail over concerns about coronavirus conditions at the MDC (Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn), where the former Marine has been held in solitary confinement for four months — and in light of a new enhanced bond.

Defence attorney John Carman offered a \$2 million bail package — doubling the amount initially proposed — to be secured by a pair of Maryland properties worth a combined \$520,000 and the \$450,000 equity in the Long Island home Angwang shares with his wife and daughter. After Angwang was apprehended in September on charges of acting as an agent for a foreign government, obstruction, wire fraud and making false statements, Judge Lois Bloom had granted his release on house arrest with electronic monitoring and a \$1 million bond.

### **Taiwanese launch cycling rally ahead of 62nd Tibetan Uprising Day**

February 12, 2021

An annual event that takes place ahead of the March 10 anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day and is carried out under the aegis of Human Rights Network for Tibet and Taiwan (HRNTT), a coalition of NGOs based in Taiwan, is a cycling rally.

At a press conference outside the Legislative Yuan, HRNTT President Tashi Tsering, independent legislator Freddy Lim, and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) legislator Hung Sun-han expressed the hope that both the coronavirus and the ill-treatment of Tibetans can end soon.

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