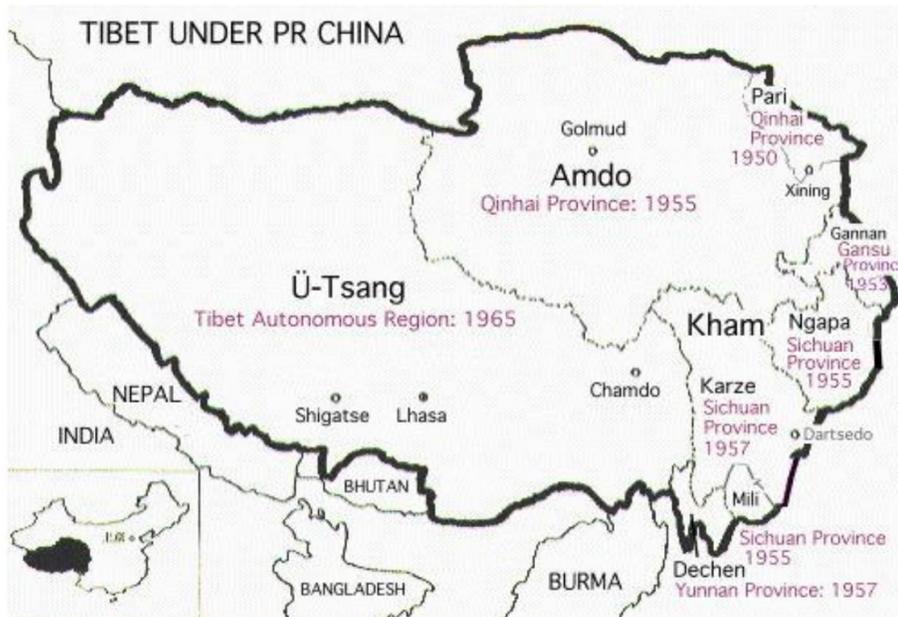
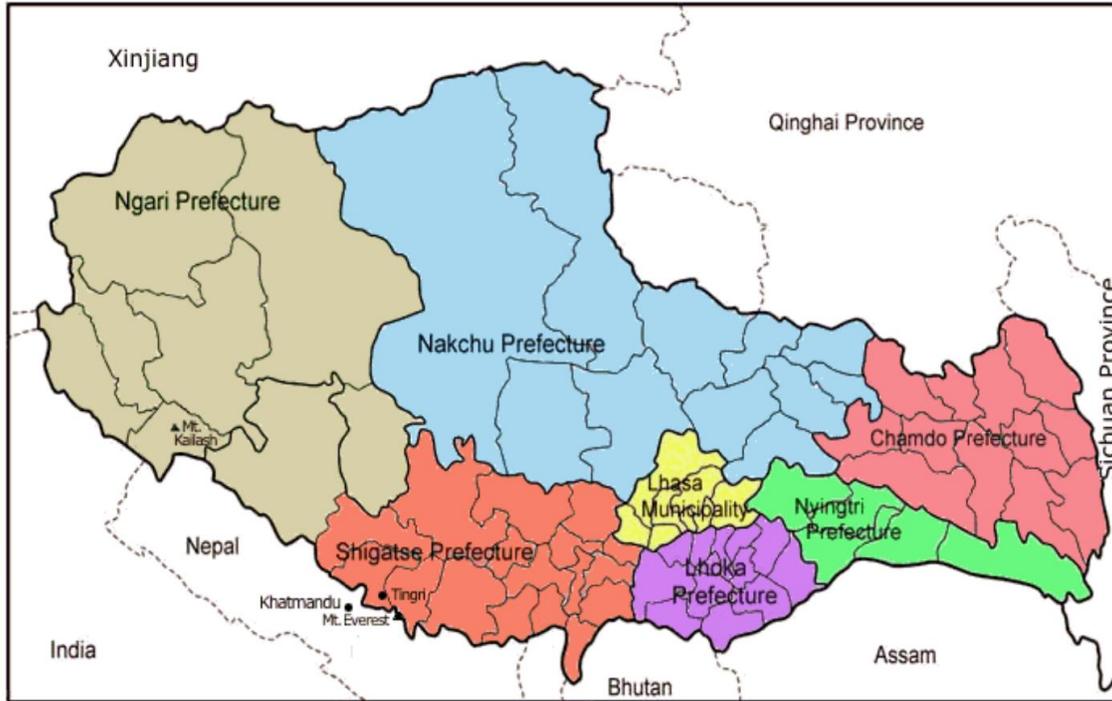




TIBET INSIGHT, 15-30 APRIL 2020



TAR NEWS

TAR Deputy Chairman inspects Mosque in Lhasa

April 29, 2020

Deputy Chairman of TAR People's Government, Dorjee Tsedup inspected the Mosque and Hui Cemetery in Lhasa on April 26 and interacted with Muslims in Lhasa. Dorjee Tsedup and his inspection team met people of the Hui nationality and told them that "they are important members of the big family of the Chinese nation, and Islam is an important part of the Chinese culture." He emphasised the importance of preserving cultural relics in the Mosque. He also told the concerned officials in the mosque that they should improve "overall planning, increase investments, prioritise works to ensure safety of cultural relics, and promote social and religious harmony."

TAR Propaganda Department convenes meeting to study Xi Jinping Thoughts

April 28, 2020

On April 27, member of TAR Standing Committee and Minister of the TAR Propaganda Department Penpa Tashi, convened a meeting under the auspices of the Department's Theory Learning Centre to study Xi Jinping's thoughts on ethnic affairs. Penpa Tashi emphasised that 'Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era' must be thoroughly understood and must be a guide to 'resolve ethnic problems.' He added that "national unity must be the lifeline of the ethnic people in Tibet and to achieve unity, Xi Jinping's exposition to enhance four consciousness, strengthen four self-confidences, and achieve two maintenances." The consciousness of one China must be firmly established as the core of it he said, lies in strong support to the leadership, consciousness of China's cultural identity, and the core value of unity. He also spoke on the need to "stand strong against division, maintaining political correctness, strong work ethic and that there must not be slackness and paralysis." The "Regulations on the Establishment of a Model Area for Ethnic Unity and Progress in TAR" must be thoroughly implemented and Party policies on ethnic affairs should be promoted.

China declares open Lhasa's Barkhor Street

April 30, 2020

After allowing the reopening of 214 religious places in the rural part of Lhasa on Mar 31, China on April 28 declared the city's Barkhor Street open. The authorities cited the absence of new, confirmed or suspected Covid-19 cases in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) for 89 days as the reason for the reopening. Temples and monasteries in the urban part of Lhasa continue to remain closed and this includes the Jokhang Temple and the three monasteries of Sera, Drepung and Gaden, famed as Tibet's most important religious learning centres. A report cited the Management Committee of the neighbourhood of the old city area of Lhasa as saying the street would open at 8 am and close at 8 pm. People had to wear masks and get their temperature taken before being let out on the street. The report said shops along the street had also resumed business. The street was closed on January 27 following outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China, with restaurants, sweet and tea houses and souvenir shops shut to prevent the gathering of crowds. TAR reported its first and only confirmed Covid-19 case in late January 2019, which was brought by a visitor from Wuhan. He recovered and was discharged in February and there has been no new case since. Meanwhile China's official *globaltimes.cn* reported on April 28 that according to a notice issued on April 12, the Tibet-Nepal border ports of Pulan (Tibetan: Purang) and Gyirong (Kyirong), in Xigaze (Shigatse) Prefecture in TAR, would continue to remain closed for passage.

TAR expected to make employment transfer of 600,000 farmers and herdsmen in 2020

April 24, 2020

To meet the poverty alleviation target of 2020, TAR Human Resources and Social Security Bureau intends to transfer 600,000 farmers and herdsmen and train 100,000 of them. This is expected to raise labour service income by 4.2 billion Yuan (RMB) and ensure that the average annual per capita disposable income of rural residents increases by around 13%. TAR will focus on the development of the seven major industries of highland barley, yak, vegetables, Tibetan sheep, Tibetan pigs, dairy industry and forage, through which they plan to expand employment channels and job capacity.

Large numbers will be employed in small scale projects such as ecological relocation at extremely high altitudes, rural revitalisation, construction of border well-off villages etc and farmers and herdsman will work under the relief model with minimum pay. Lhasa alone will establish 100 'bases' for job transfer of farmers and herdsman and conducting various kinds of skill training. To achieve this, Lhasa strives to build model counties for job transfer and rural revitalisation. It currently has vocational training in 11 villages in four counties.

TAR holds 6th PPCC Meeting

April 28, 2020

Executive Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and Secretary of TAR PPCC, Ding Ye presided over the 6th meeting of the TAR PPCC on April 27. Danke, Chairman of TAR United Front Work Department, Member of TAR Standing Committee, Deputy Secretary of TAR PPCC; Gao Yang, Deputy Secretary of TAR Party Committee and all Deputy Chairmen of TAR PPCC; Lobsang Jigme, Sonam Rinzin, Wang Yalin, Zhuo Ga, Lei Guilong, Tashi Dawa and Jinyuan attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the work report and analysed progress of the thematic propaganda campaigns including 'keeping old heart and remembering new mission' in the past year and 'stability maintenance' work in TAR. Ding Ye, told Party cadres to thoroughly 'study, and understand the spirit of the report' and make new contributions to the development of Tibet and its long-term stability. He added, "we must always work on party building, study Xi Jinping's thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, his expositions on governing borders and stabilizing Tibet." He said, "these thoughts should be our unifying thoughts and guide." He also emphasised the need to perform duties immaculately, fulfilling political responsibilities, enhancing 'four consciousness,' 'four self-confidences' and grasping the nature of the work. Ding Ye additionally stressed on poverty alleviation projects as an important political task of the CCP CC and told cadres to accelerate progress on poverty alleviation work and rural revitalization.

NYINGTRI NEWS (CH: LINZHI)

Ding Ye investigates the construction of the project in Nyingchi

April 24, 2020

Ding Ye, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Secretary of TAR CPPCC inspected Nyingchi (in Chinese: Linzhi) cadre bases, and the site of construction of the Gongbu Park project. Ma Shengchang, Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Executive Mayor of Linzhi, and Zhang Xiuwu, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Committee for conduct of the survey conduct, accompanied him. Ding Ye emphasised that ‘every effort should be made to build, manage, and use every project, and build it into a quality project, so that it can better serve the overall situation of Tibet’s reform, development, and stability, and benefit the people of all ethnic groups’.

On April 19, he went for site selection of the Tibetan cadre Nyingchi recuperation base project. He pointed out that the project, which will have major political and social significance, can be implemented only if cadres improve their political position, and only from the height of clear political ideology. He told them to further enhance the practice of ‘four consciousness and two maintenance’ adding that it is important to strengthen ideological and political guidance, publicise the progress of the project decided by the 6th Tibet Work Symposium of the Central Committee, and make the cadres and people of all ethnic groups in the region deeply feel the concern and care of General Secretary Xi Jinping, the Party Central Committee and the State Council. Every project must sort out ideas, follow strict procedures, adhere to the principles of fairness, impartiality and openness to ensure legal compliance in all aspects of the preliminary work. It must be carefully deployed, with a high sense of political responsibility and a sense of historical mission, and to speed up the construction and completion of the major projects.

(Comment: The Nyingchi Gongbu Park is located at the junction of the new and old urban areas of Nyingchi city. It has four major functional zones, children’s park, city park, ecological park and city Street.)

LHOKA NEWS (CH: SHANNAN)

Samye Monastery's Management Committee holds deployment meeting

April 23, 2020

On April 22, the Monastic Management Committee of Lhoka's (Ch: Shannan) Samye Monastery, one of the oldest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in Tibet, held a meeting of all Monastic cadres and employees and also organized a session on 'the four standards to become model monks and nuns in 2020.' The Party Secretary and Director of Samye Monastery Management Committee, Lobsang Phuntsok attended and spoke at the meeting while Jiang An, Deputy Secretary of the Lhoka Party Committee and Executive Deputy Director of the Administrative Committee of the Monastery presided.

Lobsang Phuntsok discussed conduct of the propaganda campaign, 'the four standards to become model monks and nuns in 2020' and tabled a comprehensive arrangement for smooth implementation of this campaign. He pointed out that 2020 is a critical year for the implementation of this campaign and that all Monastic Cadres should continue to carry out the spirit of the campaign in the monastery. He urged them to study the guidelines of the TAR Party Committee and TAR People's Government and the spirit of Wu Yingjie's instructions on religious affairs and the need to implement the 'four standards.'

(Comment: The International Campaign for Tibet on April 17, reported that the Samye and Yasang monasteries in Lhoka were closed as per circular from higher authorities dated April 14 and 15 respectively, and in accordance with the need of work relating to the prevention of the infectious coronavirus.)

SHIGATSE NEWS (CH: XIGAZE)

Tashi Lhunpo Monastic Management Cadres promotes party policies

UFWD Shigatse, April 25, 2020

Ahead of the birthday of the Dalai Lama-appointed Panchen Lama, Gendun Choekyi Nyima on April 25, the United Front Work Department of Shigatse published a report promoting the works

of the Monastic Management cadres of Panchen Lama's monastery, Tashi Lhunpo in Shigatse. The report applauded how Party cadres of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery are "seriously" implementing the Party's policies on religious affairs and how effective the Management Committee is. The report said that Monastic Management Cadres of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery implement not only the 'eight standards' in the monastery, but also mobilise monks and nuns on all national and local festivals. Party activities organised by the Monastic Management of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery for monks and nuns on festivals include raising the national flag, singing the national anthem, giving keynote speeches, and organising sanitation initiatives. The report further added, "to intensify party building work, the Management Committee has made every Monday as the 'National Flag Raising Day' and that all monks need to carry out thematic activities including studying the party's rules and regulations under the Chinese national flag. , The report added that in order to strengthen political awareness of the monks and cadres stationed in the monastery, the Management Committee has organized, 'Reading Day'.

Another initiative that the Monastic Management Committee carried out in the monastery and which was emulated by a monastery in Shigatse's Xietongmen County is that monks and nuns undertake a three tier assessment, i.e self-assessment, mutual assessment, analysis of them by Monastic Management Cadres and finally Town-wide evaluation. In addition to these, there are 19 other criteria recommended by the Tibet Buddhist College including ideological standing, moral ethics, compliance to laws, religious attainments etc. that are required for the monks and nuns to be nominated for next year's 'patriotic and law-abiding exemplary monks and nuns'. The report warned that those monks and nuns who do not qualify for three consecutive years will be dismissed from the monastery along with their teachers.

Shigatse United Front Work Department holds meeting in Dingri County

April 28, 2020

On April 22, the United Front Work Department of Dingri County, Shigatse held a meeting presided over by Phuntsok Tsering, Member of the County's Party Committee and Head of the United Front Work Department. The meeting was held to convey the 'Opinions of the Organization Department of the Shigatse Municipal Committee, the United Front Work Department of Shigatse

and the Shigatse Municipal Religious Affairs Bureau on deepening Party organization in Monasteries.’

Phuntsok Tsering stressed the need to study and implement Xi Jinping’s thoughts on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era, and the propaganda campaign “not forgetting the original heart and remembering the new mission” as a major political task, the need to create a conducive environment for party building, and strict party governance. He urged the concerned officials and departments to continue to implement the TAR Organization Department and TAR UFWD’s guidelines on ‘Monastic Cadre Management Measures’ and consolidation of propaganda campaigns in the region.

DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR

Forceful display of the CCP leader’s portrait in the homes of Tibetans

April 14, 2020

On April 13, authorities of Zoge County, Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture distributed around 14,000 portraits of Xi Jinping to be put up in schools, community halls, monasteries and individual homes. According to the local news, since the beginning of this year the local authorities have been forcing Tibetans to display portraits of CCP leaders in their homes. Each home was inspected to check whether people have followed the order. Authorities in the region stated that people should “remember the gratitude of the party and in the spirit of following the party, all households, monasteries, schools and offices must display the portrait of top party leaders”. The top party leaders, they refer to are Mao, Deng, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping. While it is mandatory for households which receive subsidies from the Party or government to have the picture of these leaders, but in recent years every household regardless of whether they receive a subsidy or not are compelled to put up these pictures.

China confiscates land from Qinghai Tibetan Area for railway project

April 14, 2020

The district people's governments of Chentsa and Thunrin of the traditional Tibetan area of Amdo, Qinghai issued a 'Notice' on April 10, 2020 warning the two districts to avoid any constructions or agricultural activities in the areas earmarked for confiscation for the construction of the Xining (in Chinese: Xining)- Chengdu Railway. Failure to comply they said will lead to the cancellation of land compensation. The inspection committee is expected to inspect and mark for construction the proposed train route.

According to the China Railway Construction Corporation, 17 new stations will be built for this project. This project will run through different geographical regions, including four national nature reserves and run through several provinces, starting from Xining in Qinghai Province and till Sichuan Province. The Xining-Chengdu railway will cover 836.5-km whilst linking the provinces of Qinghai, Gansu and Sichuan at a speed of 200 km per hour.

According to the notice, from Thunrin District, Rekgong County, a land area of around 1320 Mu will be used for the construction of the railway line and from Chentsa, around 520.7 Mu will be acquired. The official notice stated that construction of the railway is to bring economic development to the region and compensation will be done according to 2015 Order no 61'. It said several villages from both the districts are included but makes no mention of the resettlement plan.

(Comment: In earlier cases of confiscation of land in Tibet, the government often neglected paying compensation and faced several protests from the villagers.)

Tibetan policeman died at frontline receives May Fourth Youth Award

April 21, 2020

Atse Lhundup, a 30 years old Tibetan policeman from Tsolho (in Chinese Hongyun), who died at the frontline was awarded China's May Fourth Youth Award along with 33 other people. He was assigned as the Deputy team leader of epidemic prevention and control at Shijinsi town, Hongyun

County, Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. He is said to have worked for 43 consecutive days without rest at the grassroots fighting against the epidemic. Along with Atse Lhundup, another Tibetan named Lhorong Yeshe, was also given the same award. Lhorong Yeshe, 39 years old also died in the frontline. He was working in the Temple Management Committee of Derong County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. He died of sudden brain haemorrhage due to exhaustion caused by overworking.

Kanlho PSB arrests eight suspects for telecommunication fraud, Gansu

April 21, 2020

The Public Security Bureau (PSB) of Zhuoni County, Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province, cracked down on telecommunication fraud cases and arrested 8 suspects. The police went to Guangdong, Jiangsu, Jiangxi and seven other provinces to arrest the 8 criminal suspects and seized 11 mobile phones and 87 bank cards. 35 of the bankcards have more than 3 million yuan. Online fraud and cases of telecommunication network fraud are reported to have increased since the epidemic surge and home isolation. On March 14, the Criminal Police Brigade of Zhuoni County PSB received reports from several victims of routinely losing of money through online shopping platforms. The special task force set up for telecommunication fraud under Zhuoni county requested the Gansu Provincial Public Security Department and the Gannan State Public Security Bureau to give the investigation office guidance and technical support. The three-level public security organs of the province, prefecture and county traced suspected accounts and arrested 8 suspects. The suspects are being investigated by Zhuoni County PSB.

China's largest astronomical observation base to be built in Qinghai

April 24, 2020

Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Qinghai province and the University of Science and Technology of China on April 16, signed a cooperative agreement to jointly build the Wide Field Survey Telescope (WFST) in Saishenteng Mountain, Cold Lake Town of the prefecture. The telescope project is expected to contribute a breakthrough in astronomical studies, and discovery of celestial bodies in the outer solar system. It is also to provide a better service to

the national aerospace security strategy. The telescope features 2.5-meter diameter with 750-million-pixel camera and it can apparently survey the entire Northern Sky once every three nights.

The WFST project is to enhance to attract more world-class astrological projects and transform itself into a new tourist attraction in the prefecture. In 2020, four telescope projects will be built at the Saishenteng Mountain astronomical observation base with a total investment of 264.55 million yuan. Construction of these projects will boost the local economy and play a positive role in boosting the prefecture's profile at home and abroad. After this, the prefecture aims to make Cold Lake Town the country's largest astronomical observation base and a world-class astronomical study centre.

Qinghai-Lhasa railway will be extended to Xinjiang

April 26, 2020

China is building a new railway road to connect the Qinghai-Lhasa Railway in Qinghai Province to Korla city in northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR) with a switch Golmud Station. The total length of the track will be 1213.7 kilometres.

The railway will connect Qinghai's provincial capital of Xining with Korla in central Xinjiang and Lhasa. The extended track to Korla is expected to open at the end of 2020, which will shorten the train trip from Golmud to Korla from the current 26 hours to 12 hours. It is stated that 'connecting with the line, the Golmud-Korla Railway will start operation on its section in Qinghai from June' 2020.

Ganzi held 22nd Meeting of the 12th NPC

April 28, 2020

The 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress of Ganzi Prefecture was held in Dhartsedo (in Chinese: Kangding). 29 of the existing 35 members of the Standing Committee of the 12th NPC of Ganzi Prefecture attended fulfilling the quorum. The meeting called for implementing the spirit of the 17th meeting of the 13th Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress reviewed and adopted the "Regulations on the Filing of

Regulatory Documents for the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" and 'the Decision on Adjusting the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Standing Qualification Review Committee of the Standing Committee of the 12th People's Congress of Ganzi Prefecture' and other personal appointments. The meeting decided to appoint Chen Hongbao, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the State People's Congress, as the Chairman of the Qualification Review Committee of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress, and Li Jing, Director of the work committee of the personnel representative of the Standing Committee of the State People's Congress as the Deputy Director of the Qualification Review Committee of the 12th National People's Congress.

The meeting pointed out that this is the year of the comprehensive construction of a well-off society and the end of the "13th Five-Year Plan". The statewide people's congress system must effectively improve the political position, resolutely implement decision-making and deployment of the central and provincial state committees to have the maximum reach. The meeting reminded the leaders of the Standing Committee to do a good job of epidemic prevention and control work and ensure thorough supervision at the grassroots level by maintaining a close contact with the masses. They were told to take the lead in implementing the propaganda and epidemic prevention policies and regulations, through active participation in epidemic prevention and control, actively give donations and materials, embody the responsibility of NPC deputies with practical actions, and resolutely contribute to the NPC's fight against the epidemic.

The Deputy Directors of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Ganzi Prefecture, Chen Hongbao, Fan Wenhua, Yang Zhigui, Songya, Wang Chengkang, Yuan Mingguang, Secretary General Tian Long, Deputy Governor Liu Jixiang and Cheng Jing, State CPPCC Vice Chairman Sun Fei, other members of the party committee, State Supervision Committee, State Intermediate People's Court, State People's Procuratorate and other relevant department attended the meeting.

DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS

US religion freedom commission seeks targeted sanctions against China's rights violators

April 30, 2020

A bipartisan US Federal Commission on April 28 called for sanctions against individuals and entities deemed responsible for the persecution of Muslims in Chinese-ruled Xinjiang and for the country to be placed on a State Department blacklist of the world's worst abusers of religious freedoms. Releasing its 2020 Annual Report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) also called on Congress to pass a new bill that will promote religious freedom in Tibet and penalise the Chinese leadership for interfering in the Dalai Lama's reincarnation recognition process.

The USCIRF called on US President Donald Trump's Administration to "impose targeted sanctions on Chinese government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom—particularly Xinjiang Communist Party Secretary Chen Quanguo and former Political and Legal Affairs Commission Chief Zhu Hailun". The report called for a freeze on the assets of the officials and a bar on their entry into the United States "under human rights related financial and visa authorities, citing specific religious freedom violations."

Speaking to the Tibetan Service of Radio Free Asia (RFA) on April 28, US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback called for an end to "these systematic violations of religious freedom in Xinjiang, in Tibet, to the house church, to Falun Gong members, that are taking place throughout China." Referring to the surveillance-state-repression which is "a feature of Chen Quanguo," Brownback said, "He's done it in Tibet, he's doing it in Xinjiang, and it needs to stop ... China's been at war with faith now and certainly in recent years that war has intensified. They will not win this war against their own people's faith."

China's Global Times article false, incorrect and misleading – a rebuttal by CTA

April 28, 2020

China's Global Times has on April 27, 2020, published an article "Exiled Tibetans eye to China for fear of virus" by Shan Jie and Hu Yuwei. The article has shown the situation of Tibetans living in India, especially those in Dharamshala, in a very poor light. It said because of the Covid-19 pandemic and poor medical facilities in India, Tibetans are longing to return to Tibet. It said that Dharamshala lacks proper medical facilities and has only a limited hospital and small clinics. It quoted a 'medical scholar' Liu Yinghua as saying that Tibetans living across north and south India are in unstable regions and the local governments often neglect their welfare. The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) clarified that the contents of the article by the two reporters and the statement of Liu Yinghua are false, incorrect and misleading. The CTA added that the Coronavirus pandemic which originated in China has caused the global disaster and it has affected India also. The international community holds China responsible for the spread of the virus and for its deliberate suppression of information and for sending faulty medical kits around the world. It said India is working hard to fight and contain this pandemic and in Dharamshala there have been only 40 positive cases and one death in the whole of Himachal Pradesh. It added that the CTA has been working closely with the local authorities to control the spread of the virus and thanked and appreciated the efforts made by the local authorities. The local authorities viz. DC, SDM and SP's offices have also appreciated the contribution and efforts made by the CTA and the Tibetan community in fighting this Chinese Coronavirus.

(Comment: The Global Times report quotes a "medical scholar Liu Yinghua", who it claimed studied Tibetan medicine in India. However, the records at the Tibetan Medical Astrology Institute in Dharamshala do not show the attendance of any Liu Yinghua as having studied in the Institute.)

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