



SAN FRANCISCO TEAM TIBET

Press Release

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Photo Opportunity

San Francisco Team Tibet Joins Global Tibetan National Uprising

Thousands of Tibetans and supporters will come together in cities worldwide, in solidarity with Tibetans in Tibet who continue to resist China's rule, and remembering the historic Uprisings of 2008

WHEN: MARCH 10, 2018 - Saturday

8:00 AM	Tibetan Flag-Raising Ceremony at Berkeley City Hall Berkeley City Hall , 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley
10:00 AM	Opening Ceremony with Guest Speakers at SF City Hall Civic Center Plaza , 335 McAllister St., SF
12:00 PM	March to Chinese Consulate, via Van Ness Ave & Geary Blvd
1:00 PM	Rally & Demonstration at Chinese Consulate, 1450 Laguna St., SF Consulate of the PRC , 1450 Laguna St. @ Geary Blvd., SF
2:15 PM	March from Consulate to SF Downtown, to Union Square, SF
5:00 PM	Union Square, Speeches, Performances, Concert Union Square , 333 Post Street

WHAT: On March 10 hundreds of Tibetans and Tibet supporters in the San Francisco Bay Area will join the annual global commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising. In 1959 tens of thousands of Tibetans took to the streets of Lhasa, Tibet's capital, rising up against China's illegal invasion and occupation of their homeland.

2018 also marks the 10-year anniversary of the wide-scale Uprisings of 2008, when thousands of Tibetans rose up in a public demonstration of resistance against China's occupation of Tibet as had not been seen for two decades. These Uprisings heralded a transformation in the strength and breadth of Tibetan non-violent resistance that continues today in myriad forms.

Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's statement will be read at San Francisco City Hall by her Chief of Staff, Dan Bernal. **Dhondup Wangchen** (see: <http://www.filmfortibet.org/dhondup-wangchen/>), former political prisoner, will speak along with Bhuchung K. Tsering, Vice President of the International Campaign for Tibet.

Zhou Fengsuo, Tiananmen Student Leader, Founder and President of Humanitarian China will speak at SF Civic Center Plaza. Fang Zheng, President of Chinese Democracy Education Foundation, Tiananmen hero who



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saved someone else, but lost his legs, and George Ge, former President of Humanitarian China are honored guests at the Union Square segment.

WHY? It is 59 years since hundreds of thousands of Tibetans rose up and demanded an end to China's illegal invasion and occupation of their country. China's use of extreme force to quell these protests compelled the 14th Dalai Lama to escape to India, where he has lived in exile ever since. Today, China is stepping up its efforts to punish Tibetans in Tibet for expressing loyalty to the Dalai Lama - a devotion that has not wavered despite the half century that has passed.

China's repressive policies have intensified under Xi Jinping with the dramatic tightening of restrictions in Tibet, including the increase in military presence, accompanied by a more aggressive strategy of bullying and punishing Governments that speak out, and forcing changes of policy on Tibet. On Xi's watch, prominent human rights defenders have died in custody: notably Tibetan Buddhist leader Tenzin Delek Rinpoche [1] and Nobel Peace Laureate Liu Xiaobo. [2] For the third consecutive year, Tibet has ranked as the second worst place in the world for freedom and human rights, with only Syria scoring lower. [3]

Xi Jinping's autocratic leadership looks set to continue indefinitely as China announces plans to scrap the two-term limit [4] for its leaders, meaning there is no end in sight for Xi's efforts to silence dissenting voices. One such case is Tibetan shopkeeper Tashi Wangchuk, who in January was tried for 'inciting separatism' for expressing concern about the lack of education in the Tibetan language, even though his actions are entirely in line with the Chinese Constitution and international law. [5] He is awaiting a verdict and could face a 15-year prison sentence. On 21 February six UN human rights experts called for all charges to be dropped, saying *"We condemn the continued detention of Mr. Wangchuk and the criminalization of his freedom of expression as well as his right to stand and speak up for what he perceives as human rights violations in his region and country."* [6]

On 10 March, Tibetans and Tibet supports will be taking to the streets not just here, but across the globe, see <http://unitefortibet.org/take-action/10-march-uprising-day-2018/>

Notes

1. BBC, Tibetan monk Tenzin Delek Rinpoche dies in China prison, 13 July 2015, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-33505834>
2. Human Rights Watch, 13 June 2017, Democratic Voice Liu Xiaobo Dies in Custody <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/13/china-democratic-voice-liu-xiaobo-dies-custody>
3. Freedom in the World 2018 Table of Country Scores', Freedom House, January 2018 <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world-2018-table-country-scores>
4. Deng Xiaoping introduced the limit, to prevent a return to the "cult of Mao". <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-43188739>
5. New York Times, 10 January 2018, How China Used a Times Documentary as Evidence Against Its Subject <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/10/insider/tashi-wangchuk-documentary-china.html>
6. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22683&LangID=E>

SAN FRANCISCO TEAM TIBET consists of Tibetan Association of Northern California (tanc.org), San Francisco Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (sfrtyc.org) Students for a Free Tibet - West (studentsforafreetibet.org) Bay Area Friends of Tibet (friends-of-tibet.org)

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