

## Inside Tibet

### Summary of Developments Since 10 March 2008

On 21 June, under tremendous security, the Olympic torch was paraded through the Tibetan capital past a select group of journalist and approved onlookers. Tibet's hardline Communist Party secretary Zhang Qingli used the occasion to verbally attack the Dalai Lama in front of the Potala Palace.

In early May the Chinese government silenced many of its critics by announcing a new round of the formal Tibet-China dialogue. The meeting, which was delayed due to the Sichuan earthquake, finally took place on 1 July. It concluded with no substantive outcomes and no softening in the Chinese government's position on Tibet. Lodi Gyari, Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama, described the meeting as "one of the most difficult sessions" held so far, conceding that "in the absence of serious and sincere commitment on [the Chinese] part the continuation of the present dialogue process would serve no purpose".

Four months on from the outbreak of unrest across Tibetan areas, the Chinese government continues to ignore international calls to work constructively towards a peaceful resolution of the Tibet issue.

#### Media Blackout

The Chinese government expelled journalists from Lhasa shortly after unrest began on 10 March. Access to international media has been limited to four tightly controlled government-organized visits, on 27-28 March, 9 April, 6 June and during the Lhasa leg of the Olympic Torch Relay. Correspondents are still unable to verify the origins of the protests or determine how many people were ultimately killed, injured, or arrested.

On 26 June the Chinese government announced it would reopen Tibet to foreign media. However, journalists have discovered that application procedures make it almost impossible to travel to Tibet.

On 7 July Human Rights Watch reported that foreign correspondents and their sources were facing intimidation and obstruction by government officials or their proxies when attempting to report on the Tibet situation.

The Foreign Correspondents Club of China has reported 40 incidents of foreign journalists facing obstruction while reporting on topics related to Tibet. In some instances Chinese authorities scrutinized, confiscated or deleted reporting materials. In addition, both Tibetans and Han Chinese have been punished and intimidated for talking to foreign journalists.

#### Casualties and Arrests

Working meticulously from both Tibetan and Chinese sources, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has tallied over 200 deaths, around 1,000 injured and over 5,000 arrests since 14 March 2008.

The Central Tibetan Administration has received numerous reports of beating and other ill treatment of Tibetan detainees and a lack of food and necessary medical care. Many detainees have been denied access to family members or lawyers.

#### Attacks on the Dalai Lama

The Dalai Lama has repeatedly assured the Chinese Government that he does not seek independence for Tibet but rather a meaningful autonomy within the People's Republic of China. He has vehemently opposed any use of violence and appealed for calm among Tibetans.

Nonetheless, Chinese authorities continue to label the Dalai Lama as a "dangerous separatist". On the eve of the seventh round of Tibet-China dialogue, Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, published a series of vicious attacks the Dalai Lama.

## Ongoing Protests

By the end of March protests had spread throughout Tibetan areas. While protests in Lhasa have been successfully suppressed through a combination of mass troop deployment, arrest and detention of thousands and extensive police surveillance, demonstrations still continue in many Tibetan areas.

Certain areas have witnessed particularly frequent protests and harsh responses by security forces. Aba (Chinese- Ngawa) and Kardze (Chinese- Ganzi) County in Sichuan remain significant hotspots with scores of monks and nuns arrested in recent weeks.



Map showing extent of protests across Tibet areas.

## Patriotic Education

At the beginning of April Chinese authorities launched a renewed two-month “patriotic education” campaign. Special work teams are sent to monasteries, schools and other institutions to carry out the campaign. Tools include inviting “experts” to give speeches, screening propaganda films and holding denunciation sessions of the Dalai Lama.

The stated aim of the new campaign is to “vehemently oppose the Dalai clique” and “to expose the true nature of the Dalai clique” and “March 14 Riot”. Sessions are compulsory with attendees forced to accept and endorse particular versions of history and particular accounts of events that led to unrest in March this year. Whereas previous such campaigns have primarily targeted the monastic institutions, new efforts also focus on government employees, security forces, farmers and nomads.