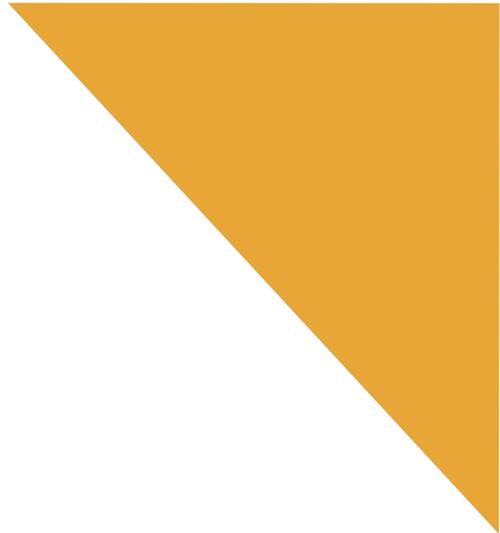


# Tibet Report

February 2021



## Aim

This report sheds light on human rights violations faced by various minority groups in Tibet. Specifically, the report addresses a major occurrence of human rights violations as of February of 2021.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garz%C3%AA\\_Tibetan\\_Autonomous\\_Prefecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garz%C3%AA_Tibetan_Autonomous_Prefecture)

<b>Region</b>	Tibet
<b>Population</b>	6.5 Million
<b>Capital</b>	Lhasa
<b>Largest City</b>	Nagqu
<b>Major languages</b>	Tibetan and other languages such as Mandarin and Hindi.
<b>Religion</b>	70% of the population follows Tibetan Buddhism, while rest are Tibetan Christians and Muslims.
<b>Ethnicities</b>	East Asian ethnicity mostly.
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	70.60 years in 2019.

Source-<https://www.britannica.com/place/Tibet>

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Image Tibetan Buddhist (<https://www.chinadiscovery.com/ethnic-minority-culture-tour/tibet-minorities.html>)

The Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) is a province-level entity of the People's Republic of China (PRC). It was formally established in 1965 after the People's Liberation Army defeated the local army and forced Tibetan representatives to accept China's sovereignty and unionization of the region with the PRC. The 14th Dalai Lama escaped from Tibet and, while exiled in Dharamshala, India, set up the Government of Tibet. Some areas formerly belonging to the Tibet Area became the Tibetan autonomous region, while some others got incorporated into the neighbouring Chinese provinces.<sup>1</sup>

1. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tibet>

# Human Rights Violations in Tibet

In 2019, Tibet was rated 1/100 in the US Freedom House's "Freedom in the World" survey. The people of Tibet face human rights violations in almost every aspect of their lives, be it political, cultural, religious, social or economic.<sup>2</sup>

## 1. Political Despotism

The people of Tibet regularly encounter political suppression. Tibet has a very intrusive and intense surveillance system that closely monitors the population, and all anti-China activity gets immediately repressed.<sup>3</sup> People who carry out peaceful protests against Chinese policies and Chinese authority are treated with violent retaliation by the police.<sup>4</sup> Protesters are tortured, imprisoned, and at times even killed. Freedoms of speech and expression are also denied. There are reports of arrests and tortures of those who raise their voice against the Chinese regime and demand the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet.<sup>5</sup> In some cases, people accused of attempting to damage the Chinese State by speaking against its policies received death sentences.<sup>6,7</sup>

## 2. Denial of Cultural and Religious Rights

The Chinese policies led to religious suppression in Tibet. Tibetans face the denial of their religious and cultural rights daily. Buddhists are particularly affected, as Chinese authorities systematically control Buddhist centres. People who follow the teachings of Dalai Lama and Buddhist values are being put into detention centres where they are subjected to mental torture and physical hardships.<sup>8</sup> Tibetans are banned from celebrating their national festivals and Tibetan language is not taught at schools. Instead, Mandarin has been made compulsory in schools.<sup>9</sup>

## 3. Denial of Socio-Economic Rights of Tibetans

China has focused greatly on the development of infrastructure, construction projects, tourism, and other industries in Tibet. As a consequence, those projects attract a large number of Han Chinese immigrants, who are given preference in employment in various industries. This leaves very few job opportunities for local Tibetans as these sectors are some of the most booming industries in Tibet that generate a lot of employment. China also has forcefully displaced thousands of Tibetan Nomads by obtaining their land for new projects, gaining control over Tibet's natural resources.

2. <https://freedomhouse.org/country/tibet/freedom-world/2020>

3. <https://freetibet.org/about/human-rights>

4. [https://case.edu/affil/tibet/staffPub/f\\_affairs.htm](https://case.edu/affil/tibet/staffPub/f_affairs.htm)

5. <https://www.freetibet.org/about/human-rights>

6. <https://freetibet.org/news-media/na/ten-tibetans-sentenced-protesting-against-slaughter-company-built-chinese-government>

7. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/for-tibetans-no-other-way-to-protest/2012/07/13/gJQA13wniW\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/for-tibetans-no-other-way-to-protest/2012/07/13/gJQA13wniW_story.html)

8. <https://tibet.net/five-pressing-human-rights-violation-in-tibet-a-year-in-review-2019/>

9. <https://freetibet.org/about/human-rights>

## Incidences of Human Rights Violations in Tibet in February 2021



Since the Chinese Occupation of Tibet, all Tibetans are required to register their group chats on social media with the local authorities. The chats reportedly are under the surveillance of authorities. Three teens who live in Qinghai — a province in Eastern Tibet — Dadul, Sangye Tso, and Kanshi have started a WeChat group called the White Rocky Mountain Club. They created this group to mark the Tibetan New Year, which takes place from February 12 to 18. The group had about 240 members.

The three teens went missing and eventually one of them was found hospitalised with two broken legs. Daulwas was found in Xining China Hospital, approximately 1000 km away from his hometown of Kyegudo. However the other two teenagers are yet to be found. According to the human rights reporters, the forced disappearance happened because the teens failed to register their WeChat group with the authorities. This case is one of many and Tibetans are forced to endure extreme surveillance when it comes to social media. Not only are they prevented from practicing their right of expression freely, but they also are denied their right to privacy, as the government has access to all of the messages of the Tibetan population.

10. Tibetan Teens Reportedly Jailed for Breaking WeChat Ban Sophia Solano (8 March ) <https://www.voanews.com/student-union/tibetan-teens-reportedly-jailed-breaking-wechat-ban>

## The Case of Kunchok Jinpa



A Picture of Kunchok Jinpa: <http://www.phayul.com/2021/02/18/45215/>

Kunchok Jinpa was a middle-aged man from Village No. 5 in Chaktse township in Diru, a county in the Nagchu prefecture of Tibet. He used to work as a tour guide in Tibet. In November 2013, Kunchok Jinpa was amongst 17 other people who got arrested after the protests against China's Mass-line campaign in the Diru township of the Tibetan Autonomous Region.<sup>11</sup> China launched this campaign to bring the Chinese Communist Party closer to the common masses by 'serving the people, being down to earth, upright and corruption-free.' Jinpa spent months in jail without being able to contact anyone from the outside world. He was convicted of leaking state secrets and passing information to foreign media about local environmental and other protests in his region. He was then sentenced to 21 years in prison. On February 6, Jinpa died in a hospital in Lhasa in the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) while serving the 7th year of his sentence. He had suffered from a brain haemorrhage and was paralysed. "Kunchok Jinpa's death is yet another case grim case of a wrongfully imprisoned Tibetan dying from mistreatment" - Sophie Richardson, China's director at the Human Rights Watch said.

Kunchok Junpa's tragedy is merely one of the many cases of arbitrary arrests. Imprisoned Tibetans are routinely subjected to physical torture and are refused access to legal aid.

11. <http://www.phayul.com/2021/02/18/45215/>

## March 10 — Marking the Tibetan Uprising Day



People Marking the Tibet uprising day in Sydney by taking our rallies, chanting slogans and waving the Tibetan Flag. <https://www.atc.org.au/10marchrallies-tibetanuprisingday/>

Tibetan Uprising Day is commemorated on March 10. This year marked the 62nd anniversary of this important historical event and the anniversary was celebrated by Tibetans and its supporters all around the world.

In Sydney, a peaceful march was carried out wherein a vocal demonstration took place. Several people were holding banners and posters and chanting slogans such as: “Save Tibet”, “Freedom of Press in Tibet”, “Stop torturing in Tibet”, “Stop genocide in Tibet”.

Zoe Bedford, the executive officer of Australia Tibet Council commented: “There's a brutal occupation going on now in Tibet. People need to be able to go there to visit their families to witness with their own eyes what's going on in Tibet now. We are expressing our solidarity with the people of Tibet.”<sup>12</sup>

Additionally, a former Tibetan political prisoner by the name of Dhondup stated: “the Gu-Chu-Sum Movement uses today's historic anniversary to put forward three demands to the Chinese government, calling for the unconditional release of Tibetan political prisoners; the granting of human rights, freedom of expression, and religious faith in Tibet; and the immediate commencement of peace talks with the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to resolve the Tibetan issue.”

12. <https://www.thetibetpost.com/en/news/international/6979-ethnic-cleansing>

For the past 7 decades, social discrimination, economic marginalisation, environmental destruction, and cultural assimilation has been going on in Tibet resulting in several human rights violations over the years.

China's One China Policy is particularly worrisome regarding the situation of Tibet. This One China policy diplomatically acknowledges China's position by asserting that there is only one Chinese government or only one sovereign state under the name of China as contrary to the idea that there are two states, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China.

Tibetan Activist Tenzin Pasang explained in a webinar, "Chinese authorities have been exploiting the mines and other natural resources and labour in Tibet to serve its economic interests."<sup>13</sup>

13. ANI News: 1 March 2021 <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/rights-group-targets-china-highlights-atrocities-in-tibet-east-turkistan-hong-kong20210301104346/>

## Conclusion

The Tibetans have to face numerous Human Rights violations. The Tibetans in Tibet and across the globe are at all times threatened. Human rights violations posit a threat to the preservation of the Tibetan culture, which preaches compassion and kindness to all and, most importantly, peaceful existence.<sup>14</sup> The right to self-determination accounts for all peoples as per Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including Tibetans.

14. <https://savetibet.org/why-tibet/>

## References

GHRD has used the following news outlets to highlight some events of Human rights violations in Tibet in February 2021.

<https://www.voanews.com/student-union/tibetan-teens-reportedly-jailed-breaking-wechat-ban>

<https://www.freetibet.org/about/human-rights>

<https://www.thetibetpost.com/en/news/international/6979-ethnic-cleansing>

<https://www.indiablooms.com/world-details/SA/28307/stop-violating-human-rights-in-tibet-activist-tells-china-ahead-of-tibetan-uprising-day.html>

<http://www.phayul.com/2021/02/18/45215>

<https://tibet.net/five-pressing-human-rights-violation-in-tibet-a-year-in-review-2019/>

<https://savetibet.org/why-tibet/>

<https://www.thetibetpost.com/en/news/international/6978-freedom-house-report-listed-tibet,-syria-as-the-least-free-countries-in-the-world>

# TIBET REPORT

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[www.ghrd.org](http://www.ghrd.org)

