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Voice of ITIM President Rangzen, Rangzen, Rangzen! Why Rangzen?

Larry Gerstein

I am thrilled to welcome you and also write an article for the first publication of Rangzen Voice. The idea of ITIM publishing a newsletter was first discussed in 1995 and now, because of the leadership of Gedun Rabsal, it is finally a reality! I guess we were waiting for a Tibetan journalist to inspire us to take action. Thanks, Rabsal, for helping ITIM achieve our early goal and thanks Ama Mary for assisting Rabsal in this process. A special thanks to Tenam for his expertise in creating the Tibetan script for the masthead of Rangzen Voice and to Dane for the printing.

Before discussing the mission of Rangzen Voice, I want to provide some background about the word "Rangzen" and our unwavering commitment to its concept and our promotion of this word. "Rangzen" is the Tibetan word for independence. Often you will hear Tibetans shout, "Bhod Rangzen." This means "Independence for Tibet." Since the illegal occupation of Tibet by The People's Republic of China (PRC), Tibetans inside of Tibet have loudly expressed the words "Bhod Rangzen" in their speeches, writings, songs, literature, and private conversations. Even now as I write this article, Tibetans in Tibet are uttering these words. As you well know, expressing this phrase will result in immediate arrest and imprisonment in Tibet.

During the 1980s, a group of Hoosiers (residents of Indiana) led by the vision of Professor Thubten Jigme Norbu, Taktser Rinpoche (His Holiness The Dalai Lama's Oldest Brother), formed the Indiana Tibet Committee (a chapter of the U.S. Tibet Committee) to educate people about Tibet and the importance of Rangzen. Rinpoche has been one of the most vocal and dedicated leaders of the Rangzen movement since his escape from Tibet in 1951. In fact, many Tibetans perceive him to be the leading international voice of Rangzen. In 1995, during a March for Tibet from Bloomington to Indianapolis, Indiana, Rinpoche and I realized that we needed to expand our efforts to return Tibet to the Tibetans. Hence, we co-founded the International Tibet Independence Movement; an organization dedicated to achieving Tibet's independence through nonviolence.

In 1995, and until quite recently, using the word "Rangzen" was frowned upon by many Tibetans and some Tibet supporters since the Tibetan Government In-Exile and His Holiness The Dalai Lama advocated a middle way approach to solving the Tibet situation. This compromise approach provides for some degree of autonomy for Tibet and authority for The PRC. Rangzen advocates were thought to be against His Holiness and were shamed, scolded, and ridiculed for their stance. Time and again, however, His Holiness publicly expressed deep appreciation for the Rangzen movement and also shared with the Tibetan community the importance of embracing and practicing democratic principles. In fact, His Holiness has stated on numerous occasions that it is essential to respect and understand diverse points of view and that Tibetans should stand up for their beliefs and aspirations without fear of reprisal. Today, while the "R" or "I" words are still underused in public discourse except for demonstrations, one need not worry about being ostracized for his/her commitment to Rangzen or Independence for Tibet, especially when communicating with Tibetans from Tibet who emphatically state Rangzen is the only solution to the Tibet-China conflict.

In 1996, Taktser Rinpoche, Palden Gyatso, and I led a March for Tibet's Independence from Washington, DC to New York City. At this time, websites and digital photography were becoming accessible to the public. ITIM decided to launch a web page to report on the 1996 March for Tibet. Originally hosted by Nuvo Newsweekly (a local Indianapolis paper), this web page was later developed in 1997 into the website, www.rangzen.com.

Selecting an address for our website was not easy. Charlie Roach, an ITIM leader, first recommended using rangzen.com. His rationale was that Rangzen was Rinpoche's mission and ITIM's mission. By promoting our website, we would educate non-Tibetans about the word "Rangzen" since in 1997 few non-Tibetans were familiar with the word "Rangzen." While Charlie's logic appeared sound, others in ITIM were concerned that the

(Continued on page five)

Help Tibetans Attend College

In 2000, Pema Lhundup from India was one of the leaders of ITIM's "March for Tibet's Independence." At the time, Pema was the General Secretary of the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC), the largest and oldest NGO in the Tibetan community in exile. In 1998, when the TYC organized an "Unto Death Hunger Strike in New Delhi," Pema was one of the main organizers and remained with the hunger strikers until its declaration of a temporary halt. Then, in 1999 in Geneva, Pema was one of the three hunger strikers in front of the United Nations. Despite his poor health, he made an oral statement on the "Rights of the Child" on April 15, at the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Soon after the "March for Tibet" ended in June 2000, Pema died unexpectedly as a result of a fall off his roof top. He was 42 years old at the time. Pema is survived by his wife Chokchung and three daughters, Tenzin Dolkar (21), Lobsang Choedon (19) and Tenzin Choedon (18). Currently, Tenzin Dolkar and Lobsang Choedon are pursuing their post secondary studies in Delhi, India, while Tenzin Choedon is studying at the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala, India.

Pema's wife is not able to support her daughters college education. As a result, ITIM has taken on this responsibility and has started a scholarship fund. It will cost \$500 per year to send one of Pema's daughters to college in India. The total cost for each daughter is \$2000. Therefore, ITIM must raise \$6000 to sponsor Pema's daughters' college education. We respectfully request your assistance with this project. To learn how to contribute, visit www.rangzen.org.

Pema Lhundup was one of the upcoming world leaders for Tibet's independence. He was a sensitive, gentle, honest, strong, and kind individual. ITIM is committed to helping his family and we hope you are as well.



Photo by Jun Itoi
Pema Lhundup speaking at The PRC Embassy in San Francisco at the beginning of the March's for Tibet's Independence, April 25, 2000.

Why Tibet?

There are many causes in this world worthy of our time, energies and money, so why do I support Tibet above all the other worthwhile causes?

Tibet is unique in that it has based its social order on spiritual principals. that are the guiding principals of all religions. The fact that Tibet has been able to create and maintain a system whereby these guiding forces are so thoroughly integrated into the fabric of society that it has been able to survive the onslaught of Chinese materialism speaks to the truth of these principals.

With our support of Tibet, we align ourselves with these truths. I support Tibet not just for the cause of freedom for the Tibetan people, but also for the sake of keeping a truth alive in a world in great need of spiritual healing. Tibet provides an example so we can find a common ground and settle differences in a peaceful manner through tolerance and compassion.

Supporting the Tibetan peoples' aspiration for the return of their independent homeland helps insure the survival of their cultural heritage and allows for future generations of world citizens to experience the viability of a society based on spiritual values.

Bhod Rangzen!

--Gerry Baker, ITIM Vice President

"Tibet Comes to Indiana" (Continued from page one)

and teachings on aspects of Buddhism.

Lobsang Zodpa, the spiritual leader of the group and a senior Geshe in the Buddhist monastery, did the teachings. "Geshe" is a title, like "Ph.D.," indicating the mastery of many Buddhist studies including, meditation, philosophy, and debate. Because of Tsering Dolma's excellent translations, the teachings were easy to relate to and were warmly received by the audience-most of whom were not Buddhists.

Stops in Fort Wayne were the high

light of the week. With more than one hundred people in attendance on Saturday night, the monks performed Cham – a ritual dance involving stylized movement by the monks dressed in elaborate masks and brightly colored brocaded robes. Tibet is a remote land with most people living a nomadic existence. There the monasteries provide not only a religious center, but also are often the center of village life. Cham performances provide a festive atmosphere well loved by Tibetans. Judging from the reaction of the crowd the performance was also loved in Indiana.

The monks continue their travels visiting Michigan, Chicago, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Toronto, and other places across the continent.

Indiana thanks the monks for their teachings, music, and wonderful spirit of compassion and calm they radiate. We wish them well on their journey.



**Help Release
The Panchen Lama**
www.rangzen.org

ITIM Creates “Room for Remembrance”

On September 7, 2004 in conjunction with the dedication ceremony of the Chamtse Ling Temple at the Tibetan Cultural Center in Bloomington, Indiana, members of ITIM and the public had an opportunity to view a newly installed photographic exhibition located in the Chamtse Ling: “The Room for Remembrance—Reflections of Tibet.”

In a very personal and moving audience, His Holiness entered the gallery space and sat before a wall of images of Tibet. He spoke of the pressing need to help Tibetans inside Tibet--however possible. His words were of concern for His fellow countrymen and were pragmatic in tone, rather than rhetorical. He did not speak of history or of the past. Rather, His focus was directly on the present and on the future. It was a painful yet beautiful moment, auspicious and rare, witnessing this exiled spiritual leader juxtaposed with the photographs of a land and people He was forced to leave over forty years ago.

ITIM accepted both a challenge and an incredible gift when the board responded to Taktser Rinpoche's request to sponsor and create the “Room for Remembrance.” During a year that included hosting two monk tours (with the construction of three sand mandalas), a five-day March for Tibet's Independence from Bloomington to Indianapolis, ongoing campaigns for the release of The Panchen Lama and other political actions, ITIM also chose to mount an impressive exhibition and undertake fundraising to cover the costs.

A small committee reviewed photographic material already in the possession of ITIM. While in India, ITIM President Larry Gerstein had requested that copies of historical and archival images from the collection the Tibet Times Newspaper and from the Gu Chu Sum Movement, Dharamsala be produced and sent to America. ITIM also

had previously commissioned work by two photographers, Kate Murphy and June Itoi which documented walks and events in the United States. Several years previously, ITIM had organized an exhibition entitled: “State of the Tibetan Nation.” Those photographers were contacted and they agreed to participate. Valerie Purvin organized and hosted a successful fundraiser, and Shawn Brockway facilitated a significant donation of in-kind services from Kinko's.

Guest curator Liese Hilgeman selected a collection of 64 images to fit the gallery space. The exhibition's design divided the images into 11 sections, each accompanied with text. Beginning with an introduction and brief history of Tibet, the first photographs are from the early 20th century--showing pictures of the previous Dalai Lama and of Tibet prior to the Chinese occupation. The single image of mutilated Buddhist statues entitled: “Statue of Lord Buddha and Other Deities Destroyed During the Cultural Revolution” serves as the only commentary on a period that encompassed great suffering and the loss of many significant cultural and religious landmarks, institutions and individuals. The next section chronicles the Lhasa demonstrations in the 1980s. Many of these pictures are the most visceral and challenging in the exhibition. The exhibition then moves to Tibetans in exile communities and the actions they have taken to raise awareness and bring about change. Tibetan photographer Lobsang Wangyal intimately presents views of life in Dharamsala with his engaging and emotional portraits of Tibetans from all walks of life. Next, Kate Murphy's portraits of Taktser Rinpoche and Palden Gyatso document the activities high-profile Tibetans have achieved in the United States. Arresting black and white photographs by June Itoi of various March's for Tibet's Independence complete this section. The conclusion of the exhibition presents the landscape of Tibet and her people as recent photographers have pic-

tured them.

In the planning stages, the project was simply referred to as the “Room of Remembrance.” But as we drew closer to its installation and the works were being matted and framed, it became clearer that while what was being created was indeed a place of memory, we needed the title to be more descriptive. Therefore, we created a longer title: “The Room for Remembrance - Reflections of Tibet.”

The aim of this exhibition is not only to remember, but also to provide a space to reflect, imagine and look forward. Hope can be born from memory, but hope becomes more definitive and concrete through action. When viewers look into the portraits of Tibetans living now inside Tibet, they can see not only hope but also urgency. Such images can function as catalysts for change, motivating individuals to speak and take action. Whatever the future holds, it is the actions of people that will shape it. With hope, the obstacles will be removed and the Tibetan people will have the resources, support and perseverance to guide and shape the future of their homeland.

The exhibition is located in the Chamtse Ling Temple (3655 Snoddy Road, Bloomington, Indiana) and is open to the public weekdays from 9am to 4pm and on weekends from 12pm to 4pm. Contact tcc@tibetancc.com for more information.



Photo by Tibetan Cultural Center
ITIM co-founder, Taktser Rinpoche (l), and His Holiness The Dalai Lama (r) at Tibetan Cultural Center, Bloomington, Indiana, July 27, 1996.

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ཞེས་གསུངས་པ་ལྟར་བྱེད།།

Why Tibet?

Tibet demonstrates that a country can base its actions on positive values, such as compassion and respect. Throughout history, Tibet's values of compassion and respect have extended to all living beings (people and animals), to the environment, and to spiritual well-being. I am interested in learning about the best that the Tibetan culture has to offer, and apply these values to my own life and experiences.

--Paula Berbeco, ITIM Treasurer

I'm uncertain why I care so much for Tibet and Tibetans. My family's involvement in social and political causes definitely shaped my desire to assist oppressed people and fight inequities. It's also conceivable that my teenage interest in Asia and Buddhism could be a seed. Reading books by His Holiness The Dalai Lama influenced me as well. No doubt, meeting Taktser Rinpoche (Thubten Jigme Norbu) in the late 1980s solidified my commitment to help return Tibet to the Tibetans. Since then, I have been blessed to be a part of the movement and the Tibetan culture.

--Larry Gerstein, ITIM President

“Why Rangzen” (Continued from page two)
use of an obscure word would reduce the possibility of people immediately understanding the purpose of our website, and as a result, decrease visits to the site. Ultimately, ITIM decided to risk launching www.rangzen.com hoping that we could educate people worldwide about the word "Rangzen" and its importance to solving the Tibet situation. Our decision seems to have been correct as our website averages over 75,000 hits per month! Thanks, Charlie, for the vision and rationale.

We named this newsletter Rangzen Voice to continue our efforts to promote the word and the concept of returning Tibet to the Tibetans. These days Tibetans inside Tibet can only whisper in privacy the word "Rangzen." Rangzen Voice expresses their whispers openly and strives to achieve their heartfelt goal of independence for their country. This newsletter will protect and promote the birthright of Tibetans to rule their own county. It will also report on the activities of ITIM to achieve Rangzen. For without Rangzen, it is impossible to preserve Tibet, the Tibetan culture and religion, and peace in Asia and the world. We welcome your contributions to this newsletter.

In less than two weeks, the 600+ mile Peace Ride for Tibet's Independence from D.C. to Toronto begins. I am grateful to all of you who have helped and supported this project, particularly the Tibetan communities in Indiana, Minnesota, and Oregon who have demonstrated that the voice of Rangzen is still strong. I warmly invite all of you

*May the naked find clothing,
The hungry find food;
May the thirsty find water
And delicious drinks.*

*May the poor find wealth,
Those weak with sorrow find joy;
May the forlorn find new hope,
Constant happiness and prosperity.*

*May all who are sick and ill
Quickly be freed from their illness,
And may every disease in the world
Never occur again.*

*May the frightened cease to be afraid
And those bound be freed;*

to join the Rangzen movement.

Finally, I want to mention my own appreciation for the following persons who have inspired me. My father Melvin taught me by his example the importance of fighting for the rights of oppressed people. His courage, wisdom, and perseverance shaped who I am. Taktser Rinpoche honored me with the opportunity to get involved in the Tibet Movement. His vision, passion, sense of humor, ability to lead, compassion, and firm, yet reasonable, commitment to Rangzen have inspired countless people around the world--including independence fighters in other occupied countries. His spirit has driven the Tibet independence movement, served as the philosophic and strategic foundation of ITIM, and guided and supported my own efforts. His Holiness The Dalai Lama--through His words and actions--has taught all of us the importance of mindfulness, compassion, respect, humility, dignity, and acceptance for all sentient beings. Without His leadership, the ideals of human existence would be less obvious and the voice of Rangzen would be lost. Last, I want to dedicate this issue of Rangzen Voice to Gendhun Choekyi Nyima, The Panchen Lama. You are the beacon of light to guide us and the vehicle to unite us in the Tibet movement. While you have been missing since 1995 at the young age of 6 years old, your wisdom and courage have inspired all of us and reminded us of the importance of returning Tibet to the Tibetans. Soon we will hear your voice and celebrate your enthronement at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Shigatse, Tibet.

Help Free Tenzin Delek Rinpoche!

*May the powerless find power,
And may people think of benefiting one another.*

*May celestials bring timely rains
So that harvests may be bountiful.
May kings act in accordance with
Dharma
And the people of the world always prosper.*

*For as long as space endures
And for as long as living beings remain
Until then may I too abide
To dispel the misery of the world.*

--Shantideva

Around the International Tibet Independence Movement

New Team Member

In February 2004, ITIM hired Adam Carver as Coordinator. This is a part-time position. Adam graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington where he was a leader in the Students for a Free Tibet Chapter. Adam also has been active in the campaign to Boycott China's Goods. ITIM is pleased that Adam is now part of our team.

Meetings

Tibetan Associations in North America. In July 2002, ITIM leaders Tenzin Namgyal, Gerry Baker (ITIM, Vice President), and Natalie Baker participated in the 7th Conference of the Tibetan Associations in North America held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Regional Tibetan Youth Congress. Tenzin Namgyal, Tsering Dhondup, and Tsering Dolkar of ITIM attended the North American Regional Tibetan Youth Congress Meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August, 2003.

Tibet Support Groups. Larry Gerstein (President, ITIM) and Gail Henrie (Secretary, ITIM) attended the 4th International Tibet Support Group (TSG) Conference in Prague, Czech Republic in October 2003. Over 240 TSG representatives, Tibetans, and Tibetan officials from around the world attended this Conference. Among the dignitaries were His Holiness The Dalai Lama, former Czech President Vaclav Havel, Samdhong Rinpoche (Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government In-Exile), and Takna Jigme Sangpo (recently released Tibetan prisoner for more than 30 years in a Chinese prison).

Gerstein presented the results of an evaluation of the progress since the 3rd TSG Conference to the entire group of attendees and also chaired the Conference discussion on the development and implementation of the future TSG Action Plan. Henrie actively par-

ticipated in small group discussions such as advocating for the assistance of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery and the enhancement of campaigns to release The Panchen Lama. This was a highly stimulating and action oriented meeting

attended by extremely dedicated and motivated Tibet activists and Tibetans.

**Buy American!
Buy Tibetan!
Boycott China's Goods!**

Chief of ITIM's noteworthy accomplishments has been its coordination of various "March's for Tibet's Independence":

- 1995: Bloomington to Indianapolis, Indiana (7 days)
- 1996: Washington D.C. to New York City (45 days)
- 1997: Toronto to New York City (60 days)
- 1998: Portland, Oregon to Vancouver, British Columbia (50 days)
- 2000: San Francisco to Los Angeles (60 days)
- 2000: San Diego to Los Angeles (21 days)
- 2003: Bloomington to Indianapolis, Indiana (5 days)

Overview of additional major accomplishments of ITIM:

- Hosted the Students for a Free Tibet Action Camp in Needmore, Indiana in 2002
- Hosted Movies: Seven Days in Tibet, etc.
- Organizer of Demonstration in Washington, D.C., Sept., 1995
- First organization to advocate for Gendhun Choekyi Nyima's (The Panchen Lama) release, May, 1995
- Panchen Lama Postcard, Petition, & Email Campaigns 1995-present
- Participated in four Students for a Free Tibet Conferences
- Participated in East Coast Tibet Support Group (TSG) Conference Sept., 1997
- Participated in Tibet Garden Party (Ct), Sept., 1997
- Sponsored numerous Monks and Nuns from India
- One of the first TSGs to launch Boycott of China's goods, 1989
- Organized Chinese Boycott Awareness Campaign, March 1995 (visited stores)
- Protested Chinese-American Friendship Convention, Winter 1995-1996
- Coordinated "Walking Boycott" from Castleton to College Park, Indianapolis
- Participated in major demonstrations in Taiwan, March, 1998
- Participated in three Milarepa Tibetan Freedom Concerts
- Made financial donations to Tibet Associations and Organizations
- Supported Tibet Times Newspaper and Tibet Communication
- Sponsored staff member from Tibet Times to attend college
- Clearinghouse of information to SFT Chapters & National Office
- Clearinghouse of information to TSGs throughout the world
- Provided seed money to SFT Chapters and National Office
- Coordinated Information Tables @ Lollapalooza, Horde, Further Fest, Earth Day, Peace in the Park, Colleges, Schools, & in the Public Streets
- Sponsored Tibetans to participate in our walks
- Developed & maintained informational website (average 75,000+ hits/month)
- Sponsored visits of Amha Adhe, Palden Gyatso, and Drapchi Nuns
- Supported Tibetan musicians
- Hosted Photo exhibit, "State of the Tibetan Nation," July, 1998
- Hosted Tibetan Freedom Tour Nov., 1996
- Participated in United Nations demonstration Dec. 10, 1996
- Organized numerous petition drives for Tibetan political prisoners
- Spearheaded networking with East Turkestani and Mongolian Freedom Fighters
- Participated in International TSG Conferences, May, 2000 & October, 2003
- Co-led March for Tibet in Washington, D.C., July, 2000
- Coordinated large scale campground during Kalachakra, August, 1999
- Supported Friends of Tibet India
- Sponsored numerous workshops on traditional Tibetan medicine
- Helped coordinate a demonstration against President Jiang Zemin in Chicago.
- In 2002, launched Rangzen House which is designed to offer vocational and educational training to Tibetans in North America, and employment and housing opportunities for such individuals.
- Coordinated Tenzin Delek Rinpoche email campaigns to PRC Embassies
- Sponsored visit of Drepung Gomang, Drepung Loseling, and Tashi Lhunpo Monks
- Installed "Room for Remembrance: Reflections of Tibet" in Chamtse Ling Temple
- Coordinated projects inside Tibet
- Developed campaign to assist Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in India

Approximately 100 Tibetans and Tibet supporters gathered in Chicago on March 10, 2004 for a demonstration honoring the anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising in Lhasa, Tibet because of China's illegal invasion. The majority of the protesters were from Chicago. SFT representatives from St. Louis and Columbia, Missouri and Indiana representatives from ITIM were also present.

After some brief speeches and the chanting of slogans (e.g., "Free Tibet Now," "Free The Panchen Lama," "Free Tenzin Delek Rinpoche") in front of the Water Tower in downtown Chicago, the protesters weaved their way through the streets to the Consulate of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

When the group gathered in front of the Consulate, the protesters made more speeches and continued to chant. At one point, a sign ("Free Tibet Now") was placed at an entrance to the Consulate. The sign remained at this spot for at least 30 minutes. It was removed when a Chinese official from the Consulate came outside and asked law enforcement agents to have it taken away. At this point, the chanting of slogans intensified and the crowd began voicing new phrases, "Shame, Shame, China Shame," and "Tibet belongs to Tibetans."

Soon after, a group of SFTers from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and the University of Missouri-Columbia draped a 12-foot by 16-foot banner from a parking garage across from the Consulate. The banner had a picture of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and the following message: "Stop the Execution! Save Tenzin Delek." Officials inside the Consulate were able to see this banner

Peace Ride for Tibet

Inspired by the vision and leadership of Taktser Rinpoche, the ITIM, Peace for Tibet-Minnesota, and the Tibetan Cultural Center, are coordinating a "Peace Ride for Tibet's Independence" from The People's Republic of China (PRC) Embassy in Washington, D.C. to The PRC Consulate in Toronto. The bike ride begins April 10 and ends April 24, right before His Holiness The Dalai Lama offers the Kalachakra Teaching in Toronto on April 25. April 25 is also the 15th Birthday of Gendhun Choekyi Nyima, The Panchen Lama. Jigme

Protest in Chicago



Photo by Michelle Ridlen, St. Louis Area Students for a Free Tibet

Six year old Tibetan boy, Kunsang, wearing Tibetan Flag during Chicago protest on March 10, 2004.

from their office windows. This banner remained in place for about 30 minutes before the staff of the parking garage took it down.

The protesters burned a PRC flag and then sang auspicious songs and the Tibetan National Anthem to demonstrate that Tibet belongs to Tibetans and not to China and to emphasize the group's displeasure with China's human rights record, and its treatment of Tibetans inside Tibet.

According to Larry Gerstein, President of the International Tibet Independence Movement, "China must realize that the truth about Tibet cannot be ignored or

distorted. China must also realize that the Tibet Movement will continue to thrive and get stronger throughout the world. The protesters here in Chicago are not unusual. Today, like everywhere else, you will notice that a majority of the protesters are young Tibetans and Tibet supporters taking off an entire day from work and/or school to express their deep displeasure with China's illegal grip on Tibet and its inhumane treatment of the Tibetan people. The aspirations of these protesters will eventually be fulfilled."

Norbu, son of Taktser Rinpoche, and Rinpo Tenzin (Peace for Tibet) will lead this 600+ mile, strenuous, journey through Maryland and the mountains of Pennsylvania and New York. Seventeen bikers will complete the ride. For reports and photographs and to support this project, visit www.rangzen.org.

Indiana Tibetan Centers

Tibetan Cultural Center

3655 Snoddy Road, Bloomington
www.tibetancc.com

Indiana Buddhist Center

263 North Madison Ave, Greenwood
www.enlightenedtree.com

**A Free Tibet!
A Free Tibet!
A Free Tibet!**

Support

Tibetan Owned

Indiana Restaurants

Anyetsang's Little Tibet

415 East 4th Street, Bloomington

Café Django

116 North Grant Street, Bloomington

Snow Lion Restaurant

113 South Grant, Bloomington

Looking for Rangzen

Gedun Rabsal
Editor, Rangzen Voice

My name is Gedun Rabsal. I am on this planet, but belong nowhere. My hope is to join this planet.

I was born in Amdo, Tibet in the year 1966. That year, Chairman Mao launched the Cultural Revolution. My fresh soul touched this movement where they used to say "all old is bad." Now I am looking forward to being a part of the new.

When I was seventeen, I saw unusual things: the traditions of Tibet. My people went to the mountains to make offerings to the Gods. My people hung prayer flags in front of their houses. My

people believed in a God called The Dalai Lama. I loved that.

But there was no room for me to do that in my home. I was called "the old brainy one." They checked every step I took on the mountains. They corrected my way if it was "wrong."

I left behind my loves and I ran away to India in to see my Living God. On the road, I heard thousand of cries from my people and saw thousands of their tears.

Now I am lucky enough to be able to see and hear my Living God. But this is not enough for me. I strongly realized that, I do not belong to this planet. The label of "refugee" sticks on my forehead. That label continues on my kid's forehead. My words have been described as delusions. My acts have

been described as barbarian.

Sometimes, my own mind told me that I am crazy. But I know I am looking for something. I am looking to see my old house where my mother gave me my first food. I am looking for the fresh air I breathed when I was first born. I am looking for the peace and harmony which my ancestors used to enjoy. I am looking for Rangzen--that is my birthright.

I will utter my Rangzen Voices until my last breath. I will teach my kids to speak Rangzen Voices as I do. I will make sure my grandkids cry out Rangzen Voices when they are grownup.

ITIM Funded Projects in 2003

Providing financial support is one way ITIM is committed to assisting Tibet and Tibetans.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Individual Tibetans | \$4,130 |
| Room for Remembrance | \$3,800 |
| Tibetan Monasteries | \$6,707 |
| Tibet Support Groups | \$750 |
| Tibetan children, families, schools, etc. | \$1,750 |
| Total | \$17,137 |

Support ITIM

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
email _____

Yes, I want to support ITIM! I have enclosed a check of:

- \$10
- \$20
- \$50
- \$100
- Other

Please make checks payable to **ITIM** and mail to:
ITIM
P.O. Box 592
Fishers, Indiana 46038 USA

ITIM is a 501c3 not for profit organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by U.S. law.

ITIM Committees and Meetings

The committees listed below meet on a regular basis in Indianapolis and also accomplish their missions through e-mail and phone correspondence. We welcome your participation in the work of these committees, even if you do not live in Indiana. Email rangzen@aol.com for further information about the work of these committees and about becoming a committee member and/or joining ITIM.

Program. Coordinates various educational, religious, and advocacy campaigns and programs including hosting monks and nuns.

Rangzen House. Coordinates vocational and educational training, employment and housing opportunities, and a host of social services for Tibetans who are interested in relocating or have already relocated to Central Indiana.

Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. Coordinates worldwide campaign to assist this Monastery and to secure the release of The Panchen Lama, Gendhun Choekyi Nyima.

General Meetings. ITIM meets at 7pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month in Indianapolis. Write rangzen@aol.com for details.