State Surveillance and Public Shaming of <u>Tibetan Protesters</u>

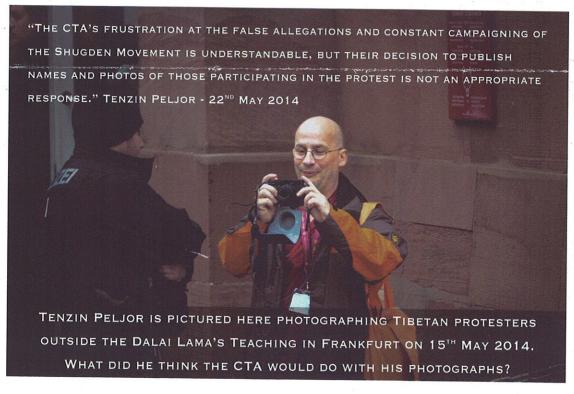
The images below show the Dalai Lama's senior assistant taking photographs of Tibetan protesters at a demonstration in Oslo. He is also pictured being cautioned by an undercover police officer about his behaviour.

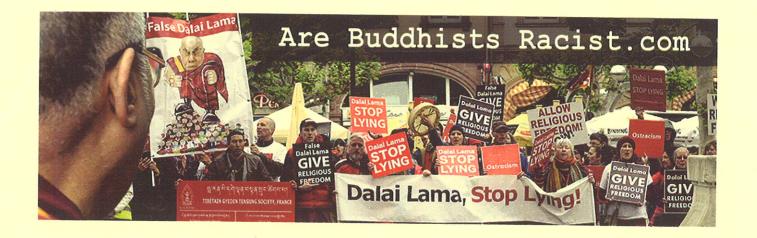
Also pictured is the Media Representative for the Deutsche Buddhistische Ordensgemeinschaft, **Tenzin Peljor (aka Michael Jäckel)** photographing Tibetan protesters at the demonstration in Frankfurt.

Shortly afterwards the Tibetan Government issued a list of Tibetans taking part in the demonstrations along with the photographs they had taken at the protests. This was the Tibetan Governments "name and shame" campaign to discourage Tibetans from taking part in protests.









Dear Sir/Madam,

During August 23rd - 26th Hamburg will host a visit from His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. It will also host hundreds of Buddhist protesters loudly chanting, "Dalai Lama, stop lying", and "Give religious freedom" in public demonstrations outside every teaching.

The protesters are demonstrating against a religious ban imposed by the Dalai Lama and his government in what guarantees to be an eye catching, unusual and engaging human interest story.

I am a freelance journalist from the UK and have been covering this conflict over the past year. I have prepared a website (www.AreBuddhistsRacist.com) which covers the main issues citing different independent experts and members of the Tibetan Government.

The website features:

- 90 Second Summary of the conflict
- Background to present day analysis
- · Extracts from, and links to, official Tibetan Government documents
- Evidence of Tibetan state surveillance of protesters including evidence of the media contact for the Deutsche Buddhistische Ordensgemeinschaft, Tenzin Peljor (aka Michael Jäckel) assisting with Tibetan state surveillance
- An International human rights expert explains why the Dalai Lama may face prosecution for human rights violations in the US under the same law that prosecuted Radovan Karadzic
- Debunking 7 common myths commonly reported in the media
- Proof that the Dalai Lama lied in an interview in Oslo when he said that there was no ban

The website is online and freely available. I am available should you wish for any further background or source information. I am also available for comment, interview or to assist in the preparation of copy. Images are also available - contact me for pricing/licence options.

Thanks for your interest.





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Would the real Dalai Lama please stand up



__(http://www.thelondoneconomic.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/lamaPIC.jpg)

By Indy Hack @IndyHack (https://twitter.com/IndyHack)

July 6th will mark the 79th birthday of the most iconic religious figure in current popular culture, a figure most often associated with peace, tolerance, non-violence and religious harmony, none other than Tenzin

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Boyhood: Life affirming

Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. Behind the carefully crafted and stage managed image of the world's most popular Buddhist monk lies a story of religious persecution and political oppression inflicted on the Tibetan people, not by the Chinese, but by the Dalai Lama himself.

For over 20 years the Dalai Lama has been trying to stop Tibetans from practising a traditional Buddhist Deity called Dorje Shugden, a practice he himself used to engage in. He has so far instituted an official ban on the practice, has forced monks out of their monasteries for refusing to give up the practice and most recently the Tibetan government has gone as far as to criminalise the practice.

Dorje Shugden is a traditional Buddhist protector Deity which was popularly practised within the largest school of Tibetan Buddhism, the Gelug school, as well as amongst approximately 30% of the Tibetan population in general, according to Thupten Wangchen of the Tibetan government. Prior to 1996 just under 2 million Tibetans practised Dorje Shugden in accordance with instructions they had received from their teachers, yet for reasons the Dalai Lama has failed to properly explain he officially banned it.

In 1996 the Tibetan government unanimously passed a resolution stating that, "the departments, their branches and subsidiaries, monasteries and their branches that are functioning under the administrative control of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile should be strictly instructed, in accordance with the rules and regulations, not to indulge in the propitiation of Shugden." And so began the Tibetan government's drive to abolish the practice of Dorje Shugden and exclude people from jobs and monasteries if they refused to give up their practice. As Tenzin Peljor of the German Buddhist Monastic Association said of this situation. "To enable a fair and democratic government in exile government members had to stop Shugden practice or to leave."

A further Tibetan government resolution passed in 1997 stated, "Particularly in the Three Great Monastic Universities of Sera, Gaden and Drepung, the restriction on Shugden practice should be kept up" It went on to state that, "Efforts should be made to ensure that Shugden practitioners do not receive tantric teachings."

This was more than just advice that the Dalai Lama was offering about which practices people should engage in, it was now a government campaign to cleanse its monasteries and departments of anyone who practised Dorje Shugden. Letters were sent to the various departments such as the Health Department making it clear that Dorje Shugden practitioners were to either stop their practice or they would have to leave their jobs – this was the Dalai Lama's view and it was ruthlessly enforced by his government. Throughout the monasteries monks were forced to swear an oath never to engage in the practice or they had to leave.

The resulting backlash from these draconian measures was a public appeal to try and force the Dalai Lama to reverse his ban, protesters gathered outside the Dalai Lama's teachings in Europe and the US trying to draw attention to the growing problems the ban was causing. However the Dalai Lama refused to back down and so the conflict grew as did the reports of people being persecuted, denied medical care and refused service in shops on the basis of their religious beliefs.

Rebecca Novick, an author of 6 books on Tibetan Buddhism and culture, referred to the large scale effects of the ban in a recent Huffington Post article saying, "Shugden practitioners gradually became social pariahs. Shopkeepers refused to sell to them, and landlords refused to rent to them. In 2008 the Tibetan leadership ordered the monasteries in South India to purge their populations of Shugden devotees. Monks who had formerly lived like brothers were now forbidden to talk to one another." At the same time the Dalai Lama continued to travel the world

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and preach to people about the benefits of religious tolerance and harmony, clearly words that he failed to follow in his own actions towards Dorje Shugden practitioners.

In March of this year the Tibetan Parliament in Exile unanimously passed a resolution recognising that Dorje Shugden practitioners are, "criminals in history". Whereas previously there had been an official ban of the practice it had now been criminalised, making it illegal to practice in the legislative eyes of the Tibetan government.

In May of this year the Dalai Lama visited Oslo, Norway to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of his Nobel Peace Prize and he was once again greeted by hundreds of protesters from Europe and the US which included western and Tibetan Dorje Shugden practitioners. During an interview at the Nobel Institute the Dalai Lama said, "I never made a decision banning...no question of banning", and several prominent scholars such as Robert Thurman have supported this position.

In an article for the Huffington Post professor Thurman stated that, "their chosen deity was not "banned" by the Dalai Lama, since he has no authority to "ban" what Tibetan Buddhists practice." However professor Thurman chooses to overlook the fact that at the time of the of the first official ban of the practice in 1996 the Dalai Lama was the head of state of the Tibetan Government in Exile. He had political jurisdiction over the exile Tibetan population and therefore had the means and the authority not only to ban the practice but to also ensure that the ban was enforced throughout the various departments and monasteries of the government.

Other supporters of the Dalai Lama have claimed that a ban could not have been enacted since the Tibetan exile population resides mostly in India and is therefore subject to the laws of India, they believe that the Tibetan government doesn't have the ability or authority to pass laws. This view however is not supported by the Tibetan government who state on their website that, "From 1991 onwards TPiE [the Tibetan Parliament in Exile] became the Legislative Organ of CTA [the Tibetan government], while Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission is the Judiciary Organ and the Kashag, Executive Organ said to be Three Pillars of Democracy. TPiE began to pass laws for the Tibetans in exile and the Charter for Tibetans in Exile is one of the first important legal document passed by the Parliament and approved by His Holiness on May 16th 1991".

Whereas the Dalai Lama states that there is no ban the facts aren't there to support this claim. According to the Oxford English Dictionary a ban is to, "officially or legally prohibit something". In 1996 when the Tibetan government passed a resolution instructing people not to engage in the practice of Dorje Shugden and then told people to stop or leave their jobs they had officially prohibited the practice. This was when the Dalai Lama was the head of the Tibetan government and was in charge of the Parliament – by all definitions he banned the practice officially in 1996. So when he said in 2014 that there was no ban he was either mistaken or purposefully being untrue, the latter of which is most likely.

In an effort to avoid discussing the issue it is often mired in religious doctrinal arguments, however if you leave those to one side and focus instead on the political activities of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government a situation of religious discrimination and government persecution comes sharply into focus. Not only are Tibetan Dorje Shugden practitioners banned from working for the government and studying in its monasteries they are also subject to state surveillance.

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During the Dalai Lama's teachings in Oslo, Norway on May 8th of this year a member of the Dalai Lama's entourage was pictured photographing Tibetan protesters. Later in Frankfurt, Germany Tenzin Peljor of the German Buddhist Monastic Association was likewise pictured photographing Tibetan protesters outside the Dalai Lama's teachings at St Peters Church. Less than a week later the Tibetan government issued a list of Tibetans who had participated in the protests. The list contains 34 people, alongside their photographs are their names, a brief summary of their activities and in one case they included the home address of a woman who had been protesting.

It is truly extraordinary for a democratic government to issue a public list of people who are peacefully protesting against its policy of religious discrimination. Peaceful protest is a right enshrined in the very heart of democracy, the idea that the government is there to represent the people. It is also a perceived human right arising out of the right to freedom of assembly and the right to freedom of speech. For a government to take such a hardline approach as to conduct a 'name and shame' campaign to try and suppress its citizens right to peaceful protest speaks volumes.

So on his 79th birthday the Dalai Lama will no doubt be lauded in the popular press for his contributions to world peace and religious harmony, however behind the smoke and mirrors of his public persona is the reality of a ruthless politician who is prepared to publicly lie, suppress religious freedom and violate human rights in order to compel his people to follow his demands. Not what you would expect from a Nobel

Peace Prize winning Buddhist Monk.













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