



# The Tokyo Protest Against the Exhibition,

# “Tibet: Treasure from the Roof of the World”

The International Alliance Against “Tibet: Treasure from the Roof of the World” Exhibition (IAATE) created the campaign website in June this year we have sent the director of the Ueno museum, Mr. Seiichi Mizuno, the Tibet exhibit committee and the cooperate sponsors of the exhibition to include the accurate modern Tibetan history (especially from the Chinese invasion in Tibet in 1949-50), so that the exhibition could help facilitate the steps towards resolving fifty years of Chinese oppression in Tibet.

Unfortunately, the response from the Tibet Exhibit Committee which represents all participated cooperate sponsors such as The Ueno Royal Museum, Daiko Advertising Inc., Asahi Newspaper, TBS, JAL and Nippon Express made us keenly aware that they have no intention to consider our requests by sending us a three sentence reply letter.

This exhibition is clearly controlled by the Chinese government, which is the current owner of those Buddhist artifacts in the exhibit.

The exhibition fails to include the accurate history of Tibet and gives a wrong impression to the visitors of the exhibition, many of whom share the Buddhist faith of the Tibetan people, and revere the exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama.

Therefore, we have no choice but to intensify our media outreach campaigns to tell the truth about the modern history of Tibet that has been intentionally hidden from this exhibition.

We sincerely ask the members of the public to draw more attention to the untold issue – Tibet’ s ongoing suffering under Chinese oppression. Over the past year, the Chinese government has engaged in a comprehensive cover-up of the torture, disappearances and killings that have taken place across Tibet since a wave of protests swept the plateau from March 10, 2008.

Beijing has also engaged in a virulent propaganda offensive against Nobel Peace Laureate the Dalai Lama.

## BACKGROUND BRIEFING – TIBET

This year On October 1, China celebrates its the 60th year-anniversary of the establishment of The People’ s Republic of China. This is also the 60th anniversary of Tibet’ s invasion by the PRC and it is likely to be marked in Lhasa by a display of military strength.

Before the occupation, Tibet was a nation with an established sovereign government, currency, postal system, language, legal system and culture. Since then, the Tibetan people have become marginalized in their own country, the Tibetan culture has been severely restricted, and tens and thousands of Tibetans have died as a result of the occupation, through torture, execution, suicides and starvation.

The Chinese government has systematically destroyed many monasteries that represent Tibet’ s cultural identity. Tibetans are arrested, tortured and imprisoned by simply reciting the words, “Free Tibet” or displaying the Tibetan national flag.

Religious freedom has been increasingly restricted; monks and nuns continue to be beaten, arrested and imprisoned for refusing to denounce the Dalai Lama, their spiritual and temporal leader.

Following a wave of overwhelmingly peaceful protests across the plateau in 2008, Tibet remains under de facto martial law.

These protests are the graphic illustration of the deep-seated frustrations of the Tibetan people and an indication of the failure of China’ s Tibet policy.

In April 2009, five Tibetans were sentenced to death (three suspended) and two to life imprisonment on charges of arson in Lhasa on March 14, 2008, which lead to worldwide condemnations of the sentences that urged China to review their due process by the international human rights organizations and the governments.

This is the only period in which protests have continued in Tibet despite the severity of the crackdown. Since January 2009 there have been more than 20 separate protestssome were solitary events and others involved hundreds of people. All have been peaceful.

The 14th Dalai Lama has established the Tibetan government in exile in the northern India and has been tirelessly working towards a peaceful solution with the Chinese government.

His non-violent approach to resolve conflicts and to find peaceful solutions have been applauded and led to his being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The envoys of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese officials have been engaged in a dialogue process to discuss the status of Tibet since September 2002. Unfortunately, the seven years of sporadic dialogues have not led to any substantive negotiations.

The talks have not met the expectations of the international community for a meaningful progress towards a mutually agreeable solution for Tibet.

**For Further information of our campaign:**

please visit: <http://seiichi-tibet.com/en/>

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