



財團法人正覺教育基金會
True Enlightenment Education Foundation

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

July 16, 2018

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

On May 29, 2018, the U.S. Department of State released the International Religious Freedom Report for 2017. Regarding its report on Taiwan, the contents in the “Executive Summary” and “Section III. Status of Societal Respect for Religious Freedom” include unilaterally ungrounded allegations made by the Dalai Lama Tibetan Religious Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Dalai Lama Foundation) to the True Enlightenment Practitioners Association and True Enlightenment Education Foundation (hereinafter referred to as True Enlightenment Group). Therefore, True Enlightenment Education Foundation believes that it is necessary to clarify these false allegations to ensure a correct understanding of the facts.

First, the Dalai Lama Foundation accused the True Enlightenment Practitioners Association being “Chinese-funded;” it was a severe allegation with no substantiated evidence. The True Enlightenment Practitioners Association founded in 1997, promotes Buddhism with Tathāgatagarbha as the core doctrine of the Three-Vehicle Bodhi established by Master Xuan Zang (玄奘大師). Later in 2008, True Enlightenment Education Foundation was established to engage in various social and educational works. And all fundings come from those who identify themselves with the goal and principles of the Foundation voluntarily, a receipt is issued for each donation, and the True Enlightenment Group undergoes financial audits by the government authorities of Taiwan every year. Additionally, all educational and related works are carried out by volunteers of the True Enlightenment Group with no salaries or subsidies whatsoever.

Secondly, the Dalai Lama Foundation alleged the True Enlightenment Practitioners Association for spreading the message of “Tibetan Buddhism is not real Buddhism” using publications and billboards. True Enlightenment Education Foundation would like to emphasize that, due to social and educational responsibilities, we ought to disclose to the general public the essential doctrinal difference between “Tibetan Buddhism” and real Buddhism and the esoteric nature of “Tibetan Buddhism,” and explain why “Tibetan Buddhism” is not real Buddhism. True Enlightenment Group urges with sincerity to throw light on the sacred teachings of the Buddha since Tibetan Lamas have mingled and muddled up the essence of “Tibetan Buddhism” with the genuine teachings of the Buddha. Furthermore, True Enlightenment Group has never received any supportive fundings from China nor been instigated by the Chinese government in any way; all disclosures of the esoteric teachings and practices of “Tibetan Buddhism” are out of earnestness and social responsibilities as Buddhists.

“Tibetan Buddhism” continues to promote the teachings of Lamaism today worldwide using Buddhist terms and make the world mistakenly believe that “Tibetan Buddhism” – Lamaism is Buddhism. However, their tenets have deviated from the authentic teachings of the Buddha. The plagiarism of Buddhist tenets found in Lamaism is like someone was breaching the “intellectual property rights” of genuine Buddhism. Hence, True Enlightenment Group, out of the spirit of seeking truth from facts, unveils the truth about the core essence of “Tibetan Buddhism” being that of Lamaism, not Buddhism. Moreover, True Enlightenment Group has never criticized “Tibetan Buddhism” other than its tenets nor harassed them in any way as accused by the Dalai Lama Foundation. True Enlightenment Group keeps its door open as always for all Buddhists, including Tibetan Lamas, to exchange ideas and have genuine discussions on the tenets of Buddhism. Please refer to the attachment for information about the nomenclature and the nature of Lamaism.

Thirdly, the Dalai Lama Foundation reported that “the Supreme Court had delayed making a ruling due to pressure from local Buddhists” in Taiwan. The hidden intent of smearing such an accusation against True Enlightenment Group is quite obscure. Taiwan’s judicial system is fully developed, and the society of Taiwan respects religious freedom completely. It is not possible that a judicial authority would delay a ruling because of opposing pressure from any person or organization, not to mention True Enlightenment Group has never exerted any pressure on the judiciary through any channels. On the contrary, does the Dalai Lama Foundation intend to use

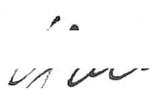
the U.S. international religious freedom report to influence or exert pressure on the juridical operation of Taiwan? If so, it is a case of dispute.

To sum up, True Enlightenment Education Foundation reiterates the following:

1. True Enlightenment Group never criticises "Tibetan Buddhism" other than its tenets nor harasses them as accused by the Dalai Lama Foundation.
2. True Enlightenment Group is not "Chinese-funded" and all sources of income are open to auditing; we welcome the State Department sending staff to verify it as well.
3. The door of True Enlightenment Group is wide open and welcome anyone to exchange ideas and have genuine discussions on the tenets of Buddhism.

We sincerely hope that the U.S. Department of State can provide an unbiased and objective report by including our stance in the 2018 International Religious Freedom Report. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 886-2-25956092 (after 5 pm local time) or via fax at 886-2- 25954493.

Sincerely,



Chien-Yuan Chen
Chairman

Enclosure

Cc: Mr. Raymond Greene, Acting Director, American Institute in Taiwan
The Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate

Attachment to the letter to Secretary Pompeo

1. Tibetan Buddhism used to be called the “religion of lamas” in the 18th century.

Dr. Katja Rakow, assistant professor of religious studies at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, quotes in her book that European philosophers have named the Tibetan religion as “the religion of lamas.” Rakow here exemplarily referred to: (1) Jean-Jacques Rousseau who mentions “religion of lamas” in his *The Social Contract, or Principles of Political Right* (published 1762) in Book 4 in Chapter 8 about civil religion, (2) Johann Gottfried Herder’s reference to “lamaic religion” in his *Ideas on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind* (published 1784) in Book 11 in Part 3, and (3) Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel who discusses the Lamaism in his *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion* (published 1830-33) on different parts. (Rakow, Katja: *Transformationen des tibetischen Buddhismus im 20. Jahrhundert: Chögyam Trungpa und die Entwicklung von Shambhala Training* [Transformations of Tibetan Buddhism in 20. Century: Chögyam Trungpa and the Development of Shambhala Training]. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 2014, p. 323)

2. Revelations from ex-insiders of Tibetan Buddhism:

(1) June Campbell

June Campbell, a female Scottish scholar, was a dakini (female consort) of Tibetan lama named Kalu Rinpoche for many years when he was almost eighty years old then. Campbell was under the death threat for disclosing the secret of being a dakini. Only after a few years of Kalu’s death, she dared to discuss and explore the truth and in 1996 she finally published the book – *Traveller in Space*.

(Campbell, June: *Traveller in Space: Gender, Identity and Tibetan Buddhism*. Revised Edition. Continuum, London, New York City, 2002.)

(2) Trimondi

Trimondi became a friend of the 14th Dalai Lama when he published several writings for the Dalai Lama in 1980’s. Later, when Trimondi was organizing an international conference and securing official invitation to Germany and Austria for the Dalai Lama, he began to seriously explore the essence of Tibetan Buddhism. In 1999, Trimondi published compilation of the research in a book in which he criticised the Dalai Lama for promoting Tibetan Tantra.

(Trimondi: *Der Schatten des Dalai Lama: Sexualität, Magie und Politik im tibetischen Buddhismus* [The Shadow of the Dalai Lama: Sexuality, Magic and Politics in Tibetan Buddhism]. 1. Aufl. Patmos, Düsseldorf, 1999.)

(*The Shadow of the Dalai Lama*: <http://www.trimondi.de/SDLE/Index.htm>)

(3) Christine Chandler

“Christine, A. Chandler, M.A.; C.A.G.S. licensed as a certified social worker, psychologist and family systems therapist, specializing in the areas of dysfunctional systems and sexual abuse. She spent nearly thirty years as a practicing Tibetan ‘Buddhist,’ six of those years taking care of the handicapped son of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, giving her access to the celebrity Tibetan lamas of the Kagyu and Nyingma sects and their western inner circles, as well as the back-stage of their theatre and deceptions, created for the western world. As she describes in the book that ‘Tibetan Buddhism’ is a guru-worshipping and thought-controlling cult. It disguises itself as representing the ‘highest teachings of the Buddha’ – the ‘diamond vehicle’ of vajrayana Tantric Lamaism, that uses the same techniques and engages in the same destructive behaviors found in the most dysfunctional of sexually abusive family systems: those that use religion to justify their abuse.” Christine Chandler disclosed the truth of Tibetan Tantric Buddhism – Lamaism, including raise fundraising (billions of dollars in donations) and sexual exploitation.

(Chandler, Christine: *Enthralled: The Guru Cult of Tibetan Buddhism*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, North Charleston, 2017.)

(<https://extibetanbuddhist.com/author/admin1234/>)

(<https://www.amazon.com/Enthralled-Guru-Cult-Tibetan-Buddhism/dp/1511543469>)

(4) According to the report “*Leader of Boulder-born Shambhala International apologizes for past relationships in which women felt ‘harm’*” in *The Daily Camera* by Carina Julig in June 26, 2018:

The leader of Shambhala International, apologizing for past relationships in which the participating women have expressed “feeling harm.” The organization also announced that there have been 12 cases of sexual misconduct by Shambhala officials between 2012 and 2017, including one charged of pedophilia and one sexual relationship with a student.

“I was sexually abused as a child by multiple perpetrators in our community,” Winn wrote in the original Project Sunshine report. “When I was a young adult, I spoke up about the community's sexual abuse problem and was demonized by my local Shambhala center, ostracized and forced to leave. The shocking truth is that almost all of the young people in my age group were sexually harassed and/or sexually abused.”

(http://www.dailycamera.com/news/boulder/ci_31971119/leader-boulder-born-shambhala-international-apologizes-past-relationships)

3. Relevant information on fundraising by the Dalai Lama

(1) According to the report “*Behind Dalai Lama's holy cloak*” in **The Age Newspaper Australia** By **Michael Backman** in **May 23, 2007:**

No mere spiritual leader, he was the head of Tibet's government when he went into exile in 1959. It was a state apparatus run by aristocratic, nepotistic monks that collected taxes, jailed and tortured dissenters and engaged in all the usual political intrigues. (The Dalai Lama's own father was almost certainly murdered in 1946, the consequence of a coup plot.)

The government set up in exile in India and, at least until the 1970s, received \$US1.7 million a year from the CIA.

The money was to pay for guerilla operations against the Chinese, notwithstanding the Dalai Lama's public stance in support of non-violence, for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. The Dalai Lama himself was on the CIA's payroll from the late 1950s until 1974, reportedly receiving \$US15,000 a month (\$US180,000 a year).

(Backman, Michael: *Behind Dalai Lama's holy cloak*. The Age, May 23, 2007.)

(<https://www.theage.com.au/news/business/behind-dalai-lamas-holy-cloak/2007/05/22/1179601410290.html>)

(2) According to the report “*Dalai Lama Secretary denies \$1 million paid to speak for Raniere; Yet Dalai Lama Trust founded 10 days after Albany speech with \$2 million in donations*” by **Frank Parlato** of **Artvoice** in **Jan. 27, 2017:**

The IRS return shows \$2.2 million in unconditional donations and royalties for 2009. It could be a coincidence, but it is peculiar that the Dalai Lama appears in Albany on May 6, 2009 and 10 days later the Dalai Lama trust is formed in the USA which gets \$2 million plus in donations etc.

(Parlato, Frank: *Dalai Lama Secretary denies \$1 million paid to speak for Raniere; Yet Dalai Lama Trust founded 10 days after Albany speech with \$2 million in donations*. The Artvoice, January 27, 2018.)

(<https://artvoice.com/2018/01/27/dalai-lama-secretary-denies-1-million-paid-speak-raniere-yet-dalai-lama-trust-founded-10-days-albany-speech-2-million-donations/#.Wy86ZVOFPEa>)

4. Other books disclose the essence of Tibetan Buddhism, such as:

- (1) Goldner, Colin: *Dalai Lama: Fall eines Gottkönigs* [Dalai Lama: The Fall of a God-King]. Alibri, Aschaffenburg, 1999.
- (2) Xiao, Pingshi: *Behind the Façade of Tibetan Tantra*. Vol 1. Wholesome Vision, California, 2017.
(Xiao, Pingshi: *Behind the Façade of Tibetan Tantra*. Vol 1-4. True Wisdom, Taipei City, 2002.)
- (3) Vivas, Maxime: *Behind the Smile: The Hidden Side of the Dalai Lama*. Long River Press, San Francisco, 2013.
(Vivas, Maxime: *Dalai Lama — Pas si ZEN. La face cachée du Dalai-Lama*. Max Milo Editions, Paris, 2011.)