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No Place To Call Home

Introducing myself is always a frustrating thing to do, especially when acknowledging them about my nationality. By looking at me, I look like a typical Asian girl; yes, I'm Asian, but to be specific, I'm Tibetan. However, I've noticed many people had no idea of my nationality, and I often get their confused faces to be like, "where is that?". The main reason people tend not to know is that there is no such country as Tibet anymore. For instance, let me give you a brief introduction to my country. Tibet was an independent country situated in the Himalayas. It has never posed a threat to any other nation and is considered the most religious country globally. It constituted a unique religious community marked by Tibetan Buddhism, including art and tradition. Moreover, it still speaks its language these days.

Many of you probably wonder who we lost our independence to; it was no other than our neighbor China. Tibetan relations with China were going strong, but problems started to form as the leader changed over time. Finally, the year 1951 marks the year we lost our freedom. Chinese soldiers were violently attacking the capital of Tibet, "Approximately 6,000 monasteries were destroyed, including many of the religion's most sacred sites." (Freedom Magazine), which made our leader, the Dalai Lama flee his own country for his good. What is Tibet now? Well, it's China that completely took over our nation. But in our hearts, Tibet is not considered China. Many of our people flee throughout those hard times. We can't even count how many Tibetans are in each country because we are all scattered worldwide. Even if we are not living in our own country, we still celebrate our national holidays like the lunar new year, and we get together in our community to spend time; older people tend to pray, young kids like to hang out with friends.

We may live our lives right now but can't even imagine what the older generation went through when the Chinese government invaded. It is always good to see your families and friends wear our traditional clothes to represent our tradition. Older generation people have a hard time adapting to new countries like this you can see on their faces how sad yet happy they are at the same time. Sad because we can be celebrating bigger back in our country if our country still existed with everyone and satisfied because of not going through those difficult times and us younger generation don't have to face those hardships.

Are some Tibetan citizens still living there? Yes, there are a decent amount of people still there, but they live under the Chinese government. Every Tibetan speaks a different type of Tibetan language after being influenced by Chinese, and they are also fluent in Chinese. Most of them are in Lhasa, which was the capital of Tibet. That area is highly patrolled by the Chinese because their government is against our tradition. "Let us pray for the long life of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, and for the wellbeing of Tibetans in Tibet, who continue to be discriminated against and oppressed in their own country by the Chinese." (an) Tibetan culture moreover our traditions are ban by Chinese government, for instance, Tibetan there have to celebrate our tradition lowkey because if they catch them, they will get punishment. I feel so bad for people still there, knowing it's their country, but someone else is ruling over them, and they have no choice but to live under them forcefully. For some who may not know but we are still fighting for our freedom. From what I understand, countries where there is a big community of Tibetans always gather together on march 10th for peaceful protest for our freedom. You may ask why march 10th out of all the dates, well March 10th, 1959 is Tibetan national uprising day, all Tibetans gathered together to protest peacefully, which was not successful because they were violently attacked by the Chinese government.

Us Tibetan stand for Hongkong and Uyghur Muslim in china. Chinese communist party wants to take control of the Hongkong government when their government is particle democracy, citizen in Hong Kong are very unhappy of Chinese government approaching their government. On the other hand, China is against Uyghur. At present, Uyghurs are facing the same conflict Tibetan faced a long time back. The inhumanity in the Chinese government is outrageous. It was reported that the Chinese had detained Uyghurs in camps for over the years till now. They have no contact outside; who knows what goes on inside the camp every day. There was some detail found of what happens inside the camp, “They are subjected to torture, including via such methods as waterboarding, as well as sexual abuse. They are forced to renounce Islam, eat pork, and drink alcohol, and they are surveilled around the clock to ensure that they do not pray.” (Shepp) It draws to our attention that they have completely lost their freedom to the Chinese government. Not only are they tortured, but the Chinese government is also going against their religions and forcing them to do something that is considered a sin in their religion. What have those people done to the Chinese for them to be in those situations? But unfortunately, I don’t know the answer for that, nor do people worldwide know the truth, and the Chinese government will never clarify that.

Every Tibetan and other going through the same problem deserves the right to protect their environment, practice whatever faith they choose, study their mother tongue without fear, and live free from Chinese government oppression. Therefore, in spite of the fact that we are still not able to gain our freedom, we will continue to fight for our freedom “FREE TIBET.”

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