

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-Winning Film Portrays the Devastation of Tibet
Through the Tragedy of a Child
Tibet's Stolen Child

Winner "Best Director" at the New York Intl. Independent Film Festival

Menlo Park, CA – The state of Tibet's religious freedom is the subject of a new documentary entitled *Tibet's Stolen Child*. Critically acclaimed filmmakers Robin Garthwait and Dan Griffin of Garthwait & Griffin Films have teamed-up to highlight the case of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, known to the world as the 11th Panchen Lama. One of Tibet's most important spiritual leaders, the young boy has been held by Chinese authorities under house arrest since 1995. He was taken at six years of age.

Featuring interviews with Nobel Peace Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Elie Wiesel, Jose Ramos Horta, Mairead Maguire, John Hume and others, they discuss the kidnapping of Tibet's young Panchen Lama and frame the China/Tibet conflict in relation to other struggles around the world.

East Timor leader Jose Ramos-Horta states, "When a permanent member of the Security Council engages in this kind of extortion, kidnapping, coercion of an enormously important symbol for an entire people, for an entire belief...I think that is very serious."

Narrated by Patrick Stewart, *Tibet's Stolen Child* explores the events leading up to the disappearance of the Panchen Lama and the subsequent news blackout. It also draws parallels between the Tibet-China conflict with struggles in Northern Ireland, East Timor and South Africa. Elie Wiesel shares the impact of being a refugee in the 20th Century. Mairead Maguire describes how her views on non-violence were formed after the violent deaths of relatives in Northern Ireland. Jose Ramos-Horta from East Timor warns of the impact of population transfer.

Tibet's Stolen Child draws a global connection to issues of human rights, cultural survival, religious oppression and conflict resolution. Viewers hear the perspective of this story through the lens of world leaders, scholars and religious figures that are role models for non-violence, compassion and social responsibility.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a man who has seen great social and political change states, "You don't negotiate with your friends. You don't negotiate with people who hold the same view as you...you talk about peace with your enemies, the ones you are fighting."

Preview copies of the film & full press are available

WHO: (Available for advance, on-air, or day of interviews)
Robin Garthwait, Director/Producer, Garthwait & Griffin Films, CA
Dan Griffin, Producer, Garthwait & Griffin Films, CA

BACKGROUND

(More extensive materials can be found
www.savetibet.org/panchenlama.)

In retaliation against the Dalai Lama's May 17, 1995 identification of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima as the 11th Panchen Lama, the Chinese government placed the then 6-year old and his family under house arrest.

Chinese authorities admit to holding him in protective custody but have denied all requests for access to the boy despite repeated attempts. To further assert their authority, the Chinese government has replaced this young boy with their own "selection" for Panchen Lama.

The Chinese government continues to refuse to allow access to or information about the young Panchen Lama who just spent his 12th birthday under detention by Chinese authorities on April 25, 2001.

- Garthwait & Griffin Films specializes in corporate and non-profit film, video and multimedia projects.