


FOLLOWED, SURVEILLED, HACKED,  
JAILED, SILENCED... ARE YOU NEXT?



# STATE OF CONTROL

COMPLEX FILMS AND MANN-MADE PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH MBA ART AND ENTERTAINMENT RAINSTORM ENTERTAINMENT AND CUT-OUT ENTERTAINMENT AND PRESENTED BY  
MOVING PICTURE INSTITUTE PRESENT A FILM BY CHRISTIAN JOHNSTON AND DARREN MANN EDITED BY JOE DIETSCH MO STOEBE DAVE DIGGZ CO-EDITED BY DOUG BLUSH, A.C.E.  
ORIGINAL MUSIC BY GUNNARD DOBOZE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARY AKHLAGHPUR DENISE BOHDAN THOR HALVORSSON TED LILLY RUSSELL LONG STEPHEN NEMETH PRODUCED BY CHRISTIAN JOHNSTON  
DARREN MANN MARY AKHLAGHPUR DENISE BOHDAN ADAM JARET STEVEN G. KAPLAN P.G. MORGAN CINEMATOGRAPHY BY CHRISTIAN JOHNSTON AND DARREN MANN  
DIRECTED BY CHRISTIAN JOHNSTON AND DARREN MANN





**STATE OF CONTROL** is a bold, feature-length documentary that follows two American filmmakers as they travel undercover in Tibet during one of the most precarious times in the country's recent history. As they document the leading Tibetan activists who are risking their lives to peacefully protest against the oppression by the Chinese government's police state, the filmmakers uncover a David and Goliath battle with high-stake consequences.

The journey takes them through embroiled areas of India and Nepal, then finally into the most conflicted regions of Tibet during a full-scale media blackout. While undercover in Tibet, a dangerous cat-and-mouse game unfolds as secret police begin 24 hour surveillance of the filmmakers. The stakes become heightened when all of their moves are followed, leading to hotel room break-ins, equipment theft, threats of arrest, and ultimately putting the filmmakers' very lives in danger. Forced to flee and return to America, the filmmakers learn the hacking and surveillance they experienced in Tibet has followed them home.

They quickly discover that not only themselves but Google, as well as several U.S. corporations, are facing the world's largest and most sophisticated internet attack in history, reaching as high up as the White House. All of this places the Tibetan existence on the precipice of a high-tech war that they lack the technology and resources to fight. Searching for light at the end of the tunnel, the filmmakers recently joined forces with the activists featured in the film for an unprecedented Times Square media event to help the voice of the Tibetans reach a world stage.



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### **CHRISTIAN JOHNSTON - CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**

Christian Johnston is an award-winning director/producer/writer, and founder of Complex Films. His films include: September Tapes (Sundance 2004), True Life: Trial by Fire, Blackline: The Beirut Contract. Johnston has extensive film-making experience including filming in active war zones including the first western film shot in Lebanon in 35 years, and filming September Tapes in Afghanistan just six months after 9-11. Johnston is currently producing "The Three Hikers" the exclusive feature documentary about the three American hikers recently freed from prison in Iran.

### **DARREN MANN - CO-DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**

Darren Mann is an award-winning, Emmy-nominated director, producer, and founder of Mann-made Pictures. His films include An Ox's Tale, FightF\*ckPray, Becoming Barack, and Holiday in Rwanda. In addition to films, Darren has directed/produced hundreds of hours of original programming for such networks as National Geographic, Discovery, FOX, VH-1, and ESPN. Mann is currently directing/producing a Motown-themed documentary. His work has led him to such remote regions as Antarctica, Africa, Nepal, the jungles of Central and South America, and the Arctic Circle.



### **DENISE BOHDAN - PRODUCER**

Denise is president of Cut-Out Entertainment, a film finance and production company. Denise worked closely with Amnesty International and other NGOs to secure asylum of Lhamo Tso and her children, who are featured in the film. Cut-Out Entertainment also recently World Premiered THE THREE HIKERS to critical acclaim at AFI Docs Festival in Washington DC. The film follows the incarceration and release of the three American hikers unjustly jailed in Iran. Denise is currently in development on a number of other projects for film and TV, including IMPACT, about concussion syndrome in the NFL, and THE BRIDGE, a narrative about a struggling musician, which stars members of iconic rock bands Def Leppard, Thin Lizzy, the Pixies and Twisted Sister. Denise has over 20 years legal experience and currently assists indie film producers, writers and other artists in her Entertainment practice.



### **STEPHEN NEMETH - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Stephen Nemeth producer credits include Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Why Do Fools Fall in Love, Dogtown and Z Boys, What We Do Is Secret, You and I, and Radio Free Albemuth. Nemeth executive produced the documentary War Dance about Ugandan child soldiers which was nominated for a 2008 Academy Award for Best Documentary and which won the Director's Award at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival; Fuel, about alternative energies, which won the Audience Award at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival; Flow about the world's water crisis, which also competed at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and was screened at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions.



### **P.G. MORGAN - WRITER/PRODUCER**

P.G. Morgan is known for Revenge of the Electric Car, and Roman Polanski: Odd Man Out. He won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing for Non-Fiction Programming for the HBO/BBC film Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired. The film premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and at the Cannes Film Festival. Morgan is currently working on a Showtime documentary on the life of comedian Richard Pryor.







### **DOUGLAS BLUSH - CO-EDITOR**

Doug Blush has worked in documentary filmmaking for over fifteen years, as a director, editor, producer and DP. His previous editorial work includes WORDPLAY, IOUSA, DUMBSTRUCK, BEER WARS, OUTRAGE, and FREAKONOMICS, and more recently, he edited and co-wrote THESE AMAZING SHADOWS on Independent Lens and edited and executive produced SUPERHEROES on HBO. THE INVISIBLE WAR, which he edited and associate produced, won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at Sundance 2012. His new documentary OF TWO MINDS, which he co-directed, edited and shot, will premiere in 2012.

### **TENZIN SELDON - TIBETAN ACTIVIST**

Tenzin Seldon is the daughter of a Tibetan refugee and a native of Dharamsala, India - a town nestled in the highlands of the Indian Himalayas where many Tibetans live in exile. She immigrated to the U.S. with her mother. Seldon is a highly regarded young Tibetan-American activist, and Rhodes Scholar whose personal hacking story launched the Google China conflict. She earned a B.A. in comparative studies in race and ethnicity and a minor in feminist studies from Stanford University and is currently working to earn an M.Sc. in refugee and forced migration studies, and an M.Sc. in modern Chinese studies from Oxford.



### **MOVING PICTURE INSTITUTE**

Founded in 2005 by human rights advocate Thor Halvorssen, the Moving Picture Institute is unlike any other foundation dedicated to promoting the ideal of liberty. At MPI, we believe that film, more effectively than any other medium, can bring the idea of freedom to life. In keeping with that belief, we are working to ensure that film becomes a center of genuinely democratic art in the coming years. Our goal is to guarantee that film's unique capacity to give shape to abstract principles—to make them move and breathe—is used to support and promote liberty.

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### **SOCIAL MEDIA:**

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#### **TWITTER:**

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### **ON THE WEB:**

#### **OFFICIAL SITE**

[www.stateofcontroldoc.com](http://www.stateofcontroldoc.com)

#### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/news-andupdates/china-must-release-tibetanfilmmaker-20100107>

#### **REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS**

<http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-barometer-journalists-imprisoned.html?annee=2015>

#### **FILMING FOR TIBET**

[www.filmfortibet.org](http://www.filmfortibet.org)

#### **TIBETAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY**

<http://www.tchrd.org>

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# CONTRIBUTING INTERVIEWS



## **DMITRI ALPEROVITCH - CO-FOUNDER/CTO CROWDSTRIKE**

Dmitri Alperovitch is a renowned computer security researcher and thought-leader on cybersecurity policies and issues. He is a Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer at CrowdStrike, a security startup focused on helping enterprises and governments protect their intellectual property and secrets against cyberespionage threats. As former Vice President of Threat Research at McAfee, he led the company's Internet threat intelligence analysis, correlation, and visualization. In 2010 and 2011, Alperovitch led the global team that investigated and brought to light Operation Aurora, Night Dragon and Shady RAT groundbreaking cyberespionage intrusions, and gave those incidents their names.

## **TALA DOWLATSHAHI - REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Tala Dowlatsahi is the Senior Adviser, US Operations for Reporters Without Borders. Ms. Dowlatsahi has served as a spokesperson for nearly 10 years. She also serves as the United Nations Bureau Chief for Talk Radio News Service. She is the recipient of multiple awards for her documentaries and films on social issues. Her most recent web television project in partnership with LIVESTREAM focused on global social entrepreneurs. The show was entitled: Reporters Uncensored (RUTV). Dowlatsahi has been featured on CNN, CNNI, BBC, Al Jazeera, and many other networks and affiliates. Her previous work includes assignments with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and the United Nations Development Program. Dowlatsahi has traveled to countries from Afghanistan to Uganda to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to name a few.



## **GORDON CHANG - AUTHOR: THE COMING COLLAPSE OF CHINA**

Gordon Chang is a lawyer, author, and television pundit, best known for his book *The Coming Collapse of China* (2001), in which he argued that the hidden non-performing loans of the "Big Four" Chinese State banks would likely bring down China's financial system and its communist government and China would collapse in 2006. In *Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes On the World* (2006). Chang is a regular guest on the John Bachelor Show that is syndicated to 194 stations and has millions of listeners worldwide.

## **FRANK SMYTH - CPJ ADVISOR TO JOURNALISTS IN HIGH CONFLICT REGIONS**

Frank Smyth is a journalist who has specialized in armed conflicts, organized crime and human rights, reporting from nations including El Salvador, Guatemala, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Jordan and Iraq where, in 1991, he was imprisoned for 18 days. Smyth has reported, produced and filmed for CBS News radio and television, and written for publications including *The Nation*, *The Village Voice*, *The New Republic*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *World Policy Journal*, *Foreign Affairs* and *Harvard International Review*. Smyth has testified before the Organization of American States, the International Commission of Jurists, and the U.S. Congress.







### **MADELINE EARP - COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS**

Since joining CPJ in 2007 as the Asia research associate, Earp has spoken on Chinese media issues in the U.S. and Japan and conducted a reporting mission to Hong Kong and mainland China. She previously worked at Human Rights in China in New York. Earp graduated with a master's degree in East Asian studies from Harvard University in 2006. She was awarded a one-year British Association for Chinese Studies scholarship to Cheng Kung University in Taiwan in 2004, and studied Chinese at Zhejiang University in China in 2000. She has a bachelor's degree in English literature from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in her native U.K. She became a senior researcher in 2010.

### **E.J. HILBERT - FORMER FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AGENT**

E.J. Hilbert is the President of Online Intelligence at CrunchBase. Prior to leading OI, Hilbert was MySpace's Director of Security Enforcement. During that time MySpace noted a 98% decrease in spam and phishing attacks against its users. Hilbert is also a former Cyber and Counterterrorism Special Agent for the FBI. During his time in the FBI, he was the case agent for the numerous investigations to include the identity thieves who utilized the website Carderplanet.com, the computer intrusion of the FBI.gov email servers and he brought treason charges against American Al Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn.



### **TENZIN TSUNDUE - TIBETAN ACTIVIST**

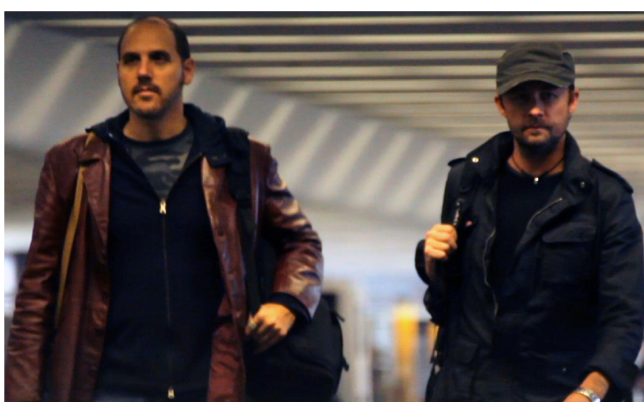
A poet born in an Tibetan refugee camp in India after his parents fled Tibet during the 1959 uprising against China's occupation, Tenzin Tsundue joined Friends for Tibet in 1999. His first book of poems, "Crossing Borders," won the Outlook-Picador Award for Non-Fiction in 2001. He gained global notoriety in 2002 when he was arrested for unfurling a banner reading "Free Tibet" at an event when PRC Premier Zhu Rongji was speaking. Tsundue has staged many similar protests since and wears a red band around his head, saying he will only take it off when Tibet is finally free.

### **RALPH ECHEMENDIA - CYBER-SECURITY EXPERT**

Ralph Echemendia is a world-renowned instructor, ethical hacker and security expert, who has appeared on KTLA, CNN, FOX News and Animal Planet, as well as the pages of USA Today and Forbes magazine. He has been involved in the development of internationally recognized computer security courseware and certifications and key security technologies that power various premier e-commerce sites as well as worked on some of the largest movie and music leak cases in the industry. Mr. Echemendia is described as a security samurai whose experience began at the age of 14 with ham radio, phone phreaking and the old bulletin board systems. His interest in technology eventually led to jobs in the computer industry. For over 14 years, he has conducted security audits and penetration tests, and consulted for numerous organizations around the world, including the United Nations, Oracle, and various hospitals and financial institutions. He has worked with Oliver Stone in the making of Savages and performed as Wiley in said film released in July 2012. Mr. Echemendia is a gifted technologist and now provides consulting to the film and music industry.

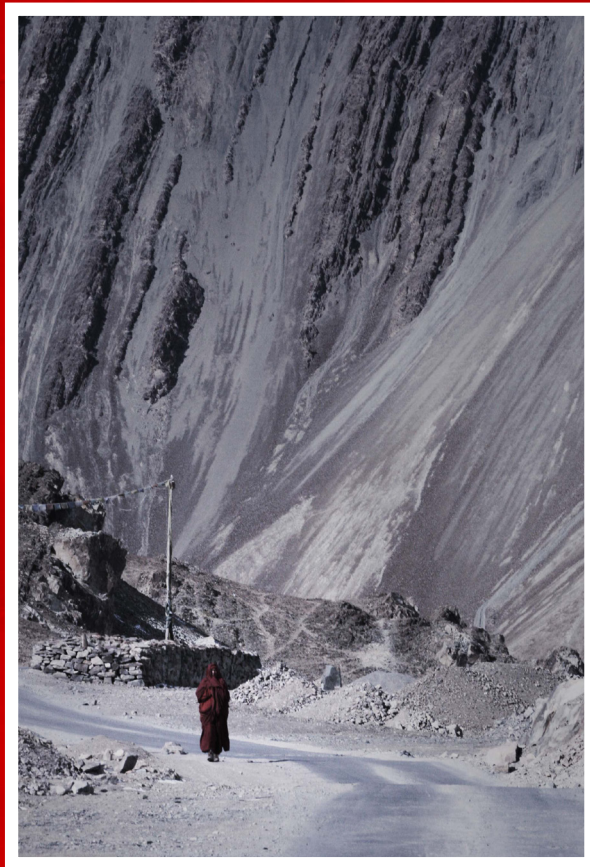






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