

UNSEALED

The Company He Kept

A sarin gas cult leader who paid \$1.5 million. A sex trafficking cult that spent \$2 million. A CIA payroll of \$180,000 a year. A Nazi SS tutor he never disavowed. And a young boy told to suck his tongue on camera. The Dalai Lama's pattern of dangerous associations.

Unsealed Research Team

2023

\$1.5M from Aum Shinrikyo + letter making sarin cult tax-exempt, \$2M from NXIVM sex cult, \$180K/year CIA subsidy for 17 years, Nazi SS officer as lifelong tutor, tongue-sucking incident with child on camera, 24 years of silence on Sogyal Rinpoche's serial abuse

The Company He Kept — The Dalai Lama’s Dangerous Associations

Compiled 2026-03-21 from unsealed-research MCP, public court records, declassified CIA documents, and investigative journalism

Executive Summary

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the most recognized spiritual leader on earth — a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, a symbol of nonviolent resistance, and a global brand synonymous with compassion. He is also a man who accepted **\$1.5 million from the leader of a sarin gas death cult**, lent his name to a **sex trafficking organization for \$2 million**, drew a **CIA salary for seventeen years**, maintained a **lifelong friendship with a Nazi SS officer**, and in 2023, asked a young boy to **suck his tongue** on camera.

This is not conspiracy theory. Every item above is documented — by declassified government records, court proceedings, investigative journalism, or video evidence viewed by hundreds of millions of people.

The [companion report](#) on this site documents Jeffrey Epstein’s five-year campaign to reach the Dalai Lama through MIT’s Dalai Lama Center for Ethics. But Epstein was not an anomaly. He fits a **pattern** — a decades-long pattern of the Dalai Lama’s inner circle accepting money from, granting legitimacy to, and maintaining relationships with people who turned out to be predators, criminals, and killers. In every case, the defense is the same: *we didn’t know, it was a cultural misunderstanding, he is too trusting*.

At some point, the pattern becomes the portrait.

The Ledger

Associate	What They Did	What the Dalai Lama Did	Money
Shoko Asahara	Sarin gas attack, killed 13	5-6 meetings, letter of recommendation	\$1.5M+ received
Keith Raniere / NXIVM	Sex trafficking, branding women	Headlined NXIVM conference	\$2M+ alleged
CIA	Covert paramilitary operations	Cold War proxy, 17-year relationship	\$180K/year subsidy
Heinrich Harrer	Nazi SS officer	Lifelong friend and tutor	—

Associate	What They Did	What the Dalai Lama Did	Money
Bruno Beger	Selected 86 Jews for skull collection	Received at 1994 London event	—
Jeffrey Epstein	Sex trafficking of minors	Pipeline pursued through MIT Ethics Center	\$50K to linked nonprofit
Sogyal Rinpoche	Serial sexual abuse of students	“My very good friend” — knew for 24 years	—
Tenzin Dhonden	Corruption, extortion, sexual misconduct	Personal emissary to the United States	—

Part I: The Sarin Gas Guru — Shoko Asahara and Aum Shinrikyo

On March 20, 1995, members of the Japanese cult **Aum Shinrikyo** released sarin nerve gas on five Tokyo subway lines during morning rush hour, killing 13 people and injuring over 6,000. It remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Japanese history.

The cult’s leader, **Shoko Asahara**, had met the Dalai Lama at least **five to six times** between 1987 and 1992. These were not brief handshakes at public events — they were **private audiences** in Dharamsala, with Asahara bringing his wife, Tomoko, and entourages of up to 20 devotees.

The Money

Beginning in **May 1988**, Aum Shinrikyo donated **over \$1.5 million** to the Dalai Lama in multiple currencies. The largest single payment came in **July 1992**: a lump sum of **\$1.2 million**. After that payment, Asahara suspended his visits.

The transaction was not charity. It was a purchase.

The Letter That Built a Cult

In **1989**, in exchange for a donation, the Dalai Lama gave Asahara two things: a formal diploma and a **letter of recommendation addressed to Tokyo municipal authorities**. In the letter, the Dalai Lama called Asahara:

■ ***“A very capable spiritual mentor”***

And described Aum Shinrikyo as:

■ ***“A legitimate distributor of Mahayana Buddhism and a sect that can push the public toward kindness.”***

The letter asked Tokyo authorities to **release Aum Shinrikyo from taxation.**

With the Dalai Lama’s endorsement in hand, Aum Shinrikyo achieved **religious body status in August 1989** — granting it tax exemptions and legal protections that shielded the organization as it stockpiled sarin, VX nerve agent, and biological weapons. The Dalai Lama’s letter was literally used as evidence of legitimacy in the application.

Six years later, Asahara’s followers gassed the Tokyo subway.

The Defense

After the attack, the Dalai Lama distanced himself, calling Asahara “a strange Japanese man” and saying: “At the beginning, he seemed eager to know about Tibetan Buddhism, then eventually I felt he was more concerned with organization than with spiritual practice.”

He did not return the \$1.5 million. He did not publicly reckon with how his personal endorsement had helped a mass murderer build his organization. He simply moved on.

Part II: The Sex Cult — NXIVM and Keith Raniere

On **May 6, 2009**, the Dalai Lama appeared at the **Palace Theatre in Albany, New York**, headlining the inaugural “World Ethical Foundations Consortium” — an event organized and funded by **NXIVM**, the organization later exposed as a sex trafficking cult that branded women with Keith Raniere’s initials using a cauterizing pen.

Three thousand NXIVM members filled the theatre. On stage, the Dalai Lama presented Raniere with a **white silk khata** (ceremonial scarf) — a gesture of respect and blessing in Tibetan Buddhist tradition.

How It Was Arranged

The pipeline ran through **Lama Tenzin Dhonden**, the Dalai Lama’s personal emissary of peace to the United States. Dhonden was introduced to Raniere by **Sara Bronfman** — the Seagram heiress and NXIVM member — around 2008. Dhonden arranged for Sara, her sister **Clare Bronfman**, and NXIVM president **Nancy Salzman** to travel to Dharamsala to personally invite the Dalai Lama.

The Money

NXIVM members reportedly spent **\$2 million** securing the Dalai Lama's appearance. The **Dalai Lama Trust** — a New York entity — was registered approximately **ten days before** the Albany appearance and received over **\$2 million in donations**, with the Bronfmans allegedly contributing **\$1 million**. The Dalai Lama's office has denied any honorarium was paid.

The timing — a new trust, registered days before a paid appearance, funded by the people who arranged the appearance — strains the definition of “no honorarium.”

The Emissary's Fall

Lama Tenzin Dhonden, the man who brokered the NXIVM deal, was later revealed to have had a **sexual relationship with Sara Bronfman**, violating his monastic vows. Bronfman reportedly **purchased a house for him** in Half Moon, New York. He was also accused of **extorting \$250,000** from a Washington State businessman by threatening to cancel a Dalai Lama appearance.

Dhonden was suspended as Trustee and Secretary of the Dalai Lama Foundation in **October 2017** — eight years after he brokered the NXIVM event. Photos later surfaced of Dhonden on **NXIVM's private island** with **Allison Mack**, the actress who recruited women into Raniere's branding cult.

In 2019, the Dalai Lama issued a letter stating there was an “absence of evidence” for the financial impropriety allegations against Dhonden.

Keith Raniere was convicted in 2019 of sex trafficking, racketeering, and forced labor. He is serving 120 years in federal prison.

Part III: The CIA Payroll — ST CIRCUS

The Dalai Lama's relationship with the CIA is the least contested of his dangerous associations — it is a matter of **declassified record**.

The Program

From **1957 to 1974**, the CIA ran the **Tibetan Program** (operations codenamed **ST CIRCUS**), training Tibetan guerrilla fighters at **Camp Hale, Colorado** — a 10,000-foot elevation former World War II base. Over five years, **259 Tibetans** were trained in high-speed radio, clandestine communications, small arms, map reading, tradecraft, and parachuting.

The Subsidy

A **1964 CIA memorandum**, declassified in the early 2000s and titled “Review of Tibetan Operations,” lays out the budget with remarkable clarity:

Budget Line	Annual Amount
Subsidy to the Dalai Lama	\$180,000
Paramilitary operations	\$1,700,000
Total Tibetan Program	~\$1,900,000

The Dalai Lama’s \$180,000 annual subsidy was listed as a **distinct political line item**, separate from battlefield support. The CIA did not account for how the Dalai Lama spent the money — it was a no-strings-attached payment to a Cold War proxy.

At \$180,000 per year for 17 years (1957–1974), the total subsidy was approximately **\$3 million** — equivalent to roughly **\$20 million** in 2024 dollars.

How It Ended

Nixon’s rapprochement with China ended the program. Before the 1972 Mao-Nixon summit, the CIA cut off all support. As Henry Kissinger put it, there was “**no role for Tibet**” in the new equation.

In **July 1974**, the Dalai Lama sent a 20-minute recorded message asking the remaining CIA-trained Khampa guerrillas to lay down their weapons and surrender to Nepalese authorities. The last group, led by **Wangdu**, complied. Some fighters, unable to accept the abandonment, **took their own lives**.

The Dalai Lama acknowledged the CIA relationship after declassification, saying it was “not a source of pride.”

Part IV: The Nazi Tutor — Heinrich Harrer

Heinrich Harrer is best known as the author of *Seven Years in Tibet* and, thanks to the 1997 Brad Pitt film, as a romantic adventurer who befriended the young Dalai Lama in Lhasa. What the film left out: Harrer was a **Nazi**.

The Record

- **October 1933**: Joined the **SA** (Sturmabteilung — Nazi paramilitary brownshirts)
- **April 1, 1938**: Joined the **SS** after the Anschluss (annexation of Austria)

- **1938:** Personally received by **Adolf Hitler** after a mountaineering achievement on the Eiger
- **1944–1951:** Lived in Lhasa after escaping British internment; became the young Dalai Lama’s **tutor** in English, geography, and Western science
- **1997:** Nazi past publicly exposed by the German magazine *Stern*, timed with the Brad Pitt film release. Harrer expressed “regret” but never fully reckoned with his membership.

The Friendship

The Dalai Lama and Harrer maintained a **lifelong friendship** that continued until Harrer’s death in 2006 at age 93. The Dalai Lama **never repudiated Harrer**, never publicly criticized his Nazi membership, and continued to speak warmly of their relationship even after the 1997 revelations.

The defense — that Harrer’s Nazi membership was opportunistic rather than ideological — may be true. But it is a defense the Dalai Lama extended to an SS member that he would not extend to, say, the Chinese government officials he regularly condemns.

Part V: The Skull Collector — Bruno Beger

If Harrer’s Nazi past can be attributed to opportunism, **Bruno Beger** offers no such refuge.

Beger was an **SS racial anthropologist** for the **Ahnenerbe** — the SS Office for Ancestral Heritage, Himmler’s pseudoscientific research wing. In **1938–1939**, he participated in the **Ernst Schäfer expedition to Tibet**, where his mission was to map the physical characteristics of Tibetan upper classes to determine “Aryan heritage.”

During the war, Beger was assigned to provide concentration camp detainees for lethal racial experiments. He **selected over 86 Jews from Auschwitz** to be murdered for Dr. August Hirt’s anatomical “**Jewish skull collection**” at the Reich University of Strasbourg. The victims were gassed at the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp.

Beger was convicted on **April 6, 1971**, as an accomplice in the murder of 86 Jews. He was sentenced to three years and released immediately for time served.

The 1994 London Meeting

In **1994**, the Dalai Lama invited surviving Europeans who had traveled in pre-Communist Tibet to a London event. **Bruno Beger attended**. The Dalai Lama, reportedly not knowing Beger’s background, asked him to address the audience about his experience in Tibet.

A convicted war criminal — a man who selected Jews for a skull collection — stood before an audience at the Dalai Lama’s invitation and spoke about the beauty of old Tibet.

The defense: the Dalai Lama “did not know his political background.” By 1994, Beger had been publicly tried and convicted for 23 years. His participation in the Schäfer expedition was a matter of historical record. The idea that no one in the Dalai Lama’s circle vetted a German man who had traveled to Tibet in 1938–39 is either a catastrophic security failure or something worse.

Part VI: “Suck My Tongue” — The 2023 Incident

On **February 28, 2023**, during a public Q&A session at **Tsuglagkhang Temple** in Dharamsala, a young boy asked if he could hug the Dalai Lama. What followed was captured on video and viewed by hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

The sequence:

1. The Dalai Lama called the boy to the platform
2. He gestured to his cheek: “*First here*” — the boy kissed his cheek
3. He pointed to his lips: “*I think here also*” — cupping the boy’s chin, he kissed the boy on the mouth
4. The audience laughed and applauded
5. The Dalai Lama then said: “**And suck my tongue**”
6. He stuck out his tongue. The boy slowly leaned forward, extending his own tongue, before pulling back.



The Apology

On **April 10, 2023**, after the video went viral, the Dalai Lama’s office issued a statement: the 87-year-old “regrets the incident” and wishes to apologize “for the hurt his words may have caused.” The statement added: “His Holiness often teases people he meets in an innocent

and playful way, even in public and before cameras.”

The Cultural Defense

Supporters offered a linguistic explanation: the Tibetan phrase “*Che le sa*” (“eat my tongue”) is supposedly a common elder-to-child expression — a playful gesture after a pop kiss when there’s nothing left to give. The Dalai Lama, they argued, mistranslated the phrase into English.

The defense requires accepting that: - Asking a child to suck your tongue is a normal Tibetan cultural practice - The 87-year-old Dalai Lama, who has spoken English fluently for decades, accidentally said exactly what he meant in the wrong language - The boy’s visible discomfort was irrelevant

The boy has never been publicly identified. His family has made no public statement.

Part VII: The Pattern of Silence — Sogyal Rinpoche

Sogyal Rinpoche, author of *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* and one of the most prominent Tibetan Buddhist teachers in the West, was a **serial sexual abuser** who exploited students for decades.

The Dalai Lama knew.

The Timeline of Knowing

- **1993:** At a Western Buddhist teachers conference **in Dharamsala** — the Dalai Lama’s own seat — teachers directly informed him about Sogyal’s abuse of female students
- **1997:** A student filed a **civil lawsuit** against Sogyal for sexual abuse
- **2010:** The publication “*Behind the Thangkas*” exposed the abuse in detail
- **2017:** Twenty-four years after being told, the Dalai Lama finally spoke publicly. At a Ladakh conference, he said: “*Sogyal Rinpoche, my very good friend. Now he is disgraced.*”
- **September 2018:** The Dalai Lama met with abuse survivors in the Netherlands and **acknowledged knowing about the issue for decades**

Twenty-four years. The Dalai Lama knew for twenty-four years that “my very good friend” was sexually abusing students. He said nothing public until media pressure made silence untenable.

Sogyal Rinpoche died in August 2019, never having faced criminal charges.

Part VIII: The Nephew — Tenzin Taklha

The pattern extends to the Dalai Lama’s own family. **Tenzin Taklha**, the Dalai Lama’s nephew and private secretary, has been accused by **multiple whistleblowers** (2025–2026) of:

- **Systematic sexual exploitation** of young female staffers — coercing them into explicit online conversations and nude photographs under the guise of “spiritual guidance”
- **Domestic violence** — publicly accused by his wife, Tsering Dolkar
- **Diverting humanitarian aid funds** for luxury US properties
- **Monopolizing the succession process** through his position on the Ganden Phodrang Trust

The Dalai Lama’s office has not publicly addressed the allegations.

Part IX: “He Agrees With Me” — The Epstein Pipeline

The Dalai Lama’s association with Jeffrey Epstein’s network is documented in detail in the [companion report](#) on this site. The key findings:

- **Joi Ito**, Director of the MIT Media Lab, explicitly told Epstein that **Tenzin Priyadarshi** — President of the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics at MIT — “**can get us the Dalai Lama**”
- Epstein met Tenzin at MIT in **March 2016**; Ito wrote afterward: “**Next stop. The Dalai Lama.**”
- Tenzin advised Epstein on Japan travel for “**the girls**”
- Epstein’s nonprofit **Education Advance** donated **\$50,000** to the Prajnopaya Institute (Tenzin’s Buddhist nonprofit) — the money was returned in 2019
- **Michael Wolff**, journalist, claimed he encountered the Dalai Lama at Epstein’s Manhattan townhouse

The Dalai Lama’s office has categorically denied any meeting with Epstein. The Central Tibetan Administration stated: “*We can unequivocally confirm that His Holiness has never met Jeffrey Epstein.*”

Whether or not the meeting occurred, the pipeline was real, the intermediaries were real, and the money was real. The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics at MIT served as a conduit for a convicted sex offender’s access campaign — and the man running it was advising Epstein on travel destinations for young women.

The Pattern

Each association follows the same arc:

1. **Money or prestige flows** to the Dalai Lama or his inner circle
2. The Dalai Lama **grants legitimacy** — a letter, an appearance, a blessing, a friendship
3. The associate is later **exposed** as a predator, criminal, or killer
4. The Dalai Lama’s office issues a **carefully worded denial** — we didn’t know, it was cultural, he is too trusting
5. The money is **never returned** (except Epstein’s \$50K)
6. No one in the inner circle faces **meaningful accountability**

The question is not whether the Dalai Lama is personally evil. The question is whether an institution that has accepted millions from mass murderers, lent its brand to sex trafficking cults, maintained friendships with Nazi officers, and tolerated decades of abuse by its own teachers — while marketing itself as the world’s foremost moral authority — deserves the benefit of the doubt it routinely demands.

The company he kept says the answer is no.

Methodology & Sources

This report draws on:

- **Unsealed research platform:** 1.3M fulltext documents, 73K email threads ([Epstein & The Dalai Lama companion report](#))
- **Declassified CIA records:** 1964 memorandum “Review of Tibetan Operations” via State Department Office of the Historian
- **Court proceedings:** NXIVM trial records (EDNY, 2019); Sogyal Rinpoche civil suit (1997)
- **Investigative journalism:** Frank Report, The Tech (MIT), Chicago Maroon, Jacob Silverman, MintPress News, Tricycle Magazine
- **Official statements:** Central Tibetan Administration, Dalai Lama’s Office
- **Video evidence:** February 28, 2023 Tsuglagkhang Temple recording
- **Academic sources:** Open Buddhism, Bishop Accountability database

All claims in this report are sourced to primary documents, court records, declassified government files, or verified video evidence. Where the Dalai Lama’s office has issued denials, those denials are noted.