

UNSEALED

Epstein & The Dalai Lama

A convicted sex offender's five-year campaign to reach the world's most revered spiritual leader. The MIT Media Lab pipeline, the billionaire Tibet connection, and the Buddhist monk who became the bridge.

Unsealed Research Team

2017

5-year pursuit of Dalai Lama access, Joi Ito promised 'He can get us the Dalai Lama,' Tenzin Priyadarshi met Epstein at MIT and advised on Japan travel for 'the girls,' Dalai Lama on Epstein's 92nd St Y speaker list, Woody Allen + Dalai Lama lunch proposed through Tom Pritzker

Epstein & The Dalai Lama — Research Dossier

Compiled 2026-03-21 from unsealed-research MCP (1.3M fulltext corpus + 73K email threads + person directory + financial records)

Executive Summary

Jeffrey Epstein spent at least five years — from late 2014 through 2017 — systematically working to engineer a personal meeting with the Dalai Lama. The unsealed documents reveal this was not idle name-dropping but a **coordinated, multi-channel campaign** that leveraged MIT’s institutional prestige, a billionaire’s independent Buddhist connections, and a network of intermediaries who understood exactly what was being asked.

The primary pipeline ran through the **MIT Media Lab**, where Director **Joi Ito** introduced Epstein to **Tenzin Priyadarshi** — a Venerable Buddhist monk who served as President & CEO of **The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT**. Ito explicitly told Epstein that Tenzin “can get us the Dalai Lama,” and after arranging their first in-person meeting in March 2016, wrote: **“Next stop. The Dalai Lama.”**

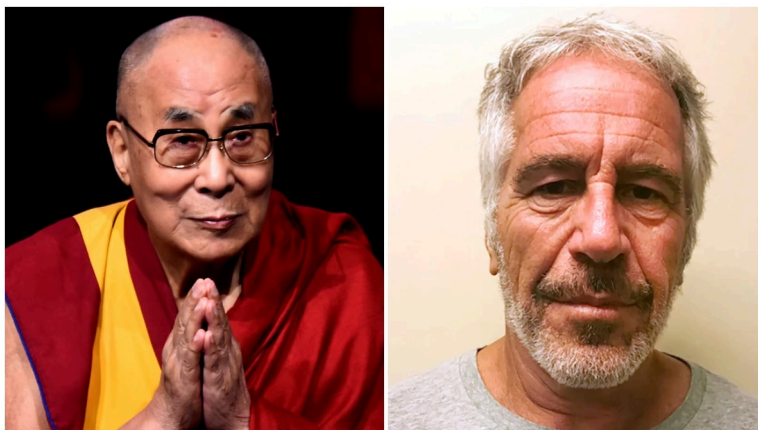
A secondary channel ran through **Tom Pritzker**, the Hyatt Hotels billionaire who traveled extensively in Tibet and maintained his own independent relationship with the Dalai Lama. Epstein attempted to leverage Pritzker’s access by proposing a lunch where the Dalai Lama would meet **Woody Allen** — “could be a memorable event,” Epstein wrote.

The documents do not conclusively prove that Epstein met the Dalai Lama. What they prove is something arguably more revealing: **the architecture of the attempt** — how a convicted sex offender weaponized institutional relationships, Buddhist organizations, and an ethics center named after the Dalai Lama himself to pursue access to the world’s most visible moral authority.

Key Evidence

Evidence	Source
“fun dinner would be dali lama. woody allen chomsky? lets do it”	Epstein to Joi Ito, May 10, 2015 — EFTA02366667
“He can get us the Dalai Lama”	Joi Ito re: Tenzin Priyadarshi — EFTA02366667
“im working on the dalai lama for dinner”	Epstein to Soon Yi Previn, May 11, 2015 — EFTA02502449

Evidence	Source
“Next stop. The Dalai Lama.”	Joi Ito after Epstein met Tenzin, Mar 17, 2016 — EFTA02394442
“would you find it amusing to have dali lama meet woody alien for lunch”	Epstein to Tom Pritzker, Jul 7, 2015 — EFTA02337000
Tenzin advising Epstein on Japan travel for “the girls”	Sep 12, 2016 — EFTA02451001
Dalai Lama on Epstein’s 92nd St Y speaker list	EFTA00583603
Retreat center shopping with Tenzin, “ask Moshe to help redo interiors”	Nov 9, 2017 — EFTA00965309



Part I: Early Threads — Tibet, Placebo, and the First Mentions (2010–2014)

Before the explicit campaign to reach the Dalai Lama began, Epstein’s orbit was already orbiting Tibetan Buddhism from multiple directions.

Tom Pritzker’s Tibet

Tom Pritzker, the Hyatt Hotels executive chairman and billionaire, was one of Epstein’s most consistent correspondents — and independently one of the Western world’s most connected figures in Tibetan Buddhism. Pritzker traveled repeatedly to Tibet and maintained a personal relationship with the Dalai Lama.

On **August 4, 2010**, Pritzker wrote Epstein casually: *“leaving for Tibet in 6 hours”* ([EFTA00735312](#)). Two years later, on **July 15, 2012**: *“Just landed after a month in China - Tibet. Will call after*

I settle in” (EFTA00939189). These were not tourist trips — Pritzker is a serious Buddhist practitioner whose connection to the Dalai Lama would later become a channel Epstein tried to exploit.

Epstein Claims Dalai Lama Work

In a **November 2010** email thread with Harvard’s Ted Kaptchuk — a placebo researcher introduced by Dr. Woodson Merrell — Epstein casually dropped his own claimed connection:

“*Ted, as you may know, I funded the Placebo work with Ann Harrington probably fifteen years ago. I was one of the originals on the MBB committee, being best friends with Henry Rososyskly. Then sent Ann to China, then more particle physics, **Dalai Lama, with Kosslyn**. What is a good time to call?*”

— EFTA02522800

The reference is to **Stephen Kosslyn**, the Harvard psychologist who later became dean of the Minerva Schools. Epstein was claiming to have done work involving the Dalai Lama through Kosslyn — a claim whose specifics remain unverifiable but which established that Epstein had been positioning himself near the Dalai Lama’s intellectual orbit for years before the 2015 push.

The Mind & Life Institute

The **Mind & Life Institute** — co-founded by the Dalai Lama, neuroscientist Francisco Varela, and entrepreneur Adam Engle — sits at the intersection of Buddhist contemplative practice and Western science. In **August 2011**, a Mind & Life newsletter announcing Engle’s retirement and a presidential search was forwarded to **Lesley Taylor**, Epstein’s assistant (EFTA02184408). That this landed in Epstein’s inbox suggests someone in his circle was tracking the organization — an organization whose leadership would have provided another potential bridge to the Dalai Lama.

The October 2012 Event

On **October 20, 2012**, a young woman in Epstein’s orbit texted him:

“*I’m goin now to the event w dalai lama then bday dinner*”

Epstein was furious — not about her attending a Dalai Lama event, but that she hadn’t asked if he needed her help first. The next day, she apologized:

“sorry for that didn’t check my email since yesterday morning You know that I dont have an Internet in my phone, why didn’t u call me or text me in my phone if u need me? About the event I told u almost a month ago on island that dalai lama is coming and I want to go there to see him. But I can skip this event if u need my help today”

Epstein’s response: “I did call, ..go to event, This is bullshit.”

— [EFTA01766112](#), [EFTA00668827](#), [EFTA00945869](#)

The exchange reveals several things simultaneously: that people in Epstein’s circle were independently drawn to the Dalai Lama’s public events, that the young woman had told Epstein about it “on island” (his private island), and that Epstein’s controlling behavior extended to demanding she prioritize his needs over attending a spiritual event. The reference to “Ukrainian girls” in the same thread places this exchange in the context of the trafficking operation.

The Dalai Lama at MIT (October 2014)

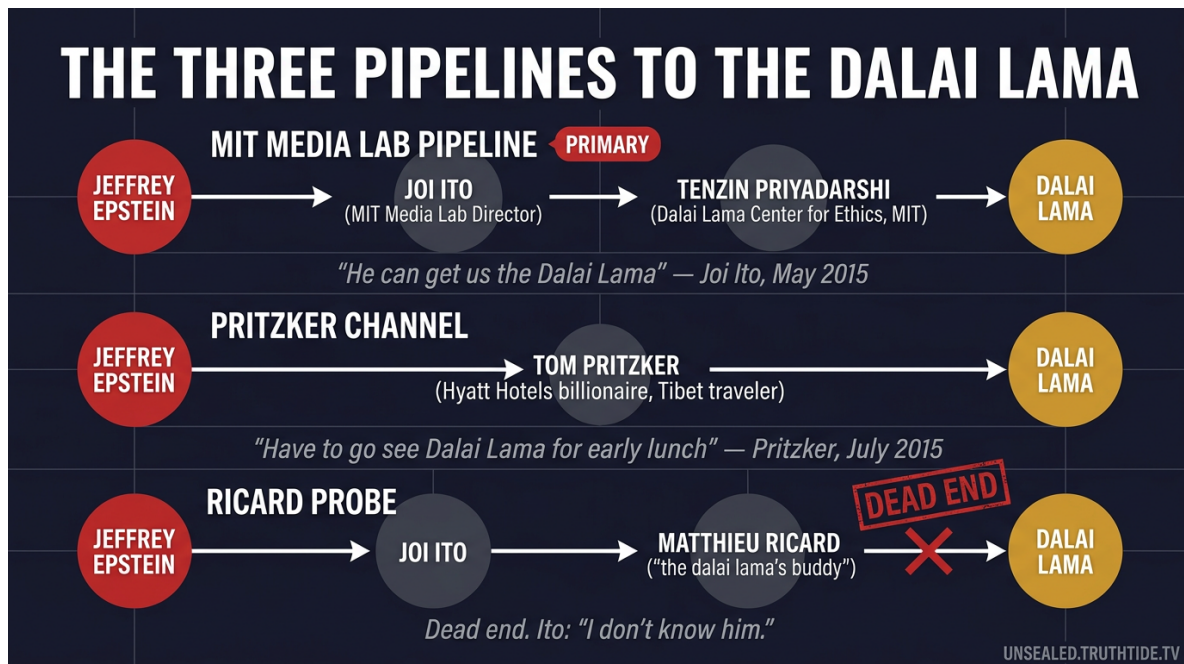
On **October 31, 2014**, AI researcher **Joscha Bach** emailed Epstein from MIT:

“currently giving a presentation at MIT, will be free in about 30 mins, until 12 (when the Dalai Lama comes)”

— [EFTA00999417](#)

The Dalai Lama was visiting MIT — the institution where Epstein had been cultivating relationships for years through Joi Ito and the Media Lab. Whether Epstein was present for this visit is unclear, but Bach’s casual mention to him suggests Epstein was known to be interested.

Part II: The Campaign Begins — “He Can Get Us the Dalai Lama” (2015)



In May 2015, Epstein’s interest crystallized into an active pursuit.

The Joi Ito Exchange

On **May 10, 2015**, Epstein emailed **Joi Ito**, Director of the MIT Media Lab:

“fun dinner would be dali lama. woody allen chomsky? lets do it”

Ito’s response, three minutes later, was not surprise but a **strategy briefing**:

“Yes. First step would be to meet Tenzin. His student who runs the Dalai Lama center and is now a Director’s Fellow at the Lab and going to start the ‘ethics initiative’ at the Media Lab. We’re working on some cool things like a meeting about cognitive machines and man. I think you’ll probably like him. **He can get us the Dalai Lama.**”
 “BTW, having lunch with Seth Lloyd this week.”

Epstein responded: “ok, Im looking at the democratization of money, a more formal version of cigarettes as currency in prisons.”

Ito then sent a Wikipedia link to [Tenzin Priyadarshi](#): “When you figure out some sort of thing that we can implement technically, let me know and I’ll try to do it at MIT.”

— [EFTA02366667](#)

The casualness is striking. Ito treated Epstein's request to access the Dalai Lama as a straightforward ask — route through Tenzin, use MIT as the institutional wrapper, create a plausible intellectual project as cover. The mention of Seth Lloyd — a quantum physicist who later acknowledged receiving \$225,000 from Epstein — anchors this conversation in the broader pattern of Epstein's MIT entanglements.

"Im Working on the Dalai Lama for Dinner"

The next day, **May 11, 2015**, Epstein emailed **Soon Yi Previn** — Woody Allen's wife:

┆ *"im working on the dalai lama for dinner."*

— [EFTA02502449](#)

The recipient is significant. Epstein's dream dinner — Dalai Lama, Woody Allen, Noam Chomsky — was not hypothetical. He was actively working multiple channels simultaneously: Joi Ito for the Dalai Lama pipeline, Soon Yi Previn for the Woody Allen connection. This was event planning, not daydreaming.

The Tom Pritzker Play

Two months later, on **July 7, 2015**, Epstein tried to leverage Tom Pritzker's independent Dalai Lama access.

The thread begins with Epstein proposing "friday night, dinner with woody?" to Pritzker. Then:

┆ ***Epstein:*** "would you find it amusing to have dali lama meet woody alien for lunch on sat. could be a memorable event"

Pritzker: "OK, let me go to work on it. What time? Have to go see Dalai Lama for early lunch. I will be up by 8."

Then, a reversal:

┆ ***Pritzker:*** "Can't do it. Will explain."

— [EFTA02337000](#)

The exchange is remarkable for what it reveals about Pritzker's relationship with the Dalai Lama — "Have to go see Dalai Lama for early lunch" is a standing appointment, not an aspiration. And Pritzker's initial willingness to "go to work on it" suggests he considered brokering a Dalai Lama–Woody Allen meeting through Epstein to be within the realm of

possibility. His subsequent reversal — “Can’t do it. Will explain” — suggests either logistical issues or, more provocatively, that someone raised concerns about Epstein’s involvement.

Matthieu Ricard

On **December 25, 2014** — Christmas Day — Epstein had probed another avenue, emailing Joi Ito:

“*have you mathew ricard, the dalai lamas buddy*”

Ito replied: “*I don’t know him. Is he your friend?*”

— [EFTA02356895](#)

Matthieu Ricard is a French Buddhist monk, photographer, and author, known as the “happiest man in the world” — and one of the Dalai Lama’s closest Western associates. Epstein was probing every possible bridge.

Part III: The Tenzin Connection — MIT’s Buddhist Gatekeeper (2016–2017)

Who Is Tenzin Priyadarshi?

The Venerable Tenzin Priyadarshi is a Buddhist monk, born in India, who became a Director’s Fellow at the MIT Media Lab and founded the **Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT**. He later became **Director of the Ethics Initiative** at the Media Lab. His full signature block, as it appeared in his emails with Epstein:

The Venerable Tenzin Priyadarshi Director Ethics Initiative | MIT Media Lab President & CEO, The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT

Joi Ito described Tenzin to Epstein in glowing, almost reverential terms:

“*Also, Tenzin (Mother Theresa/Dalai Lama/Buddhist Monk) will be in town.. teaching my awareness class with him from 10AM. Would love for you to connect with him at some point.*”

— [EFTA00833787](#), February 20, 2016

The March 2016 Meeting

On **March 15, 2016**, Joi Ito arranged a formal meeting between Epstein and Tenzin at the MIT Media Lab. The subject line: “**JE and TP.**”

Ito: “What time are you coming in Thursday? Can you meet 9-10AM with Tenzin Priyadarshi if he’s free? Might be more interesting than the awareness class.”

Epstein: “yes”

Ito: “At Media Lab OK or somewhere else?”

Epstein: “Media lab ok”

The meeting took place in **Room 245** at the Media Lab. The email chain included Epstein, Tenzin, Joi Ito, **Lesley Groff** (Epstein’s longtime assistant), **Heather deManbay**, and notably **Neri Oxman** and **Jeremy Rubin** in the extended thread.

— [EFTA02468991](#), [EFTA02365465](#), [EFTA02355857](#)

Two days later, on **March 17, 2016**, Epstein thanked Ito: “Thanks for today.”

Ito’s response:

“Thank YOU. It was fun watching [you] talk to Tenzin. Next stop. The Dalai Lama.”

— [EFTA02394442](#)



This is the most explicit statement in the entire corpus: Joi Ito, Director of the MIT Media Lab, confirming that the **purpose** of introducing Epstein to the head of the Dalai Lama Center was to create a pipeline to the Dalai Lama himself. “Next stop” implies a deliberate escalation strategy — meet Tenzin first, then use that relationship to reach the Dalai Lama.

Travel Advice and “The Girls”

By September 2016, the Epstein-Tenzin relationship had moved well beyond formal MIT meetings. On **September 12, 2016**, someone in Epstein’s circle asked:

▮ *“what was the other city that tenzin thought the girls should see?”*

Epstein relayed the question: *“he said there was another place outside of kyoto.”*

Tenzin responded directly: *“arashiyama (20 mins outside of Kyoto)”*

— [EFTA02451001](#)

The exchange is brief but loaded. A Buddhist monk — the President of the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics — was providing **travel recommendations for Epstein’s “girls”** in Japan. The context of who these “girls” were, given everything else documented in Epstein’s communications, makes this correspondence deeply uncomfortable.

The Retreat Center

In **November 2017**, Tenzin and Epstein were collaborating on real estate. Tenzin emailed Epstein about a retreat center in **Concord, Massachusetts**:

▮ *“Dear Jeffrey, Hope you are well. Joi conveyed your thoughts on the house :) I agree that the exterior is ugly and I am not a big fan of New England design. The spot is nice and we were going to ask **Moshe** to help redo interiors and exteriors to suit our purposes and aesthetics including a zen garden, etc.”*

— [EFTA00965309](#)

“Moshe” is likely **Moshe Safdie**, the world-famous architect. That Epstein was offering opinions on a meditation retreat center — and that Tenzin was deferring to those opinions and proposing a celebrity architect to execute them — suggests a financial relationship beyond mere acquaintance.

The Donation That Wasn’t Big Enough

On **December 11, 2017**, Epstein forwarded a message to Joi Ito:

▮ *“Tenzin said that he couldn’t publish a ‘thank you’ because the donation wasn’t big enough”*

Tenzin’s response to this forwarded complaint:

“Glad you think so :) I didn’t want to be the one to convey this to them ;)”

— [vol00009-efta00927522-pdf](#)

The context is murky but revealing. Someone had made a donation — presumably to an organization connected to Tenzin or the Dalai Lama Center — and Tenzin had determined it wasn’t substantial enough to warrant public acknowledgment. That Epstein was involved in this conversation suggests he was either the donor or brokering the donation. Either way, money was flowing.

The Synergy Forum

On **November 27, 2017**, a redacted woman in Epstein’s circle wrote:

“This friend, I mentioned before, takes me tomorrow to Synergy forum. Hope to see Dalai Lama there and this guy, who directed ‘Putin’s interview.’”

In a separate version of the same thread, Epstein told her:

“you can tell the dali lama that you meeet tensini at MIT. his good freind”

— [EFTA02562658](#), [EFTA02562342](#)

Even in late 2017, Epstein was deploying his Tenzin connection as social currency — coaching a woman to name-drop Tenzin to the Dalai Lama as a way of establishing credibility. The misspelling of “tensini” and “freind” is vintage Epstein. The strategy is not.

Part IV: The Dalai Lama on Epstein’s Lists

The Dalai Lama didn’t just appear in Epstein’s correspondence as an aspiration — he appeared on **operational planning documents**.

The 92nd Street Y Speaker List

A document titled “**92nd St Y potential list**” ([EFTA00583603](#)), prepared by **Barnaby Marsh** in December 2014, contains 70 names organized by field — with a peculiar annotation tracking **eye color** (“blue eyes — 41”):

Name	Field	Eye Color
Dalai Lama	RELIGIOUS LEADER	—

Name	Field	Eye Color
Elon Musk	INNOVATION TECH	blue
Danny Kahneman	PSYCHOLOGIST	blue
Craig Venter	GENETICS PIONEER	blue
Ray Kurzweil	FUTURIST	—
Peter Thiel	INNOVATION	—
Joi Ito	INNOVATION TECH	—
Martin Nowak	COOPERATION	blue
Sergey Brin	INNOVATOR	—

The list is bizarre for many reasons — the eye-color tracking most of all — but its relevance here is that the **Dalai Lama** appears alongside Epstein’s known associates (Joi Ito, Martin Nowak, Sergey Brin) on what appears to be a recruitment or event-planning list for a prestigious New York cultural institution.

Part V: “He Agrees With Me” — Epstein’s Instrumentalization

Epstein didn’t just want access to the Dalai Lama — he wanted to **claim alignment** with him.

On **June 14, 2013**, someone sent Epstein an article: “*Dalai Lama: Women Better Leaders Because Of Potential For Compassion; Next Dalai Lama May Be Female*” with the note: “**You probably put him up to this!**”

— [EFTA02520637](#)

Epstein forwarded the article to multiple contacts with his own gloss: “**he agrees with me.**”

— [EFTA01759381](#)

The thread in which Epstein claimed the Dalai Lama “agrees with me” about women is the same thread where, four days later, Epstein described himself as being “*on my island in the caribbean, with an aquarium full of girls*” and where he told the same correspondent that some women are “*like shrimp — you throw away the head and keep the body.*”

The juxtaposition is the point. Epstein simultaneously claimed philosophical alignment with the Dalai Lama’s views on women’s leadership while treating women as disposable commodities. The Dalai Lama was a prop — a spiritual authority whose endorsement Epstein could claim by proximity.

Part VI: The Tibet Periphery

Beyond the direct Dalai Lama pursuit, Epstein's orbit touched Tibetan Buddhism from multiple angles:

Tibet House NYC

On **December 8, 2011**, Epstein received an invitation from **Chocolate Sauce Books** to a “Tibet House Tea Party” at **Tibet House** in New York City, celebrating the launch of the “**Now I Know**” Collection — a children's book series endorsed by the Dalai Lama ([EFTA02547855](#)). Epstein continued receiving marketing emails from this publisher through at least 2015, each invoking the Dalai Lama's endorsement.

A **Thai royal, Mom Luang Rajadarasri Jayankura**, mentioned the same books to Epstein in December 2012: “*The Dalai Lama ‘now I know’ by Sally Devorgine, chocolate sauce book*” — suggesting they were a known commodity in Epstein's social circle.

“Breakfast in Tibet”

On **January 11, 2010**, someone in Epstein's network wrote: “*Breakfast in Tibet on Saturday*” — likely a reference to a New York restaurant or event, not an actual trip to Tibet ([EFTA00766211](#)). But the casual Tibetan framing reflects how the spiritual brand circulated in Epstein's world.

A Buddhist Woman in Epstein's Circle

On **February 22, 2012**, a young woman texted Epstein:

“*Morning, my sneaky dog! Sorry I got a voicemail, I was in Tibet temple in NJ, 3 hours of praying and today is my Buddhist's new year)))*”

— [EFTA00719489](#)

She addresses Epstein as “sneaky dog.” She's a practicing Buddhist, spending three hours praying at a Tibetan temple in New Jersey. And she's in what the broader document record reveals as a controlling relationship with Epstein. The thread continues with Epstein asking “*did you get copy of the work authorization form?*” — an immigration document, suggesting this woman was a foreign national whose legal status may have been entangled with Epstein.

Part VII: The Ethics Paradox

The deepest irony in the entire corpus may be this: Jeffrey Epstein’s primary pipeline to the Dalai Lama ran through **The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT**.

The Center’s mission, per its website and Tenzin Priyadarshi’s institutional role, was to promote “*ethical and humane values*” and “*transformative learning*.” Tenzin moderated an **AI & Governance** conference session on **Ethics** in April 2016 — just weeks after meeting Epstein at the Media Lab — alongside scholars discussing the moral implications of artificial intelligence (EFTA00606022).

The conference agenda, found in Epstein’s email, lists the participants:

Session	Moderator	Panelists
Ethics	Tenzin Priyadarshi	Colin Allen, Milind Tambe, Joshua Greene, Maria Gini
Labor + Financial Markets	Iyad Rahwan	Erik Brynjolfsson, Andrew McAfee, Michael Wellman
Regulatory Mechanisms	Sandy Pentland	Julie Shah, David Parkes
Future Perspectives	Joi Ito	Manuela Veloso, Reid Hoffman

Joi Ito introduced the event. Reid Hoffman participated. Tenzin moderated the ethics session. And the man who funded it — or at least orbited its funding — was a convicted sex offender who described women as shrimp whose heads you throw away.

When the MIT Media Lab’s relationship with Epstein became public in 2019, Joi Ito resigned. Tenzin Priyadarshi’s role received far less scrutiny. The documents suggest it deserves more.

Methodology & Sources

This report was compiled from the following databases within the Unsealed research platform:

- **Full-text document corpus:** 1,304,657 DOJ and House Oversight documents — 196 hits for “Dalai Lama,” 161 for “Tibet,” 65 for “Tenzin Priyadarshi”

- **Email archive:** 73,994 threads — 71 threads matching “Dalai Lama,” 5 directly involving Tenzin Priyadarshi
- **Person directory:** 3,228 entries — Dalai Lama listed with alias “Tenzin Gyatso,” category “other,” sourced from wikipedia-epstein-list
- **Financial records:** 49,770 transactions — no direct Dalai Lama or Tibet-related financial flows found
- **Knowledge graph:** 934 entities, 2,200 relationships — no Dalai Lama entity node

All EFTA document references link to primary sources on the Unsealed platform. Email threads can be read in full at unsealed.truthtide.tv/email/{doc_id}. Full-text documents at unsealed.truthtide.tv/doc/{doc_id}.

Key Individuals

Person	Role in Dalai Lama Pursuit
Joi Ito	MIT Media Lab Director; primary facilitator; promised “He can get us the Dalai Lama”
Tenzin Priyadarshi	President, Dalai Lama Center for Ethics at MIT; met Epstein March 2016; travel advisor; retreat center collaborator
Tom Pritzker	Hyatt Hotels chairman; independent Dalai Lama relationship; attempted Woody Allen–Dalai Lama lunch broker
Woody Allen	Intended guest for Epstein’s proposed Dalai Lama dinner
Soon Yi Previn	Received “im working on the dalai lama for dinner” email from Epstein
Matthieu Ricard	“The dalai lama’s buddy” — Epstein inquired about connecting through Ito
Joscha Bach	AI researcher; mentioned Dalai Lama’s MIT visit to Epstein casually
Barnaby Marsh	Compiled 92nd St Y list including Dalai Lama for Epstein

What the Documents Do Not Show

- **No confirmed Epstein–Dalai Lama meeting.** Despite the five-year campaign, no document in the corpus records an actual meeting between Jeffrey Epstein and the Dalai Lama.
- **No financial transactions** labeled as Dalai Lama–related appear in the 49,770 credit card and wire records.
- **No Dalai Lama entity** appears in the knowledge graph, suggesting the relationship was aspirational rather than operational.

What the Documents Do Show

- A **systematic, multi-year, multi-channel pursuit** of access to one of the world's most revered spiritual leaders
- **Institutional capture** of MIT's Dalai Lama Center for Ethics as a pipeline for a convicted sex offender
- A **Buddhist monk** advising Epstein on travel destinations for “the girls”
- The **instrumentalization** of spiritual authority for social positioning by a man simultaneously running a trafficking operation
- That **gatekeepers** at elite institutions treated a convicted sex offender's request to access the Dalai Lama as a routine professional ask — not a red flag