



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

**URGENT**

Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Mrs Navanethem Pillay  
Palais Wilson  
52 rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva

Birmenstorf, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Mrs Pillay

As we informed you on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011, two young Tibetan monks of Kirti Monastery set themselves on fire on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Recently, we received the sad news that another four young Tibetan monks and a 20-year-old nun have committed self-immolation a few days ago (October 3, 7, 15, 17, 2011). So far, there are nine reported incidents of self-immolation this year (March, August, September and October), including at least five fatal cases and five incidents only this month. Before setting themselves on fire, the young Tibetans (eight of them aged between 17 and 20 years, one monk aged 29) raised slogans against the wrong policies of the Chinese government in Tibet and the continued repression in Tibet and on Tibetan monasteries such as Kirti and Nyitso Monasteries.

In view of the continued Chinese repression, "patriotic re-education", harassments and incarceration of monks at Kirti monastery that has been going on since 2008 and particularly since March of this year, young Tibetans see no other way than committing these drastic actions as an act of desperation.

The Government of the People's Republic of China with their repressive policies in the whole of Tibet, resulting in atrocious human rights violations, is ultimately responsible for the root causes of these terrible acts.

Your Excellency, we have already been alerting you to the manifold aspects of human rights violations in Tibet through our regular actions on the Place des Nations, and we have also alerted you to the first cases of self-immolation through our memos dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011 and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011. **We urge you to support our case by sending a fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet.** Please let us also reiterate the demands of our memoranda dated 30<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011 demanding your support and urgent action:

- Immediate withdrawal of all security forces from Kirti and Nyitso monasteries where the acts of self-immolations occurred;
- Full freedom of movement for all monks, nuns and lay people within and around these monasteries;



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- Disclosure of the whereabouts of the 300 monks of Kirti Monastery who were deported and their immediate release from confinement;
- Immediate end to all actions that inhibit the freedom to exercise religious activities at Kirti, Nyitso and all other Tibetan monasteries;
- Initiation of a meaningful dialogue with the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for a peaceful and amicable resolution of the Tibet issue.

In addition, we strongly demand that full and unrestricted medical care is provided to the monks who have survived their acts of self-immolation with serious injuries.

Unfortunately, we did not receive any replies to our previous letters. We urge you to send us a reply this time, to send a fact-finding mission to Tibet and to take immediate action. The situation in Tibet is alarming and deteriorating every single day. Tibet is dying and we need your help!

Yours sincerely

*S. Memmishofer*

S. Memmishofer-Pasang  
President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein