



Media Release

Zurich, October 21st 2011

Tibet is dying – As a result of the repressive policies by the People's Republic of China, young Tibetans turn to self-immolation as the only form of protest.

Since March 2011, eight young Tibetan monks and one nun have already set themselves on fire. At least five of the nine individuals have succumbed to severe injuries and passed away. Meanwhile it is feared that more self-immolation and other acts of desperation are rising day by day in Tibet.

Eight of the monks and one nun are in their very young ages between 17 and 20 and as well as a 29-year-old Tibetan. They called for freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

China has locked down since long time Tibetan monasteries, imprisoned monks and tortured them cruelly. The situation in Ngaba (Sichuan Province) has been tense since months. The security measures and the repression are worsening. In order to achieve their goal, Chinese security forces do not refrain from beating, imprisoning and torturing the monks. The desperation among the Tibetans is large, and in protest against the totalitarian Chinese regime, they set themselves on fire. Those who survive the self-immolation are seriously injured, beaten and taken to unknown locations. Unfortunately, it must be assumed that they do not receive proper medical care.

"This situation in Tibet is escalating. Our young Tibetan brothers and sisters see no other way out than to set themselves on fire, whereas the People's Republic of China continues violating the principles of religious freedom and human rights in Tibet" says Pasang Memmishofer, President of Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein (TCSL).

The TCSL strongly condemns the repressive policy of China and demands as following:

- provide health care for the injured monks;
- information on the whereabouts of the monks who were deported and their immediate release;
- restoration of full freedom of movement of monks and lay people in and around the monasteries;
- cease all actions that hinder the freedom of religious practice in the affected Kirti monastery and Nyitso and all other Tibetan monasteries;
- immediately stop the inhuman repression methods that are on the agenda in Tibet;
- to resume substantive dialogue with the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for a mutual and peaceful solution for Tibet.

It is high time to act. Tibet is dying! Help us!

To draw attention to the deteriorating situation in Tibet and to express solidarity with the Tibetans in Tibet, the TCSL will organize a solidarity rally:

Date: Sunday, 23rd October 2011 Time: 11.00am – 16.30pm

Location: Rotonde du Mont Blanc, Geneva, Switzerland (Route: Rotonde du Mont-Blanc-Palais Wilson-Place des Nations)

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For more information please visit: www.tibetswiss.ch