



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

Media Release

Zurich, November 25th 2011

7th action of Tibetan 2-year campaign to appeal to the UN for fact-finding mission to Tibet "Fighting for Tibetan Women's' Rights!"

The 7th action will take place on Place des Nations on November 28th 2011 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tibetans will highlight the rampant violations of women's' rights in Tibet.

Commencing May 30, 2011, Tibetans and their supporters have started a 2-year campaign to appeal to the UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet.

Over decades, the Chinese government has engaged in a premeditated and systematic policy of discrimination and violence against Tibetan women in all spheres of life. Illegal, coerced and violent methods of birth control have been imposed on Tibetan women. Tibetan women are denied the right to own their own means of reproduction, and are being forcibly sterilized at an alarming rate. Involuntary abortions, threats, penalties and fines for "unauthorized" children seriously infringe on women's rights in Tibet. These atrocities must be viewed as an attempt to reduce the Tibetan population. These acts do not only contravene the Constitution of the Peoples' Republic of China and various international conventions, but these are acts of genocide. Sterilizations have been carried out against the explicit will of women, or even without their knowledge during other surgical interventions. Not infrequently these procedures are performed by unqualified medical personnel resulting in health complications and in other cases, death. Abortions, or other measures resulting in abortions, have been occurring until very late during pregnancy. Also in those women "lucky" to be saved from physical measures, coercive birth control policies may be implemented in terms of high fines, denial of education, ration cards for food or property rights.

Tibetan women constitute approximately one third of the total population of political prisoners in Tibet. Torture and ill-treatment of women is endemic, and sexual abuse and rape of Tibetan woman are consistently reported. Often practiced methods of torture in women consist of electric shocks delivered by cattle prods to the genitals, attacks by ferocious trained dogs, and sexual assaults.

Women are also not denied free practice of their religion. Arrests and detention of nuns for peaceful, legal activities, as well as expulsions from religious institutions are common.

Novice nuns below the age of sixteen are frequently expelled and ordered to return to their villages. Nuns refusing to comply with "work team" demands in monasteries are facing extradition, interrogation, and beatings, and in some cases officials have threatened them with confiscation of their families' property. Only in the past few weeks, two nuns have not seen any other choice than resorting to the desperate act of self-immolation.

We call on the United Nations to take immediate responsibility and send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet and work on the Chinese government to stop the atrocities against Tibetan women.

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For more information please visit: www.tibetswiss.ch