



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

Hinwil, 17th November 2011

Defender of Human Rights – 7th Action of TCSL 2-year Campaign
Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!
Appeal to UN: "Fighting for Women's' Rights!"

Your Excellency

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.

We kindly invite you to come and visit us at the site of our 7th action on Place des Nations on November 28, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The action will be staged with the motto " Fighting for Women's' Rights!"
Tibetans will highlight the rampant violations of women's' rights in 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 denied free practice of their religion. Arrests and detention of nuns for peaceful, legal activities, as well as expulsions from religious institutions are common.

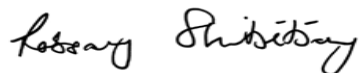
Novice nuns below the age of sixteen are frequently expelled and ordered to return to their villages. Nuns refusing to comply with "work team" demands in monasteries are facing extradition, interrogation, and beatings, and in some cases officials have threatened them with confiscation of their families' property.

Only in the past few weeks, Tenzin Wangmo, a 20-year-old nun from Dechen Chokorling nunnery in Ngaba and Palden Choetso, a 35-year-old nun from Gaden Choeling nunnery in Kham have not seen any other choice than resorting to the desperate act of self-immolation while calling for freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Both nuns succumbed to their injuries.

We urgently appeal to you, Your Excellency, and to the United Nations to support our demands to

- Send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet
- Work on the Chinese government to stop the atrocities against Tibetan women in Tibet

Yours sincerely,



Lobsang Shitsetsang

Vice President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Copy: Mr. Ban Ki Moon, General Secretary of the United Nations