



## Media Release

Tibetans appealing to United Nations to send an independent fact-finding mission with full unhindered access to Tibet.

The famous singer Nubya is supporting the Tibetan cause at kick-off day on May 30, 2011 in Geneva.

Starting May 30, 2011, Tibetans will stage one action every month for the next 2 years in front of Palais Wilson, appealing to the UN Human Rights Council and UN High Commissioner to send an independent fact-finding mission with full unhindered access to Tibet.

After over 50 years of Chinese occupation of Tibet, the strong determination of the Tibetan people to unshackle China's colonialism in Tibet have been well demonstrated through demonstrations, recently as in 1987, 1988, 1989 and spring of 2008, exposing the utter failure of China's policies in Tibet. The Chinese government's response to the protests has been most violent and inhuman. From March 2008 to October 2009, the Central Tibetan Administration in India estimates the death of over 224 Tibetans with information available on 114 Tibetans, sentencing of 371 Tibetans, arrest and detention of over 4,600 Tibetans, disappearance of over 990 Tibetans and of 1,290 Tibetans as injured. It is believed that the actual figure could have been much higher. China executed two Tibetans, and five had been sentenced to death with 2 year suspension.

Violation of human rights in Tibet in the area of social, economic, civil and political rights, particularly religious freedom, freedom of expression and speech, right to education and right to subsistence, are widespread. The so-called "Strike Hard Campaign", per government officials targeting "criminals", is in reality aiming to eliminate any sources of political dissent.

As of 30 December 2010, there were 831 known political prisoners in Tibet out of which 360 were known to have been legally convicted by courts and 12 Tibetans are serving life imprisonment term; none of the convicted Tibetans received a fair trial. The use of torture is widespread to extort "confessions". The crackdown on intellectuals and cultural figures, until recently praised by state media as exemplary individuals, continues to take place this year. The "Patriotic Re-Education Campaign" is forcing monks and nuns to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama, driving several of them to committing suicide.

The recent change of education policy with downgrading Tibetan to a "foreign language" is seriously threatening the Tibetan culture and identity. The forced resettlement of nomads under the pretence of "protecting the environment" is depriving them of their basis of subsistence. Together with the continuing mass influx of Chinese migrants, these measures are accelerating the "cultural genocide" of the Tibetans.

Following the widespread protests staged by Tibetans in 2008, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour requested an invitation to visit China including the Tibetan areas, but this was declined by the Chinese government.

Her Excellency, the current UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay, had expressed concern on the "discrimination and failure to protect minority rights" as key factors for the unrests and called upon the authorities to "respect human rights in upholding the law" and "to reflect on the underlying causes of such incidents".

None of the interventions by UN Commissioners or by any other respected member of the International Community has encountered an appropriate response by the Chinese government. It is now time to call on the UN Human Rights Council and UN High Commissioner to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet, to "obtain truth from facts" as His Holiness the Dalai Lama has repeatedly advocated.

The first action in front of Palais Wilson will take place on May 30 at 11.30 hrs.

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