PRESS RELEASE

62nd Commemoration of the Tibetan National Uprising Day

Today, we the undersigned organizations are holding simultaneous peaceful demonstration in Geneva in front of the UN building side-lining the ongoing 46th UNHRC session and before the Chinese Consulates in Zurich and Bern to commemorate the 62nd year of the Tibetan National Uprising Day and to call upon the UN, the Government of Switzerland and the international community to intervene and take action against China for perpetuating systemic human rights violations against Tibetans in Tibet.

On 10 March 1959, thousands of Tibetans stood up peacefully protesting against the illegal invasion and occupation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, the People's Liberation Army of China crushed the demonstration with guns and artilleries killing hundreds and thousands of Tibetans on the streets of Tibet's capital Lhasa.

Tibetans in Tibet are going through unfathomable sufferings under Chinese rule. 155 Tibetans have self-immolated in Tibet since 2009 as a mark of peaceful protest. Tibet is ranked amongst the least free countries in the world by the Freedom House.

Recently, Tenzin Nyima a 19-year-old Tibetan monk, Kunchok Jinpa a 51-year-old Tibetan tour guide and 36-year-old herdswomen were tortured to death by the Chinese authorities. There are no investigations carried out whatsoever and no reparations to the victims of torture and their families.

More than half a million Tibetans are subjected to militarized forced labour camps in Tibet. Tibetans are discriminated against in every aspect of life be it education, health care, employment or even issuance of passports. Tibetans cannot move freely within or beyond their designated territories. Their entire movement is monitored and curtailed through high tech surveillance technology and grid-management system. Tibetans do not have any language rights and Mandarin has been imposed as medium of instruction on Tibetan school children. Tibetans also do not have the right to freedom of religion of Tibetans. The monasteries are being destroyed and religious practices are banned. Human Rights defenders are systematically persecuted.

Tibet was an independent state with all the attributes of statehood before the **illegal occupation by People's Republic of China in 1959**. However, under the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration we seek peaceful resolution of Tibet under the **Middle Way Policy.**

Therefore, we call upon the Government of Switzerland, the United Nations and the international community to:

i. Intervene and speak openly on the egregious human rights violations being carried out in Tibet by the Government of People's Republic of China;
ii. Press China to hold substantive dialogues with the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for the peaceful resolution of Tibet;
iii. Press China to stop the torture and arbitrary detention of Tibetans and release the Tibetan political prisoners;
iv. Press China to stop the forceful resettlement of Tibetan nomads, illegal land grabs and the militarized forced labour camps in Tibet;
v. Take urgent measures to stop the surveillance and suppression of Tibetans in Switzerland as well as the increasing spread of Chinese infiltration in the Swiss society and corporations.

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