



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

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

Zurich, 14th January 2013

Defender of Human Rights–7th Action of the second year of the TCSL 2-year Campaign

Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!

Appeal to UN: "Fighting for Tibetan 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 January 18, 2013 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The action will be staged with the motto " Fighting for Tibetan Women's' Rights!" The sections of Oetwil am See, Volketswil and Rüti together with their supporters 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 choose 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. Nuns refusing to comply with the demands of the most repressive "Patriotic Education" campaign in monasteries are facing extradition, interrogation, and beatings.

Over the past year, several nuns and lay women have set themselves to fire. Among them were mothers of young children, students and teenagers as young as 16 years. While they were resorting to this most drastic act of despair and self-sacrifice, they were shouting paroles for the freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

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
- Press the Chinese government to stop the atrocities against Tibetan women in Tibet

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tenzin Künsang Gangshontsang:
Oetwil am See Section of the TCSL

Mr. Tsering Shawa:
Volketswil Section of the TCSL

Mr. Sonam Tsewang Tamnyen:
Rüti Section of TCSL

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