



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

Horgen, 15th April 2013

**Defender of Human Rights – 10<sup>th</sup> Action of TCSL 2-year Campaign**  
**Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!**  
**Appeal to UN: "Freedom for the Panchen Lama, arrested as a child and held as the world's youngest political prisoner"**

Your Excellency

Commencing May 30, 2011, the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein with 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 10th action on Place des Nations on April 19, 2013 from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm. where the local Tibetan sections of Horgen and Lausanne together with their supporters will stage an action to demand the immediate release of the Panchen Lama who has been held incommunicado with his family since 1995.**

Only three days after his recognition by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the 11th reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second most important spiritual leader, the then 6-year old boy Gedhun Choekyi Nyima disappeared with his family and has never been seen since in the public. It is widely assumed that he and his family members were arrested on behalf of China's government to prevent him from assuming his religious duties. Despite numerous calls by foreign diplomats and United Nations bodies, including the UN Committee Against Torture, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, for independent verification of his well-being and whereabouts, no access has been given to Gedhun or his family who have been held incommunicado for almost 18 years.

Meanwhile the Chinese government has installed a fake Panchen Lama who is not respected by the Tibetan people, planning that he will once recognize a "Dalai Lama" obedient to the Communist Party and with him grasp ultimate control over Tibetan



Buddhism. As it is the Panchen Lama who plays a critical role in the recognition of the next incarnation of the Dalai Lama, China's objectives behind the disappearance of the Panchen Lama are clear. Tibetan self-immolators have included the demand for the return of the Panchen Lama to his legitimate position in Tibet into their paroles while setting themselves to fire.

Gedhun Choekyi Nyima has been rightfully called the world's youngest political prisoner. He will turn 24 years on April 25th.

**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 now and support our following demands:**

- 1. That China allows immediate access for independent rapporteurs to visit the Panchen Lama and his family**
- 2. That the Panchen Lama and his family be released from their arrest and granted unrestricted freedom of movement.**
- 3 to call on China to resume the dialogue with the Tibetan Representatives in order to find a mutually agreeable solution to longstanding political problems**

Yours sincerely

Mr. Tsering Wangdak Batsang : .....  
Horgen Section of the TCSL

Mr.Drongdu Sonam Dorje: .....  
Lausanne Section of the TCSL

Kopie: UN General Secretary, Mr. Ban Ki Moon