



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

10 th Action of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein for a
2 - year campaign since May 30, 2011::
UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!

**"Freedom for the Panchen Lama, arrested as a child and held as the world's youngest
political prisoner"**

**The 10th action will take place on Place des Nations on April 19th, 2013
from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

**The local Tibetan community 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 call on the United Nations to send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered
access to Tibet and support our demands:**

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

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