



[Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein](#)

[Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein](#)

2nd action of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein for a 2-year campaign: UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!

Tibetan monks performing prayers and rituals for freedom of religion on Place des Nations on 27.06.11, 11.00 – 16.00 h

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.

The 2nd action will take place on Place des Nations on June 27, from 11:30 am to 4 pm.

Tibetan monks will be performing prayers and rituals and holding banners for freedom of religion.

Desecration and destructions of religious sites, as well as random arrests, forced detentions and torture of Tibetan monks and nuns who peacefully express their desire for religious freedom in Tibetan have occurred since China's invasion in 1959. Given that monks and nuns constitute the majority of the Tibetan involved in political protests, the Chinese authorities see them with suspicion and expose them to particularly cruel measures. Since the 1980ies the Communist authorities have intensified their campaign against nuns and monks, culminating in the so-called "patriotic re-education" campaign, labelled a "fight to the death struggle against the Dalai Clique". No less than 14 suicide cases have been documented since 2008, especially in religious institutions as a result of persecution in the name of "reform" and "patriotic education". The Chinese officials are forcing monks and nuns to denounce their own spiritual leaders, particularly His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and to abuse their highly respected lamas. An order issued in July 2007 by the State Religious Affair Bureau claims the ultimate authority on selection and installation of reincarnation of Lamas which strikes at the core of the Buddhist reincarnation belief. All of these measures are aiming at a reduction of monastic population and degeneration of Tibetan Buddhism.

Only recently the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances voiced its serious concern and urged the Chinese authorities to disclose the whereabouts of a group of around 300 monks from Kirti Monastery whose fate remains unknown. On 21 April 2011, these monks were allegedly arrested by security forces and taken to unknown destinations in military trucks. Kirti Monastery had been surrounded by security forces prior to the detention in an attempt to quell potential unrest after a monk's suicide in protest against the suppression of religion. In order to protect the monks from a first attempt by the armed forces to raid the monastery, local inhabitants had peacefully blocked the access, resulting in two Tibetans beaten to death during the attempted raid.

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