



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

### **3rd 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! Stop Torture in Tibet Immediately!**

**The 3rd action will take place on Place des Nations on July 25,  
from 11:30 am to 4 pm.**

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.

Tibetans are demanding an immediate end to torture in Tibet.

Torture and maltreatment remain the norm for political detainees in Tibet.

A disturbing variety of torture techniques employed in Tibetan prisons and detention centers has been documented since 1996. Some of the most common are electric shocks delivered by cattle prods to the genitals, mouth, eyes, and other sensitive areas; beatings with metal rods, sticks, pistols or rifle butts, plastic hoses filled with sand, pieces of furniture, exposure to extreme heat or cold; and aerial suspension or restraint by rope in painful positions. Other documented torture techniques include starvation, forcing victims to stare at the sun for prolonged periods, attacks by ferocious trained dogs, and sexual assaults, as well as psychological tortures, such as mock executions, forcing victims to witness others being tortured, urinating in victims' mouths, prolonged solitary confinement, and death threats. Tibetans typically suffer acts of torture at two stages in the process of detention, arrest, adjudication, and sentencing: first, during the pretrial period of detention, which can range from two to six months; and second, while serving time in Tibet's prisons and "reeducation through labor" camps. Many of the most egregious acts of torture occur during the pretrial period, in which, despite article 247 of China's revised criminal law, interrogations in an effort to elicit confessions routinely involve torture.

Despite the amendments that China cites in its Third Periodic Report, the observation of Committee Member Mr. Burns, Country Rapporteur on China, during this Committee's 1996 appraisal of China's Second Periodic Report, continues to capture the practical reality in Tibet: "Regardless of the rules formally in force," he noted, "de facto impunity did seem to exist for perpetrators of acts of torture . . . ."

For contact:

Mrs Pasang Memmishofer, Natel: 076 525 17 51