



[Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein](#)

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

5 th 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 Cultural Genocide”

**The 5th action will take place on Place des Nations from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on
12th September 2011.**

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 from all three provinces of their home country will present aspects of their rich cultural heritage that is acutely threatened by Chinese policy.

Many measures that at a first glance impress as aiming at “economic development” or environmental protection are in fact annihilating the unique Tibetan culture. Above all, the mass immigration of Chinese workers, accelerated by the completion of the railway line to Lhasa, is threatening Tibetan culture and identity. Attracted by economic incentives, for example to set up businesses, Tibetans are becoming increasingly marginalized in professional life.

The government program for the so-called “Development of the Western Provinces” and the most recent Five-Year-Plan are aiming at an even more aggressive exploitation of mineral resources and building of dams to generate electricity. This will attract even more Chinese migrants to Tibet. Exercise of Tibetan religion, a centerpiece of Tibetan culture, is becoming increasingly regulated. All monastic activities are strictly supervised by a secular administration. Very often monasteries are nothing more than showcases for tourists. Any more serious and in-depth religious studies are suppressed when they are perceived as a threat to the Party and the government. Several years ago Serthar monastery with approx. 10'000 residents was destroyed and the residents expelled as their activities were perceived as evolving beyond secular control.

Not only the traditional culture, but also contemporary culture and arts are becoming increasingly suppressed. Since 2008 young Tibetan intellectuals and artists, who have only recently been praised as model citizens for their cultural activities, are now encountering arrest.

Another threat to Tibetan culture stems from plans to implement Mandarin as the main medium of instruction in the schools of Qinghai province. This will not only accelerate the marginalization of Tibetan language, but in fact downgrade Tibetan to a “second language” and pose a major threat to the children developing their genuine Tibetan cultural identity. Rightly, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is calling all these measures “cultural genocide”.

We call on the United Nations to stop Cultural Genocide in Tibet!

Contact: Jamyang Pashen: 076 410 43 01