



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mrs. Navanethem Pillay
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva

Birmenstorf, 10th October 2011

**Defender of Human Rights – 6th Action of TCSL 2-year Campaign
Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!
Appeal to UN: "Dialogue – now!"**

Your Excellency

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. We kindly invite you to come and visit us at the site of our 6th action on Place des Nations on October 31, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The action will be staged with the motto "Dialogue – now!". Tibetans will stage various symbolic actions, underlining their demand for an immediate start of a serious dialogue between the Peoples' Republic of China and Tibetans as the only meaningful way to resolve the situation in Tibet.

The current situation inside Tibet is at its worst. Tibetans are discriminated in all spheres of life and live under constant fear, control and intimidation resulting in massive rights and norms violation in all forms. The government of People's Republic of China (PRC) has massively stepped up state repression and has hardened its position on Tibet and His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the past few years. Instead of addressing the core issues over Tibet, the PRC government has been reacting with utter violence against all manifestations of discontent or demands for freedom and democracy inside Tibet.

No less than seven Tibetan monks have set themselves on fire during the past 8 months – four of them did not survive their injuries. We have already alerted Your Excellency to these cases in our letters dated 12th August and 9th September of this year.

These monks were demanding nothing more than religious freedom, democracy and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama back to Tibet. These dramatic acts underline the alarming level of perceived helplessness and despair among Tibetans in view the PRC's hard-line and wrong policy. Government and security forces reacted to the first act of self-immolation by a monk by sealing off his monastery, committing brutal violence against lay people trying to protect the monastery compound, resulting in two Tibetans being beaten to death, and mass arrests and deportation of approximately 300 monks. Instead of dealing with the root causes of these acts of



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despair, security has been tightened and repression been increased each time after such an incident.

The government of the PRC has constantly been ignoring advice from within and outside China that the only way to resolving the situation in Tibet in a peaceful way is through a meaningful dialogue, before it is too late. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his Representatives have offered to start this dialogue at any time, at any place, and without any preconditions.

We appeal to you, Your Excellency, and to the United Nations to take your responsibility for facilitating the dialogue immediately!

Yours sincerely,

S. Memmishofer

President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Copy: Mr. Ban Ki Moon, General Secretary of the United Nations