



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

## **10<sup>th</sup> 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!**

**"Freedom of speech, opinion and movement in Tibet!"**

**"Freedom of press, free access to journalists"**

**"Tibetans beating drums for the UN to wake up!"**

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 now!.

**The 10<sup>th</sup> event will take place on Place des Nations from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on April 12, 2012.**

The action will be staged with the motto "Freedom of speech, opinion, movement and freedom of press in Tibet!"

Tibetans and their supporters will stage an action to demand the immediate, unconditional and complete restoration of the freedom of speech, opinion and movement and press in Tibet.

According to Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy, currently there are over 830 known political prisoners in Tibet, out of which 403 are known to be legally convicted by courts. As of 15th December 2011 alone 230 known Tibetans have been arrested and detained. It is believed that the actual figure could have been much higher.

These dramatic figures speak for themselves, casting light on the lack of freedom in Tibet. In Tibet under China, all opinions and viewpoints that contradict official Chinese position on any issue are considered as "subversive". Any information that is directly or indirectly critical of the governance, policies and activities of the Peoples' Republic of China may be viewed as revealing "state secrets", with the risk to the originator of being detained, tortured or even of losing his life.

Another recent trend indicates a sustained Chinese crackdown on Tibetan intellectuals who express their true feelings and aspirations in a highly repressive atmosphere. Since 2008, over 70 Tibetan writers, bloggers, intellectuals and cultural figures have been arrested if not already sentenced to imprisonment. Any expression of Tibetan identity in poetry and lyrics, even without explicit criticism of Chinese government policies or human rights violations, is likely perceived as a serious threat against the rule of the Communist Party of China and is labeled as "separatist".

The crackdown on dissidents and intellectuals is just the tip of the iceberg. Any Tibetan is affected by the lack of freedom of opinion and expression. The internet is heavily censored by the application of filters that suppress any information on situation in Tibet that is freely accessible in most other countries. Internet users have to register themselves with their full names so that any internet activity of them can be easily tracked down. China is the world's biggest prison for journalists, bloggers and cyber-dissidents.

We appeal to the United Nations to support our demands for the immediate, unconditional and complete restoration of the freedom of speech, opinion, movement and press in Tibet and to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!

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