



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

11th 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 for the Panchen Lama, arrested as a child and held as the world's
youngest political prisoner"**

**The 11th action will take place on Place des Nations on April 25th,
from 11:00 am to 4:00 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 now!

The action will be staged under the motto: "Freedom for the Panchen Lama, arrested as a child and held as the world's youngest political prisoner". Tibetans and their supporters will stage actions to demand the immediate release of the Panchen Lama who has been held incommunicado with his family since 1995.

Only three days after his recognition by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as the 11th reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second most important spiritual leader, the then 6-year old boy Gedhun Choekyi Nyima disappeared with his family and has never been seen since in the public. It is widely assumed that he and his family members were arrested on behalf of China's government to prevent him from assuming his religious duties. Despite numerous calls by foreign diplomats and United Nations bodies, including the UN Committee Against Torture, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, for an independent investigation of his well-being and whereabouts, no access has been given to Gedhun Choekyi Nyima or his family who have been held incommunicado for almost 17 years.

As it is the Panchen Lama who plays a crucial role in the recognition of the next reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, China's objectives behind the disappearance of the Panchen Lama are clear. Meanwhile the Chinese government has installed a fake Panchen Lama who is not recognized by the Tibetan people, planning that he will once recognize a "Dalai Lama" obedient to the Communist Party and with him grasp ultimate control over Tibetan Buddhism. Thus, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima has been rightfully called the world's youngest political prisoner. On the day of this event, he will turn 23 years.

We call on the United Nations to send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet and support our following demands:

- That China allows immediate access for independent rapporteurs to visit the Panchen Lama and his family
- That the Panchen Lama and his family be released from their arrest and granted unrestricted freedom of movement.

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