



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

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

Basel, 21st May 2012

Defender of Human Rights – 12th Action of TCSL 2-year Campaign Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!

Appeal to UN: " Free all political prisoners in Tibet"

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 12th action on Place des Nations, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on April 21st 2012 and support our demand to free all political prisoners in Tibet.

According to Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy there are currently 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. In the context of Chinese crackdown that commenced after the uprising in 2008 Tibetan intellectuals have become the targets of random arrests and detentions. Over 70 Tibetan writers, bloggers, intellectuals and cultural figures who until recently have been praised as "model citizens" have disappeared. Several of them are being held incommunicado without clear charges.

A massive wave of so-called "Patriotic Re-education" is sweeping Tibet where monks, nuns and lay people are forced to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Life in monasteries is controlled to every detail by massive deployment of security forces, making monks and nuns prisoners in their own premises, and carrying out arrests on those suspected of "splittist activities". Many monasteries have now been deserted as religious practices are becoming impossible. Movements of every citizen are closely controlled by security forces in townships and villages. Moreover, financial rewards are offered to those who report suspicious activities to the government.



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This is all happening on top of the most dramatic events in Tibet, unprecedented in its history. To date, 35 mostly young Tibetans - monks, nuns and lay people - have committed self-immolation as the ultimate and most drastic action to protest against the Chinese wrong policy in Tibet. They are sacrificing their lives to highlight to the outside world that the current situation is as grim as during the worst days of the “Cultural Revolution” forty years ago. Since the March 2008 uprising the Chinese government has stepped up control and suppression to the extent that many Tibetans see no other way than giving away their lives as a final act of despair.

Instead of addressing the grievances of the Tibetans, the Chinese government is ignoring international calls to re-assess its policies and taking a harsher approach. It is now time for the International Community to take immediate action!

During the campaign since May 2011 we have alerted Your Excellency in monthly actions to various aspects of repression and human rights violations in Tibet, However, we have not seen action. We are now asking “**How much more must happen that the UN is taking action?**”

We call on the United Nations to ACT NOW! and

- To support our demands for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners
- To send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet
- Help resume a meaningful dialogue between the envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government for a peaceful solution for Tibet and China.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Dawa T. Gonpo Dorje Tsang:
Basel Section of the TCSL

Mr. Lobsang Rabgye. Penetsang:
Berne Section of the TCSL

Mr. Sonam Dorjee Triksom:
Geneva Section of TCSL

Kopie: UN General Secretary, Mr. Ban Ki Moon