



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

1/2

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

13<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**Defender of Human Rights – 1<sup>st</sup> Action of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of TCSL 2-year Campaign since May 30, 2011:**

**Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!**

**"Freedom of religion 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 1<sup>st</sup> action of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the Place des Nations on July 13, from 11:30 am to 4 pm. The sections of Rikon and Turbenthal and their supporters will perform rituals to demand freedom of religion.

Since last year and the wave of self-immolations mainly by young monks and nuns, the government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party have even increased the repression of religion. They are targeting the monasteries as the putative core of the Tibetan freedom movement, believing that this way they can finally eradicate Tibetan resistance.

Desecration and destructions of religious sites, as well as random arrests, forced detentions and torture of Tibetan monks and nuns who peacefully express their desire for religious freedom in Tibetan have occurred since China's invasion in 1959. Given that monks and nuns have always constituted the majority of the Tibetan involved in political protests, the Chinese authorities see them with suspicion and expose them to particularly cruel measures. Since the 1980ies the Communist authorities have conducted their campaign against nuns and monks, culminating in the so-called "patriotic re-education" campaign, labelled a "fight to the death struggle against the Dalai Clique". This campaign has been even more intensified since the wave of self-immolations. Many monks and nuns are now leaving the monasteries as they are forced to denounce their own spiritual leaders, particularly His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and to abuse their highly respected lamas. An order issued in July 2007 by the State Religious Affair Bureau claims the ultimate authority on selection and installation of reincarnation of Lamas which strikes at the core of the Buddhist reincarnation belief. More recent orders are putting monasteries



under direct control of state-appointed cadres, abolishing even the most minimal space for self-governance. A campaign for so-called “model monasteries” has been launched, showering these with benefits if they adhere to the principles dictated by the communist party.

No response from the Chinese government has been obtained on the demand issued by the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances one year ago to disclose the whereabouts of a group of around 300 monks from Kirti Monastery whose fate remains unknown. On 21 April 2011, these monks were allegedly arrested by security forces and taken to unknown destinations in military trucks. While Kirti Monastery is still surrounded by security forces to quell any potential unrest, several further monasteries have been raided, searched, and numerous religious teachers have been arrested without clear charges.

We appeal to you, Your Excellency, and to the United Nations to support our demands

1. To send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet
2. To support our demands for the immediate and unconditional release of all arrested monks and nuns, in particular those detained from Kirti Monastery
3. To call on China to end the so-called “Patriotic Education Campaign”, to end the siege of all monasteries by security forces, and to allow self-governance of all religious institutions
4. To call on China to resume the dialogue with the Tibetan Representatives to find a mutually agreeable solution to longstanding political problems

Yours sincerely

Mr. Thubten Gelek DHAKYEL: .....  
Rikon Section of the TCSL

Mr. Tseten GOMPO: .....  
Turbenthal Section of the TCSL

Kopie: UN General Secretary, Mr. Ban Ki Moon