



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

**H.E. Navanethem Pillay**

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais Wilson

52 rue des Pâquis

1201 Geneva

Zurich, April 18, 2012

**Your Excellency,**

The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein is deeply concerned over another tragic incident involving the self-immolation of Jampel Yeshe, a 27-year-old Tibetan in Delhi on March 26, 2012, the first Tibetan who self-immolated in exile. Since 2009, over 30 Tibetans in Tibet have committed self-immolations to protest Beijing's repressive policies in Tibet and demand the restoration of freedom in Tibet and that His Holiness the Dalai Lama be allowed to return to his homeland. The Chinese government's reaction to these incidents so far, has been one of increasing repressive measures and further deployment of large amounts of security forces into Tibetan areas.

Tibetans inside Tibet live under the repressive system imposed by the Chinese government, with no space for conventional means of protest such as demonstrations, hunger strikes, political discussions and open debates. Fundamental Human Rights such as the right of religious freedom, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly are consistently suppressed by China.

The current dramatic situation in Tibet calls for concerted international action. Recently, three Tibetans were forced to end a hunger strike in front of the UN headquarters in New York, after Ivan Simonovic, the assistant secretary-general of the OHCHR visited the hunger strikers at the protest site. He was handed over an envelope with their demands.

The appointment of an UN Special Coordinator for Tibetan Affairs or OHCHR official representative is a crucial step for a sustained and effective role for the UN to help to resolve the Tibetan problem peacefully. This appointment will send a strong message of hope and solidarity to the Tibetans inside Tibet.

The Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein urges the OHCHR to immediately intervene and call on the Chinese government to stop the killings in Tibet and respect the Human Rights.

With compliments,

Lobsang Gangshontsang

President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein