



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

Basel, 13th May 2013

**Defender of Human Rights – 11<sup>th</sup> Action of the second year of the TCSL 2-year Campaign since May 30, 2011**

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

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

Your Excellency

**On Friday, May 17, 2013 we kindly invite you to come and visit us at the site of our 11<sup>th</sup> action at Place Wilson from 11:30 am to 12.30 pm and at the Palais des Nations from 13.00 pm – 16.00 pm , where the local sections of Basel, Bern and Geneva together with their supporters are appealing to the UN to take immediate action on Tibet and support our demand to free all political prisoners 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. 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.



This is all happening on top of the most dramatic events in Tibet, unprecedented in its history. To date, 116 mostly young Tibetans - monks, nuns and lay people - have committed self-immolation as the ultimate and most drastic action to protest against the Chinese rule in Tibet. A new wave of political arrests has occurred in the context of these self-immolations. In an attempt to suppress any public expression of grief or support for the families of the self-immolators, new orders have been published threatening all Tibetans with arrest and punishment who arrange religious ceremonies for self-immolators or make donations to their families. Moreover, as China is trying to accuse Tibetans of acting on behalf of “foreign forces” to instigate self-immolations, it is now targeting to arrest Tibetans to substantiate this claim. In this respect, several Tibetans have been arrested in the past few months and sentenced to long prison terms.

Instead of addressing the grievances of the Tibetans, the Chinese government is ignoring international calls to re-assess its policies and taking a hard-line 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