



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Tibet is burning! Over 100 self-immolations! Tibet needs your help – now!

#### 1. Solidarity March organized by the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Start: Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Gathering: Main Station, St. Gallen at 9 am  
Route: St. Gallen – Uzwil – Münchwilen – Elgg-Illnau – Effretikon – Dietikon – Brugg – Aarau –  
Murgenthal – Köppigen – Krauchthal – Oberwangen – Fribourg – Romont – Oron-La Ville –  
Lausanne – Tartegnin – Chesrex – Genf

#### 2. Solidarity Action during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council on China

Arrival: Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
Gathering: Palais des Nations, Geneva, at 11 am.

#### These are the sequels of 60 years of Chinese rule over Tibet:

- More than 1.2 million Tibetans died as a direct or indirect consequence of Chinese occupation
- Thousands of Tibetans have been arrested and suffer from maltreatment in detention, only because they were exercising their right of freedom of expression
- The Tibetan cultural identity is being destroyed
- Tibet's natural resources are ransacked, causing irreversible damage to its vulnerable ecology
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#### Over 100 self-immolations

Starting in February 2009, over 100 Tibetans have committed self-immolation as an act of protest against political repression, cultural assimilation, economic marginalization and ecological destruction. Without using violence against others, but in an expression of deepest despair, they are demanding freedom for Tibet and the return of His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama to his home country. By sacrificing their own lives they are alerting the United Nations and the International Community to the serious suffering of the Tibetan people.

**The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein with its 5'000 members** is deeply concerned about the ongoing self-immolations in Tibet. It is now time for the International Community to take action, as China is not showing insight.

The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein is urging the **Swiss Government and Parliament** for immediate intervention towards the Chinese government and unfettered support for our demands:

- The Chinese government must stop its repression immediately and seek an honest dialogue with the Tibetan representatives.

#### The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein are urging the United Nations and the UN Human Rights Council:

- To send an independent fact finding mission with unfettered access to Tibet.
- The United Nations must discuss the issue of Tibet based on the resolutions that it has passed in 1959, 1961 and 1965 and continuously make efforts to fulfill the substance of these resolutions
- The Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights has to be performed on China on October 22nd without prejudice.
- To urge China to put an immediate end to torture and maltreatment in Tibet
- To call on China to resume the dialogue with the Tibetan representatives with the goal of a mutually acceptable and sustainable solution to the issue of Tibet. Tibetans are not demanding independence, but a solution that is amicable to both parties.

**The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein expresses its deep gratitude to you for your solidarity!**