



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

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

Birmenstorf, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011

**Defender of Human Rights - 3rd Action of TCSL 2-year Campaign  
Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!  
Appeal to UN: “Stop Torture in Tibet Immediately”**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> action on Place des Nations on July 25, from 11:30 am to 4 pm. Tibetans are demanding an immediate end to torture in Tibet.

Torture and maltreatment remain the norm for political detainees in Tibet.

A disturbing variety of torture techniques employed in Tibetan prisons and detention centers has been documented since 1996. Some of the most common are electric shocks delivered by cattle prods to the genitals, mouth, eyes, and other sensitive areas; beatings with metal rods, sticks, pistols or rifle butts, plastic hoses filled with sand, pieces of furniture, exposure to extreme heat or cold; and aerial suspension or restraint by rope in painful positions. Other documented torture techniques include starvation, forcing victims to stare at the sun for prolonged periods, attacks by ferocious trained dogs, and sexual assaults, as well as psychological tortures, such as mock executions, forcing victims to witness others being tortured, urinating in victims' mouths, prolonged solitary confinement, and death threats. Tibetans typically suffer acts of torture at two stages in the process of detention, arrest, adjudication, and sentencing: first, during the pretrial period of detention, which can range from two to six months; and second, while serving time in Tibet's prisons and “reeducation through labor” camps. Many of the most egregious acts of torture occur during the pretrial period, in which, despite article 247 of China's revised criminal law, interrogations in an effort to elicit confessions routinely involve torture.

Despite the amendments that China cites in its Third Periodic Report, the observation of Committee Member Mr. Burns, Country Rapporteur on China, during this Committee's 1996 appraisal of China's Second Periodic Report, continues to capture the practical reality in Tibet: “Regardless of the rules formally in force,” he noted, “de facto impunity did seem to exist for perpetrators of acts of torture...”

Your Excellency, these are just another few examples of the ongoing widespread human rights abuses in Tibet, making us compelled to turn to help and support.



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We are bringing this important matter to the care of the Human Rights Council who has decided to address such violations and who is responsible for promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms around the globe.

Yours sincerely,

*S. Memmischer*

President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Copy: Mr. Ban Ki Moon, General Secretary of the United Nations