



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

Seine Exzellenz

Mr. Wu Ken

Botschafter der VR China in der Schweiz

Kalcheggweg 10, CH-3006 Bern

Zurich, April 19, 2012

Your Excellency,

The Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein is deeply saddened about the latest self-immolations of two young Tibetans in Ngaba in northeastern Tibet on March 30, 2012. Both died on the spot.

The area is currently under undeclared martial law, with over 300 Chinese government officials still deployed at Kirti monastery. The Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein is extremely concerned that current military occupation of Ngaba and Kirti monastery in particular will result in more unfortunate incidents.

Amnesty International, in its statement to the recently-held UNHRC meeting in Geneva, has urged the Chinese government to redress violations of the freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and cultural rights which have fuelled resentment among Tibetans. "These self-immolations are protest against these restrictions and the heavy presence of security forces since 2008 when protests swept across the region," it said.

Similarly, Human Rights Watch, in its report on 16 March, said that the Chinese government's new regulation of imposing direct rule on the Tibetan monasteries, coupled with the increasing presence of government workers within monasteries, will surely exacerbate tensions in the region. "If the Chinese government is committed to reducing tensions in Tibetan areas, it should repeal these policies immediately" it said.

Furthermore, the US Senate Committee passed a resolution on 27 March 2012 deploring the Chinese government's repressive policies targeting Tibetans. It calls on the Chinese government to suspend implementation of religious control regulations, reassess religious and security policies implemented since 2008 in Tibet, and resume a dialogue with Tibetan Buddhist leaders, including the Dalai Lama or his representatives, to resolve underlying grievances.

We urge the Chinese leadership to heed the recommendations of the International Community to reverse its counter-productive policies and address the problem of Tibet through dialogue.

With compliments,

Lobsang Gangshontsang

President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein