



Registered Mail

H.E. Consular General Liang Jianquan
Consulate General of the
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CH-8002 Zürich

Zurich, 23rd April 2011

Your Excellency,

We, the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein, are very concerned about the ongoing critical situation at Kirti Monastery in Ngaba, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province Tibet.

The situation has remained tense following the death of a young Tibetan monk, who set himself on fire in protest on 16th March 2011, marking 3 years since the Chinese Armed Force cracked down heavily on peaceful Tibetan protesters in the region in 2008. When local Tibetans tried to extinguish the flame the Chinese police force prevented them by beating them with metal batons. This inhuman act created a huge resentment among other monks to which the Chinese local authorities answered with a blockade of the monastery and various arrests. The situation further escalated when the Chinese Government brought in additional troops and surrounded the monastery. No monk was allowed to leave the monastery and no Tibetan to enter the monastery. Due to this blockade about 2500 monks were even facing severe food and other vital supply problems at a certain point of time.

We have received information that a boundary wall around the monastery has been completed in order to better control the monks. At least 800 Government officials from the Ngaba Prefecture United Work Front Department (UWFD) are questioning every single monk during the „patriotic re-education“ session.

The heavy reinforcement of troops and threats by the Chinese authorities to bring away all monks between the age of 18 and 40 for „patriotic re-education“ purposes have caused big fear among the local Tibetan civilians. By trying to prevent the troops from entering the monastery they were confronted with disproportionate use of force by the



Chinese Armed Force. Several people were injured due to beatings and attacks by trained police dogs.

According to Tibetan sources several people have been arrested and many monks have disappeared since 16th March 2011.

We urge you, your Excellency, to ask your Government immediately to

- a) stop the lockdown of the Kirti Monastery
- b) withdraw the troops and police force
- c) stop the „patriotic re-education“ campaign
- d) release all the arrested persons since 16th March 2011 escalation
- e) respect the fundamental Human Rights

We are convinced that demonstrating and exercising force by the Chinese Authorities will only increase the resentment and aggression among the Tibetan people and lead to catastrophic consequences.

Like His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, we appeal to the Chinese leadership to adopt realistic approach and to address the genuine grievance of the Tibetans with courage and wisdom and restraint from using force in handling this high explosive situation.

Yours sincerely,

Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Pasang Memmishofer
President