



Registered Mail

H.E. Micheline Calmy-Rey
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Parliament Building West
CH-3003 Berne

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 urgently ask the Swiss Government:

- a) to publicly express concern for the tense situation at Kirti Monastery in Ngaba
- b) to strongly condemn the Chinese Government for the brutal and disproportionate use of force in handling the current situation
- c) to persuade the Chinese Government to exercise restraint and wisdom in handling the high explosive situation in Ngaba and to immediately
 - stop the lockdown of the Kirti Monastery
 - withdraw the troops and police force
 - stop the „patriotic re-education“ campaign
 - release all the arrested persons since 16th March 2011 escalation
 - respect the fundamental Human Rights
- d) to send an independent fact-finding team from Switzerland or from the Swiss Embassy in China to Ngaba

We truly hope that the Swiss Government intervenes in this matter by taking a strong position, like other Government officials did, and condemns the Chinese Authorities' brutality at Kirti Monastery and calls on them to fully respect the UN Human Rights convention.

Your kind support and urgent attention to this matter is highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Pasang Memmishofer
President