



## **Press Release: Solidarity Rally for Tibetan Monks in Ngaba, Tibet**

### **Chinese cordon off Tibetan monastery, imprison monks and torture them brutally**

Zurich, 23 April 2011: The Chinese authorities deny the violent incidents in Ngaba (Sichuan province) and claim that the situation is calm and the relationship between the monks and the police "harmonious". According to various sources, the situation in Ngaba is highly delicate and alarming. Hundreds of armed policemen are reported to block all crossroads and to cordon off Kirti monastery that houses some 2,500 monks. Arrested monks are facing cruel torture.

The situation in Ngaba has been tense since last month when a young monk died after setting fire to himself. Since then, several violent incidents have been reported. Local Tibetans who tried to hinder Chinese policemen from entering the monastery and arresting monks were beaten and attacked brutally.

It is the aim of the Chinese government to imprison Tibetan monks for "patriotic re-education". In order to achieve their goal, Chinese security forces do not refrain from beating, imprisoning and torturing the monks. A local observer described the means of torture used by Chinese policemen as barbaric and inhuman.

"The situation in Ngaba is escalating. Such brutal actions by the Chinese security forces are absolutely unacceptable and violate basic human rights", said Pasang Memmishofer, President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein (TCSL).

The TCSL strongly condemns the cruel approach by the Chinese security forces and demands the immediate release of all imprisoned monks and the end of such inhuman repression methods. To draw attention to the precarious situation in Tibet and to show solidarity with the Tibetans in Ngaba, TCSL organizes a solidarity rally:

**Date: Tuesday, 26 April 2011**

**Time: 6.30pm - 9pm**

**Location: Zurich, Werdmühleplatz (march to the Chinese Consulate)**

### **Media contacts:**

Pasang Memmishofer (Mrs), President, Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, 076 525 17 51

Lobsang Shitsetsang (Mr), Vice President, Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, 076 392 64 65

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