



PETITION

To:

1. H.E. Sihasak Phuanketkeow
President of the UN Human Rights Council
Geneva
2. H.E. Navanethem Pillay
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pdquis
CH- 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: FACT FINDING MISSION TO TIBET

Background: The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein is launching on May 30 2011 its two years solidarity campaign and will stage one action every month in front of the United Nations building to draw attention on appalling human rights situation in Tibet particularly the ongoing crackdown in Ngaba Kirti Monastery in Sichuan Province. This solidarity rally calls upon the UN Human Rights bodies to send fact finding mission to Tibet to independently investigate rights abuses against Tibetan people since 1959 by Chinese authorities.

Violation of Human Rights:

- The Chinese authorities continue to commit serious human rights abuses, including extrajudicial detention and killings, torture, arbitrary arrests, and house arrest. The preservation and development of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage is a serious concern. The change of education policy with downgrading Tibetan to a "foreign language" is seriously threatening the Tibetan culture and identity.
- The forced resettlement of nomads under pretence of "protecting the environment" is depriving them of their basis of subsistence.
- According to the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy there were 831 known political prisoners in Tibet as of 30 December 2010. Out of which 12 Tibetans are serving life imprisonment term; none of the convicted Tibetans received a fair trial. The use of torture is widespread to extort "confessions".
- The recent crackdown in Ngaba, shows clearly the resentments of the Tibetans in Tibet. In April 2011, when the local Tibetans, mostly elderlies, attempted to stop the over 300 monks from Kini Monastery being forcibly taken away by the Chinese security forces on army trucks the police used extreme violence that led to death of a 60-year-old man, Dhonkho, of Thawa Ghongma and a 65-year-old woman, Sherkyi, of the Rako Tsang house Chashang. 325 Tibetans in Ngaba have been detained since 16 March 2011. The 2,500 monks at Kirti Monastery since 16 March 2011 have been put through "patriotic education" by 800 Chinese party officials from Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) and Zoega (Chinese: Ruo'ergai) counties of Ngaba Prefecture in Sichuan Province - no one is spared. The monastery is unable to hold any normal Buddhist classes

None of the interventions by UN Commissioners or by any other respected member of the International Community has encountered an appropriate response by the Chinese government. **It is now time to call on** the UN Human Rights Council and UN High Commissioner **to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet**, to "obtain truth from facts" as His Holiness the Dalai Lama has repeatedly advocated.

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