



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

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Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mrs. Navanethem Pillay
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva

11th March 2013

Defender of Human Rights – 9th Action of the second year of the TCSL 2-year Campaign

Appeal to UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!

Appeal to UN: "Immediate, unconditional and complete restoration of the freedom of speech, opinion, movement and press in Tibet"

Your Excellency

Commencing May 30, 2011, **The local Tibetan sections of Glarus, Landquart, Liechtenstein** together with their supporters have started a 2-year campaign to appeal to the UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet.

We kindly invite you to come and visit us at the site of our 9th action at Place Wilson on March 15th, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, where Tibetans will stage an action to demand the immediate, unconditional and complete restoration of the freedom of speech, opinion, movement and press in Tibet.

There are 988 known political prisoners in Tibet and many of their fate are unknown as per TCHRD annual report of 2012. In Tibet under China, all opinions and viewpoints that contradict official Chinese position on any issue are considered as "subversive". Any information that is directly or indirectly critical of the governance, policies and activities of the Peoples' Republic of China may be viewed as revealing "state secrets", with the risk to the originator of being detained, tortured or even of losing his life.

In an effort to intimidate Tibetans to resort to self-immolations and suppress the wave of expressions of solidarity with the deceased and their families, authorities have recently issued orders threatening Tibetans with imprisonment and heavy fines for any suspected involvement in self-immolations. Anyone who is charged of "inciting, misleading or forcing" others to self-immolate may encounter sentences up to capital punishment. Those who express their sympathy with the families of the deceased, support them with donations or organize prayer ceremonies may be sentenced to year-long prison terms. Recently one Tibetan was sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve for having "incited" others to self-immolate. At least 70 other Tibetans were imprisoned for alleged involvement in self-immolations according to the terms of the orders.



Another recent trend indicates a sustained Chinese crackdown on Tibetan intellectuals who express their true feelings and aspirations in a highly repressive atmosphere. Since 2008, almost 64 Tibetan writers, bloggers, intellectuals and cultural figures have been arrested. Any expression of Tibetan identity in poetry and lyrics, even without explicit criticism of Chinese government policies or human rights violations, is likely perceived as a serious threat against the rule of the Communist Party of China and is labeled as “separatist”.

This crackdown is just the tip of the iceberg. Any Tibetan is affected by the lack of freedom of opinion and expression. The internet is heavily censored by the application of filters that suppress any information on situation in Tibet that is freely accessible in most other countries. Internet users have to register themselves with their full names so that any internet activity of them can be easily tracked down. More recently, several townships and monasteries in Eastern Tibet have encountered a campaign for collection and destruction of satellite dishes to prevent them from receiving foreign radio and TV programmes. These dramatic facts and figures speak for themselves, casting light on the lack of freedom in Tibet.

We urgently appeal to you, Your Excellency, and to the United Nations to

- 1. Send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet**
- 2. to support our demands for the immediate, unconditional and complete restoration of the freedom of speech, opinion, movement and press in Tibet**
- 3. To call on China to resume the dialogue with the Tibetan Representatives in order to find a mutually agreeable solution to longstanding political problems**

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Nima Changten:
Glarus Section of the TCSL

Mrs Sonam von Salis
Lanquart section of the TCSL

Mr. Tenzin Choeyang
Liechtenstein section of the TCSL

Copy: Mr. Ban Ki Moon, General Secretary of the United Nations