



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

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Honourable Ban Ki Moon
Secretary General
United Nations, New York

Zurich, 17th March 2014

Your Excellency,

We, the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein (TCSL), and Tibet supporters are organizing a rally at Palais des Nation on 23 March 2014 to draw your and the UN member states' attention to the crisis in Tibet. We had carried out similar rallies for two years starting in May 2011 to urge the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Her Excellency Ms. Pillay, to intervene in ending these egregious human rights violations and, secondly, to send an independent UN fact-finding mission to Tibet.

Over the past more than sixty years since Communist China's occupation of Tibet, Beijing's policies in Tibet have been predominantly characterized by political repression, cultural assimilation, economic marginalisation and environmental destruction. This has resulted in the worst ever rights violations for Tibetans, and the situation in Tibet continues to be getting worse.

The United Nations have passed three resolutions on Tibet in 1959, 1961 and 1965, expressing grave concern and calling for respect of the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people and in particular to their right to a distinctive cultural and religious life. However, these resolutions failed to deter the Chinese from implementing genocidal policies in Tibet with the sole aim of the "sinicization" of Tibet.

The Chinese Government and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Representatives have held several rounds of dialogue to resolve the Tibet question. Our position has always been clear. We seek genuine autonomy within the framework of the Chinese Constitution. In this regard, our representatives have presented the "Memorandum for Genuine Autonomy for Tibetan People" and a Note to the Memorandum in 2008 and 2010, respectively, to their Chinese counterparts. The documents outline "11 basic needs" for which Tibetans wish Genuine Autonomy: 1) Language, 2) Culture, 3) Religion, 4) Education, 5) Environment, 6) Utilisation of Natural Resources, 7) Economic Development and Trade, 8) Public Health, 9) Public Security, 10) Regulation on population migration and 11) Cultural, educational and religious exchanges with other countries. Like any other people, Tibetan people are basically asking for dignity and self-rule.



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In the spirit and the letter of the Charter of United Nations, your Excellency is in the best position to act as a facilitator for the resumption of the dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Representatives and the People's Republic of China which is in the best interest of both parties.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to look into the following demands and kindly take action:

- Press the People's Republic of China to resume the dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Representatives to resolve the Tibet question.
- act as a bridge-builder between the Tibetan and Chinese authorities
- to call on and mobilize the world leaders to support the process of dialogue
- to assist H. E. Ms. Navanethem Pillay to carry out the fact-finding mission to Tibet now
- to call on China to end the repression in Tibet and look into the root causes of the Tibetan people's discontent and sufferings.

Yours sincerely,
Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Mr. Lobsang Gangshontsang
President

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