

PRESS RELEASE

BAN KI-MOON: TIBET NEEDS DIALOGUE

For 2 years since May 2011, the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein (TGSL) with its 5,000 members have alerted the United Nations in monthly actions to the violation of human rights taking place in Tibet. We turned to Her Excellency, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanethem Pillay, to support our demand for a visit of an independent UN fact-finding mission to Tibet.

We continue to be very concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation inside Tibet and the continuing self-immolations in Tibet. Living under such a repressive environment, with no space for conventional methods of protest, Tibetans from all walks of life are forced to take such drastic measures. The self-immolations ultimately result from 60 years of misrule by the People's Republic of China (PRC) who continues to negate the principle of the universality of human rights by violating the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Tibet is still under occupation. It continues to suffer from political repression, cultural assimilation, economic marginalisation, social discrimination and environmental destruction, accelerated by the mass Chinese migration to Tibet which has turned Tibetans into second-class citizens in their own homeland. The current number of known political prisoners in Tibet today is estimated to be as high as 1'204.

In the recent United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of China, 12 nations expressed their concern over China's human rights violations. The deteriorating human rights situation inside Tibet is being criticised by US State Department Human Rights Report, Amnesty International Report and Human Rights Watch Report. The Freedom House ranked Tibet among the "worst of the worst" in civil and political rights in its Freedom in the World Report 2013.

In spite of this unbearable situation inside Tibet, Tibetans have subscribed to non-violence and democracy and remain determined to finding a peaceful solution to the situation in Tibet through the Middle-Way Approach which neither seeks separation from the People's Republic of China nor "high degree of autonomy" but Genuine Autonomy for all Tibetan people under a single administration within the framework of the Chinese Constitution. We have formulated this vision through two documents: the "Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People" and "Note on the Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People" presented to the Chinese Government in 2008 and 2010 respectively..

In your opening remarks at end of year press conference of 16.12.2013, you stated that we must make 2014 the year of protecting people- their security- their fundamental rights –their basic well-being. You have sought to be a bridge-builder to give voice to the poorest and most threatened people. In this regard and as the United Nations is constantly speaking of peaceful conflict resolution, the strength of those convictions is being tested when the moment comes to publicly support steadfast non-violent political movements such as in engaging in dialogue to resolve the Tibet issue peacefully.

**The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein
is again knocking at the UN door quarterly starting from 21.03.2014, 11.30 am, at Palais des Nations, and is now calling
on you and the United Nations to:**

- Press the People's Republic of China to drop all preconditions to negotiations and 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.

BAN KI-MOON: TIBET NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW!