



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

9th Action of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein for a 2-year campaign: UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now! "Stop the forced resettlement of Tibetan nomads!"

Commencing May 30, 2011, Tibetans and their supporters have started a 2-year campaign to appeal to the UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet.

The 9th event will take place on Place des Nations on February 27th, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tibetans and their supporters will stage an action to demand an end to the forced resettlement of Tibetan nomads, depriving them of their right to subsistence and cultural identity.

Under the pretence of environmental protection, the Chinese government is eradicating the traditional way of life and means of subsistence of the nomadic population, which has been perfectly balanced with the natural environment for centuries. A recent study conducted by the Chinese government showed that climate change was most responsible for grassland degradation, not animal overgrazing. This shows again that the aim of the Chinese government is to achieve greater control over Tibetans and to exploit Tibet's natural resources such as minerals and water.

It is estimated that since 2000 around 250,000 nomads have been forced into urban settlements by Chinese government. Under the Chinese policy of *tuimu huancao* ("removing animals to grow grass") almost all of Tibet's two million nomads will have become displaced persons by the year 2013. This deprives them of their right to choose their means of subsistence as stated in article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ratified by the Peoples' Republic of China in 2001.

Forced resettlement of nomads often involves the slaughter of their livestock and being relocated to poorly built concrete houses. The nomads have no choice but to abandon their traditional lifestyle and many are driven to poverty, frustration and despair. Revenues from the sale of their livestock are used up quickly in the new environment, and they are left without any further source of income. In many cases they even have to pay back loans for their houses. The nomads were not given any right to appeal against the resettlement decision, and they have not been involved in any meaningful consultation on alternative options.

We call on the United Nations to send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet and support our demands:

- Put an immediate end to the forced resettlements of nomads
- Respect the nomads' right to choose their means of subsistence
- Engage in a meaningful consultation with the nomadic herders on all available options in order to enhance their knowledge of the preservation of their environment.
- Help resume a meaningful dialogue between the Envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government for a peaceful solution for Tibet and China.

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