



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

Mrs H.E. Navi Pillay  
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Hinteregg, 18th June 2012

Sub: Seeking urgent action on deplorable and deteriorating human rights situation in Tibet after one year appeals to send a fact-finding mission to Tibet now – UN without action – How much more must Tibet endure?

Your Excellency,

You are aware that human rights situation in Tibet has been deteriorating and deplorable under Chinese communist regime.

Since February 2009, 36 Tibetans have self-immolated calling for freedom in Tibet and return of their spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet. Out of 36 at least 28 have died and the whereabouts and current status of the others are unknown. Another Tibetan self-immolated in New Delhi, India on 23 March 2012 and died. These self-immolators sacrificed their life in order to highlight the Chinese authorities' harsh treatment on peaceful protestors, assembly even within the monasteries, denial of basic human rights and continuous repressive measures in place.

5 of the 36 Tibetans who self-immolated were either shot at or beaten by the Chinese security forces. In many cases, their bodies were never returned to the families for Tibetan Buddhist funeral ceremonies.

Sadly instead of listening to the legitimate grievances of the protestors the Chinese authority used armed forces to suppress them.

Seven Tibetans shot dead and over sixty injured by the Chinese police

In January and February 2012, the Chinese security forces indiscriminately opened fire on hundreds of peaceful Tibetan protestors in Drango, Sertha and Dzamthang Counties leaving at least 7 people shot dead, more than 60 injured including some in critical situation.

According to the Central Tibetan Administration based in India, at least seven Tibetan protestors were unfortunately gunshot by the Chinese police, over sixty injured and some are in critical condition and many were arrested.



### Heavy jail sentence including death penalty on protestors

According to the Central Tibetan Administration based in India, since March 2008 the Chinese courts have sentenced over 500 Tibetan protestors to imprisonment ranging from 1 – 21 years, 12 life imprisonments, 5 under suspended death sentence and 2 executed as of today. Although details of charges against them are not known yet, there is no doubt that they were punished for taking part in the protests.

Since China's judicial system is controlled at every level by the Chinese Communist Party political-legal committees that may determine the outcome of cases before the court hears evidence presented at trial. With the political-legal committees exercising extensive control, detainees especially Tibetans are highly unlikely to receive fair, impartial hearings that are free from official manipulation.

### Attacks on Tibetan singers, writers and activists

In its relentless crackdown on writers, activists, artists and others promoting or speaking up for the preservation of Tibetan culture and identity in Tibet under China's occupation.

Ugyen Tenzin, a 25-year-old popular singer, has been detained, beaten, and rendered disabled by the Chinese authorities in Nangchen (Chinese: Nangqian) County of Yulshul prefecture, Qinghai Province, in Feb 2012 after he released an album titled "An Unending Flow of My Heart's Blood," reported Radio Free Asia in Mar 26. The singer dedicated the album to the Karmapa and the exile Tibetan Administration Head, the Kalon Tripa, who are also praised in some of the songs. He was reported to have been detained while still recovering from a recent surgery and being beaten and tortured while his family was being denied permission to visit him.

On 15 February this year, Gangkye Drubpa Kyab, a 33 year-old popular author, was taken from his home in Seda (Tibetan: Serta) County, Sichuan province, by a team of 20 Chinese policemen, reported Radio Free Asia in Feb 18. His conditions and whereabouts remain unknown, the report cited Beijing-based Tibet blogger Ms Woesser as saying. The author of popular compositions such as "Call of Fate," "Pain of This Era" and "Today's Tear of Pain" had worked as a teacher in Serta for about a decade.

Two weeks earlier, Dawa Dorje, in his late 20's, a popular advocate of Tibet's traditional culture and language disappeared from Lhasa's Gonggar Airport after he returned from organizing a seminar on the subject in Sichuan's capital Chengdu. He was a government researcher in Nagchu (Chinese: Naqu) Prefecture of Tibet Autonomous Region. He had expressed grave concern over the closure of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in the prefecture's Driru (Chinese: Biru) County due to Chinese expulsions and the monks' desertions due to repressive interferences in monastic routines and affairs from the authorities.

In mid-Feb 2012 the Chinese police in the troubled Tibetan county of Tawu (Chinese: daofu) in Karze Prefecture, Sichuan Province, had taken into custody four Tibetan environmental activists, said Dharamala-based Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy Mar 15. The immediate reason, if any, for their detention was not clear, as also the question whether they have formally been arrested or still remain in detention. TCHRD



said the four – Lumbu from Chagya village, Dakpa from Khucha village, Dawa from Yulo village, and an unidentified Tibetan man from Loru village – were members of the Tawu Environmental Protection Association, launched informally in 2011. Its 50 members were reported to be well educated and highly respected figures in their respective villages across the county. The group was reported to have initiated various activities to protect the environment by protesting against rampant mining, deforestation, and smuggling of wildlife products.

The latest case is a popular Tibetan singer called Lo Lo who was arrested on 19 April 2012 and taken away by the local police officers. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown yet. A few months earlier, he had released an album titled “Raise the Tibetan Flag, Children of the Snow land”. This album contained 14 songs with lyrics calling for Tibet’s independence, unity of the Tibetan people and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

Hundreds of Tibetan pilgrims detained while returning back to home. Hundreds of Tibetans detained in the first half of January 2012 after returning from a pilgrimage to India and Nepal are still being held in hotels in and around Lhasa with no information on when they might be released. Their detention followed reports that around 9,000 Tibetan from Tibet attended the Kalachakra teaching given by the Dalai Lama at Bodh Gaya in the Indian state of Bihar from January 1 to 10. The detainees include retired party members and government officials as well as people who were very ill or in their eighties, reported Radio Free Asia, Washington in February 10..

The report said the detainees were being interrogated about their activities and contacts in India and subjected to intense political education sessions while being made to pay for their food and lodging during their indeterminate period of detention.

The families of the detainees are said to be kept in the dark either on their whereabouts or when they might be released. Many of the detainees were taken away from their homes in the middle of the night.

Earlier, Tibetans from the eastern regions of Kham and Amdo who were among the detainees were also interrogated and sent home by train to face possible action from the Chinese authorities in their respective areas in Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan Provinces. Those who landed at Chengdu airport on their way back home to the Tibetan areas in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces were detained in the city itself. The fate and whereabouts of those under detention remain unknown.

### **Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**

On 23 January 2012, there was a large peaceful demonstration in Drango (Chinese: Luhuo) County, Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) in China’s Sichuan Province. Many monks from the Drangpo monastery took part. The Chinese authorities arrested a senior religious leader and three monks in Chengdu, Sichuan Province on 23 January 2012. They were visiting Chengdu. Their current status and location are unknown. Below are their names



1. Tulku Lobsang Tenzin (Drango Gomchen Monastery)
2. Geshe Tsewang Namgyal (Drango Monastery)
3. Thinlay (Drango monastery businessman)
4. Dalha (Drango monastery's accountant)

In Drango County between 25 January - 10 February, the Chinese security forces have arrested the following monks and lay people

1. Shonu (Drango monastery monk)
2. Tsering Gyaltzen (Drango monastery monk)
3. Yonten Sangpo - layperson
4. Sherkyam - layperson
5. Peldor - layperson
6. Gyekyab - layperson
7. Khengdo - layperson
8. Gyaltzen – layperson

#### **Patriotic re-education led to closure of monasteries and arrests**

Since October 2011, the ‘work teams’ instituted by the Chinese government have been conducting relentless ‘patriotic re-education’ sessions in Tibetan monasteries and nunneries. This increased repression on Tibetan Buddhist institutions are accompanied by new coercive programs such as “the Nine-Must-Haves” and “the Six Ones”, and rewarding Harmonious Model Monastery and law-abiding, patriotic and advanced monks and nuns.

Instead of studying Tibetan Buddhism and philosophy based on compassion, the monks and nuns are forced to study Communist Chinese doctrines and forced to denounce their spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The work teams have also taken over the complete authority and management of the monasteries from the monks. Monks and nuns are punished and arrested for not complying with the work teams and this has resulted in the closure of many monasteries.

Unable to endure tight restriction and intrusions, monks and nuns at monasteries and nunneries in Driru County of Nagchu Prefecture of Tibet Autonomous Region have been forced to leave their religious Centres in rising numbers, reported Radio Free Asia, Washington in January 31. It named Driru, Pekar, Choeling, Tagmo, and Drongna monasteries and Jana nunnery as the affected Centres, citing a Tibetan living in Australia with source in the area. A monk at Sera Monastery in South India with his own source in the area also confirmed the development, adding, two other monasteries – Drubde and Rachen – had, in fact, become deserted.

Five monks of Ungting Monastery in Dachu Township of Ngamring (Chinese: Angren) County of Shigatse Prefecture, TAR, were arrested for opposing the patriotic education, including the order to fly the Chinese Red Star flag in the monastery.



In Markham (Chinese: Maerkang) County of Chamdo Prefecture, 22 of the 30 resident monks at the Dama Monastery were expelled for not being registered with the government. The monastery is said to face the prospect of being closed down with the official insisting that a portrait of the Dalai Lama there be replaced by one presented by them, showing Mao, Deng, Jiang and Hu.

In Pema (Chinese: Baima) County of Golok Prefecture in Qinghai Province, many monks left A-Kyong Jonang Monastery due to the campaign, especially after the Chinese authorities banned its nine-day annual religious festival since January 18, 2012.

### **China released tortured Tibetan Geshe to die at home**

A highly respected Tibetan Buddhist monk arrested in July 2011, apparently for his role in March 2008 protest in Qinghai province, has died on 22 January 2012 shortly after release due to torture during detention, reported Radio Free Asia, Washington in January 22. Citing Beijing-based Tibetan poet and blog activist Ms Woesser, the report said Geshe Tsultrim Gyaltso, 51, had succumbed to severe injuries inflicted in prison since his arrest in Hainan (Tibetan;Tsolho) Prefecture.

He was reported to have been taken to hospital at the end of December 2011 and from there handed over to his family just a few days before his death, incapacitated and looking frail.

He also played what Ms. Woesser calls a "pivotal" role in the preservation and protection of the Tibetan language and culture.

Chinese authorities in Tibet have been alleged to routinely release severely tortured prisoners in order to avoid responsibility for their death in prison.

### **Tibetan school closed, teachers held and Chinese education ordered**

The Chinese authorities in Karze County of Sichuan Province have shut down a school set up by the local Tibetans to teach their children their own culture, detained two of its teachers and ordered the children to be sent to government schools where only Chinese education is provided, with Tibetan being taught only as a subsidiary language subject, reported Radio Free Asia in April 18. The school was set up in 1987 in Rongpatsa Khadrok Town with a single classroom and expanded in 2005 but ordered to shut down in April 2, 2012.

Two of the school's teachers—Nyendak, 51, and Yama Tsering, 36—were detained by the police and continue to be held incommunicado while three other teachers, who happened to be away at the time of the shut down order, were warned against coming back.

In eastern Tibet, a number of mass protests staged by students in recent years over the imposition of Chinese medium of education at the expense of Tibetan. Most recently, on 14 March, about 4,000 Tibetan students demonstrated in Qinghai province to protest against a proposed switchover to Chinese as the language for teaching all the non-language subjects at the expense of their own mother-tongue.

Massive Tibetan student protest over switch to Chinese language education

Nearly 4,000 students of Tibetan schools in three counties in Qinghai Province have staged demonstrations in March 14 to protest against a possible shift to Chinese as the medium of



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

teaching all the non-language subjects, reported Radio Free Asia in March 14. The protests were reported to have occurred in schools in Rebkong (in Chinese, Tongren), Tsekhog (Zeku) and Kangtsa (Gangcha) counties.

The protest was the biggest since October 2010 when thousands of Tibetan middle and primary school pupils from four Tibetan prefectures in Qinghai Province demonstrated for days against a language change policy.

The demonstration began when several hundred students of three schools—Rebkong Yushu Middle School, Rebkong County Middle School of Nationalities and Gedun Choephel School—gathered to criticize planned changes to the education policy. They were soon joined by more than 2,500 students of Rebkong and Tsekhog counties. They demanded equality for all nationalities and freedom of language.

Also on 14 March, about 100 students in Kangtsa County were reported to have protested against Chinese rule, calling for self-ownership of land and "equality for languages." They marched to the Kangtsa County centre and then tried to enter the street leading to the town when they were stopped by the police. They therefore returned to their schools and shouted slogans.

The current wave of protests began in Rebkong on 4 March. Outraged to find their textbooks for a new term after their return from a holiday break written in Chinese, around 700 Tibetan students at the Rebkong County Middle School of Nationalities tried to take out a protest march into the local Rongwo Town, demanding language rights. "The students from grade 1 and 2 (about ten classes) of the senior section were enraged to discover that their new textbooks for politics, history, geography, mathematics, biology, chemistry and physics, which were previously in Tibetan, were now in Chinese," said London-based Free Tibet in a web statement March 8.

Enraged students were reported to have begun tearing up their new Chinese language text books and prepared to stage a protest march into town but were dissuaded by their teachers and headmasters given the sensitivity of the time.

The vice-director of the County Education Bureau was reported to have later visited the school to explain that the Chinese language textbooks were issued because the Tibetan textbooks could not be printed on time. But the students remain sceptical even though they have been assured that the Tibetan textbooks would be ready by September this year.

### **Tibet virtually cut off from the rest of the world**

At present, Tibet remained virtually cut off from the rest of the world. Besides, all communication channels including internet and phone line are blocked in all restive Tibetan areas. It is evident from heavy military build-up along with blocking of communication channels and barred foreign journalist to visit restive regions in Tibet that the Chinese authorities doesn't want outsiders to witness what is indeed happening on ground, to ensure their iron fist control and handling unexpected outbreak of protest



according to their will. However, two Beijing based foreign journalists were able to secretly visit Ngaba (Chinese: Aba).

1. Sky News “Inside Tibet 2012 China's Ruthless Military Lockdown on Tibet” :  
[http://wn.com/Sky\\_News\\_Inside\\_Tibet\\_2012\\_China's\\_Ruthless\\_Military\\_Lockdown\\_on\\_Tibet](http://wn.com/Sky_News_Inside_Tibet_2012_China's_Ruthless_Military_Lockdown_on_Tibet)
2. Jonathan Watts of the Guardian Newspaper who after a 10-hour drive across the Tibetan plateau was able to get into the town undetected and witness how the authorities are trying to extinguish dissent with fire engines, riot police and patriotic 're-education' campaigns. On the streets of Aba, ranks of paramilitary police armed with guns, batons and spiked clubs keep a watchful eye on Buddhist monks in crimson robes. Watch here the report  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/video/2012/feb/10/inside-tibet-heart-protectors-video>

There is no evidence that this period of resistance will come to an end in the immediate future. Tibetans in Tibet have said that unless China changes its policies, Tibetans were ready to self-immolate to draw international attention to the very desperate situation in Tibet.

UN without action thus far – how much more must Tibet endure?

Your Excellency, in view of the deplorable and deteriorating human rights situation inside Tibet, the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein has been holding peaceful protests in front of the Palais Wilson and at the broken chair in front of the UN in Geneva once every month since March 2011 and will continue this year as well to draw international attention to the plight of our Tibetan brethren who have been enduring immense hardship under Chinese communist regime.

We have staged twelve actions so far alerting you to the most urgent aspects of the dramatic situation in Tibet as follows:

- 30-05-2011: Kick off Day
- 06-27-2011: 2nd action: “Religion Freedom”
- 25-07-2011: 3rd action : “Stop Torture”
- 29-08-2011: 4th action : "Equality for Nationalities - Equality of Languages. “
- 12-09-2011: 5th action : “China- Stop Cultural Genocide in Tibet”
- 31-10-2011: 6th action: “Dialogue now!”
- 28-11-2011: 7th action: "Fighting for Tibetan Women’s Rights!”
- 10-12-2011: International Human Rights’ Day



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

- 27-02-2012: 9th action : "Stop the forced resettlement of Tibetan nomads!"
- 12-04-2012: 10th Action : "Freedom of speech, opinion and movement in Tibet!"  
"Freedom of press, free access to journalists"
- 25-04-2012: 11th Action : "Freedom for the Panchen Lama"
- 
- 21-05-2012: 12th Action: "Free all Political prisoners"

All our appeals to you have not led to action so far. Therefore, we re-iterate our demands and earnestly seek Your Excellency's urgent and immediate intervention by urging China:

- To respect the rights of Tibetan people guaranteed in China's Constitution including religious freedom, freedom of expression and assembly;
- To guarantee the equality for nationalities and equality of languages;
- To respect Tibetan women's rights;
- To stop torture;
- To stop the cultural genocide;
- To stop the resettlement of Tibetan nomads;
- To release all political prisoners including the Panchen Lama without condition;
- To allow unfettered access to international media, foreign diplomats and UN independent experts including yourself to all Tibetan restive regions;
- Immediately withdraw security personnel from the Ngaba, Kardze and Chamdo regions of Tibet and from individual monasteries;
- To end the so-called "patriotic re-education" in monasteries and allow monks and nuns to freely practice their Buddhist religion;
- To provide information on the fate and whereabouts of those arrested and disappeared for allegedly taking part in protests;
- To conduct an independent investigation on the Chinese security forces who opened fire on peaceful protestors in Drango, Sertha and Dzamthang counties in January and February 2012 in which at least 7 protestors were killed and over 60 injured;
- To provide detailed information on those Tibetan protestors who have been sentenced to imprisonment;
- Finally to resume the dialogue between the Tibetan Representatives to find a mutually agreeable solution to longstanding political problems

Yours sincerely,

Lobsang Gangshontsang  
President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein  
Büelstrasse 90, 8132 Hinteregg Tel +41 79 442 34 05  
[Lobsang.gangshontsang@bluewin.ch](mailto:Lobsang.gangshontsang@bluewin.ch)

Copy: Mr. Ban Ki Moon, UN General Secretary