



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

### **3rd** action of the second year of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein for a 2-year campaign since May 30, 2011:

**UN to send an independent fact-finding mission to Tibet now!  
“Respect the Tibetan Children’s rights”**

**The 3rd** action of the second year will take place at the Palais Wilson  
on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:30 am to 4 pm.

The 3rd action will take place at the Palais Wilson on September 21, from 11:30 am to 4 pm. Tibetans from the **sections Rapperswil-Jona/Uznach-Wattwil** and their supporters are demanding the respect of the "Tibetan Children’s Rights “ and reminding the public of the immediate threat of extinction of the Tibetan language and culture that will result from the implementation of recent Chinese plans for a new language policy at schools, as well as of the crackdown following the series of self-immolations that is also affecting Tibetan schools. Even worse, arbitrary detention and torture remain widespread and systematic instruments of Chinese political repression in Tibet, even to the extent of being wielded against children.

One of the biggest threats to Tibetan culture are the plans of government authorities to make Mandarin Chinese the primary language of instruction in the Tibetan schools in the province of Qinghai by 2015. All lessons and textbooks should be in Chinese language in primary schools by 2015 except Tibetan and English language classes. This will not only downgrade Tibetan to a “second language” with less time accorded to it in the curriculum, but poses a major threat to the children’s cultural identity.

Already the current reality of education, and even more these plans, represent a blatant violation of Article 37 of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China on Regional National Autonomy which demands that minority nationalities may use their own languages as the media of instruction. In reality, the Chinese leaders have always held the view that for the ultimate control of Tibet, the Tibetan language and culture must be destroyed and replaced with Chinese. Therefore, in all Tibetan areas and in the varying levels of schools, Tibetan language is gradually being replaced by Chinese.

Lack of access to adequate education and cultural discrimination has led many parents to sending their children to schools abroad, risking their lives on the escape routes crossing the Himalayan passes.

The crackdown of the authorities following the series of self-immolations is also affecting Tibetan schools. In April, one private Tibetan school in Kardze, dedicated to teaching Tibetan language and culture, was closed down with the Principal and one English teacher being arrested. In June, three teachers in Rebkong were removed from a local school on allegations of having participated in the wave of protests after the announcement of the new language policy. Authorities have not shown hesitation to arrest even minors on suspicions of political dissent, who are facing the same cruel treatments in detention as adults.

We ask the UN to support our demands:

- Immediate termination of the plans to make Chinese Mandarin the primary language in Tibetan schools.
- Immediate end to the crackdown on Tibetan schools, and release of all Tibetan teaching staff as well as students from detention.
- Discuss within the UN the issue of Tibet based on the resolutions that it has passed in 1959, 1961 and 1965, and continuously make efforts to fulfill the substance of these resolutions
- Send an independent fact-finding mission with unhindered access to Tibet