



## PRESS RELEASE

Today as we observe the 64th Anniversary of the International Human Rights Day- a day remembered for adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights by United Nations General Assembly, it is very unfortunate to see that a quarter of people are still being denied basic human rights. Tibetan people in Tibet are one such case. The Chinese government continues to violate the most basic human rights of Tibetans enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various International conventions and treaties.

Due to occupation of Tibet in 1949 and the clampdown that followed the peaceful protests, civil and political rights of Tibetan people are repressed. As a result of the Chinese repressive policies in Tibet, economic marginalization, social inequality, cultural assimilation and environmental destruction have become the norm of Chinese communist rule. As opposed to China's claims of improved lives in Tibet, the situation in Tibet has deteriorated significantly that Tibetans are resorting to desperate and unprecedented acts of self-burning. As of today, 78 Tibetans are known to have committed self-immolation out of which 64 have died since 2009. They have called for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet and freedoms for Tibetans.

Today is also the closing day of the historic Flame of Truth worldwide relay, which began with three demands on 6 July 2012 in Dharamsala, India and since then has travelled around the globe highlighting the Tibet's tragic situation. Two European Tibetan parliamentarians shall handover the Flame of truth petition and collected signatures to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The petition calls for fulfilment of the substances in the United Nations resolutions on Tibet in 1959, 1961 and 1965. It also strongly calls on UN to send Independent fact finding mission to Tibet to investigate the ongoing crisis in Tibet and to take responsibility to fulfil the aspirations of Tibetan people.

Human Rights Day is a time for people and governments to reflect about the meaning, importance and need for basic rights. To the government of China, we want to say that the only way to bring about real peace and stability in Tibet is by respecting the fundamental human rights of the Tibetan people. We call upon China to release all political prisoners who are sentenced under various pretexts without fair trial and to stop all repressive policies currently being implemented across Tibetan areas, and to resolve the Tibetan issue peacefully through dialogue.

We also call upon the new Chinese leaders to accept the 12 outstanding requests to visit Tibet by UN Human Rights bodies.

While we welcome the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs Navi Pillay's strong statement on the current human rights situation in Tibet, we urge United Nations to continue to raise the Tibetan right issues and follow up with the pending fact finding mission to Tibet to assess the first-hand ground situation inside Tibet with China.

We also take this opportunity to call on Swiss people and Government to support the Tibetan struggle for justice and human dignity.

We also appeal the people of the world, Media persons, International Community and Governments to send fact-finding delegations to Tibet and assess the gross human rights violations and ground situation first-hand.

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