



Tibetan Community in Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Tibeter Gemeinschaft in der Schweiz & Liechtenstein

Geneva, June 2, 2009

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
H. E. Mrs. Navanethem Pillay
OHCHR, Palais Wilson
Avenue de la Paix 8-14
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

China imposes death penalty on Tibetans

Yours Excellency

On April 8, 2009 Lobsang Gyaltzen and Loyak, two Tibetans, were sentenced to death by the Middle People's Court of Lhasa along with Gangtsu Tenzin Phuntsog and Penkyi. Dawa Sangpo and Penkyi were sentenced to life imprisonment and another young Tibetan, Chime, was convicted to 10 years of imprisonment.

The Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein strongly condemns those arbitrary and tough decisions and emphatically demands the revocation of all verdicts, in particular the death penalties.

According to Amnesty International, China is still a leading example when it comes to cases of unfair judicial proceedings and the declaration of death sentences as a consequence. Neither does the origination of prove nor the selected and limited admission of legal assistance to detainees that lead to such prompt execution verdicts by the Chinese court reflect its legitimacy and rightfulness. It is also known that arrested persons were treated harshly and even tortured during detention. Some are forced to plead guilty to speed up the legal process.

Based on a report from Amnesty International the People's Republic of China has executed nearly 1718 death penalties and has sentenced to death over 7'000 persons last year. China remains the undisputed record holder in this regard.

Your Excellency, we kindly ask you to immediately intervene and urge China to quash the death sentences of Lobsang Gyaltzen , Loyak, Gangtsu Tenzin Phuntsog and Penkyi who were sentenced on 8th April 2009 by the Lhasa Municipal Intermediate People's Court. Their sentences have received world-wide attention and we ask you to call on the Supreme People's Court to overturn the decision. If, however, the Court decides to order a retrial, then we urge that the trial is held in a fair and transparent manner, in accordance with international judicial standards.

The right to a fair trial is a fundamental human right and an essential component of the administration of criminal justice. This right is part of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which China signed in 1998.

Today begins the 11th regular session of the Human Rights Council. We take this opportunity to raise our voices and ask the International Community and its main bodies, such as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council to censure the Chinese government and to support our peaceful protests and request for justice and self-determination in our homeland.

In view of the ongoing tragic situation inside Tibet, we urge the United Nations, the international community and organizations to the following urgent needs:

1. To immediately send an independent international fact-finding mission into Tibet
2. To exert pressure on the PRC government to allow unfettered access to free press in whole of Tibet
3. To pressure the PRC to end the brutal killings in the whole of Tibet
4. To immediately release all the arrested and imprisoned Tibetans
5. To extend immediate medical assistance to those injured Tibetans
6. To allow free movement of people and provide access to daily needs

Your Excellency, we Tibetans were deeply saddened and concerned over China's position and politics in Tibet. Each day, Tibetan men and women are suffering from Chinese suppression and arbitrary verdicts. Please help us stop this genocide.

With compliments,

Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Karma L. Pangring, President

Kalsang N. Kangrang, Vice President