



Tibet News

October-December 2011 Vol 18 No 4

ISSN 1328-2964

The Newsletter of the **Tibet Information Office** for Australia, New Zealand & South East Asia



Photo: Sichuan Province, Tibet. Monks being forcibly removed from monasteries for 'legal education', their names and crimes written on the placards around their necks. 2 December, 2011. (Boxun)

which are incorporated into the Chinese Province of Sichuan and one from Chamdo under Tibet Autonomous Region took the highest form of protest out of desperation.

The self-immolations by young Tibetans mostly monks and nuns are a protest against the Chinese government's repression of freedom of religion and cultural rights in Tibet. The youths raised the slogans "Freedom in Tibet; we want religious freedom and return of Dalai Lama in Tibet" before setting themselves on fire. Out of these seven succumbed to their injuries and the others are hospitalised and in critical condition. On 27 February 2009, Tapey, belonging to Kirti monastery, became the first Tibetan monk to self-immolate.

Peaceful protests in Tibet are always met with severe crackdowns. Restrictions and restraining rules are levied against various aspects of life, such as national identity, expression of thought and cultural and environment preservation. Any Tibetan individual involved in these acts are charged with various accusations. Arbitrary detention, involuntary disappearances, torture, and unfair trial. With such measures, strike-hard campaigns are imposed on Tibetans. ■

Human Rights Situation and Self-immolations in Tibet

1 DECEMBER, 2011

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TIBET remains grim. Since March 2011, a series of peaceful protests in the form of self-immolation have taken place in Tibet. As of 1

December 2011, twelve Tibetans have committed self-immolation to protest against the China's hard line policy. Eight Tibetans from Amdo Ngaba, north-eastern Tibet and three from Kham Karze, eastern Tibet both of

His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Decide His Reincarnation at 90

24 SEPTEMBER, 2011

DHARAMSHALA: HIS HOLINESS THE 14TH DALAI LAMA today issued a comprehensive declaration on his next incarnation, putting to rest all the questions raised by inquisitive journalists and ulterior motives of the Chinese government authorities about the next Dalai Lama.

"When I am about ninety I will consult the high Lamas of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions, the Tibetan public, and other concerned people who follow Tibetan Buddhism, and re-evaluate whether the institution of the Dalai Lama should continue or not. On that basis we will take a decision," His Holiness said in the declaration.

His Holiness further said: "If it is decided that the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama should continue and there is a need for the Fifteenth Dalai Lama to be recognized,

responsibility for doing so will primarily rest on the concerned officers of the Dalai Lama's Gaden Phodrang Trust. They should consult the various heads of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions and the reliable oath-bound Dharma Protectors who are linked inseparably to the lineage of the Dalai Lamas. They should seek advice and direction from these concerned beings and carry out the procedures of search and recognition in accordance with past tradition."

"I shall leave clear written instructions about this. Bear in mind that, apart from the reincarnation recognized through such legitimate methods, no recognition or acceptance should be given to a candidate chosen for political ends by anyone, including those in the People's Republic of China," he added. *Continued page 2*



IN THIS ISSUE

UN Experts Voice Grave Concern over Security Measures in Tibet	3
Greens Stand for Human Rights in Tibet	3
Australia Calls on China to End Crackdown in Tibet	4
Tibetan Language introduced into Australian University	5
Chinese Intellectuals Launch Tibet Solidarity Signature Campaigns	6
EU Parliament Resolution	7

Photo: His Holiness the Dalai Lama with former Czech president Václav Havel, Prague, 10 December 2011. CTX/Czech Republic



Tibet News

Tibet News is the newsletter of the Tibet Information Office, Canberra

Address:

8/13 Napier Close, Deakin
ACT 2600 Australia

Phone: 61-2-6285-4046

Fax: 61-2-6282-4301

Email: tiboff@bigpond.com

Website: www.tibetoffice.com.au

Representative of HH the Dalai Lama:

Sonam N. Dago

Secretary:

Ngodup Gyaltzen Udak

Contact the Office for copies of *Tibet News*

We welcome donations to defray production costs.

Please make cheques payable to: 'Tibet Information Office'

Signed articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tibet Information Office.

Editors: Sonam N. Dago and Karen Collier

Production: Karen Collier

OFFICES OF TIBET

(worldwide)

New Delhi, India

New York, USA

Geneva, Switzerland

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tokyo, Japan

London, UK

Moscow, Russia

Paris, France

Pretoria, South Africa

Taipei, Taiwan

Brussels, Belgium

Joint Press Statement by Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and the Kashag

OCTOBER 12, 2011

SINCE THE 2008 UPRISING IN TIBET, the situation in Tibet has been deteriorating. Particularly, as of March this year, it has become ever more tense and urgent with the increasing cases of self-immolation by young Tibetans who find China's occupation and repression of Tibet intolerable.

Tibetans in Tibet are driven to these drastic acts to resist political repression, cultural assimilation, economic marginalization and environmental destruction.

From the seven young Tibetans who self-immolated this year, the following succumbed to their injuries: On March 16, 2011, Lobsang Phuntsok (age 21), a monk of Kirti Monastery in northeastern Tibet. The second reported case, on August 15, 2011 was that of Tsewang Norbu, (age 29), a monk at Nyitso monastery in eastern Tibet. The third and the fourth cases were Khaying (age 18), and Choephel (age 19), both former monks of Kirti Monastery. They self-immolated on October 7, 2011 and died on October 8 and 11 respectively.

The conditions of the three others, namely Lobsang Kelsang (age 18), Lobsang Kunchok (age 19) and Kelsang Wangchuk (age 17) are still unknown.

The Central Tibetan Administration is deeply concerned about their whereabouts and well-being.

We express our solidarity with all those who lost their lives and with all other Tibetans who are incarcerated for their courage to

speaking up for the rights of the Tibetan people.

We appeal to the United Nations, freedom-loving countries and people around the world to show their support and solidarity with the Tibetan people at this critical stage.

Given the undeclared martial law in Tibet and the increasing cases of self-immolation, the international community must press the government of People's Republic of China to restore freedom and resolve the issue of Tibet through dialogue for the mutual benefit of the Tibetan and Chinese people. In this light, we urge the international community and the media to send fact-finding delegations to ascertain the situation on the ground inside Tibet.

The Kashag and the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile have jointly planned activities in India and the world-at-large to highlight the deepening crisis in Tibet.

We call upon all Tibetans and Tibet supporters in the free world to join efforts and organize activities in their respective regions. These events must be peaceful, respectful of local laws and dignified. On October 19, 2011, the Central Tibetan Administration will offer day-long prayers and encourage all Tibetans to fast on that day as a gesture of solidarity with Tibetans in Tibet.

To our brothers and sisters in Tibet, we stand with you in fulfilling our common aspirations, and we share the pain of your sacrifice. ■

His Holiness also said, "reincarnation is a phenomenon which should take place either through the voluntary choice of the concerned person or at least on the strength of his or her karma, merit and prayers. Therefore, the person who reincarnates has sole legitimate authority over where and how he or she takes rebirth and how that reincarnation is to be recognized. It is a reality that no one else can force the person concerned, or manipulate him or her."

"It is particularly inappropriate for Chinese communists, who explicitly reject even the idea of past and future lives, let alone the concept of reincarnate Tulkus, to meddle in the system of reincarnation and especially the reincarnations of the Dalai Lamas and Panchen Lamas," he said.

"Such brazen meddling contradicts their own political ideology and reveals their double standards. Should this situation continue in the future, it will be impossible for Tibetans and those who follow the Tibetan Buddhist tradition to acknowledge or



accept it," he added.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama conferred his declaration with the religious heads of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism and Bon tradition at the 11th religious conference in Dharamsala on 23 September," the conference spokesperson Prof Samdhong Rinpoche told the media on the closing day of the three-day religious conference today.

tradition at the 11th religious conference in Dharamsala on 23 September," the conference spokesperson Prof Samdhong Rinpoche told the media on the closing day of the three-day religious conference today. ■

HHDL addressing the 11th religious conference of four major Buddhist schools and Bon tradition 22-24 September 2011, Dharamsala, India. Photo by Namgyal Tsewang/Tibet TV/Tibetonline.nv

UN Experts Voice Grave Concern Over Severe Restrictions on Monasteries in Tibet

30 NOVEMBER, 2011

GENEVA: A GROUP OF UN EXPERTS HAS VOICED grave concern over heavy security measures on the Tibetan monasteries in and around Kirti monastery in north-eastern Tibet's Ngaba county, stressing that the Tibetan people's religious freedom should be respected and guaranteed by the Chinese government.

"Intimidation of the lay and monastic community must be avoided, and the right of members of the monastic community, and the wider community to freely practice their religion, should be fully respected and guaranteed by the Chinese Government," stressed the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Mr Heiner Bielefeldt, noting that the recent deployment of security forces is reported to include officers in riot gear, soldiers with automatic rifles, and trucks and armed personnel on the streets leading to the monastery.

Further measures are reported to include security raids and surveillance within monasteries, with police presence inside and outside monasteries to monitor religious activities. "Such restrictive measures not only curtail the right to freedom of religion or belief, but further exacerbate the existing tensions, and are counter-productive," Mr Heiner Bielefeldt said.

His comments were echoed by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of

association, Mr Maina Kiai, who warned that "such measures seriously impede the exercise of the right to association of members of the monastic community."

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr Frank La Rue, added his voice expressing his "deep concern about allegations of restrictions to Internet access and mobile messaging services within Ngaba county, as well as journalists' lack of access to the region." In his view, "rather than taking such measures, the Government should instead listen to and address the legitimate grievances of the monastic community."

The heavy security measures adopted have resulted in increased tensions between the Chinese authorities and members of the monastic community, in particular since March 2011, a period which has seen an escalation of protests by both lay persons and members of the monastic community, calling for religious freedom. The severe restrictions on freedoms of religion, expression and association, have led to hundreds of monks reportedly leaving the monastery, with many being arrested or subjected to enforced disappearance.

The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances reiterated its deep concern over the whereabouts of all those who have been subject to enforced disappearances in China, including a group of over 300 monks of Kirti Monastery whose fate or

whereabouts still remain unknown.

"Any enforced disappearance is unacceptable and such practices are in violation of international law," said the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Mr Jeremy Sarkin, expressing concern that a proposed revision to the Chinese Criminal Procedure Law will legalise enforced disappearances in the country.

"This heinous practice is not permitted under any circumstances. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever may be invoked to justify an enforced disappearance," Mr Sarkin added.

Another UN expert panel, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, expressed concern about the recurring practice of arbitrary arrests and detention of monks in the area of Sichuan province. "No individual can be arrested on the ground of peacefully exercising the rights and freedoms guaranteed under international human rights law," stressed Mr El Hadji Malick Sow, the Group's Chair-Rapporteur.

The Independent Expert on minority issues, Ms Rita Izsák, also called on the Chinese authorities to fully respect and uphold the rights of minorities including their rights to freely practice their religion and culture. "Allegations suggest that this is far from the case in this region and I urge the Government to cease any restrictive practices and refrain from any use of violence or intimidation," she said. ■

Greens Stand for Human Rights in Tibet

GREENS LEADER SENATOR BOB BROWN in a media release on 22 October said, "The self-immolation of nine Tibetan monks and nuns this year, requires a response from Australia and other nations doing business with China.

"The silence of the world on the repression of Tibetan Buddhism and vilification of the Dalai Lama by Beijing are a daily reminder of the way corporate greed overrides human rights in global affairs. This cruel repossession leading to a tragic string of self immolations, demands condemnation and action from democracies and those who believe China is obliged to uphold the

International Covenant on Human Rights. If these monks and nuns were throwing bombs, everyone would be condemning them, but, as it is, they are being largely ignored in their desperate call to the world for help.

"Both Australia's major parties have leaders who want a free trade agreement with Beijing. Both should say how they will tackle the Tibetan people's agony. Greens spokesperson on Tibet, Sarah Hanson-Young, will move a motion calling on the Australian Government to tackle China over Tibet when the Senate sittings resume," Senator Brown said in Hobart. ■





Australian Lawmakers Call on China to End Crackdown on Tibet

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TIBET has deteriorated significantly since 2008 and Tibetans have been resorting to desperate acts of setting themselves on fire. In 2011 alone twelve young Tibetans self-immolated to protest against the Chinese repression. International community and Tibetans all over the world have expressed their support to the Tibetans and called upon the Chinese authority to respect the rights of the Tibetans. Australian Parliamentarians also made strong statements on the grim human rights situation in Tibet and called on China to end crackdown on Tibet.

The Australian Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young introduced a motion in the Senate about deteriorating human rights condition in Tibet on 31 October 2011 and urged the Australian government to raise the issue with the Chinese counterpart. Though the motion was not passed, Sen. Sarah Hanson-Young said, "The Greens will continue using our voices for those who can't and highlight abuses against Tibetans in Tibet and surrounding areas." On 3 November 2011 Mr. Michael Danby MP made a speech on Tibetan self-immolations in the Australian Parliament. He said, "Since March this year, 10 young Tibetans including seven monks from the Kirti Monastery in Ngaba, have set themselves alight to protest the Chinese government's restrictions on their religious and political freedom. Chinese authorities are using extreme force in the

crackdown on the Kirti Monastery, where they are enforcing a 'patriotic re-education campaign' and have imposed an indefinite ban on religious activities at that critical monastery. The number of monks in the monastery has gone from 2,500 to around 400. Since March Ngaba has seen the presence of civilian and military personnel patrolling the area".

He further said, "The restrictive and repressive measures enforced on the monks at Kirti include security raids and surveillance with police presence inside and outside the monastery to monitor religious activities. Over 300 monks have been disappeared by the Chinese authorities for 'patriotic re-education' and many of them remain missing unheard from by their families. A recent Human Rights Watch study found that per capita annual spending on public security in Ngaba was five times the average spent per person on public security in non-Tibetan areas of Sichuan.

The process of eliminating Tibetan culture and the removal of monks and nuns is a direct violation of the freedom of religion. The Australian government is deeply concerned about reports of self-immolations by monks and nuns. Australian officials last week made renewed representations in Canberra and Beijing to their Chinese counterparts about these reports. Our embassy in Beijing has raised our concerns

about reports of the continuing crackdown around the monastery and the province and increased security measures in the Tibetan areas. I entreat the Chinese authorities to respect the religious rights of Tibetan monks and to cease their repressive actions against those in the Kirti Monastery".

Mr Michael Danby MP, Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, and Mr Laurie Ferguson MP, Chair of the Human Rights Sub-committee on 14 November called on the Chinese government to cease its heightened repressive measures against the monks at Kirti Monastery in Ngaba in eastern Tibet.

Ms Melissa Parke MP became the third parliamentarian in the last one month to draw attention to the crisis in eastern Tibet. On 21 November she expressing her deep concern over the recent spate of immolations by young Tibetans, Ms Parke said she hopes the Australian government would continue to call on China, including through the bilateral human rights dialogue, to enter into meaningful negotiations with the Tibetan representatives to address the underlying causes of ethnic tensions in Tibet, noting that economic development must be accompanied by the protection of the unique linguistic, cultural and religious identity of the Tibetan people. ■

Australian Greens Back Motion on Tibetan Self-Determination; Condemn Beijing's Repression



THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS at their national conference on 6 November responded to the plight of Tibet by passing a resolution that recognised self-determination for Tibetan peoples and condemned the ongoing repression of Tibetans by the Chinese government.

"The old parties may go on ignoring Tibetan people, but the Greens are again using their voices to highlight Tibetan peoples' rights to their traditional homelands and to spiritual and political expression," Greens' spokesperson for

Tibet, Sen. Sarah Hanson-Young, said. "Last weekend our party members agreed to keep vigilant about the ongoing problems in Tibet and surrounding areas where four monks and a nun have died by self-immolation in recent months.

"Since March this year at least 11 Tibetans have taken the desperate course of setting themselves alight to highlight continued human rights abuses.

"The Australian Greens will continue working towards an end to the plundering of Tibet's natural resources and political recognition of Tibetans' own elected representatives. Unlike the old parties, the Greens are not afraid to stand up for what's right."

Full wording of the motion accepted by consensus at the Australian Greens' national conference is as follows:

That the Australian Greens recognise the rights of the Tibetan peoples over their traditional homelands and their rights to self determination including cultural and spiritual expression. We recognise their elected representatives. Further we condemn the plundering of Tibet's natural resources and destruction of Tibetan cultures by the Chinese Government. This conference calls on the government of China to end the repression in Tibet and heed the call of the Tibetans for restoration of their rights and freedom. ■

Tibetans Mark Human Rights Day in Australia

ON 10 DECEMBER 2011, International Human Rights Day, Tibetans from various Australian cities converged in Canberra, the Australian National Capital, to draw attention to the situation in Tibet. The day started with a rally in the middle of the central business district of Canberra. Tibetans dressed in traditional clothes and “Save Tibet” T-shirts carrying colourful Tibetan National Flags and photos of the 12 monks and nuns who self-immolated in Tibet thronged the venue.

Mr Thupten Dhondup, President of the Australian Tibetan Community Association welcomed everyone and said that even though it is 63 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Tibetans in Tibet do not have basic human rights that we take for granted in Australia.

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, a member of the Australian Green Party was the first speaker to address the gathering. Senator Hanson-Young on behalf of the Greens has moved many motions in the Senate regarding the recent self immolations of Tibetans, human rights situation in Tibet, and condemning ongoing repression on Tibetans by Chinese Govt. Senator Hanson-Young said the Australian Government had been too timid in its response to Tibet, especially when compared to the more vocal condemnations from Europe and the US.

Mr Chen Yonglin, a former Chinese diplomat who openly defected to Australia in the summer of 2005 also addressed the crowd. He said that he felt “lucky to talk freely about human rights here.”

Mr Paul Bourke, Executive Officer of the Australia Tibet Council (ATC), called on the Australian Government to end their silence on the Tibetan issue and stand up for Tibet. He added that a coordinated and swift diplomatic action was needed to resolve the Tibet issue.

Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia, New Zealand and



Southeast Asia, Mr Sonam Dago said, “We are here today to show our solidarity with the Tibetans in Tibet who lack basic human rights and continue to undergo suffering under the repressive policies of the Chinese Government.” The rally ended with prayers led by local monks and nuns.

Then the Tibetans and Tibet supporters marched to the Chinese Embassy which is about 3km away. A symbolic coffin with the names and photos of the 12 Tibetans who self-immolated in desperation to draw attention to the critical situation in Tibet was carried to the Chinese Embassy. The protesters were escorted by the Australian Federal Police.

Upon reaching the Chinese Embassy with large handmade banners saying ‘We Will Never Give Up’ and ‘Free Tibet’ the protesters chanted slogans. After observing a minute’s silence, Ms Lhamo Tenzin, president of the local Tibetan community said, “We have to be a voice for the Tibetans in Tibet, because they do not have the freedom of speech that we enjoy here in Australia.”

The gathering at the Chinese Embassy was addressed by Mr Chin Jin, a pro democracy Chinese activist who heads the Federation for a Democratic China based in Australia; Mr

Frank Ruanje, Co-President of the Chinese Tibetan Friendship Association, and Ms Kyinzom Dhongdue from the Australian Tibet Council.

Later in the day, all those who were present moved to the Albert Hall to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of His Holiness receiving the Nobel Peace Award. A portrait of His Holiness the Dalai Lama was welcomed to the stage by Chief guests Mr Sonam Dago, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Kasur Chope Paljor Tsering and Mr Fang Yuan, Chairman of the Chinese Labour Party based in Australia.

Approximately 300 Tibetans from Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Newcastle and Brisbane and Chinese friends and Australian supporters took part in the different events to mark the day. At the end Mr Nigan Gotsang, President of the NSW Tibetan Association, gave the vote of thanks to all the guest speakers, Mr Thupten Dhondup, President of the Australian Tibetan Community Association and the local Canberra Tibetan Community for hosting the day. The event was covered by the local media including the Canberra Times. ■

Report filed by Deki Tshoko

Australian University introduces Tibetan Language

THE SCHOOL OF CULTURE, History and Language of the Australian National University in Canberra will be introducing Tibetan language course from Monday 16th January, 2012 – Friday 3rd February, 2012. Under the direction of Professor John Powers, Tenzin C. Ringpapontsang, a loppon graduate from Sakya College, India and a PhD candidate at the ANU and Ruth Gamble who completes her PhD in Tibetan Literature at ANU in 2012 will be conducting the course.

This is an intensive three week summer

course aimed for students to be able to read and write Tibetan in the dBu chen script and also be able to conduct basic conversations in Tibetan. This course can be taken as an elective on an already undertaken undergraduate or postgraduate degree. Students from other universities may also be eligible for cross-institution enrolment.

It is welcoming news for the people from Himalayan Buddhist culture and Tibetan Australians to have formal courses of their language among other major languages of

the world at one of the most prestigious University in Australia. It is a wonderful opportunity for those who wish to pursue further on Tibetan studies to learn the source language and for young Tibetans at tertiary institutes across Australia to learn one's own language and get credits during the summer break. ■

For more information please contact:
ruth.gamble@anu.edu.au
tenzin.ringpapontsang@anu.edu.au



The Kashag Mourns Passing Away of President Václav Havel

DHARAMSHALA: "IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS the Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration has learned of the passing away of President Václav Havel on 18 December 2011. Please accept the deepest condolence of the Kashag and the Tibetan people in this time of sadness. The Tibetan people have lost a dear and steadfast friend," the Kashag said in a letter to the late president's wife Mrs Dagmar Havlova.

"President Václav Havel's gesture of inviting His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Czech Republic as a visiting head of the state soon after he became the president of young republic in 1990 is still remembered by the Tibetan people. "As a mark of Tibetan gratitude to President Václav Havel, His Holiness the Dalai Lama presented the Light of Truth Award to him in 2004 for his outstanding contribution to creating greater awareness of the Tibetan people in their struggle for greater freedoms and fundamental human rights.

"Please be assured that the Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration and the Tibetan people will always have the memory of President Václav Havel in their prayers and hearts," the Kashag said. ■

Amnesty International Urges Chinese Government to End Repression in Tibet

29 SEPTEMBER, 2011

DHARAMSHALA, India: DESCRIBING THE SELF-IMMOLATION by monks in Tibet as a way of their protests against the Chinese government's repressive measures, Amnesty International has called for an immediate end to the repression and that the Tibetan people's right to practice their culture and religion respected.

In a statement issued 28 September, London office of Amnesty International said: "These recent immolations have reportedly been protests against the Chinese government's repression of freedom of religion and cultural rights in Tibetan areas."

"Amnesty International urges the Chinese government to end these repressive practices immediately and respect the right of Tibetans to practice their culture and religion," the rights group said.

"The Chinese government has clamped down on the monasteries at the centre of these incidents: Kirti monastery in Ngaba county, Sichuan Province, and Nyitso monastery in Kardze country, also in Sichuan," it said.

"Tsewang Norbu's fatal act was reportedly motivated by the Chinese authorities' heavy-handed tactics since the Kirti Monastery monk Phuntsok's self-immolation in March," it added. Tsewang Norbu of Nyitso monastery in eastern Tibet burned himself to death by setting himself on fire on 15 August this year.

Referring to security clampdown in the aftermath of self-immolation by Phuntsok, a 21-year-old monk of Kirti monastery on 16 March this year, AI said: "Phuntsok's suicide this March was followed by protests, mass arrests of people including around 300 Kirti monastery monks, enforced disappearances and possible

killings by the security forces. High schools where students expressed solidarity with the Kirti monastery monks were reportedly blockaded and raided, and books burned by security forces."

"Two elderly Tibetans - a 65-year old woman called Sherkyi and a 60-year old man Dongkho - died after local residents clashed with security forces whilst trying to stop the mass arrest of Kirti monastery monks. Another Tibetan, Chukpel, 24 died in hospital soon after police reportedly beat him. He had been staging a protest for self-governance for Tibetans outside a local police station in Ngaba," it said.

"Among the some 300 monks detained in March were children, whom the Chinese authorities say were taken away for "patriotic education", which consists of denunciation of the Dalai Lama and inculcation in the Chinese government's version of Tibetan history."

Most of the monks have since been released, but Amnesty International knows of least five more people who have each been sentenced to three years imprisonment in ongoing criminal proceedings. Their names are Lobsang Khedup, Lobsang Gyatso, Dhonyoe Dorjee, Lobsang Dhargay and Kunchok Tsultrim. The exact charges and other details of their trials are unknown, but Amnesty International has frequently documented violations of the right to fair trial in Tibet and elsewhere in China. At least three others have been assigned to Re-education Through Labour.

Amnesty International said the Chinese government continues to enforce "patriotic education" of monks at Kirti monastery on a daily basis. Monks and laymen are coerced to denounce His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the "patriotic education". ■

Chinese Intellectuals Launch Tibet Solidarity Signature Campaigns

1 NOVEMBER, 2011

NEW YORK: CHINESE INTELLECTUALS and independent writers have joined a signature campaign to express their concern over the deteriorating situation in Tibet, particularly in Ngaba, and also to show solidarity with the Tibetan people inside Tibet.

More than 200 Chinese intellectuals and independent writers from outside China as well as some from inside China took part in the signature campaign initiated by Harvard scholar Yang Jianli and few others.

In the letter signed by the Chinese intellectuals and independent writers, it mentions that the

Chinese government has been, for a long time, suppressing the activities of the monastic communities in the Tibetan regions and this has been one of the main causes of the degeneration of the Tibetan culture, religion and Tibetan language.

The policies of the Chinese government, the letter says, have made it difficult even for ordinary citizens to carry on their day to day life related with the religion and culture.

It further adds that since the authorities have made the life in the monasteries so unbearable with unprecedented control and repression, the situation forced the young monks to take a drastic course of action to set themselves on fire to draw

outside attention to the deplorable situation.

Apart from the signature campaign, three Chinese oversea organizations have also released statement separately to condemn the Chinese government's repression on the monastic communities, particularly in Kirti Monastery in Ngaba.

The three organizations are Germany based Federation for a Democratic China headed by Feiliang Yong, US based Democratic Party of China headed by Wang Yoncai and Wang Juntao and US based Chinese Social Democratic Party headed by Liu Guokai.

After the completion of the signature campaign, the organizers have a plan to submit a copy of the signature campaign letter to the United Nations, the United States' Administration and EU. ■



European Parliament Resolution on Tibet, in Particular Self-immolation by Nuns and Monks

31 OCTOBER, 2011

The European Parliament,

– having regard to its previous resolutions on China and Tibet, in particular its resolution of 25 November 2010(1),

– having regard to Rule 122(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, which guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of religious belief,

A. whereas respect for human rights, freedom of religion and freedom of association are founding principles of the EU and a priority of its foreign policy;

B. whereas the Chinese Government has imposed drastic restrictions on Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in the Aba/Ngaba county prefecture in Sichuan province, and in other parts of the Tibetan plateau, including brutal security raids, arbitrary detention of monks, increased surveillance within monasteries and a permanent police presence inside the monasteries in order to monitor religious activities;

C. whereas these security measures are designed to curtail the right to free expression, freedom of association and freedom of religious belief in Tibetan Buddhist monasteries;

D. whereas Phuntsog (aged 20) and Tsewang Norbu (aged 29) died after setting fire to themselves, on 16 March and 15 August 2011 respectively, as a protest against restrictive Chinese policies in Tibet;

E. whereas Phuntsog's younger brothers, Lobsang Kelsang and Lobsang Kunchok (both aged 18), set fire to themselves at the Aba/Ngaba county market on 26 September 2011, and whereas, although they survived, their present condition remains unclear;

F. whereas Dawa Tsering, a 38-year-old monk at Kardze Monastery, set fire to himself on 25 October 2011, whereas Chinese security personnel doused the flames and tried to take him away, whereas the monk is currently being protected by fellow monks at the monastery and whereas his condition is critical;

G. whereas Kelsang Wangchuk, a 17-year-old monk at Kirti Monastery, immolated himself on 3 October 2011 and was immediately carried away by Chinese soldiers, who extinguished the fire and beat him strenuously before taking him away, and whereas his current state of well-being and whereabouts are unknown;

H. whereas two former monks from Kirti,

Choephel (aged 19) and Kayang (aged 18), clasped their hands together and set fire to themselves while calling for the return of the Dalai Lama and the right to religious freedom, and whereas they died following this protest;

I. whereas former Kirti monk Norbu Damdrul (aged 19), who set fire to himself on 15 October 2011, was the eighth Tibetan to self-immolate, and whereas his current whereabouts and state of well-being are unknown;

J. whereas on 17 October 2011 a nun from Ngaba Mamae Dechen Choekorling Nunnery, Tenzin Wangmo (aged 20), died, and whereas she was the first female to commit self-immolation;

K. whereas self-immolation can be seen as a form of protest and an expression of the increasing desperation felt by young Tibetans, especially within the community of Kirti Monastery;

L. whereas, whatever personal motivations may underlie these acts, they must be considered in the wider context of religious and political repression in Aba/Ngaba county, which can be traced back many years;

M. whereas the tightening of state control over religious practice via a series of regulations passed by the Chinese Government in 2007 has contributed to the desperation of Tibetans across the Tibetan plateau;

N. whereas current regulations have dramatically expanded state control over religious life, with many expressions of religious identity being subject to state approval and control, including the recognition of reincarnate lamas;

O. whereas a Chinese court sentenced three Tibetan monks to imprisonment over the death of their fellow monk Phuntsog, who set himself on fire on 16 March 2011, on the grounds that they had hidden him and deprived him of medical attention, and whereas it accused them of 'intentional homicide';

P. whereas in March 2011, following the first immolation incident, armed personnel surrounded Kirti Monastery and cut off its access to food and water for several days; whereas the new security officials dispatched to the monastery imposed a compulsory new 'patriotic education' programme, and whereas more than 300 monks were taken away in military trucks and detained at unspecified locations to undergo several weeks of political indoctrination;

Q. whereas the Chinese Government has accused the monks at Kirti Monastery of being involved in acts 'aimed at disturbing social

order', including vandalism and self-immolation;

R. whereas in recent months the Chinese authorities have tightened security in Tibet, especially in the area surrounding Kirti Monastery, whereas journalists and foreigners are banned from visiting the region, and whereas the monastery is patrolled by police in full riot gear; whereas foreign media have been banned from entering restless parts of Tibet, whereas Chinese state television has failed to report on the protests, and whereas monks are forbidden from speaking out about the protests;

1. Condemns the Chinese authorities' continued crackdown on Tibetan monasteries and calls on them to lift the restrictions and security measures imposed on monasteries and lay communities, and to restore the lines of communication to the monks of Kirti Monastery;

2. Is deeply concerned by reports, since last April, of eight Tibetan Buddhist monks and one nun self-immolating near the Ngaba Kirti Monastery in China's Sichuan province;

3. Urges the Chinese Government to lift the restrictions and heavy-handed security measures imposed on the Kirti Monastery, and to provide information as to the whereabouts of monks forcibly taken from the monastery; urges the Chinese authorities to allow independent international media and human rights monitors to visit the area;

4. Calls on the Chinese Government to guarantee freedom of religion to all its citizens in accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to abolish criminal and administrative penalties which target religion and have been used to punish citizens for exercising their right to freedom of religion;

5. Calls on the Chinese authorities to respect the rights of Tibetans in all Chinese provinces and to take proactive steps to resolve the underlying grievances of China's Tibetan population;

6. Calls on the Chinese authorities to cease promoting policies which threaten the Tibetan language, culture, religion, heritage and environment, in contravention of the Chinese Constitution and the Chinese law granting autonomy to ethnic minorities;

7. Urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to provide full details as to the status of the 300 monks who were taken away from Kirti Monastery in April 2011, in relation to which several Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, have intervened;

8. Urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to be accountable for the status of those Tibetans who have been 'hospitalised' after self-immolating, including as regards their access to medical treatment;

9. Condemns the sentencing of the Kirti monks and insists on their right to a fair trial and to the provision of adequate legal assistance for the length of that trial; calls for independent observers to be allowed access to the Kirti monks held in detention;

10. Calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to release a public statement expressing the EU's concern as regards the escalating situation in Aba/Ngaba county and urging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, along with restraint on the part of security police;

11. Calls on the Chinese authorities to refrain from implementing counterproductive policies and aggressive 'patriotic education' programmes in Tibetan-populated areas such as Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai, places where human rights violations have created tensions;

12. Calls on the Chinese authorities to respect traditional Tibetan death rites and to return remains in accordance with Buddhist rituals and without delay or hindrance;

13. Asks the EU and its Member States to call on the Chinese Government to resume its dialogue with the Dalai Lama and his representatives with a view to bringing about genuine autonomy for Tibetans within the

People's Republic of China, and to stop its campaign to discredit the Dalai Lama as a religious leader;

14. Calls on the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice President of the Commission to raise human rights issues at the next EU-China Summit, and calls on the President of the Commission and the President of the European Council clearly to uphold Tibet's unique religious, cultural and linguistic identity in the course of their official speeches during the opening or closing of the summit, in the event that it is not on the agenda for discussion;

15. Calls on the EEAS and the EU delegation to China constantly to monitor the human rights situation in China and to continue to raise – in meetings and correspondence with Chinese officials – the specific cases of individual Tibetans imprisoned for the peaceful exercise of religious freedom, and to present a report to Parliament within the next 12 months, suggesting actions to be taken or policies to be implemented;

16. Reiterates its call to the Council to appoint an EU Special Representative for Tibet with a view to facilitating the resumption of dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the Dalai Lama's envoys in relation to the determination of genuine autonomous status for Tibet within the People's Republic of China;

17. Calls on those Member States which are members of the G-20, and on the President of the Commission and the President of the European Council, to raise the human rights

situation in Tibet with the President of the People's Republic of China, Hu Jintao, at the upcoming G-20 Summit in Cannes on 3 and 4 November 2011;

18. Urges the People's Republic of China to respect the religious freedoms and basic human rights of the monastic and lay communities in Ngaba, and to suspend the implementation of religious control regulations in order to allow Tibetan Buddhists to identify and educate religious teachers in a manner consistent with Tibetan traditions, to review the religious and security policies implemented in Ngaba since 2008, and to open a transparent dialogue with the leaders of Tibetan Buddhist schools;

19. Urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect internationally agreed human rights standards and to abide by its obligations under international human rights conventions with respect to freedom of religion or belief;

20. Expresses the need for the rights of China's minority communities to be put on the agenda for future rounds of the EU-China human rights dialogue;

21. Urges the Chinese Government to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the High Representative of the Union / Vice-President of the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Government and Parliament of the People's Republic of China. ■

"IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, TRUTH IS THE ONLY WEAPON WE POSSESS." HH THE DALAI LAMA

FESTIVAL OF TIBET

1-5 FEBRUARY 2012
BRISBANE POWERHOUSE

Bookings (07) 3358 8600 visit www.brisbanepowerhouse.org or www.festivaloftibet.com.au



Tibet News

NEWSLETTER OF THE TIBET INFORMATION OFFICE, CANBERRA
Print Post Approval No. PP 229219 00 131

PRINT
POST

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

IF UNDELIVERED, RETURN TO:
TIBET INFORMATION OFFICE,
8/13 NAPIER CLOSE,
DEAKIN ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA