

Navanethem Pillay  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Dear Ms. Pillay,

As the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approaches, I am writing to ask you to help protect the human rights of Tibetans inside Tibet.

After recent talks between representatives of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government, a Chinese spokesperson stated that China "will never make a concession" on the Tibet issue and rejected a proposal for autonomy presented by the Tibetans. I urge you to take action to ensure that our government responds to this negative development by increasing its commitment to helping bring about a resolution of the Tibet issue; in particular, it is urgent that our government engage in strong, multilateral efforts to bring the Chinese leadership together with the Dalai Lama or his representatives in serious negotiations to conclude a resolution for Tibet.

The intractable position of the Chinese government should be unacceptable to the international community at this time, given the gross human rights violations occurring in Tibet and the deep desire for change on the part of Tibetans manifest in the mass protests that took place across the Tibetan plateau this spring.

In addition, I ask that you ensure our government raises the cases of several political prisoners with the Chinese government. These are:

- 1) Dhondup Wangchen, a Tibetan from Amdo province (now in China's Qinghai province), arrested on March 26 2008 after filming Tibetans speaking about their views on China and Tibet;
- 2) Jigme (also known as Jigme Guri), a monk from Labrang Monastery, Amdo (now in China's Gansu province), arbitrarily detained in March and rearrested on November 4 2008 after publicizing the torture he and others experienced in detention;
- 3) Rangjung, a television journalist from Kham province (now in China's Sichuan province), detained on September 11, 2008 for an unknown reason;
- 4) Sangye Lhamo, a nun detained with others on May 28 after protesting; and
- 5) Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a religious leader from Kham (now in Sichuan) detained in 2003 and serving a life sentence.
- 6) Norzin Wangmo (Chinese name: Longzhen Wangmu), an employee of the Judicial Bureau of Hongyuan county (Sichuan province), sentenced on November 3 to five years of imprisonment after she told relatives abroad of the situation in Tibet.

This March 10, 2009, will mark 50 years since the mass Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule and the flight of the Dalai Lama to India in 1959. Many governments have given strong support to Tibetans during this period. However, at this critical time for Tibet, it is essential that governments take even stronger action. The issue of Tibet will not be resolved until the international community takes determined steps to bring about serious negotiations between the two sides.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,