

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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Appeal to put more pressure on the Chinese government to admit a fact-finding mission to all Tibetan areas in the People's Republic of China and to release all political prisoners.

Dear Madam,

In Tibet a large-scale genocide is taking place, whilst China is trying to wipe out all evidence and keep the international community ignorant of the happenings in Tibet.

Various facts and figures given by the different sources have been meticulously examined and tallied with each other. After having done this, it can be confirmed that up to now the actual figure for the number of dead is 209, the number of injured is more than 1,000 and the number of those still detained is more than 5,715. These are figures for Tibetans who died, are injured and still in detention throughout Tibet as of today. In reality the figures might be much higher but due to the absolute news blackout in Tibet. Many arrested Tibetans have just disappeared.

The situation inside Tibet continues to be under extreme repression and scrutiny, specially following the heavy deployment of Chinese armed police and armies. Under such situation, it is very difficult to receive information from Tibet. Now and then a piece of information is received but it is incomplete and cannot be confirmed independently.

The relentless crackdown on innocent Tibetans is going on. Chinese military forces shoot at random at Tibetans and kill them like animals.

A few days ago a Tibetan girl, who came from a village, was shot dead using a silencer gun by the People's Armed Police (PAP) outside the southern gate of the Jokhang temple, in Lhasa, at about 12:00 noon. She was visiting her brother who is a monk of that temple. However, the PAP, who are guarding outside the temple, denied her permission to visit the temple. She then had an argument with the PAP. While she was having argument, another PAP shot her silently from behind. She died on the spot. A witness reported that she bled from her chest after she fell.

People were dispersed from the scene at gun-point. Her body was later taken away by the PAP. As a huge contingent of PAP has been deployed in Lhasa from other locations, it is reported that many Tibetans were beaten; sometimes harsh words were used on them, even for not quickly showing their identity cards when demanded by the PAP. This is just one example for the ongoing brutal crackdown in Tibet. Due to the total news blackout the outside world is not aware of how many people are daily shot and tortured to death. Occasionally Tibetans in exile receive some information per telephone from relatives in Tibet, but these are only sporadic and incomplete.

In the TAP Kardze in former province Kham a Tibetan township head was killed by his Chinese counterpart because he had some different view on ethnic issues. Only a few of these atrocities reach the outside world and of course the Chinese government never will never admit them and insist these are lies.

We therefore demand to allow an independent U.N. investigation, and grant unimpeded access to Tibet and neighbouring provinces, to journalists and other independent observers; and to fully account for those who are detained, ensuring that they will not be ill-treated, and are given fair trials.

We are aware that in early April, a request from your side to visit Tibet was declined on the grounds that it was "inconvenient." A separate appeal, issued jointly by six United Nations Special

Rapporteurs for "full unhindered access," was similarly declined. The International Committee of the Red Cross, which is mandated to visit detention facilities and check on the well-being of prisoners worldwide, has never been allowed to carry out such work in China. This is not tolerable, we therefore request you to put more pressure on the Chinese government. If not the UN, who should hold them responsible for the ongoing genocide in Tibet?

We demand the release of all those detained solely for peaceful protest. We are calling for a U.N. investigation into the unrest that took place in Tibet and the surrounding provinces between March 10–16, including special procedures of the Human Rights Council to visit the affected areas.

We are also calling for a High Commissioner of Human Rights mission to the region after which she would report back to the Human Rights council. Please call on the Chinese authorities to allow journalists access to areas where there has been unrest, in line with Olympic promises of full media freedom, it will not do just to invite now and then journalists to Lhasa and show them a stage-managed picture and not allow them to freely talk to Tibetans.

The Chinese armed forces in their attempt to wipe out any kind of evidence related to the recent protests in Tibet are burning all the dead bodies of people who have been killed since the March 14 protest in Tibet. This is a terrible offence to the relatives who are not even able to perform their Buddhist rituals for the deceased.

Many Tibetans who have been injured since the start of the protests in Tibet continue to die in People's Hospital with no immediate medical care. We received an eye witness report from a Tibetan man who was imprisoned in Lhasa during the protest that all prisoners were bound with ropes and thrown on to the floor of cells. The prisoners were further weakened by the lengthy denial of food.

Judging from the information available to us regarding the scale of the ongoing human rights violations against the Tibetan people, it is imperative that the Human Rights Council as the principal human rights organ of the United Nations take urgent measures by convening a special session to address the current situation in China. It is much too late to discuss the Tibet-issue only in 2009 at the Human Rights Council. This should be done this year at the next session.

We therefore call upon the UN Human Rights Council to hold a Special Session, not just a debate, on the current human rights situation in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and the Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures in the Chinese provinces of Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan.

China must re-admit foreign press immediately who should have freedom to move about without minders and censorship, China has to keep the promise it made to allow foreign journalists free movement around the whole of China in the run-up to the Olympics. China must cease the present crackdown, release all those detained and provide names of all those detained.

Please refer to the following sites to learn more about the present situation in Tibet, which is very serious: www.tibet.net, www.stoptibetcrisis.net, www.tchrd.org, www.phayul.com.

Thank you very much for your attention to this extremely urgent appeal.

Yours sincerely,