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**Appeal to the High-Commissioner for Human Rights to send immediately a fact-finding mission to all Tibetan areas in the People's Republic of China.**

Your Excellency,

The situation in Tibet is getting worse from day to day. There is a humanitarian catastrophe nearing fast. According to latest news the situation in Lhasa is very sad and nearing a total annihilation of the Tibetan people. It is almost starvation in the three monasteries, Ganden, Sera and Drepung. These three monasteries are cut off from electricity, water and food. People in Lhasa try to bring food to these monasteries but are not allowed to enter them. A delegation of the Red Cross should be admitted to Tibet to take care of the injured, for hospitals have been instructed to refuse them treatment. Since all communication channels have been blocked there is no way to ascertain the exact situation, the loss of life, the number of arrested which are believed to go into thousands, the number of victims of bullets of the armed police and military and the extent of torture. Occasional unofficial reports are horrible.

Here is an excerpt of such a report about the crackdown of the armed forces on the inhabitants of Lhasa received by chance, which due to the news blackout and the closure of Tibet to the outside world unfortunately cannot be confirmed:

"All the Tibetans who dare going out are caught by the Chinese police. Now all the prisons in Tibet are full and they are transporting many Tibetans to China. Dead bodies are piled in prison cells with people who are still alive. Many of them are heavily wounded but none of them is getting any medical treatment. Many people are dying miserably slow death in prison cells. Some people committed suicide knowing that they would be killed inhumanly by the Chinese. Tibetans are tied up in lines at police stations in Lhasa and the police are doing all kinds of inhuman things on them. Human blood is flowing at all the police stations like slaughter houses. Even more horrible thing is that all the limbs of all the Tibetans who are caught by the Chinese are broken. Some Tibetans with all of their limbs broken were dropped at the door steps of their families. Many Tibetans think it's better to be dead than alive with all limbs broken. Now Tibetans live in walls and constant fear. Police are searching protesters door by door everyday. Every street and door is guarded by the police. All the monasteries around Lhasa are sealed and nobody is allowed to go in and out so people are running out of food supplies and starving but the Chinese only care about their so called stability and harmony. Many Tibetans suspect that the Chinese killed lots of people one night in front of Jokhang temple as there was constant gunfire whole night long and tanks were running all around."

A group of 17 foreign diplomats, including an Australian official, visited the Tibetan capital Lhasa at the end of last week. One member says the group was closely watched: "At all times, the delegation was in the presence of Chinese officials," he said. The same was true for the group of journalists who were invited to Lhasa recently. All they saw was state-orchestrated. There is still no news about the brave monks of the Jokhang Temple who expressed their opinion to these journalists at the risk of their lives. The authorities ascertain nothing happened to them, but this is highly doubtful since they were taken away immediately after the incident and nothing was known about them since. The best way forward, would be for China to be open and transparent about Tibet, to open itself up to scrutiny."

In this respect, we urge you to send immediately and urgently a fact-finding mission equipped with full access to all the Tibetan areas where there had been extrajudicial or summary killings, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearances since 10 March, when the wave of demonstrations began. According to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy and the Tibetan Government-in-Exil the death toll is 150 and more, while 1.200 Tibetans were arrested and more than 100 disappeared. Presumably the figure of victims is much higher.

We call upon the UN Human Rights Council to hold a Special Session 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.

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.

We urge you to swiftly call upon the Chinese authorities to receive a joint mission of Special Procedures mandate-holders on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution and other relevant mandates such as the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression and the Special Representative of Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders.

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 site [www.phayul.com](http://www.phayul.com) to learn more about the present situation in Tibet.

Thank you very much for your attention to this appeal.

Yours sincerely,