



Ms Louise Arbour
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNOG-OHCHR
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

14 March 2008

Dear Ms Arbour,

We the undersigned, representatives of 153 Tibetan organisations and Tibet Support Groups around the world, are writing to you in great concern about the situation in Tibet, to appeal to you to take urgent action to prevent the situation from worsening.

Reports from Lhasa today describe how attempts by Buddhist monks from Ramoche Temple to participate in further peaceful protest against Chinese rule have led to violent clashes with police. Simultaneously, we have learned of large-scale protests going on in Labrang, Amdo (Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture", Gansu Province); an unprecedented situation which demonstrates the scale of Tibetan dissatisfaction with Chinese rule. The British Embassy in Beijing has confirmed "many injuries" in Lhasa, and in the last few moments two news agencies have reported that several people have been killed.

The protests began on Monday 10 March, with a small, peaceful demonstration in Lhasa's Barkhor Square by a group of around 15 monks. Shortly after their immediate detention, up to 500 monks from Drepung Monastery marched in support, but large numbers of them were arrested. Over the course of the next three days, monks from the other major Tibetan monasteries of Sera and Ganden also protested, despite a crackdown which involved the monasteries concerned being surrounded by thousands of soldiers and armed police. Radio Free Asia reported that two Drepung monks had attempted suicide in the aftermath, and are in a critical condition.

China's policies in Tibet are largely responsible for this situation; its renewal of a patriotic re-education campaign, its stepping up of anti-Dalai Lama rhetoric, and its economic policies that have led to the increasing marginalisation of Tibetans. Furthermore, there is widespread understanding that China has engaged in further suppression of rights prior to the 2008 Olympic Games. Tibetans are also aware that the Dalai Lama's attempts at dialogue to reach a peaceful solution for Tibet are not being

responded to in good faith by China.

We appeal to you to make urgent contact with the Chinese authorities, urging them to use restraint in the current situation, to allow peaceful protest by Tibetans inside Tibet in accordance with international law, and to provide you with an explanation of their actions in Tibet. We also ask you to issue a public statement of your concern about the crisis in Tibet.

Furthermore, we appeal to you to send a fact-finding mission or representative from your office to Lhasa with all speed so that more information can be obtained about the situation and how it developed.

Yours faithfully,



Alison Reynolds
Executive Director
on behalf of members of the International Tibet Support Network

Reply address: ITSN, 28 Charles Square, London N1 6HT

North America:

Association Cognizance Tibet, North Carolina
Bay Area Friends of Tibet
Boston Tibet Network
Canada Tibet Committee
China Tibet Initiative
Colorado Friends of Tibet
Committee of 100 for Tibet
International Campaign for Tibet
International Tibet Independence Movement
Los Angeles Friends of Tibet
Monadnock Friends of Tibet
Northwest Tibetan Cultural Association
Pasadena Friends of Tibet
Rangzen Alliance
San Diego Friends of Tibet
Santa Barbara Friends of Tibet
Sierra Friends of Tibet
Students for a Free Tibet
Students for a Free Tibet - Canada
The World Tibet Day Foundation
The Tibetan Alliance of Chicago
Tibet Committee of Fairbanks
Tibet Justice Center (formerly ICLT)
Tibetan American Resource Alliance
Tibetan Association of Santa Fe
Tibetan Cultural Association - Quebec
TIBETmichigan
Toronto Tibet Youth Congress
U.S. Tibet Committee

Western Colorado Friends of Tibet

Central & South America:

Amigos de Tibet, Chile
Asociacion Cultural Peruano Tibetana
Casa Tibet Mexico
Comite Brasileiro DE Apoio Ao Tibet
Fundacion Pro Tibet - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Grupo De Apoyo a Tibet Chile
Tíbet Patria Libre, Uruguay
Salvadoran Friends of Tibet, El Salvador
Tibet Independiente, Chile
Tibetan-Costarican Cultural Association

Western Europe:

Aide aux Refugies Tibetains
Amici del Tibet-Friends of Tibet Italy
Association Dorje
Association Drôme Ardèche-Tibet
Association of Tibetans in Germany
Association Rangzen
Associazione Italia-Tibet
Austrian Committee for Tibet
Autodetermination Tibet, France
Briancon05 Urgence Tibet
C.S.P.T. Midi-Pyrenees Rencontres Tibetaines
Caisse d'Aide aux Prisonniers Tibetains
Casa del Tibet - Spain
Comite de Apoyo al Tibet (Madrid)
Comite de Soutien au Peuple Tibetain (CSPT)
Comite de Soutien au Peuple Tibetain (Switzerland)
Comite de Soutien au Peuple Tibetain Bretagne
Comite de Soutien au Peuple Tibetain de l'Herault
EcoTibet Ireland
Eco-Tibet France
Ewam Centre, Italy
France-Tibet
Free Tibet Campaign
Games of Beijing, Switzerland
Groupe Non-Violent Louis Lecoin, France
International Campaign for Tibet Deutschland
International Campaign for Tibet Europe
International Society of Human Rights, Munich Chapter
La Porte du Tibet, Geneva
Les Amis du Tibet - Belgium
Les Amis du Tibet Luxembourg
Lions Des Neiges
Lions Des Neiges Mont Blanc, France
Maison des Himalayas
Maison du Tibet - Tibet Info
Nos Amis de l'Himalaya
Objectif Tibet
Passeport Tibetain

Reseau International des Femmes pour le Tibet
Rhone Tibet
Save Tibet, Austria
Society for Threatened Peoples International (Associate Member)
Solidarite Tibet
Students for a Free Tibet France
Swiss-Tibetan Friendship Association
Tibet 59 / 62
Tibet Democratie
Tibet Initiative Deutschland
Tibet Libertes, France
Tibet Society, U.K.
Tibet Songtsen House, Switzerland
Tibet Support Group - Ireland
Tibet Support Group - Netherlands
Tibet Unterstutzung Liechtenstein
Tibetan Community Austria
Tibetan Community in Britain
Tibetan Women's Association Switzerland
Tibetan Youth Association in Europe
Tibetisches Zentrum Hamburg
TSG Free Tibet And You
Tsowa-Maintenir la Vie, France
Urgence Tibet
Vercors Tibet Resistances

Northern Europe:

Friends of Tibet in Finland
The Norwegian Tibet Committee
Swedish Tibet Committee
Tibet Support Committee Denmark
Tibetan Community in Denmark
Tibetan Community Sweden

Central & Eastern Europe:

Friends of Tibet Society St. Petersburg, Russia
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights - Tibet Desk (Associate Member)
Polish Movement for a Free Tibet
Tibetan Programme, Poland
Society for Croatia-Tibet Friendship
The Foundation for Civil Society, Russia (Associate Member)
Lithuanian Tibet Culture Foundation
Tibet Support Association - Hungary
Tibet Support Group - Krasnodar Region, Russia
Tibet Support Group - Romania
Tibet Support Group - Slovenia
Tibet Support Group - Sochi Region, Russia
Tibetan Programme - The Other Space Foundation (Associate Member)
Zida Cels, Latvia

Asia:

All India Students Forum for Free Tibet
All India Students Forum for Free Tibet

Bharrat Tibbat Sahyog Manch, India
Foundation for Universal Responsibility of H. H. the Dalai Lama
Friedrich-Naumann Foundation (Associate Member)
Friends for Tibet and Tibetans - Delhi
Gu-Chu-Sum Movement of Tibet
Himalayan Committee for Action on Tibet
India Tibet Friendship Society
India Society for Tibetan Community
Mahatma Gandhi Tibet Freedom Movement, India
National Campaign for Tibetan Support, India
Roof of the World Foundation, Indonesia
Tibet Lives, India
Tibet Solidarity Forum, Bangladesh
Tibet Support Group Kiku, Japan
Tibet Support Network Japan (TSNJ)
Tibetan Parliamentary and Policy Research Centre (TPPRC) Delhi
Tibetan Women's Association (Central)
Tibetan Youth Congress

Australasia:

Australia Tibet Council
Friends of Tibet New Zealand
Students for a Free Tibet New Zealand
Tibetan Community of Australia (Victoria)

Africa & the Middle East:

Israeli Friends of the Tibetan People
Tibet Support Group Kenya