



President Xi Jinping
People's Republic of China
C/o The Embassy of PRC
Willem Lodewijklaan 10
2517 JT The Hague
The Netherlands

Ref: Memorandum

Amsterdam, 10th of March 2016

Your Excellency,

Today, Tibetans and their supporters in the Netherlands have gathered in front of your embassy in The Hague to commemorate the 57th Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day of 10 March 1959, to show solidarity with Tibetans inside Tibet and honour and support their brave resistance to Chinese rule that continues to this day.

Since you assumed power, the crackdown across Tibet has deepened, particularly in areas where there have been self-immolations or unrest. Policies and measures that undermine Tibetan culture and religion that led to the protests and unrest in the first place have been strengthened, while the 'unbearable oppression' cited by Tibetans who have self-immolated has been intensified. An aggressive 'counter-terrorism' drive in Tibet with a strongly political dimension has involved an expansion of militarization across the plateau despite the absence of any violent insurgency in Tibet.

China's first counter-terror law, which came into force on January 1, involves the imposition of draconian measures in the name of national security to crack down on Tibetans – as well as Uyghurs and Chinese civil society - and to undermine religious freedom. This law emerges from oppressive and counter-productive policies in Tibet and

Xinjiang, involving extra-judicial killings, torture and imprisonment, and crackdowns on even mild expressions of religious identity and culture.

Despite the harsh crackdown and the threat of arrest, disappearances, torture and killing, China has failed to crush Tibetan resistance which remains exceptionally strong to this very day. Tibetans in Tibet are finding other ways to nonviolently stand up to and reject China's rule through cultural resistance actions, assertions of national identity and noncooperation. In January 2016, despite tightened security restrictions, thousands of Tibetans in Kardze gathered to pray for the long life in front of a large photo of the Dalai Lama.

Peace and stability cannot be achieved through hyper-securitization and suppression of human rights – nor by a political campaign against a globally-renowned Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the Dalai Lama, whose influence has been critical in ensuring that for 66 years Tibetans do not turn to violence as an answer to oppression.

Since 2009, over 145 Tibetans (the most recent one on 29th of February, 2016) have self-immolated as a non-violent protest against the repression and harsh policies imposed by the Chinese government. Tibetans inside Tibet see self-immolation as the only way left for them to bring positive change for Tibet and to address the injustice and humiliation they face from day to day. Instead of making an effort to understand the underlying grievances of Tibetan people, the Chinese government reacts with more repression and violence. These last years, Tibetans have been kept completely isolated from the rest of the world, by itself a serious human rights violation, and no independent observers or journalist are allowed into Tibet to investigate the actual situation on the ground. De facto, Tibet is in a state of martial law.

As a party to many international human rights treaties and declarations, the Chinese government has the obligation to protect and promote all human rights of Tibetans without discrimination.

In 2013 the Chinese government rejoined the United Nations Human Rights Council and made commitments to uphold human rights and the integrity of the human rights system. The contradiction between the commitments and the human rights situation in Tibet never been more evident, especially given the strong criticisms of the United Nations Committee Against Torture during its November 2015 review of China.

Today the non-violent freedom struggle of the Tibetan people generates increasing support by governments, parliamentarians, human rights organizations, individual

citizens around the world, and from a growing number of Chinese people. As such we believe it is now the responsibility of the Chinese authorities, to respond positively to the calls for dialogue by the Tibetan leadership to find a peaceful solution for Tibet.

We therefore call upon your government to:

- repeal the new counter-terrorism law and amend existing drafts of the cybersecurity and the NGO laws
- respect human rights, including freedom of expression of culture, language and religion, and release all political prisoners in Tibet
- allow independent observers and media into all Tibetan areas to investigate the human rights situation
- enter into dialogue with the Tibetan leaders inside and outside of Tibet to find a peaceful solution for Tibet
- allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct a fact-finding mission to Tibet

Thank you for giving urgent attention to these matters of our concern.

Sincerely yours,

Tsering Jampa, Executive Director

International Campaign for Tibet Europe

Tsundue, Chairman

Tibetan Community in the Netherlands

Maike Riemersma, Board Member

Tibet Support Group Nederland

