

Human Rights Council: FORM for Submitting an NGO written statements

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1. Please indicate the contact information for representative submitting written statement (i.e. name, mobile, email) here: → Ulrich Delius, 0049-16095671403, asien@gfbv.de

2. Indicate the Standing Agenda item number (1-10) of statement here: → 3

3.a) If this is an individual statement, indicate here your organization's name as in the ECOSOC NGO database and indicate its consultative status in brackets (i.e. General, Special, or Roster).

→ Society for Threatened Peoples (Special Consultative Status)

or,

3.b) If this is a joint statement, list here the co-sponsoring ECOSOC NGO as they appear in the ECOSOC database and status (in brackets): Group all General NGOs first, group the Special second and group the Roster third. →

4. Indicate here any non-ECOSOC NGO(s) supporting this statement (they will appear as a footnote to the statement title): →

5. Indicate the exact TITLE for this statement here: → Human Rights Situation in Tibet Autonomous Region and Tibetan prefectures in the People's Republic of China

Please make sure that:

- This statement is in MS WORD document format (Font Times New Roman 10; no bold; no underline; no italics).
- Check word count: (Go to Tools, Word count, # of words) Indicate the length of text (including footnotes/endnotes) here: →
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Since early 2011 there has been severe repression of freedoms of speech, religion, association, and movement faced by Tibetans in the Tibet Autonomous Region and neighboring areas. The Chinese authorities further intensified its control over monastic institutions in particular Kirti Monastery in Ngaba County of Sichuan Province after the March 2008 protests.

The Chinese authorities continue to commit serious human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial detention, and house arrest.

On 16 March 2011, Ven. Phuntsok, aged 20 of Kirti Monastery set himself fire to protest against the crackdown in the Ngaba area and the Chinese government's policies. He died in hospital early next morning.

March 16 marked the third anniversary of a major demonstration at Kirti in 2008 during which at least 10 Tibetans were shot dead by the Chinese security forces. The Kirti monastery in Dharamsala quoted an eye-witness account that Ven. Phuntsok immolated himself around 4 pm local time on 16 March at the main market in Ngaba County near the monastery and shouted slogans "Long Live the Dalai Lama".

The police extinguished the flames and started beating him. According to Tibetans present at the scene – both monks and laypeople - intervened and managed to take Ven. Phuntsok away from the police and back to the Kirti monastery nearby.

Subsequently, over 1,000 Tibetans consisting of monks and laymen took to the streets and marched half a mile shouting slogans to express their anger.

A large number of Chinese security forces were called in to disperse the Tibetans. Electric batons were used indiscriminately to beat the Tibetans. Many of the Tibetans were then taken into police custody.

Since then Chinese security forces have been patrolling in and around Ngaba Kirti Monastery. According to Tibetan source, Chinese authorities installed CCTV cameras in and outside of the monastery.

The presence of troops in the areas of Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan provinces inhabited by Tibetans were increased in the backdrop of the ongoing repression at Kirti Monastery and surrounding areas in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) county of Sichuan Province.

Following the 2008 protests in Tibet, the Chinese authorities arbitrarily detained Tibetans, including monks and nuns. Many of them remain missing. On the night of 21 April 2011, over 300 monks from Kirti Monastery were taken away on army trucks. Elderly Tibetans mainly in their sixties or older who tried to stop this were beaten by police. Some people's arms and legs were broken.

A 60-year-old Mr. Dhonkho of Thawa Ghongma and a 65-year-old Mrs. Sherkyi of the Rako Tsang house Chashang died at Kirti when they together with other Tibetans tried to prevent security forces from taking away the 300 monks from the monastery on 21 April 2011. Two of them were among 200 Tibetan civilians, mostly senior citizens who have been camping near a road close to the monastery despite being threatened by Chinese soldiers to leave.

Two Ngaba Tibetan women were severely tortured by the Chinese police during 25 days of detention in Ngaba County of Sichuan Province. As result they have lost their sense of bearing and were no longer able to take care of themselves. The apparently permanently traumatized women named as Choekho (aged 45) and Serkyi (aged 35) from Tawa Gongma (Upper Tawa) township were released on May 17 with their heads shaved, indicating systematic torture and humiliation.

On 21 April Radio Free Asia reported that the Chinese police have returned to Kirti Monastery in Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) County and a group of monks were taken away two weeks earlier.

They were severely beaten and exposed to extreme heat radiation for a long period of time. Their hands and legs were tied to electric poles, and they were then tortured with electric batons. The situation at Kirti Monastery continues to be tense as around 300 Chinese government officials from other counties of the Ngaba Autonomous Prefecture have occupied the monastery to keep strict surveillance on the

monks. Moreover, another group of over 300 Chinese officers from across the Ngaba County have been conducting the "Patriotic Re-education" on the monks every day. There is tight surveillance inside and outside the monastery as well as on the outskirts of the monastery with many police, armies and Special Police Forces patrolling all the time.

During the protests in Tibet, all telecommunication facilities in the area were shut down.

Repressions continue in the Tibetan Autonomous Region under the Chinese communist regime in spite of China's claims that "citizens enjoy freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, of association, of procession and of demonstration. Citizens have the right to criticize and make suggestions regarding any state organ or functionary. In the Tibet Autonomous Region Tibetans do not enjoy the very basic human rights - freedom of expression, opinion, religious freedom, freedom of assembly and association. If a Tibetan says "Long Live the Dalai Lama" and "Freedom in Tibet", "Religious Freedom" he/she will be arrested, tortured and then detained without any formal charges. As of 4 August 2011 there were 1,391 Tibetan political prisoners still in prison in addition to 476 released and 113 dead for expressing their political views.

As of 9 August 2011 China imprisoned 30 journalists including seven were Tibetans and also 72 netizens behind bar including six Tibetans.

At least 800 Chinese party officials from Ngaba (Chinese: Aba) and Zoege (Chinese: Ruo'ergai) counties of Ngaba Prefecture in Sichuan Province have been subjecting nearly 2,500 monks of Kirti Monastery in Ngaba County to patriotic education since 16 April 2011, according to Kanyak Tsering, whose monastery is in regular contact with monks and residents of Ngaba.

Such campaigns usually involve renouncing allegiance to the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Monks were tied to trees for failing to respond "correctly" to the officials and armed police officers' interrogations. The monks were warned that they cannot describe the proceedings of the re-education sessions with others, not even their parents.

Currently there are over 300 officials from other counties in Ngaba prefecture staying in Kirti monastery day and night, in addition to 300 county officials conducting ongoing 'Patriotic Religion' re-education. The monastery is still occupied and under surveillance by police, army and special police forces inside and out, restricting all activity and movement of the monks.

No Foreign journalists have been permitted into the Ngaba Region due to its ongoing military crackdown since 16 March.

The video shows heavy security patrolling around Kirti monastery. It also shows the first footage of the 20-year-old monk Phuntsok who self-immolated on 16 March to mark the third anniversary of a major Tibetan protest in the area in 2008. Merciless beating of this monk by the police, which is suspected to have led to his death, touched off demonstrations by up to 1,000 angry Tibetans. Chinese police responded with more violence, including with deployment of the paramilitary People's Armed Police and sealing off the monastery.

One segment of the video shows a young monk, described as Phuntsok, sitting in a car, still alive but apparently in shock with severe burns covering his body and his hair burned off. The Kirti monks had wrested Phuntsok from Chinese security forces to save him from more torture. But the severity of the police beating meant that he did not survive when the monks later took him to hospital.

Following the self-immolation of a Kirti monk on 16 March, Chinese government had sentenced five monks for three years imprisonment so far. The latest case is Dhonyoe Dorjee, aged 34, monk of the Ngaba Kirti Monastery was sentenced to three year imprisonment. He belongs to the Rawe Pelkho family, Cha Township in Ngaba County. He is currently in a prison in Mein-Yang, near Chengdu, Sichuan. No information is available about his trail, charges for sentence, date and time of court hearing.

In early June 2011 over 300 arrested monks were released and send to their respective home region after spending nearly two months detention in undisclosed location. However, the Chinese official told

them that they were not allowed to return to their monastery.

On 5 June 2011 the Chinese official threatened to demolish the released monk's quarter if not bought by the monastery. Furthermore the Chinese government collected belongings of the arrested monks from their quarters and delivered it at their respective homes. The Chinese official particularly took belongings of nearly 20 monks from Golog area to Chikdril County. Since the monks didn't show up, the Chinese official had no choice but to bring back the belongings which were refused by the Chikdril and Golok Counties when the former requested to keep.

In conclusion, Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to call on The People's Republic of China:

- To release immediately and unconditionally all Tibetan political prisoners of conscience
- To respect rights of ethnic minorities including Tibetans and Uighurs as guaranteed in its constitution and also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- To allow Kirti monastery monks to return their monastery for study
- To end ongoing patriotic re-education campaign and immediately withdraw military personnel stationed in and around the Kirti Monastery