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Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions  
Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment  
Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Palais Wilson  
52 rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

5 April 2011, Dharamshala, India

**Arbitrary arrest and inhuman treatment of Tibetan monks in Ngaba County, Sichuan, China**

Dear Chairperson and Special Rapporteurs,

Greetings! The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) based in Dharamshala, north India, wishes to draw your mandates' kind attention to the cruel and inhuman treatment met to a young Tibetan monk, Phuntsok, who self-immolated in Ngaba County, Sichuan, China, on 16 March 2011 and died in a hospital early next morning. His act was timed to coincide with the third anniversary of spring 2008 uprising in Tibet to protest against the Chinese rule in Tibet.

When Phuntsok was on flames the police doused the flame and began beating him severely. Local Tibetan bystanders rushed to the scene to protect the monk and took him to his monastery. When he was later taken to a hospital, the authorities demanded police clearance for treatment. The monk succumbed to burn injuries the next day around 3 am (local time) on 17 March.

Around a thousand Tibetans gathered in the market and staged a protest against the police and the authorities. The People's Armed Police and officers from other security agencies brutally broke the peaceful rally. Several Tibetans were detained from the crowd.

The TCHRD has been approached by the local Tibetans to seek intervention by the UN human rights mandates regarding the ongoing security clamp down and arbitrary arrest of Tibetans protesting the authorities surrounding issues of inhuman treatment met to Phuntsok and the overall deplorable human rights situation in Ngaba County. Since the incident, at least eleven Tibetans have been arrested and the situation is very tense in the area. The arrestees on 22 March 2011 include Lobsang Kelsang (19 yrs), monk of Kirti Monastery and brother of Phuntsok, Lobsang Tsondue, maternal uncle of Phuntsok, Samdup (picture attached), monk of Kirti Monastery. Lobsang Tsepak was arrested in Beijing on 25 March 2011 where as obsang Ngodup and Lobsang Choephel were arrested around 30 March 2011.

Since the self-immolation protest, the following facts have been observed in the area.

· The students of Ngaba Prefecture's Upper Middle School began a hunger strike on 17 March to sympathize with the deceased monk and as protest against the Chinese authorities's brutal violence against him and the pursuant Tibetan protest.

· The authorities called a public meeting in upper Tawa and Gapma Villages of Ngaba County, imposing fines of 30 Yuan on absentees.

· The Ngaba Kirti Monastery, the local monastery to which Phuntsok is affiliated, has been surrounded by Chinese troops, phone and internet lines to the area has been disconnected.

· Lobsang Tsepak, 27 years old, was detained in the night by police in Beijing on 25 March 2011. He is a student at the Central Nationalities University. He was earlier affiliated to Kirti Monastery, the same monastery to which Phuntsok belonged.

· Two more monks, Lobsang Ngodup (picture attached), 32, and Lobsang Choephel (picture attached), 24, were detained around 30 March 2011. Reasons and whereabouts remain unknown.

Owing to the gravity of situation on the ground in the ongoing security clampdown in Ngaba County, the TCHRD request urgent intervention by the aforementioned human rights mandates to issue their kind intervention as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Tenzin Norgay

Research and UN Affairs

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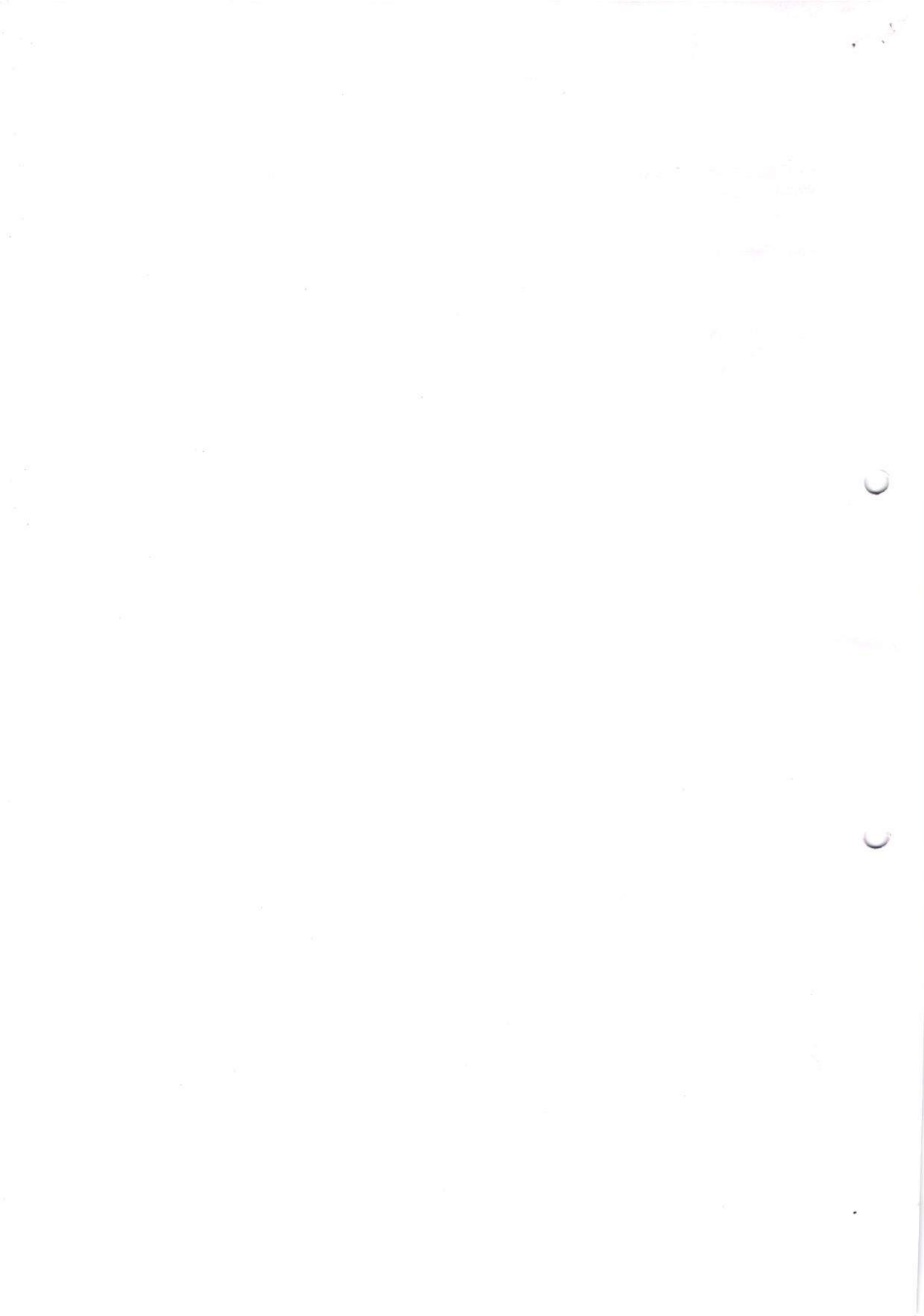
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Note: Please find the following attached.

- 1) Monk self- immolates on third anniversary of mass uprising – TCHRD press release on 16 March 2011
- 2) Monk dies after self-immolation – TCHRD press release on 17 March 2011
- 3) Crackdown on Monks Continues – Radio Free Asia on 3 April 2011
- 4) Students stand with Tibetans in Ngaba – Tibetsun.com report on 4 April 2011
- 5) Exile students fast in support of students' fast in Tibet – Phayul.com on 4 April 2011
- 6) Pictures of Samdup, Lobsang Ngodup and Lobsang Choephel attached.





## Press

16 March 2011

### Monk self-immolates on third anniversary of mass uprising

Today marks the third anniversary since mass uprising against the government of China took place in Ngaba County, Sichuan, on 16 March 2008. Earlier in the day 21-year-old Phuntsok, monk at Kirti Monastery, doused himself in fuel and immolated self in front of "Sopa Hotel" located at the main road. Local Tibetans tried to put off the flame but security forces acted brutally by beating them with metal batons. Few in the crowd were arrested and detained at the Public Security Bureau (PSB) detention centre.

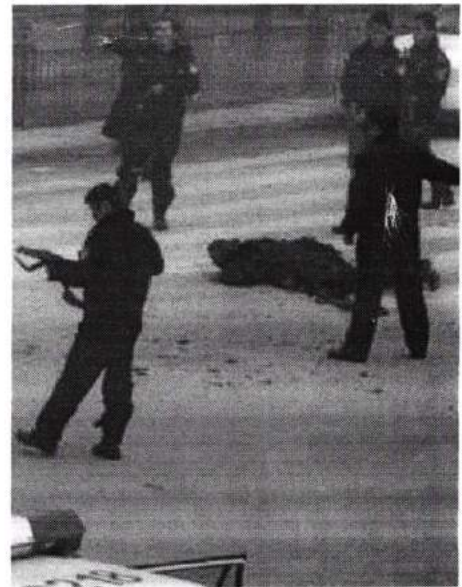
When it was learned that Phuntsok had been carried inside the premises of Kirti Monastery, a crowd of around 2000 people including monks from the monastery gathered at the gate standing guard against security forces entering the monastery premises. It was believed that Phuntsok had already died as he was in critical condition when being carried into the monastery. The Tibetans offered butter lamps and prayers for him as per the buddhist rituals. Unconfirmed reports suggest Phuntsok had been carried to the local people's hospital.

With a huge crowd at the monastery, the management held talks with PSB officials and seven Tibetans were released from detention. Three of them had been arrested few days earlier in connection with sending information through the internet according to sources. Around mid night local time the crowd has been dispersed.

On 27 February 2009, a similar incident took place in Ngaba County. A young monk, Tabey, then self-immolated in the middle of a main road in protest against the authorities. The People's Armed Police (PAP) fired live ammunition on the monk in order to bring him down. Although initially Chinese authorities denied the monk's protest, pictures taken by onlookers proved that they were lying.

As a security measure the authorities have stepped up restrictions all over Tibet fearing protests on the Tibetan National Uprising Day on 10 March. 50-year-old Ugyen Gelek belonging to Gonjo County and affiliated to Angjo Gawa Monastery made a brief demonstration in the market of Kardze County on 10 March. The demonstration which called for Tibetan independence and long live to the Dalai Lama was brief as he was quickly bundled away by the security forces. The Centre will continue to monitor the situation in Tibet and provide updates as details and development unfold.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy condemns the insensitivity and brutality met to Phuntsok and the Tibetans in Ngaba County today. The Center calls upon the Chinese authorities to ease restrictions in Tibet immediately and respect freedom and human rights of the Tibetan people.



*File picture of Tabey surrounded by armed security officers shortly after the self-immolation protest in February 2009*





Press

17 March 2011

**Monk dies after self-immolation**

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has obtained a picture of the monk who self-immolated yesterday around 4 pm (Beijing Time) and died this morning around 3 am local time at a hospital in Ngaba (Ch: Aba) County, Sichuan.

There are conflicting reports being released by the Chinese government mouthpiece Xinhua regarding details of the monk which could be deliberate attempts to confuse the international media and human rights watchdogs.

According to sources in Ngaba County (Ch: Aba), 20-year-old Phuntsok was born to Tashi Tsering (father) and Dzogkar (mother) in Miruma Village in Ngaba County. He was enrolled at the Kirti Monastery in his early childhood. Tibetans that were present at the scene of protest heard him chant "Long Live the Dalai Lama".



*Phuntsok*







## Press

**11 April 2011**

### **Chinese armed police cordon Ngaba Kirti Monastery, 2500 monks face food shortage**

Since the self-immolation of Phuntsok on 16 March 2011 at Ngaba County, Sichuan, coinciding with third anniversary of the 2008 uprising in Tibet and to protest against continued repression by Chinese authorities in Tibet, the situation has aggravated at Ngaba Kirti Monastery – the monastery to which Phuntsok was affiliated. According to latest confirmed information, Chinese security forces have cordoned the monastery and additional contingents of armed security forces (estimated to be around 800) have been brought in on 9 April 2011 to reinforce security clampdown in Ngaba County. The movement of the monks is totally restricted with no one being allowed to go in or come out of the monastery. Gaps in boundary barb wire in north of the monastery have been closed with concrete walls. Since the cordon, monks are facing shortage of food and depend on voluntary food offerings by locals through the monastery administration. Authorities have prohibited the faithful local Tibetans from offering food to monks. Reports from ground indicate that if the situation remains same, over 2500 monks in the monastery will face starvation which will most probably lead to a mass revolt. In such an event security forces will unleash its deadly assault leading to extrajudicial killings as it happened three years ago on 16 March 2008 in Ngaba County. The lamas and monastery officials have been able to maintain peace so far by advising the monks to remain calm despite the ongoing repression.

In the aftermath of Phuntsok's protest and subsequent show of solidarity by monks of Kirti Monastery, the authorities have taken drastic measures to bring the monks under control. According to latest information, since the beginning of April 2011, security forces who were earlier surrounding the monastery have entered into the campus. They have stopped elderly monks from even walking the outer circumambulation path (Kora), and made observation posts (with binoculars) on stepped platforms of stupas in the monastery. The guards keep round the clock vigilance of activities in the monastery. Over 33 people have been arrested out of which 22 people (8 monks and 16 lay people) continue to be under detention.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) appeals to the international community and the United Nations mandates on human rights to urgently issue their intervention in order to stop the ongoing security clamp down and arbitrary arrests and detentions of Tibetans and the overall deplorable human rights situation in Ngaba County. The Centre urges the authorities to immediately stop the gross human rights violation of denying food to monks of Kirti Monastery and to ease restrictions on movement.

### **Factsheet about the situation in Kirti Monastery and Ngaba County (documented till 12 April 2011)**

- Three monks from the Kirti Monastery, Dhonyoe Dorjee, Tenzin Jamko and an unidentified monk have been arrested on 8 April 2011.
- On 8 April, around 30 people staged a protest in front of the Public Security Bureau Office at Warma Township in Dzamthang County. One Tibetan (a young man from Gyalrong County married into a family in Dzamthang County) was critically injured in the police offensive and later died in a hospital. Around a thousand Tibetan staged protest over the death.
- Two monks, Lobsang Ngodup, 32, and Lobsang Choephel, 24, were detained around 30 March and continue to be under detention. Reasons and whereabouts remain unknown.
- The Tibetans in neighbouring Namda Township in Dzamtang County in Ngaba staged a protest on 23 March to show solidarity with the Tibetans in Ngaba County. The authorities responded by sending large number of troops to block movement in Dzamthang and Ngaba Counties. At least four Tibetans, Palko, Dorjee, A-Dor and Woesser Dorjee, were arrested and continue to be under detention.
- Lobsang Tsepak, 27 years old, was detained in the night by police in Beijing on 25 March. He is a student at the Central Nationalities University. He was earlier affiliated to Kirti Monastery, the same monastery to which Phuntsok belonged.
- On 22 March, Lobsang Dhargay (22 yrs), monk of Kirti Monastery and brother of Phuntsok, Lobsang Tsondue, maternal uncle of Phuntsok and Samdup, monk of Kirti Monastery, were arrested and released after few days. They have been rearrested on 12 April 2011.
- Around 20 March, Lobsang Tenzin was arrested and continue to be under detention.
- Around 20 March, the authorities called a public meeting in upper Thawa and Gagma Villages of Ngaba County, imposing fines of 30 Yuan on absentees. Lately the Village Committees in Ngaba County have been calling public meetings "to praise and

be grateful" to the Communist Party. Moreover, the officials have been visiting each and every household in Ngaba County enquiring about monks in the family and to learn their opinion on the self-immolation of Phuntsok.

- Beginning from 20 March, the authorities have intensively conducted the so-called "Love your country, love your religion" political campaign in the monastery for five days. Upon conclusion of the campaign, the officials have formed sub groups to visit each and every room in the monastery to "solicit feedback" and "gather opinion".
- Since 19 March, regular religious programs in the monastery have been suspended by the authorities and armed soldiers with police dogs prowl around the monastery by night. The monks are prohibited from staying late at night from studying their scriptures. Monks found outside their room are beaten by the officials.
- The students of Ngaba Prefecture's Upper Middle School located in Barkham County began a hunger strike on 17 March to show solidarity with Phuntsok and as a protest against the authorities' inhuman treatment to him and the pursuant Tibetan protest. The strike is known to have lasted until 23 March, thereafter information could not be ascertained.
- Phuntsok, a native of Meruma Township, Ngaba County, was arrested on 16 March and continue to remain under detention.

### **Background**

A young Tibetan monk, Phuntsok, self-immolated in Ngaba County, Sichuan, on 16 March 2011 and died in a hospital early next morning. His act was timed to coincide with the third anniversary of spring 2008 uprising in Tibet to protest against the Chinese rule in Tibet.

When Phuntsok was on fire the police doused the flame and began beating him severely. Local Tibetan bystanders rushed to the scene to protect the monk and took him to his monastery - Kirti Monastery. When he was later taken to a hospital, the authorities demanded police clearance for treatment. The monk succumbed to burn injuries the next day around 3 am (local time) on 17 March.

Around a thousand Tibetans gathered in the market and staged a protest against police and the authorities. The People's Armed Police and officers from other security agencies brutally broke the peaceful rally. Several Tibetans were detained from the crowd.

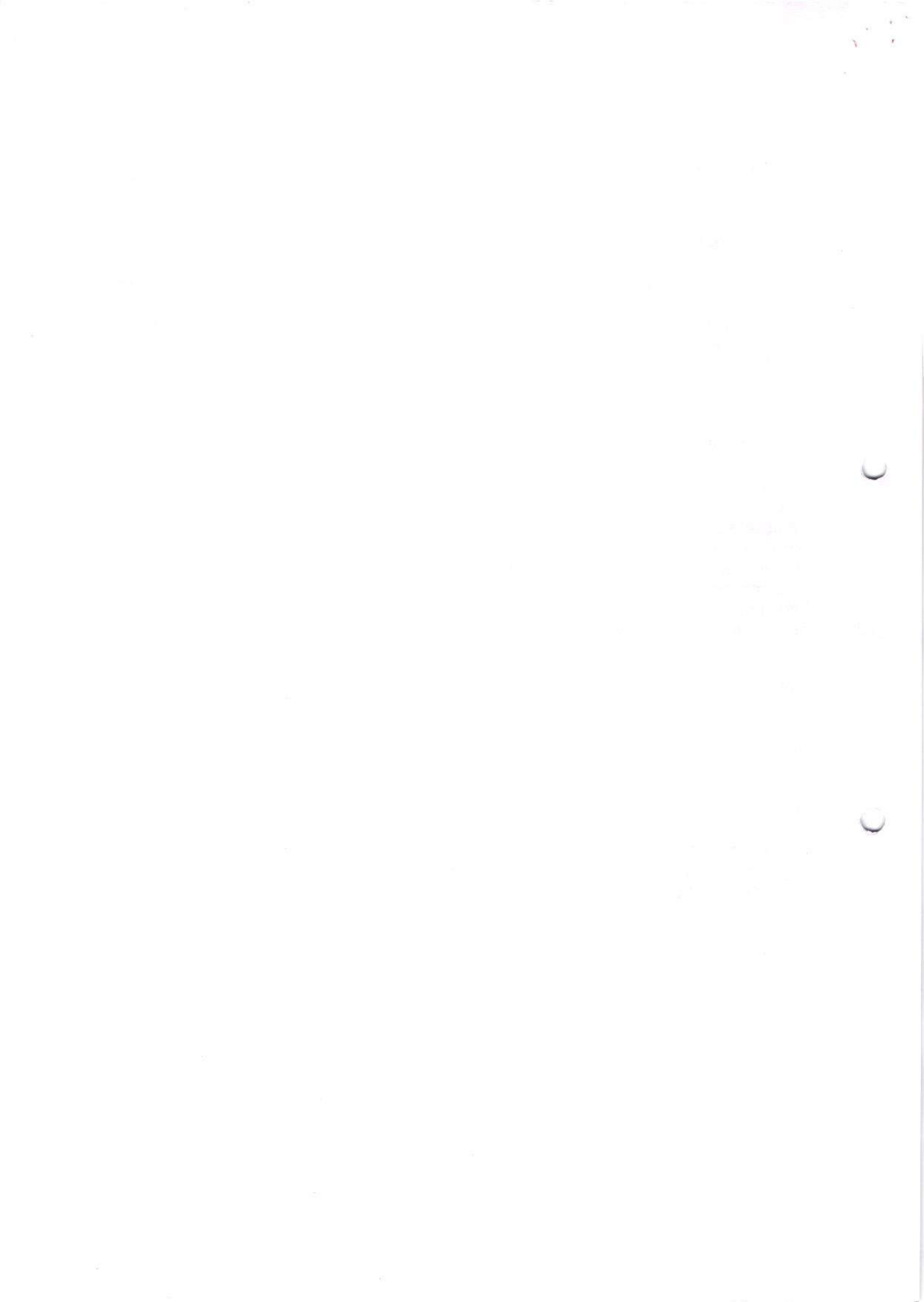
**13 April 2011**

**Tension escalates in Ngaba County, high probability of extrajudicial killings**

There is a high probability of extrajudicial killings to take place at Ngaba County, Sichuan, according to latest confirmed information received by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD). High tension has prevailed between local Tibetans and Chinese security forces at the Kirti Monastery which might prompt Chinese security forces to open firing.

According to information received from reliable sources by the TCHRD, today around 12 pm (Beijing Time) additional large contingents of armed Chinese police in 40 medium sized vehicles arrived at the Kirti Monastery. Upon seeing the vehicles local Tibetans rushed towards the monastery to protect the monks. The Chinese authorities have earlier announced that the monks will be relocated on 12 April to another location for "legal education" and "patriotic reeducation". The students who usually take the route to their schools passing through the vicinity of Kirti monastery have been ordered by the officials not to take their usual route beginning from 8 April 2011. The locals suspected that the police vehicles have arrived at the monastery to transport the monks. They blocked the forces from entering the monastery which broke into heated tension between the locals and armed police. The police started to brutally beat some of the Tibetans and let loose police dogs upon the crowd. Upon seeing tension outside the monastery, monks inside were blocked from coming out by the police stationed inside. In view of the high tension, senior monks in the monastery management came out to diffuse tension by persuading the crowd to maintain calm. Although tension has been temporarily diffused, additional Tibetans arrived to join the crowd. The local Tibetans have now blocked all the roads leading out of Ngaba County and maintain vigil.

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is concerned at the plight of the Tibetans in Ngaba County and the security clampdown at the Kirti Monastery. Since the self-immolation of 20-year-old monk, Phuntsok, on 16 March 2011, tension has been escalating resulting in the arbitrary arrest of over 33 known Tibetans. The TCHRD appeals to the international community to issue their urgent intervention at the grave situation and deplorable human rights situation prevalent at Ngaba County, Sichuan.



## **US Expresses Concern Over Repression in Kirti Monastery**

[Friday, 15 April 2011, 10:39 a.m.]

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Washington, DC: A State Department Spokesman has expressed concerned at the Chinese actions in cordoning off the Kirti Monastery and imposing "onerous restrictions on the monks and the general public."

During a press briefing on 14 April 2011, State Department Spokesman Mark Toner said that the issue has been raised with the Chinese Government.

"We have seen that Chinese security forces have cordoned off the Kirti monastery in Sichuan Province. They've also imposed onerous restrictions on the monks and the general public, and we believe these are inconsistent with internationally recognized principles of religious freedom and human right," Mr Toner said.

"We continue to monitor the situation closely and are obviously concerned by it," he added.









<http://www.dalailama.com/news/post/663-appeal-by-hh-the-dalai-lama>

## Appeal by H.H. the Dalai Lama

April 15th 2011

The current situation prevailing at Kirti Monastery in Ngaba in northeastern Tibet is extremely grim because of the stand-off between the Chinese military forces and the local Tibetans. The monastery, housing approximately 2,500 monks, is completely surrounded by Chinese armed forces, who at one point prevented vital food and other supplies from entering the monastic compound.

The local Tibetans fearing that this siege on Kirti Monastery is a prelude to large scale detention of the monks have surrounded the soldiers blockading the monastery and have filled the roads so as to prevent Chinese trucks and vehicles from either entering or leaving Kirti.

The local Chinese blockade of Kirti Monastery began on 16 March 2011, when a young Tibetan monk at the monastery tragically set himself on fire as a way of observing the third anniversary of the widespread peaceful protests that shook Tibet in 2008. Instead of putting out the flames, the police beat the young monk which was one of the causes of his tragic death. This act created huge resentment among the monks, which resulted in this massive blockade of Kirti Monastery.

I am very concerned that this situation if allowed to go on may become explosive with catastrophic consequences for the Tibetans in Ngaba.

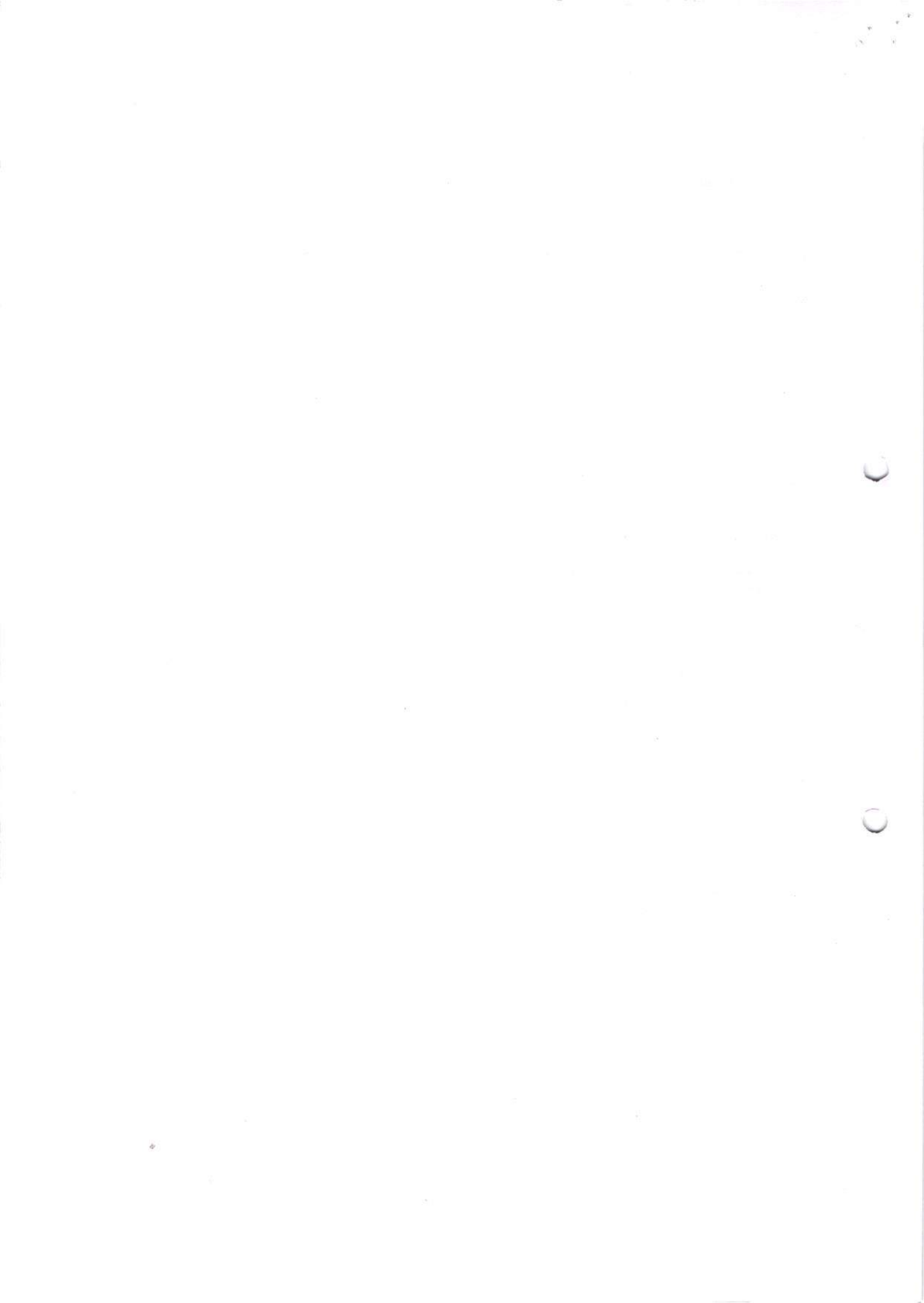
In view of this I urge both the monks and the lay Tibetans of the area not to do anything that might be used as a pretext by the local authorities to massively crackdown on them.

I also strongly urge the international community, the governments around the world, and the international non-governmental organizations, to persuade the Chinese leadership to exercise restraint in handling this situation.

For the past six decades, using force as the principle means in dealing with the problems in Tibet has only deepened the grievances and resentment of the Tibetan people. I, therefore, appeal to the Chinese leadership to adopt a realistic approach and to address the genuine grievances of the Tibetans with courage and wisdom and to restrain from using force in handling this situation.

The Dalai Lama

April 15, 2011



**Human Rights Watch  
For Immediate Release**

**China: Restrain Forces from Violence in Tibetan Monastery Stand-Off**

*Security Forces Should Exercise Restraint, Address Protesters' Grievances*

(New York, April 15, 2011) – The Chinese government should exercise restraint in resolving a stand-off between hundreds of security forces and local residents around the Kirti Tibetan monastery in Aba County in southwestern Sichuan province, Human Rights Watch said today.

In recent days, security forces have reportedly used excessive force, including beating local residents and deploying attack dogs against those who have gathered to block access to the monastery. Those reported abuses are part of an escalation in tensions in the area following the self-immolation of one of the monastery's monks on March 16, 2011, on the third anniversary of anti-government protests across the Tibetan plateau.

"The Chinese government has an obligation to protect its citizens' rights of public expression, assembly, and religious belief as guaranteed under China's laws and constitution," said Sophie Richardson, Asia advocacy director at Human Rights Watch. "The use of violence against peaceful, unarmed demonstrators including those surrounding the Kirti monastery would be both unjustifiable and completely unlawful."

Tensions around the Kirti monastery reportedly spiked on April 12, 2011, when local residents, concerned that security forces were preparing to forcibly remove monks between the ages of 18-40 for official "reeducation," surrounded the monastery to protect its approximately 2,500 monks. Human Rights Watch has documented numerous incidents across the Tibetan plateau since March 2008, in which Chinese security forces have subjected peaceful protesters and those suspected of subversive activity, including Tibetan monks, to brutality and ill-treatment during arrests.

Human Rights Watch's concern for the safety of the local residents around the Kirti monastery has been heightened by the fact that Chinese security forces are increasingly disregarding the rule of law as part of a campaign involving the arrests and disappearances of dozens of the country's most prominent lawyers, human rights defenders, and internet activists in recent months.

Human Rights Watch urged the Chinese government to exercise restraint in handling protests, and to ensure that resolution of the Kirti monastery stand-off is carried out in accordance with due process and international law.

"It is vital that Chinese security forces respect the safety of all concerned, use the minimum force needed to keep public order, and fully respect both the monks and bystanders' right to freely practice religion, assemble, and peacefully carry out protests," said Richardson.

To read Human Rights Watch's recent work on Tibet, "I Saw It with My Own Eyes' Abuses by Chinese Security Forces in Tibet, 2008-2010," please visit <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/07/22/i-saw-it-my-own-eyes>

**For more information, please contact:**

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## **Statements by Kirti Rinpoche**

The full text of both statements issued today by Kirti Rinpoche, translated into English from Tibetan by ICT, follow below.

### **Statement by the lama of Kirti monastery in exile to the people of Ngaba:**

Rongpo Choje Kirti Tulku  
Losang Tendzin Jigme Yeshe Gyatso

Dear and beloved co-religionists in Ngaba prefecture and especially Ngaba county, with constant anxiety over the serious incidents taking place in the region, I offer condolences to the relatives and children of those killed or injured, and make prayers and invocations that the deceased may once again be reborn as humans with sound faculties and personal freedom able to find the Buddhist teachings, that the afflictions of the wounded will swiftly heal, that the imprisoned may soon get out of jail, and that the people as a whole, lay and monastic, may soon be released from the dreadful suffering of living in a state of terror.

At the same time, I have called upon the leaders of the Peoples Republic of China, and concerned officials in the Sichuan province, Ngaba prefecture and Ngaba county governments to put a stop to their unchecked intimidation, repression, duplicity and harassment in the region. The ongoing repression of ordinary people, both monks and laity, driven by desperation into confrontation with the Chinese army is indeed hard to bear, but I appeal to you consider that confrontation simply heaps even more suffering on ourselves, and to frame whatever action you take within the parameters of nonviolence.

For another confrontation in which more people are killed and wounded not to take place, I call on everyone to stick as much as they can to a peaceful approach by keeping their temper. That is my request, please consider it.

Holder of the title 'Incarnate Lama of Kirti monastery'  
Noble land of India,  
April 13, 2011

### **Statement to the leaders of the Peoples Republic of China, and concerned officials of the Sichuan province, Ngaba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture and Ngaba county**

Whether on the orders of the central government or not, armed troops in conjunction with government officials are currently enforcing a brutal clampdown on Kirti monastery in Ngaba, depriving it of all freedom and reducing it to desperation, and it is out of the suffering and frustration so caused that we seek to address you now.

The harassment of Kirti monastery and the community, both monastic and lay, with constant intimidation and a variety of false pretexts will not yield any positive results and we hope that it will be swiftly curtailed. The cause of the incidents arising there is the dissatisfaction of the people with the behaviour of the Chinese government, but the false representations of the situation made to the higher levels of government are only increasing the alienation between the people and government. Is this not a serious violation of the 'Harmonious Society' initiative of which President Hu Jintao has spoken?

The realisation of this initiative depends upon closer relations between the people and the government. Levelling serious political allegations at any opportunity, and meting out punishments like death sentences and life imprisonment, pretending to do so as loyal servants of the state while only heightening the public's sense of grievance and driving them to desperation is a way to precipitate confrontation between the government and the people, and it must be realised that those civil and military officials responsible are not doing so out of duty to the Party or nation, but out of their own selfish and corrupt interests.

The senior leadership must find the courage to accept that constant repression born of suspicion and the attempt to enforce 'Harmony' with the power of the gun cannot address the real situation. Even animals respond positively to gentle treatment rather than brute force.

Just as no-one can change the course of the planets and stars, so the evolution of social attitudes across the world cannot be stopped, and if instead of thinking only of their own power, and by respecting the groundswell of public opinion, those in authority could find the courage to consider the public interest and the need for reform, and defuse the potential for conflict by peaceful means, it is in the nature of things that relations between people and government will grow closer and a 'Harmonious Society' can become a reality.

If the leaders are unable to trust the people and respond only with repression, the peoples' sense of grievance will worsen, and lead only to confrontation, negating any prospect of 'Harmony', so we call for the cessation of such brutal methods nationwide, and especially in the ethnic minority regions. There are not enough prisons or soldiers in the land to maintain such a course indefinitely.

The present policy being implemented in minority regions belongs to the discredited old approach from the era of 'class struggle'. It must be realised that the people cannot be controlled merely through economic growth and state propaganda.

If it is not grasped that the era of "Power comes from the barrel of a gun" has passed, if those in power continue to misapprehend the changed situation and persist with that philosophy, far from achieving success, it will naturally lead only to a growing confrontation between rulers and ruled and continuing crisis, and it is with the broader interests of the Chinese state and people in mind that we appeal for preventive measures to be taken against this eventuality.

In keeping with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's vision that the 'Middle Way' approach is the only way to ensure the nation's long term stability, we appeal for the resumption of negotiations between Tibetan representatives and the central government without further delay.

The Lama of Kirti monastery in exile  
April 13, 2011







