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TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

(Registered under Societies Registration Act 21 of 1860)

April 23, 1998

His Excellency Kofi Annan  
The Secretary - General  
United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY-10017

Your Excellency,

The six Tibetan hunger strikers in Delhi, India who represent the six million Tibetans in Delhi, India are on the 43rd day of their strike today. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy is gravely concerned over the lack of attention paid by the UN till date.

We are aware of the perplexities that surround such an issue but, when we consider the lives of six human beings, the United Nations which personifies truth, peace and harmony must act and restore faith to all human kind. We draw your attention once again to the demands of the hunger strikers:

1. For the United Nations to resume its debate on the question of Tibet based on its resolutions of 1959, 1961 and 1965.
2. For the United Nations to appoint a Special Rapporteur to investigate the situation of human rights in Chinese occupied Tibet.
3. For the United Nations to appoint a Special Envoy to promote a peaceful settlement of the question of Tibet and initiate a United Nations supervised plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the Tibetan people.

We strongly believe that none of these requests are unreasonable. As you know, they were the recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists in their recent report. The demands are not only those of the hunger strikers but represent the dreams of all Tibetans. We entreat you to do all in your power to implement the hunger strikers' demands.

We therefore call upon you to consider what further action you may be able to take to implement the demands. The health of the hunger strikers have deteriorated considerably and their doctor has said they could die at any time. We sincerely hope that you will pay urgent attention to their demands and save their lives. An end to the continuing oppression of the Tibetan people is long

overdue. We have consistently fought our fight without taking arms against the Chinese and now Tibetans are sacrificing their precious lives in order to gain international recognition for our cause. Do not let the claims of the hunger strikers be dismissed. The concerns of Tibetans, whether they be in occupied Tibet or refugees in exile, are real and should not be ignored. The desperation of the plight of the Tibetan people is exemplified through the hunger strikers. After all, what more can you give but your life?

We entreat you to restore the significance of the position of the U.N. in the international arena and to give hope for a brighter tomorrow to Tibetans everywhere.

Yours faithfully

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy

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