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Expulsion of two Tibetan students for participation in demonstration

2 messages

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To: freedex@ohchr.org

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Mr. Frank La Rue

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Subject:

Dear Sir,

The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) wishes to register with your mandate the expulsion of two Tibetan students from their school on 19 June 2009 for taking part in a demonstration against the authorities on 24 April 2009. The TCHRD is appalled at the Chinese authorities' expulsion of the students from their school for exercising their freedom of opinion and expression.

The expelled students were identified as Dolma Tashi a.k.a. Dolta, 21 years old and Dolma Bum a.k.a. Dolbum, 22 years old, both hailed from Sangkhok Township, Sangchu County, Kanlho "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" ("TAP"), Gansu Province, China.

Background information:

On 24 April 2009, the students of Kanlho Tibetan Middle School took to the streets of Sangchu County (pictures available at <http://tchrd.org/press/2009/pr20090424a.html>). The peaceful and non-violent demonstration took place due to the prevailing malpractice in allocating reserved seats of Tibetan students to Chinese students in higher education by the school authorities. Another factor for the students taking to street was accrued to a political article published under the pseudonym of Yidor entitled "Deception and Meanness of Dalai Lama" and "No Escape for the Dalai" published in the bilingual Kanlho Daily. The article was not only published in the newspaper but it had also been put up on the school notice board.

Unable to tolerate the smear campaign carried out against their beloved leader, the students started off the demonstration from their school, Kanlho Tibetan Middle School, and headed towards the county main market area raising slogans. Reportedly the local Public Security Bureau (PSB) stopped the students in the outskirts of the main market area. The students were driven back to the school and a strong contingent of PSB officers and People's Armed Police (PAP) surrounded the school barring anyone from entering or leaving the premises. The parents of the students have been summoned at the school and they were asked to ensure that no such demonstration would take place in future.

Almost two months after the students' protest, the students, Dolma Tashi and Dolma Bum, were expelled for their participation in the demonstration.

