



PRESS RELEASE

30th March 2017

We have been informed through several sources that a National People's Congress (NPC) delegation of legislators from southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region headed by Padma Choling arrived Switzerland on Tuesday 28th March 2017.

The news report also says that this delegation is going to meet with officials from the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentarians to introduce the latest information regarding Tibet's social and economic development, environmental protection and cultural inheritance.

The world knows and it has been crystal clear that the present ground reality of Tibet. Tibetans inside Tibet are deprived of all those rights quoted in the Universal Declaration of the UN specifically freedom of religion, freedom movement, peaceful assembly and freedom of speech. China being a member of the UNHRC is not implementing those recommendations accepted during last UPR session.

We acknowledge that Beijing invested billions of dollars in the Tibet Autonomous Region and growing Tibet's gross domestic product, faster than China's average. Although the influx of money and people has ushered new prosperity, it has also deepened resentment among many Tibetans.

Many world experts say that economic development in urban Tibet is very much a reality, however, it poses the question: for whose sake has this development taken place and on whose terms?

According to a 1990s census, outside of the traditional Tibetan "Bharkor" market there are around 3,500 to 4,000 shops and restaurants in Lhasa, but Tibetans own only 400-450 of them, leaving the remaining 85% under non-Tibetan (usually Han Chinese) ownership. As a result, Tibetans have been economically marginalized and deprived of their own fair share. Chinese officials have claimed "Tibetans make up more than 95 percent of the region's 2.9 million people," but refuse to give estimates on Han migrants, who are not registered residents.

As stated earlier, one of the primary targets of subsidies is urbanization. Like other towns, the city of Lhasa has expanded and the population has increased from 30,000 in 1950s to 200,000 in 1998. Though these figures seem impressive, it is again necessary to look at the finer details of the statistics to understand who, in fact, is benefiting from this urbanization. It is estimated that as much as 60-70% of the population in Lhasa is now Chinese. Not only do they dominate private businesses, but they also occupy most government-related employment. "Approximately 95 percent of official Chinese immigrants are employed" in state-owned enterprises.

The Chinese government has authorized the transfer of 280 thousand Chinese Han (majority ethnic group in China) to Lhasa, capital of Tibet. According to the executive, it is a move to "strengthen the permanent urban population"; for Tibetans it is yet another attempt to destroy the local identity. This new influx of residents will increase 30% by 2020 and will bring the urban population to exceed one million units. The natives, on the contrary, are settled in the countryside or in small towns and do not exceed 5 thousand inhabitants. <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Beijing-sends-a-new-flood-of-Han-migrants-to-Lhasa:-Tibetans-risk-disappearing-33294.html>

There are also an estimated 200,000-500,000 Chinese soldiers in Tibet. The government encourages families of soldiers to relocate to Tibet and offers incentives to retired soldiers to settle in Tibet. Soldiers have also helped build roads, airfields, farms and factories that have drawn more civilian migration into Tibet.

Economic development projects have been carried on with primarily Chinese workers, even in unskilled positions. Tibetans are not being allowed to participate in the economic development. The economic development has also created opportunities for more settlers to relocate to Tibet.

Housing, schools and hospitals are primarily being built for the inflowing Chinese population, not for Tibetans. In Lhasa recently, thousands of Tibetans were removed from their homes and relocated to the outskirts of the city so that their homes could be razed to build housing for Chinese workers. Elsewhere, the concentration of new



housing and services in the major towns and cities where they support the majority Chinese population has left these services unavailable to most Tibetans who live in rural areas.

The Preliminary Report of the Special Rapporteur on Population Transfer (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/17) recognizes that population transfers, including the implantation of settlers, affect the basic human rights of inhabitants and settlers.

The large-scale transfer of Chinese into Tibet violates humanitarian and human rights law, including treaties which China itself has ratified. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits any occupying power to "deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies. China does not dispute that the Tibetan people have a distinct language, culture, religion and historical heritage. As a distinct people, Tibetans have a right to control their economic, cultural and political destiny free of domination by implanted settlers.

For further information; <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/beijings-development-policy-and-tibetans>

We (Tibetans) are deeply disappointed with the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliamentarian to receive Chinese delegation in the land of moral ethics (Switzerland) who always known by principle, justice and rule of law. It is a huge blow towards those 146 Tibetan who self-immolates so far in Tibet and those thousand plus political prisoners who are suffering in various Chinese detention waiting for "Freedom".

The purpose of Chinese delegation visit to Switzerland is nothing related to social and economic development in Tibet rather to "propagate" the Chinese communist ideology targeting the western world to undermine the human rights and environmental issues in Tibet.

If the Chinese government has made social and economic development, environmental protection in Tibet as per their version then;

- Why the Chinese authority barred international media to access freely in Tibet Autonomous Region
- Why the Chinese authority hesitate to invite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Tibet
- Why there is continues self-immolations in Tibet - recent case on 18 March 2017.
- Why there was a major and intimidating deployment of military force at a prayer ceremony at Kumbum monastery during Tibetan New Year in this February, while in Lhasa regional leaders hosted a series of meetings in which monks and nuns were warned about the need to comply with Party policy, and – evidence of the strong Party and police presence in religious institutions – official delegations inspected ‘armed forces’ and cadres at Tibetan Buddhist monasteries.
- Why Tibet ranked least free territory among the territories and country surveyed according to Freedom in the World 2017, Freedom House’s annual report on political rights and civil liberties, released on January 17, 2017 Freedom House Reports.

Therefore we categorically reject such initiatives by the Swiss Federal Foreign Ministry and Member Parliament which promote Chinese propaganda and denying support to Tibet's just cause.

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