

World Human Rights Day

Alle Menschen sind frei und gleich an Würde und Rechten geboren. Sie sind mit Vernunft und Gewissen begabt und Sollen einander

im Geiste der Schwesterlichkeit und Brüderlichkeit begegnen.

Paris 10. Dezember 1948

Heute 10.12.24 vor 76 Jahren

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should meet in the spirit of sisterhood and fraternity.

Paris, December 10, 1948 - 76 years ago today.

Respected Venerable Ken Rinpoche and venerable sangha members from the Tibet Institute, honorable Thinley Choekyi La from the Tibet Office, Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, President of Tibetan Women's Organization, President of Tibetan Youth Association, my dear fellow Tibetan sisters and brothers from all over Switzerland. On behalf of the Swiss-Tibetan Friendship Association GSTF, I thank you all for your support and participation in today's demonstration.

My name is Michaela, I am a Board Member of the Swiss-Tibetan Friendship Association. Today is World Human Rights Day, observed annually on December 10th, commemorating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adoption by the United Nations General Assembly more than seven decades ago.

Human rights are our fundamental rights, including rights to Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Assembly, Freedom of Education and Freedom to Defend the rights and equality of all individuals, regardless of background, nationality, ethnicity or social status.

However, after more than seven decades, millions and millions of humans are still deprived of fundamental human rights.

Even today, there are many countries **in this world where every single article of the human rights law is being trampled and abused.**

We are here today to show support, let the world know their pain and suffering and be the voice for the voiceless, who are suffering under ruthless regimes and dictatorships.

We demand all world leaders and governments show their words in actions to the world and all human beings, that they care about human rights.

As we are speaking here today, the **Chinese Communist Party** is committing egregious/unbelievable human rights violations in Tibet.

Hundreds and thousands of our Tibetan brothers and sisters are being detained on false accusations, beaten in prisons and executed.

We demand the government of the **People's Republic of China** speak the truth and allow the international media to visit and Tibet, as free Journalists, and let observe them the reality of the

Human Rights situation in absolute terms and not the sham and fake news produced by the Communist Chinese Government.

The Chinese Communist Government bans younger generations of Tibetan children and those Tibetans who work for the local government from visiting Temples and preserving their unique cultures and traditions.

Tibetan people can only travel from city to city within the same district with permission and detailed information about the trip and return schedule.

Just think about it. Imagine getting consent from your local office to travel from Zurich to Bern. This is like house arrest.

Every movement in your daily life is under surveillance, and your freedom of movement in your local region is restricted.

The Government of the PRC is on an evil mission to destroy any form of religious groups and institutions and preservation of the Tibetan language and culture. – Reminds us ones mor to the lack of the Human Rights: Freedom of Religion, of Expression, of Assembly, of Education, to Defend the rights and equality of all individuals, regardless of background, nationality, ethnicity or social status.

Not only the fundamental Human Rights and religious freedoms banned in Tibet, but there is a massive scale of Tibetan culture and Tibetan language persecution enforced in every part of Tibet.

Tibetan language activists Tashi Wangchuk, Go Sherap Gyatso, Gangkye Drupba Kyab and Gendun Lhundup were arrested and sentenced to imprisonment. They face unjust imprisonment, attacks, harassment, and violence simply for expressing their minds.

This violates human rights, the “right to freedom of thought.”

A minimum of one million Tibetan children are forced to live in Chinese government-run colonial boarding schools and preschools.

Children are forced to live apart from their families, are made to learn in Chinese, and they are blocked from accessing their language and culture. Families are forced to send their children – both through threats by authorities and a lack of alternatives.

This is a plan of destruction from the CCP, to wipe out the Tibetan identity, Tibetan language and culture from the face of it’s Home-Country and is against any idea of equality.

Furthermore, the Kamtok dam in the sacred mountains of Gèndong, threatens the displacement of villages and ancient Buddhist monasteries in the upper reaches of the Drichu in Tibet.

The protests about the Kamtok dam on the Drichu River in Tibet highlight the imminent loss of thousands of people’s homes and ancient cultural heritage of national and international significance.

In response, Tibetan protesters were beaten so severely that they were injured and hospitalized, and hundreds were detained.

While not directly involved in the dam project, China Huadian’s international partners and investors, among them

Siemens Energy, Credit Agricole and Schrodgers, will be complicit in this mega development in Tibet.

We ask these companies to end their partnership with China Huadian Group.

We are all here today for the same reason and we stand steadfast for our rights and we are the voice for our sisters and brothers, whose voices cannot reach the UNO, the internal human

rights organizations, local Human Rights organizations, and the governments and leaders of the world.

Our responsibility is to do everything in our power, because we live in a free world and have an international stage, where we can make a significant change and bring peace and happiness to the minds of our brothers and sisters in our home countries.

What I want to remind us all here today, is that for the simple acts that you and I take for granted in the free world, Tibetans in Tibet are arrested. For example: for posting on social media, for singing songs about the culture and spirituality, for promoting the Tibetan language, or for simply having an image of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with them.

Hence, it is our responsibility to be the eyes of those who do not have eyes.

Be the voice of those who do not have a voice.

Let us all stand united and send this message to the government of the People's Republic of China.

We will stand up every day, until we restore freedom and Human Rights in Tibet.

Dear sisters and brothers,

Never Give Up.

Truth is our power, and we stay for the Truth.

The Truth Will Prevail, and Freedom Will be Ours.

Thank you and Bhoë Gyalo

Text: Jampa Samdho / Michaela Litzenburger