

**General Assembly  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Eleventh Session**

**Item 6: Universal Periodic Review- Outcome Document of People's Republic of China**

Joint statement by the Society for Threatened Peoples and Reporters without Borders delivered by Tenzin S. KAYTA

Mr. President,

One of the 50 recommendations from the UPR of China that was rejected by the Chinese delegation concerned the granting "access to Tibetan areas for OHCHR and other United Nations bodies, as well as diplomats and the international media".

Being disappointed, we believe this position of the Chinese authorities contradicts the pledges and commitments it made to the Human Rights Council to "conduct constructive dialogues" with treaty bodies; "to cooperate with human rights special procedures and respond to the communications"; or "will consider inviting one special rapporteur to visit China this year" and "continue bilateral human rights dialogues" with other countries.

Mr. President, given the persistent patterns of gross and systematic violations of human rights suffered by the Tibetan people, particularly after the spontaneous Uprising which erupted since 10 March 2008, we share the growing opinion of the international community that full access be given to the outside world to ascertain ground realities on the Tibetan Plateau. For instance, a mother whose son succumbed to torture on 19 June last year made these sad remarks at the funeral: "I cry not only for my son who died a tragic death, I cry even more for those sons who are being tortured. As a mother, I can't imagine the torments and suffering my son endured in prison."<sup>1</sup>

Mr. President, we welcome that the Chinese authorities intend to invite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in response to the March 2008 request by the former-High Commissioner for access to Tibetan areas of present-day China. And, we urge China to positively respond to September 2006 letter seeking dates for a follow-up by the

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<sup>1</sup> Deaths of two Tibetans after torture: <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/deaths-two-tibetans-after-torture>

Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief in relation to the invitation extended in 2004.<sup>2</sup>

To conclude, we urge the Chinese authorities to immediately open Tibetan areas for visits by diplomats, parliamentarians, NGOs and the media without restrictions, selectivity and politicisation. Such an open policy would really provide the opportunity for the international community to really assess whether everything is “normal” or not on the Tibetan Plateau.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Geneva, 11 June 2009

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<sup>2</sup> UN Expert on Religious Freedom Seeks Visit Dates from China:

<http://www.phayul.com/news/article.aspx?article=UN+Expert+on+Religious+Freedom+Seeks+Visit+Dates+from+China&id=16035>