Resolution of Solidarity

Where as:

Since the Chinese government invasion of Tibet in 1949, it has implemented a series of repressive policies in Tibet, including the Cultural Revolution, which has led to the death of more than 1.2 million Tibetans; destruction of thousands of monasteries; exploitation of Tibet's mineral resources; deforestation and, death and capture of wild lives. The immeasurable destruction of Tibet's natural lives and environment has threatened the survival of Tibetans in their own land. The Chinese government's unceasing implementation of strategies aimed at converting Tibet into the Chinese land by annihilating the trace of Tibetan identity: religion, culture and language, poses a serious threat for the survival of Tibetans. Especially since 2008, Tibetans throughout the three traditional provinces of Tibet who took part in peaceful demonstrations were subjected to unprecedented repression, leading to deaths and torture. The Chinese government completely ignored the concerns of the Tibetan people raised through the non-violent movement. Instead of looking into their demands and carrying out an impartial investigation based on the actual situation in Tibet, the Chinese government continued its hard-line policies, driving Tibetans to take the drastic step of setting themselves on fire in protest.

It should be noted that since 2009 until the eighth session of the 15th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, 130 Tibetan men and women have carried out self-immolation protests in Tibet. Thereafter, six more Tibetans with indomitable spirit have carried out this highest form of non-violent protest against the Chinese government’s policies, calling for freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Since 17 September 2014, six brave Tibetans: two in Do-mey Sangchu County, one in Golok Gade County, two in Ngaba County, one in Tawu County in Kardze, have self-immolated. Five of them have died, while the condition of one, who was then taken to a hospital, remains unknown. Although, many Tibetans have been imprisoned or detained under false charges, it remains largely difficult to fully ascertain the number of Tibetans killed, jailed or tortured in various parts of Tibet. Even more difficult is to ascertain the location where they are detained or imprisoned.

There is no indication that the Chinese government may change its current hard-line policies on Tibet. On the contrary, there is heightening repression in all parts of Tibet. At the end of September last year, a Chinese ethnic affairs meeting and the 6th meeting of the State Council for awarding outstanding contributors to the national ethnic unity was held. At that meeting top Chinese leaders said that China was a multiethnic country, and they strongly opposed the ideas of great Han chauvinism and narrow nationalism. However, in practice, the Chinese government has never entertained any of the suggestions designed to enable the entire Tibetan people to enjoy the kind of genuine autonomy that is in keeping with the constitution of the People’s Republic of China. Rather, there are strong restrictions on the Tibetan people in the exercise of their human rights, in the practice of their religious belief, on their freedom of movement, in
their learning and use of their linguistic heritage. Economically advanced Tibetans are also targeted, making their lives more critical than before.

Similarly, during the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region, the Communist Party of China, convened on 4th November, a report called investigation of the corrective actions work on the recommendations given by a four-member central inspection team for Tibet was presented. The report had said that the campaign to oppose separatism should be strengthened and cadres, who harbour fantasies about the 14th Dalai Group, follow the Dalai Group, and participate in supporting separatist infiltration sabotage activities, will be strictly and severely punished according to the law and party disciplinary measures. All this is despite the fact the government of China is fully in the know that His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration have been seeking – and continues to seek – to resolve the issue of Tibet only through the mutually beneficial Middle-Way Approach. This, in fact, is an evil ploy of the Chinese government to avoid dialogue, ruin the careers of Tibetan cadres and benefit Chinese cadres by using the device of legal measures.

Again, on the 7th of November last year, the website of China’s Tibet magazine carried a report about the holding of a function in Beijing for the inauguration of a project to make a realistic film about the Tibetan Buddhism’s system for the recognition of reincarnations of tulkus. The report spoke about the work for the supervision of the system in Tibetan Buddhism for the recognition of the reincarnations of tulkus having now been brought under legal restrictions. It also referred to the fact that in 2007, China’s State Administration of Religious Affairs had issued and announced a set of Regulation on Reincarnation of Living Buddha in Tibetan Buddhism. It added that these regulations lay down in clear terms the fundamental points underlying the system for the recognition of reincarnations of tulkus, the hierarchy of state authorities empowered to determine the fulfillment of conditions for the recognition and to grant permissions thereby. But the communist government of China is a professed atheist and it is therefore patently obvious that by establishing legal regulations in a historically unprecedented action as a means to interfere in the Tibetan Buddhists’ system for the recognition of reincarnations of tulkus, China is simply making political misuse of this sacred religious practice. This is extremely uncalled for and there is no way anyone can accept it. Moreover, the actual history of Tibet continued to be distorted in documentaries shown over state television channels.

This year, the head of the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region Discipline Inspection team has announced that "the Tibet Autonomous Region Discipline Inspection team had put under investigation several officials who participated in the illegal underground 'Tibetan Independence' organisation, provided intelligence to the Dalai Lama clique and provided financial assistance to the activities that would harm national security and stability. A total of 15 Communist Party officials were punished for violating Party and political discipline in 2014." During the TAR Discipline Inspection team meeting, the head of TAR Communist Party has called for a simultaneous fight against corruption and separatism.

Also, the sixth point of the 2015 work plans issued during the third session of the 10th People's Congress of Tibet Autonomous Region stressed that "the foundation of ethnic harmony and
social stability should be strengthened. The ten measures of strengthening ethnic harmony and maintaining stability by legally managing religious matters must be fulfilled." On the name of economic development and stability in Tibet, this is a serious attack on Tibetan people and it is a clear indication of worsening situation in Tibet this New Year, particularly the freedom of religious belief of Tibetan people.

Moreover, the Chinese government continues to destroy Tibet's pure and natural environment through uncontrolled mining, deforestation, damming trans-boundary rivers and polluting lakes and ponds. Last year, the Chinese government built the Zam Hydroelectric power station dam over the Yarlung Tsangpo River and began generating electricity. This project remains a source of great concern due to its potential for inflicting environmental damages in Tibet as well as for causing destructions in the downstream countries of India and Bangladesh. This has become a matter requiring urgent attention and we call on the concerned governments, scholars in the relevant fields and others to show a heightened level of concern over this development.

Similarly, there is an ever-increasing restriction over the freedom of religious practice. In September 2014, a large number of Chinese “work team” descended onto the Jhada Nunnery in Driru County and expelled 26 nuns after they refused to criticise the Dalai Lama. This is a clear indication of heightening restriction and suppression of religious freedom of Tibetan people.

According to the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy's annual report of 2014, there are 2,110 known political prisoners in Tibet; and this number includes the 137 Tibetans who were either detained or sentenced in 2014.

It is the imperative responsibility of Tibetans living in exile to speak up and make the world aware of the situation inside Tibet. It was with this understanding that the delegations of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile met with many Indian members of parliament and embarked on first ever parliamentary delegation visit to Taiwan and Thailand and briefed those leaders about the critical situation inside Tibet and particularly on self-immolation protests.

From 2009 to 5 March 2014, a total of 136 Tibetan men and women have carried out non-violent self-immolation protests in Tibet, unanimously calling for the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet and freedom for Tibetan people. In keeping with the fact that such slogans are continued to be raised in Tibet, it becomes all the more important that we make greater efforts than ever before towards the realization of the wishes of Tibetans both in Tibet and in exile.

Every campaign initiated by Tibetans in Tibet has been followed by solidarity actions by the Central Tibetan Administration, Tibetan organizations, individuals and others in exile. And in addition to this, since the third session of the 14th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, the successive sessions of the Parliament have adopted resolutions expressing condolences and solidarity with the Tibetans in Tibet. In the international community too, many national governments and parliaments have passed resolutions, made proclamations, expressed grave concerns and called on the government of China to end its repressive policies in Tibet and also strongly appealed to start earnest talks with the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to resolve the Sino-Tibetan issue.

In view of the worsening situation in Tibet, it is the need of the hour to adopt the following resolution to express our solidarity and condolences:
Resolutions

1. While expressing admiration for the courage of the Tibetan men and women who have sacrificed their lives by setting themselves on fire and those patriotic Tibetan men and women who continue to endure hardship and misery in Chinese prisons for their involvement in the struggle for the cause of Tibet, we offer our condolences and solidarity with their family members with fervent prayers for their speedy rebirth in Tibet and that those who continue to suffer repression and torture under Chinese captivity may get immediate release.

2. Given the Chinese leadership’s continuous claim of being committed to seeking “truth from facts”, we reiterate our firm belief that the Sino-Tibetan conflict ought to be and needs to be resolved through the mutually beneficial Middle Way Approach by resuming dialogue, reforming the hardline policies and addressing the genuine aspirations of the Tibetan people.

3. We call on the Chinese leadership to investigate the real causes of the critical situation in Tibet particularly the ongoing wave of self-immolations, and urge the Chinese government to allow an unbiased fact-finding delegation comprising world leaders, international press, representative of governmental and non-governmental organisations to ascertain the genuine aspirations of the Tibetan people and save the lives of innocent Tibetans by monitoring the situation inside Tibet.

4. We express our gratitude to the governments and across the world who have displayed concern over the serious and tragic situation in Tibet and solidarity with the Tibetan people in their struggle by passing resolutions in parliaments, and, like wise also to the Tibet support groups, non-governmental and groups across the world, Chinese democracy campaign groups, and private individuals who support truth and justice for the various kinds of non-violent campaign action they have carried out in support of the Tibetan people. At the same time we also appeal to them to continue their just support and cooperation as before in efforts to vindicate the truthful cause of Tibet in general terms and, especially, for the sake of ensuring an immediate end to the current tragic situation in Tibet today. We also vehemently reiterate our appeal to the United Nations to immediately appoint and dispatch an envoy to investigate the current situation in Tibet.

Adopted unanimously by the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, 18 March 2015

Motion moved by Geshe Monlam Tharchin, MP

Motion seconded by Gyarik Thar, MP