



**THE TIBET BUREAU, GENEVA**  
**OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF H. H. THE DALAI LAMA**

**TIBET AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN 2019:**  
***A YEAR IN REVIEW***

**31 December 2019**

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## FOREWORD

2019 marked the 60th anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising Day, when thousands of Tibetans rose up against the forceful and illegal occupation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China. The peaceful uprising was brutally crushed and hundreds of Tibetan men and women, young and old were killed. The aftermath of the uprising and the destruction that followed has been recorded by many historians.

History has a way of repeating itself. The current “concentration camps” in East Turkestan (CHN: Xinjiang) were first introduced in Tibet; the “re-education camps” were first introduced in Tibet; and the high-tech surveillance systems were also first introduced in Tibet. In fact the Communist Party Secretary of “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region”, Chen Quanguo was the Communist Party Secretary of the “Tibet Autonomous Region” from 2011 to 2016 and was later promoted to “Xinjiang” in 2016. It is thus evident that the system of oppressions perpetrated by China in East Turkestan was first experimented and perfected in Tibet.

Even to this day the suppression of Tibetans in Tibet continues. Tibetans have been ‘minoritized’ on their own land with no right to preserve their culture and traditions. They are not allowed to learn their own mother tongue- Tibetan language; not allowed to worship their religious leaders, not allowed to move freely; and are discriminated against in every walk of life. The rampant human rights violations in Tibet under the repressive policies of Chinese government has forced 154 Tibetans (known cases) to self-immolate in Tibet since 2009 as a mark of peaceful protest.

This report is a brief compilation of all the activities that were initiated and/or coordinated by the Tibet Bureau Geneva towards advocacy for Tibet at the UN. The report highlights the common message of “hope and never give up” adopted by Tibetans in the struggle for freedom. We have come a long way and there is much more ground left to cover. We convey our sincere gratitude to all our supporters for their consistent support in the struggle and appeal them to continue to do so until we reach our goal.

Yours Sincerely,



**Chhimey Rigzen**

Representative of HH the Dalai Lama

The Tibet Bureau, Geneva

## I. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSIONS

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is the main inter-governmental body within the United Nations (UN) system responsible for promoting and protecting human rights, and addressing situations of human rights violations of its Member States. In a given year, the HRC generally holds three regular sessions which take place in March, June and September.

### A. Tibet at the 40th Regular Session (25 Feb 2019 to 22 Mar 2019)

#### i. Consideration of UPR Outcome of China

The 40th regular session of the HRC saw the Consideration of the third cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) outcome of China.

The UPR is a unique mechanism of the HRC which reviews the human rights record of all member states almost once in five years. On 6 November 2018, China underwent its third at the 39<sup>th</sup> regular session of the UN Human Rights Council. The UPR outcome document was presented by China on 15 March 2019 for the consideration of member states at the 40<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Human Rights Council.

China received in total 346 recommendations out of which it claimed to have accepted 284 recommendations (82%).<sup>1</sup> However, it is important to note that China refused to accept many critical recommendations on Tibet and other territories under its rule. Some of the recommendations were claimed to have been “already implemented” but the reality is far from it.

The below table shows the list of recommendations on Tibet derived from the UN HRC document and the replies by China on the same.

No.	Recommendations <sup>2</sup>	Reply by China <sup>3</sup>
28.27	Facilitate full access to Xinjiang and Tibet for all relevant United Nations special procedures (Denmark);	<b>Not Accepted.</b> China welcomes visits to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Tibet Autonomous Region by foreigners in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, but firmly opposes the practice of using the visits as an excuse to pressure the Chinese government and interfere in China’s internal affairs.
28.189	Cease interference in the selection and education of religious leaders, such as Tibetan Buddhist lamas (United States of America);	<b>Not Accepted.</b> Religious affairs must be run in accordance with laws and regulations. The reincarnation of Living Buddhas should be consistent with religious rituals, historical conventions and China’s laws and regulations.

28.190	End prosecution and persecution on the basis of religion or belief, including for Muslims, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists and Falun Gong (Canada);	<b>Not Accepted.</b> China is a country under the rule of law, and its citizens' freedom of religious belief is protected in accordance with law. However, those who break the law must be punished in accordance with law whether they are religious believers or not.
28.194	Guarantee freedom of religion or belief, including in Tibet and in Xinjiang (France);	Accepted and already implemented.
28.195	Respect the rights to freedom of religion or belief, opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and culture, including for Tibetans, Uighurs and other minorities (Germany);	Accepted and already implemented.
28.272	Continue to implement the free education policy in the Tibet Autonomous Region (Nepal);	Accepted.
28.317	Cease restrictions on the freedom of movement of Uighurs and Tibetans and allow the media and United Nations and foreign officials access to Xinjiang and Tibet (Australia);	<b>Not Accepted.</b> See 28.27. The Chinese government guarantees, in accordance with law, the right to reside and travel of people of all ethnic groups, and their entry into and exit from the country. The Chinese government also ensures social order and sound port administration in accordance with laws and regulations to prevent violent terrorists at home and abroad from committing crimes.
28.318	Resume the two-way dialogue on Tibet (New Zealand);	Accepted and already implemented.
28.319	Take urgent steps to respect the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minorities, including the rights to peaceful assembly and to manifest religion and culture, in particular in Xinjiang and Tibet (Sweden);	<b>Not Accepted.</b> The Chinese government always guarantees, in accordance with law, the freedom of assembly and religious belief and the cultural rights of people of ethnic minorities. There is no need for urgent steps.
28.320	Respect all the human rights of the Tibetan people and other minorities, including the importance of an environment that is safe, clean, healthy and sustainable, which is essential for the enjoyment of many of these rights (Switzerland);	Accepted and already implemented.

**ii. Oral Statements by the staff of Tibet Bureau Geneva:**

- **Item 4, General Debate:** Delivering an oral statement marking the 60th anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising day, Kalden Tsono highlighted that the situation of Tibetan people has only worsened with 153 self-immolations in Tibet since 2009. Marking the 30th anniversary of adoption of the Convention on Rights of the Child, she highlighted the difficulty faced by Tibetan children in learning their mother tongue with China shutting down all Tibetan language classes. She also expressed concerns about the unresolved case of missing 11th Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima.
- **Item 6 UPR General Debate:** Delivering an oral statement, Kunchok Dolma Yaklha highlighted the concerns with regards to deletion of joint statement on China's systematic human rights violations in the "Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas" from the official stakeholder's summary. She opined that the UPR process must be conducted in a "transparent manner" to ensure that all stakeholders can make their voices heard.

**B. Tibet at the 41st Regular Session (24 Jun 2019 to 12 Jul 2019)**

**i. Statements by Member States**

The Member States of the Human Rights Council including the EU continued to raise their voice in support of Tibet by reiterating their concerns about China's grave human rights violations and the intensified crackdown on human rights defenders in Tibet.

- **European Union:** Finland delivered a statement on behalf of EU and the candidate countries Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania aligned with the statement. In the statement EU called on China to "respect the human rights most notably in Xinjiang and Tibet." EU expressed grave concerns about detention centres of human rights defenders as well.<sup>4</sup>
- **Czech Republic:** Czech Republic aligned with the statement of EU and noted that the international community had marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of crackdown of peaceful demonstrators in Tiananmen Square and stated that honouring the victims of 30th Tiananmen Square crackdown, "requires us to address the current situation of human rights defenders and lawyers in China." The delegate called on China for immediate release of all imprisoned human rights defenders including Tashi Wangchuk. The delegate called on China and said "we expect China, a member of this council to fully cooperate with Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and uphold its international obligations including in Xinjiang and Tibet."<sup>5</sup>

- **Finland:** Finland also fully aligned with the statement of EU and stated that “we are deeply concerned about the wide-spread surveillance and profiling based on ethnicity in China and we call on China to respect its human rights obligations most notably in Xinjiang and Tibet.”
- **Germany:** Germany also aligned itself with the statement of EU and stated that it is “very alarmed about the repression of human rights defenders, of the free press and of minorities.” It called upon China “to release and stop criminalizing human rights defenders, adhere to universal human rights commitments and allow meaningful access for independent observers.” Germany expressed alarm by the use of death penalty often combined with torture and detention and enforced disappearances in China.<sup>6</sup>
- **France:** France also noted the dire situation of human rights defenders in China and also expressed concern for the situation in Tibet and Xinjiang.<sup>7</sup>
- **Belgium:** Belgium also aligned itself with the EU statement. Belgium expressed deep concern over China's ongoing attack on human rights defenders and called on China to take all necessary steps to protect the physical integrity of human rights defenders.<sup>8</sup>
- **Sweden:** Sweden also fully aligned itself to the statement of EU. Highlighting the need for guaranteeing the rights of persons belonging to minorities, Sweden called upon China to take urgent steps on guaranteeing the rights particularly in Xinjiang and Tibet.<sup>9</sup>
- **United Kingdom:** United Kingdom expressed concerns over freedom of religion and belief in China including for Buddhists, Muslims, Christians and Falun Gong. It also expressed concerns about the deteriorating situation for non-state media journalists.<sup>10</sup>

**ii. Oral Statements by the staff of Tibet Bureau Geneva:**

- **Item 4- General Debate:** Delivering the oral statement, Kunchok Dolma Yaklha urged the HRC to examine the Chinese Communist Party’s masterplan for a highly repressive campaign against religious minorities. She called the attention of HRC to the fact that the current party secretary to “Xinjiang” was actually promoted to the region after he perfected the surveillance system in Tibet. She urged the council to take closer look into the issues to end China’s systematic crackdown on people of faith.

## C. Tibet at the 42nd Regular Session (9 Sep 2019 to 27 Sep 2019)

### i. Statements by UN Member States

Several Member States reiterated their concerns about China's lack of respect for the fundamental rights of Tibetans and the repression of human rights defenders including the wrongful imprisonment of Tashi Wangchuk. Many countries urged China to cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms in order to effectively address these serious issues.<sup>11</sup> Below are the statements made at the 42<sup>nd</sup> regular session:

- **European Union:** Finland delivered a statement on behalf of EU and the candidate countries Lichtenstein, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania aligned with the statement. The EU continued to support Tibet and called on “to respect Human Rights especially in Xingjian and Tibet.” It raised concerns on the detention and trials of human rights defenders as well.<sup>12</sup>
- **Czech Republic:** The Czech Republic continued to raise voice against the human rights violations in Tibet. “In China, the remarkable economic development is yet to be matched with the progress on human rights, the rule of law and democracy. We regret to reiterate our call for the immediate release of human rights defenders such as Wang Quangzhang, Yu Wensheng, Tashi Wangchuk and Huang Qi. Lasting security and prosperity cannot be achieved by clamping down on human dignity and freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, expression, religion or belief, be it in Xinjiang or Tibet.”<sup>13</sup>
- **Finland:** Finland raised deep concern about the repressive measures towards ethnic minorities in China in particular “through political re-education camps, wide spread surveillance and restriction on freedom of religion.”<sup>14</sup>
- **Germany:** Germany aligned itself with the statement of EU and called upon China “to release and protect human rights defenders, adhere to universal human rights standards and to allow meaningful access to independent observers. In China, the unlawful mass detentions, torture and massive infringements of civic, political and religious rights in Xinjiang and Tibet must end immediately.”<sup>15</sup>
- **France:** France aligned itself with the statement of EU. France expressed grave concerns on the human rights situation in Tibet and East Turkestan (CHN: Xinjiang). It called on authorities to end detention camps.<sup>16</sup>

- **Sweden:** Sweden fully aligned itself with the statement of EU. It called on China “to respect the right to peaceful assembly, to manifest religion and culture, in particular for persons belonging to ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and Tibet, and to allow meaningful access for independent observers.”<sup>17</sup>

ii. **Oral Statements by the staff of Tibet Bureau Geneva:**

- **Item 3: General Debate-** Delivering the oral statement Kalden Tsomo drew the attention of HRC to the concerning reports of political repression cultural assimilation, social discrimination, economic marginalization and environmental destruction in Tibetan areas in People’s Republic of China. She highlighted the cases of bans imposed by Chinese authorities on Tibetan children from participating in religious activities, dilution of centuries-old Tibetan Buddhist practices of reincarnation and also highlighted the case of Tashi Wangchuk who is denied access to his lawyer while under imprisonment.
- **Item 3: Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development-** While delivering the oral statement Dukthen Kyi highlighted that China has “miserably failed to include active and free participation of the local Tibetans. Instead the “development” projects have threatened and violated the social, economic and cultural rights of the Tibetans.” She also highlighted the destruction of Larung Gar and Yachen Gar, Tibetan Buddhist centers and the forceful removal of Tibetans from their lands for mining, damming and other “development projects”.

## II. SIDE EVENTS

In order to strengthen Tibet's advocacy at the UN, a series of side events were held on UN premises this past year on the side-lines of the HRC sessions. The side events provide a great opportunity for permanent missions of Member States, UN officials, civil society members and other participants to have a more in-depth discussion about pressing human rights concerns.

### A. China's 60 Years of Gross Human Rights Violations in Tibet: Side Event during 40<sup>th</sup> HRC session<sup>18</sup>



From left: Lhagyari Namgyal Dolkar, Joshua Cooper, Dhondup Wangchen and Thinlay Chukki at side event during the 40th HRC session in Geneva, 13 March 2019.

On the side-lines of the 40th Human Rights Council session, the Tibet Bureau Geneva was involved in a side event on 13 March 2019 marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tibetan National Uprising in the UN building. The side event saw a panel of speakers consisting of Dhondup Wangchen, documentary maker and former political prisoner, Lhagyari Namgyal Dolkar, President of Gu-Chu-Sum movement and Member of Tibetan Parliament in exile and Thinlay Chukki, Researcher at UN, EU and HR Desk under Department of Information and International Relations. The panel discussion was moderated by Joshua Cooper, Professor at University of Hawaii.

In front of a packed room with representatives from various Permanent Missions, non-governmental organizations and other offices, the former political prisoner said, "it has been

long since China occupied Tibet, but Tibetans inside Tibet continue their peaceful resistance even to this day.”

Dhondup Wangchen was arbitrarily sentenced to a six-year imprisonment by the Chinese courts after he made a documentary titled “Leaving Fear Behind” about the real situation inside Tibet just before the 2008 Beijing Olympics. “We wanted to bring out the realities of the situation in Tibet to the international community. We wanted the world to see what Tibetans think about their own conditions within Tibet,” he said.

Highlighting the hypocrisy of China, Thinlay Chukki noted that China in its adoption of UPR recommendations has claimed that it has “accepted and already implemented” most of the recommendations on freedom of religion. “Unless Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party are planning on starting a new religion, ordering the Tibetans to install pictures of Xi Jinping in their altars to be worshipped by them does not amount to freedom of religion.” Expressing serious concerns that it has been almost 25 years since the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief’s last visit to Tibet, she said “the UN Human Rights Council should not allow China to vitiate the UPR process by stating such blatant lies about the conditions in Tibet and ensure that there is freedom of religion and belief in its true sense, and not according to Chinese characteristics.”

Lhagyari Namgyal Dolkar, President of the Gu-Chu-Sum Movement of Tibet, slammed China for blatantly denying the existence of political prisoners under its repressive rule. “It’s an honor for me to speak along with a Tibetan former political prisoner like Dhondup Wangchen and on behalf of Tibetans inside Tibet at the UN,” she said. She noted China’s illegal occupation of Tibet and the consistent failures of the Chinese government to respect and uphold the UN Charter and fundamental human rights principles.

In his conclusion, Wangchen appealed for the continued support by the international community. “The Chinese authorities knew that I was receiving international support and attention and therefore, the extent of torture I was subjected to was much lesser compared to some of my other co-prisoners. Your support and attention inspire Tibetans inside Tibet to continue their struggle for justice,” he said.

**B. Religious Repression: “Faith Under State Control in ‘Tibet Autonomous Region & Other Tibetan Areas’”- Side Event during 41<sup>st</sup> HRC session <sup>19</sup>**



From left Vincent Matten, Ven. Lobsang Dorjee and Kunchok Dolma Yaklha at side event during 41<sup>st</sup> HRC session in Geneva on 2 July 2019.

On the side-lines of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Tibet Bureau Geneva was involved in a side event on 2 July 2019 highlighting the continued abduction of Tibet’s 11 Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima by China.

The event was well attended by representatives from various Permanent Missions, non-governmental organizations and Chinese delegates which featured Ven. Lobsang Dorjee, Director and Spokesperson for Central Association of Panchen Lama, and Vincent Matten, EU Policy Director for International Campaign for Tibet. The panel was moderated by Kunchok Dolma Yaklha, Special Appointee for Human Rights, Tibet Bureau Geneva.

Ven. Lobsang Dorjee gave an overview of unique historical and spiritual relations between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama. He recounted years of imprisonment, struggle sessions and public humiliation endured by the 10<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama and added, “on 28 January 1989, four days after delivering a historic statement bitterly criticizing Chinese policies in Tibet stating Chinese rule in Tibet had brought more destruction than benefit to the Tibetan people,

the 10<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama died at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. We have reasons to believe that he was poisoned to death.”

Expressing his deep concern, Ven Lobsang called the UN to press China to give unfettered access to verify the whereabouts and well-being of Panchen Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, his parents, and Jadrel Rinpoche.

Vincent Matten, EU Policy Director, International Campaign for Tibet, presented an overall state of religious repression in Tibet. He said, China has *Sinicized* and securitized religion for a political agenda. Illustrating China’s ever-expanding repressive policies to bring Tibetan religious affairs under its complete control, Vincent Matten, said, “in recent years, numerous international reports confirm China’s crackdown on Tibetan Buddhism has “gone to completely annihilate Tibetan Buddhism from Tibet.”

Vincent called for the international community and UN members in particular to “send a clear message to the Chinese government that Beijing’s imposition of their choice of the next Dalai Lama will not be accepted and “religious communities –not governments–should decide their spiritual leaders.”

**C. Development or Destruction? The State of Socio-economic and Cultural Rights of Tibetans: Side Event during 42<sup>nd</sup> HRC session <sup>20</sup>**



From left Sonam Norbu Dagpo, Dukthen Kyi and Kai Mueller during the 42nd HRC session in Geneva on 12 September 2019.

Amidst China's push for "development" with Chinese characteristic at the UN and the presentation of report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Development at the ongoing 42<sup>nd</sup> regular session of the UN Human Rights Council session, the Tibet Bureau Geneva was involved in a side event titled "Development or Destruction? The State of Socio-economic and Cultural Rights of Tibetans" on 12 September 2019.

The hour-long event featured Sonam Norbu Dagpo, Secretary, Department of Information and International Relations, Central Tibetan Administration, and Kai Muller, Executive Director, International Campaign for Tibet, Germany. While Dukthen Kyi, section-head of UN & Human Rights Desk, moderated the event.

Underscoring concerns over unabated violations of Tibetans rights, including the forced removal of Tibetans from nomadic lands, unregulated mining and damming projects have resulted in irrecoverable disruption of Tibet's ecological health, Secretary Dagpo said, "Development projects in Tibet are not benefitting Tibetans. The Chinese official discourse of development in Tibet portrays a rosy picture".

He further added that "development should not only take into account quantitative results but also consider qualitative impacts on the recipients of the development projects. Tibetans are not against development in Tibet but these projects should benefit the local Tibetan people. Development projects should be culturally acceptable, environmentally sustainable, economically beneficial, and socially inclusive of the local Tibetans."

Echoing China's forced removal of Tibetan nomads and robust economic development policies, including construction of road and railway infrastructure, mining in sacred sites and grasslands, Kai Muller, outlined the cases of how China's top-down development policy in Tibet, in contrast to right-based approach, undermines Tibetan knowledge, practices, and traditional beliefs that in fact are sustainable and "ecological conservative initiatives". Kai also presented what would inclusive and rights-based development approach would look like in ensuring relocated Tibetan nomads to carry a decent self-determined life.

Representatives from various missions, human rights organizations as well as Chinese representatives well attended the event.

### **III. UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES**

The Special Procedures of the HRC is the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system which conduct independent fact-finding and monitoring focusing on specific country or thematic issues. Those acting as special procedures are commonly referred to as Special Rapporteur, Independent Expert or Working Groups.

#### **A. Communications by Mandate Holders**

##### **i. Joint Letter of Allegation by Mandate Holders on Sentencing of 7 Tibetans in Ngawa (Aba)<sup>21</sup>**

On 10 May 2019 the five mandate holders: mandates of the special rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; the special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the special rapporteur on minority issues; and the special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief issued a joint letter of allegation against China.

The joint letter of allegation was concerning the “case of prolonged detention of nine Tibetans from Aba, in Sichuan province, who, in December 2016, were sentenced to prison for their participation in celebrations for the Dalai Lama’s 80th birthday in 2015, and their advocacy for the cultural and religious rights of the Tibetan minority in China.”

The letter also noted all the previous communications from mandate holders which had raised concerns over “allegations of human rights violations against Tibetans and Tibetan monks, including killings, arrests, detentions, enforced disappearances, and general repression, harassment and intimidation of the Tibetan monastic community, such as that of the Kirti Monastery.”

The letter also stated that though it took note of Chinese responses, they remained concerned about “the reported perpetuation of such violations against members of the Tibetan minority in China, and in particular since the 2008 protests in Lhasa and other areas inside and outside the Tibet Autonomous Region.”

The letter outlines the names of nine Tibetans out of which four are monks from the Kirti monastery: Monk Drugdra, also known as Dukda or Drukdra, Monk Lobsang Khedrub, Monk Lobsang Gephel, Monk Lodro, Ms. Ta’re Kyi, Ms. Bonkho Kyi, also known as Wonkho Kyi, Mr. Trotsik Tsultrim, Mr. Tsultrim, also known as Tsulte and Mr. Akyakya. Noting that the 9 Tibetans were allegedly arrested and sentenced for participating in His Holiness Dalai Lama’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015, the mandate holders expressed deep concern over:

1. China's response to cultural and religious expression by the Tibetans;
2. the misuse of Chinese criminal law on "incitement to separatism" with an objective to suppress freedom of expression, religion, assembly and association and the cultural rights of the Tibetan minority as well as to quash any human rights advocacy with regard to the protection and promotion of these rights;
3. lack of judicial due process curtailing the Tibetans from mounting an effective defence;
4. denial of visits by family members;
5. practices and methods like law enforcement surveillance, intimidation and judicial harassment etc. applied by Chinese law enforcement authorities against all Tibetan religious institutions and monasteries which are not considered as being amenable to Government policies;

The letter calls upon China to provide any additional information and/or comments on the allegations, factual and legal grounds for the arrest and detention of the nine Tibetans, measures undertaken by Chinese authorities to ensure the application of due process and to protect them against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The letter further asks to indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that Tibetans can exercise their basic human rights and for the protection of human rights defenders.

**ii. Joint Communication by Mandate Holders on effect and application of China's Counter-Terrorism Law<sup>22</sup>**

On 1 November 2019 twelve (12) mandate holders: mandates of the special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the working group on Arbitrary Detention; the working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances; the special rapporteur on the right to education; the special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the special rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the special rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the special rapporteur on minority issues; the special rapporteur on the right to privacy; the special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; and the special rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment issued a joint communication on the effect and application of China's counter-terrorism law.

The mandate holders expressed serious concerns regarding the misuse of counter-terrorism law leading to “arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, absence of judicial oversight and procedural safeguards and restrictions of the right to freedom of expression, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, the right to education and the right to freedom of movement within an increasingly securitized environment, particularly for designated minorities, notably Uyghurs and Tibetans.”<sup>23</sup>

The letter highlights the vague and over-broad definition of terrorism which gives “scope for the penalization of peaceful expression of Tibetan or Uyghur identity or manifestation of a religious identity, acts of non-violent dissent, or criticism of ethnic or religious policies, contrary to articles 2, 18 and 19 of the UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)”<sup>24</sup>

The mandate holders cautioned China that “the Counter-Terrorism Law in its current form does not conform to best practices in relation to counter-terrorism law and practice.”<sup>25</sup> The law in its current form is “neither necessary nor proportionate.”<sup>26</sup> It further called on China to review the law in compliance with international human rights standards.

The mandate holders called upon China to provide additional information and/or comments on the issues and show how the law is in compliance with the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Convention Against Torture.<sup>27</sup> They also called upon China to show what measures have been taken to protect individuals’ biometric data, to guarantee health confidentiality, to protect human rights defenders and their work.

## **B. Engagements with Special Procedures by the Tibet Bureau Geneva:**

### **i. Joint Meeting with Dhondup Wangchen on 27 March 2019:**

The Tibet Bureau Geneva organized a joint meeting of Dhondup Wangchen, former political prisoner and documentary maker, with several mandate holders including special rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, minority issues, freedom of religion or belief and working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances and office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

During the meeting, Dhondup Wangchen briefed the mandate holders about his inspiration to shoot the documentary “Leaving Fear Behind”. He said “even to this day the international community does not have any idea about the overall conditions in Tibet. I think it is because of the absolute control and repression within Tibet. China has undertaken and implemented many repressive policies to destroy and eliminate the Tibetan religion, culture and language.”

Speaking about the ordeals he underwent in detention and prison, he said “in prison we are subjected to forced labour 365 days. The food is so tasteless and without any nutrients. They give the same food everyday- boiled radish. I was continuously tortured to read a statement saying that I was coerced into making the documentary by anti-national elements.”

He also appealed them to continue their research and investigation into the human rights violations in Tibet. He further added, “your support so far protected me from harshest of tortures. The Chinese authorities knew that I was receiving international support and attention and therefore the extent of torture I was subjected to was much lesser compared to some of the other prisoners.”

## **ii. 118<sup>th</sup> Session of Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances<sup>28</sup>**

During the 118<sup>th</sup> session of Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, the Tibet Bureau Geneva raised the case of missing 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima. The oral and written submissions by the staff of Tibet Bureau Geneva emphasized that the disappearance case of the Panchen Lama is unlike any other because it is not simply about an individual.

During the oral statement, Kalden Tsomo stated that “to this day, we have no verifiable information about the whereabouts of the Panchen Lama and his family.”Kunchok Yaklha added, “the continued enforced disappearance of the Panchen Lama is a flagrant violation of the respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.”

The case of missing Panchen Lama is still open and ongoing. The UN experts have received unsatisfactory and insufficient responses from China on the whereabouts of Panchen Lama Gendun Choekyi Nyima. The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) expressed that the response received from China about the XIth Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was “not considered sufficient”. The enforced disappearance of Panchen Gedhun Choekyi Nyima “will remain under the consideration”, added the experts in its communication dated 18 November 2019.<sup>29</sup>

## **iii. 12<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Forum on Minority Issues<sup>30</sup>**

The Twelfth Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues was convened on 28 and 29 November 2019 on the theme “Education, Language and the Human Rights of Minorities.”

The staff of Tibet Bureau Geneva submitted both written and oral statements highlighting the plight of Tibetans in China who have been ‘minoritized’ by China on their own land and

Mandarin language is being imposed on Tibetans. They also met with the Special Rapporteur and briefed him about the deplorable state of Tibetan language in Tibet.



From Left: UN Advocacy Officer Kalden Tsomo, Representative of His Holiness Dalai Lama Chhimey Rigzen and Special Appointee for Human Rights Thinlay Chukki

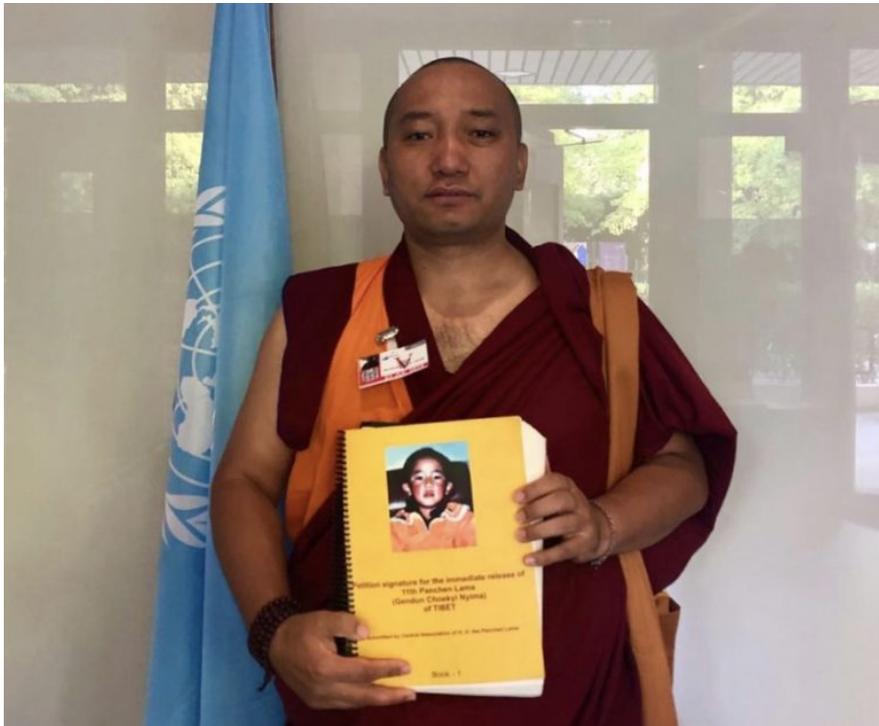
Delivering the oral statement at the Forum, Thinlay Chukki highlighted the imposition of monolingualism policy by China on Tibetans and highlighted the retributive policies of China leading to incarceration of language rights advocate like Tashi Wangchuk, the recent arrest of Tibetan monk Sonam Palden from Kirti Monastery and the destruction of Larung Gar and Yachen Gar Buddhist academies which have rendered thousands of monks, nuns and laypersons homeless with no access to study Buddhism in Tibetan language.

Chukki also referenced to the latest self-immolation by 24-year-old Yonten in Tibet and stated that many amongst the 154 self-immolators in Tibet have called for the preservation of Tibetan language. Through the forum, she called upon the Chinese government to adopt effective policies for the preservation of Tibetan language and called for the immediate release of Tashi Wangchuk, Sonam Palden and all other Tibetan language advocates languishing in the Chinese prisons and centres.

She remarked, “Tibetans are deprived of learning their own language on their own land; Tibetans are deprived of teaching their own language on their own land- if this is not human rights violations then what is.”

## C. Engagements with Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

### i. Submission of Signature Petition for the Release of 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama and Jadrel Rinpoche to Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights<sup>31</sup>



Ven. Lobsang Dorjee, Representative of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery with signature petitions submitted to Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights on 3 July 2019.

On the sidelines of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Tibet Bureau Geneva organised a meeting of Ven. Lobsang Dorjee from Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, India with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights on 3 July 2019. During the meeting Ven. Lobsang Dorjee submitted a signature campaign petition calling for the immediate release of the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama and Jadrel Rinpoche. The petition was signed by eighteen thousand eight hundred and forty-three Tibetans, Buddhist followers and human rights advocacy groups. During the meeting with the UN representative, Ven. Lobsang expressed serious concerns over the continued disappearance of Panchen Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, his parents, and Jadrel Rinpoche.

Jadrel Rinpoche, the abbot, and head of the search team to identify the reincarnation of 10<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama was sentenced to imprisonment for six-year in 1997 under the alleged charge of “leaking state secret”. Though his prison term completed in 2003, he was not released and his well- being and whereabouts continue to remain unknown.

The petition called for UN intervention and called upon China for immediate release of the 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, his parents and Jadrel Rinpoche.

ii. “Dialogue for Peace”<sup>32</sup>



Member of Tibetan Parliament in Exile Venerable Thupten Wangchen with the Representative Chhimey Rigzen and Staffs of the Tibet Bureau in Geneva, Sonam Therchin and Kalden Tsomo.

On the final leg of “Dialogue for Peace” tour, Ven. Thupten Wangchen, Member of Tibetan Parliament in Exile, with his two Spanish friends Javier Nogue Begue and Pau Nubiola Muck reached Geneva on 6 November, in a white car covered with stickers of Tibetan National Flag and campaign slogan “Dialogue for Peace”.

MP Wangchen’s Dialogue for Peace campaign focusses on urging the EU, politicians and Tibet support groups across Europe to appeal for dialogue between the representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government.

Switzerland is the final leg of the campaign’s 30 European-countries tour. The Dialogue team was given a rousing welcome on arrival in Zurich, Rikon, Bern and Geneva.

Ven. Wangchen accompanied by Representative Chhimey Rigzen, Member of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile Jampa Tsering Samdho, representatives from Tibet Bureau and leaders of Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein held a series of meetings coordinated by the Tibet Bureau like the meetings with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, US mission to the United Nations and members of the Swiss Parliamentarian group.

## IV. Geneva Forum 2019



President Dr Lobsang Sangay delivers the opening address at the 2019 Geneva Forum on China's High-tech Repression and Freedom of Religion

The 2019 Geneva Forum brought together human rights experts, practitioners, academics, activists, governments, diplomats, think tanks, civil society groups and affected groups to monitor and evaluate the human rights situation in regions under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party. The two-day long forum was organized on 14 and 15 November 2019 at Centre International de Conférences Genève.

The cross-cutting theme for 2019 was “China’s High-tech Repression and Freedom of Religion”. Artificial Intelligence facial recognition, biometric registration, the grid system of social management, GPS tagging, social credit system, and drones disguised as birds. This is the reality of high-tech state surveillance by the Chinese Communist Party, which has made Tibet the second least free country in the world and over 1 million Uyghurs detained in concentration camps.

The Forum received blessed message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness in the message called upon the international community to point out the unjustifiable actions on the part of the Chinese Government and said “if China wishes to assume its rightful place in the community of nations, it will also have to shoulder the responsibilities that come with the position and uphold both basic freedoms and fundamental human rights.”

The Forum was inaugurated by Chief Guest Hon'ble Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay, President, Central Tibetan Administration and Special Guest Hon'ble Member of the National Parliament, Switzerland Carlo Sommaruga.<sup>33</sup>

The forum had four expert panels: (details enclosed in Annexure A)

Panel 1: Technology and the Future of Human Rights

Panel 2: High-Tech Repression of People of Faith in China

Panel 3: Beijing Export of Surveillance Technology

Panel 4: Combating Fears of a China- Led Orwellian World

It also featured witness account of Phuntsog Nyidron, longest serving Tibetan female former political prisoner and two-day exhibition by Tibet Museum installed in front of the UN Building, Geneva. The forum was concluded with a declaration by all the speakers and participants titled Geneva Forum Declaration 2019 (enclosed in Annexure B).

The forum saw around 120 participants.

In his inaugural address, President Dr. Sangay noted the high tech surveillance tools used by China in carrying out repressive policies against the vulnerable people under the control of China specially the Tibetans, Uyghurs and Southern Mongolians.

Highlighting the high-tech repression of Tibet, especially in denying freedom of religion of Tibetans, President Dr. Sangay said that “Jokhang temple in Lhasa which is the holiest shrine for Tibetan Buddhists has more guns than butter lamps and has more cameras than windows.”<sup>34</sup>

The Geneva Forum 2019 was successfully concluded with President Sangay declaring to hold the event again in 2020.

## V. Other Tibet Related Programs

### A. Geneva Summit Award



Tibetan filmmaker and former political prisoner Dhondup Wangchen awarded the prestigious Courage Award by Geneva Summit 2019 on 26 March 2019.

Tibetan documentary maker and former political prisoner, Dhondup Wangchen was awarded the 2019 Courage Award by Geneva Summit, a coalition of 25 global human rights organizations. The prestigious international human rights award was given Dhondup Wangchen “for inspiring the world with his extraordinary courage in the defense of freedom, democracy, and universal human rights.”<sup>35</sup>

Dhondup Wangchen’s documentary “Leaving Fear Behind” gave the world a rare glimpse of Tibetans living under the brutal repression of the Chinese Communist Party. He served a 6-year arbitrary sentence in a Chinese prison where he was subjected to torture, intensive forced labour, systemic discrimination and denied any health services or family visits.

In his acceptance speech Dhondup Wangchen said, “it is because of your support that I am here today. I never imagined that a day like this will come when I’m finally able to speak freely, breathe the air of freedom in this free world. It feels surreal that I’m standing in front of you here, accepting this honour and sharing my experiences with you all,”

He also expressed deep gratitude to all the NGOs, Tibet Support Groups, various international governments and individuals who relentlessly advocated for his release. Wangchen appealed for the international community’s support for the Tibetan struggle. “The courage you had

shown yesterday changed my today and the courage we show today will change the future of Tibetans,” he added.

## B. Human Rights Conference in the UN



Thinlay Chukki, Special Appointee for Human Rights speaks at the Human Rights conference at UN.

Marking the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a two-day conference was organized in the United Nations Building at Palais des Nations Geneva on 9 and 10 December 2019 on the theme “Human Rights: Where are we at? Past and Future?” The Conference was co-sponsored by Permanent Missions of Finland, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Republic of Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste to the United Nations and organized by a group of 19 civil societies led by United Planet, *Associazione per i Diritti Umani e la Tolleranza Onlus* (roughly translated as Association for Human Rights and Tolerance) and Mehora.

The staff of Tibet Bureau-Geneva Thinlay Chukki was invited to speak at the conference on the panel of *Faith and Human Rights*. Drawing the attention of the conference to the dire human rights situation in Tibet, Thinlay noted that “the right to freedom of religion of Tibetans in Tibet are being violated every single day. In fact, the Tibetan monks, nuns, and former monks and nuns are at the forefront of defending human rights in Tibet. They have become the grassroots-level human rights defenders. To date, 154 Tibetans have self-immolated in Tibet protesting against the repressive policies of the Chinese government out of which some 23 self-immolators were monks, nuns, and former monks and nuns.”<sup>36</sup>

On raising awareness about human rights amongst the younger generation, Thinlay highlighted the initiative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama through SEE (Social, Emotional and Ethical) Learning course. She noted that “such initiatives help the younger generation in understanding the concepts of human rights through moral principles and secular ethics.”

### C. ‘Human Rights Day’ March to the UN



Over 500 Tibetans marching towards United Nations at Place des Nations underscoring China’s continued violations of basic rights of Tibetans on 10 December 2019, World Human Rights Day.

Marking the 71<sup>st</sup> International Human Rights Day, Tibetans in Switzerland and Liechtenstein gathered in front of the United Nations building in Geneva to highlight the dismal human rights situation in China occupied Tibet.

Around 500 Tibetans participated in the march holding Tibetan national flags and placards, calling attention to the dismal human rights record in Tibet and urging China to enter into dialogue with the representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The march began from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights located at Palais des Wilson and culminated at the headquarters of the United Nations, Place des Nations, Geneva. While addressing the gathering, Representative Chhimey Rigzen, Tibet Bureau- Geneva, spoke about China’s continued violations of the basic human rights of Tibetans. He highlighted China’s relentless repressive policies violating the right of Tibetans to freely and openly practise their religion and China’s aggressive interference in the centuries-old Tibetan religious practice of reincarnation to gain political control.<sup>37</sup>

Samdho Jampa, member of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile from Europe, René Longet, former mayor and representative of Swiss-Tibetan friendship Association, Gyaltag Phuntsok, executive member of Swiss Tibetan Women Association, also addressed the gathering.

Meanwhile, Tsamda Norbu, President of the Tibetan Community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, accompanied by staff members of the Tibet Bureau met a representative from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and submitted an appeal letter addressed to Ms Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The appeal letter urged for High Commissioner’s immediate intervention in the ongoing human rights violations of Tibetans by the Chinese government. It urged the High Commissioner to play a pivotal role in ensuring that the human rights of Tibetans are protected by stopping China from further violating the human rights of Tibetans.

#### **D. Peaceful Protests during HRC Sessions**

Tibetan community of Switzerland and Liechtenstein organize peaceful protests in front of the UN during every Human Rights Council sessions. Accordingly, during the 40<sup>th</sup> session demonstration was organized on 22 March 2019<sup>38</sup>, during the 41<sup>st</sup> session the demonstration was organized on 28 June 2019<sup>39</sup> and during the 42<sup>nd</sup> session the demonstration was organized on 20 September 2019<sup>40</sup>. Often Tibetans across Europe also participate in the demonstration. The President of the Tibetan community meet with the Office of High Commissioner of Human Rights to brief on the Human Rights situation in Tibet and submit appeal letter to the High Commissioner of Human Rights.



Tibetan community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein in front of UN building in protest against China’s human rights violation in Tibet in the past 60 years on 22 March 2019



Representative Chhimey Rigzen of Tibet Bureau in Geneva addressing the Tibetan community in Switzerland and Liechtenstein in front of the United Nations on 28 June 2019



Hundreds of Tibetan in Switzerland & Liechtenstein, Belgium and France hold protest in front of the United Nations against China's unabated violations of human rights in Tibet on 20 September 2019.

## **Annexure A**

### **Geneva Forum for Human Rights 2019**

**Dates:** 14 and 15 November, 2019

**Venue:** Centre International de Conférences Geneve

**Nos. of Sessions:** 10 sessions-

4 expert panels + 1 Witness Account + 1 The Geneva Forum Declaration +  
1 Inaugural Session + 1 Closing session + 2 Sessions for visiting exhibition  
by Tibet Museum in front of the UN building

**Nos. of speakers:** 15 expert speakers + 1 witness account

**Nos. of Moderators:** 4

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#### **Inaugural Session:**

Chief Guest President Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration

Special Guest, Carlo Sommaruga, Member of the National Parliament, Switzerland

#### **Panel 1: Technology and the Future of Human Rights**

##### **Speakers:**

- Kelsang Gyaltzen, former Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama
- Edward Chin, Hong Kong Human Rights Activist and Convenor of 2047 HK Monitor,
- Hillary Miller, UN Watch, human rights NGO based in Geneva
- Filip Jirouš, Sinologist at Charles University in Prague, specialising in China's United Front Work's activities abroad, China technology in general.

**Moderator:** Sonam Frasi, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Office of Tibet, London.

#### **Panel 2: High-Tech Repression of People of Faith in China**

##### **Speakers:**

- Bhuchung K.Tsering, Vice-President, International Campaign for Tibet
- Annie Yang, Falun Gong Practitioner, Former forced labour camp inmate
- Dolkun Isa, President, World Uyghur Congress
- Marco Respinti, Director in charge, Bitter Winter

**Moderator:** Karma Choeying, Secretary, Department of Information & International Relations.

### **Panel 3: Beijing Export of Surveillance Technology**

**Speakers:**

- Tenzin Dalha, Digital & Chinese Cyber Security Research Fellow, Tibet Policy Institute
- Dr. Chien-Yuan Tseng, Chairman of the Board of New School for Democracy and Taipei Municipal Consultant
- Col. (Rtd) Vinayak Bhat, Satellite Imagery Analyst

**Moderator:** Thinlay Chukki, Special Appointee for Human Rights, Tibet Bureau, Geneva

### **Panel 4: Combating Fears of a China -Led Orwellian World**

**Speakers:**

- Mikulas Peksa, Member of European Parliament, Czech Pirate Party
- Sarah Brooks, Program Manager and Human Rights Advocate International Service for Human Rights
- Garnett Genuis, Member of Canadian Parliament, Co-Chair of the Canadian Parliamentary Friends of Tibet
- Tashi Phuntsok, Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibet Bureau, Brussels

**Moderator:** Kelsang Gyaltzen, Former Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

**Eye Witness Account:** Testimony of Phuntsog Nyidron Sanaschiga, Former Tibetan Political Prisoner

### **Closing Session:**

Chief Guest President Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration

Special Guest, Robert Cramer, Member of the National Parliament, Council of States, Switzerland Co-president of Swiss Parliamentary Group for Tibet

## **Annexure B**

### **Geneva Forum Declaration 2019**

**14-15 NOVEMBER 2019, GENEVA**

**We**, the experts and witnesses at the 2019 Geneva Forum on “China’s High-Tech Repression and Freedom of Religion”,

**Express Our Grave Concern** over the reports of high-tech systemic violations of human rights, including freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion or belief, freedom of movement and peaceful assembly, right to privacy, right against torture, and the likes enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, perpetrated by the Government of People’s Republic of China against people under its rule, including Tibetans, Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, Mongolians, Hong- Kongers and Human Rights Defenders, as well as people beyond its borders;

**Are Deeply Concerned** by the reports of high-tech religious persecution carried out by the Government of People’s Republic of China against the people of faith including Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, Falun Gong Practitioners, Taoists and believers in folk religions, aimed at destruction of the core belief systems and religious traditions of the believers;

**Gravely Note** the repressive policies of the Communist Party of China and its government to destroy the distinct way of life, rich heritage, cultural diversity, language and identity of people under its rule including Tibetans, Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, Mongolians and Hong-Kongers;

**Are Gravely Concerned** by the sophisticated surveillance used by China, including the usage of artificial intelligence, facial recognition, biometric registration, data mining, phone spyware, GPS tagging, drones, DNA profiling etc., and the new Social Credit System being introduced which will further perpetuate the oppressive regime of Communist Party of China;

**Note with Deep Concern** the export, sale, transfer and servicing of the high-tech surveillance systems and internet controls by China’s autocratic regime across the globe which is resulting in declining democracies and rise of autocrats in the world.

**And Thereby We,**

**Call Upon** the Government of People’s Republic of China to:

– STOP WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT the abuse of technology and the high-tech human rights violations carried out against people under its rule including Tibetans, Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples, Mongolians, and Hong-Kongers; the high-tech religious persecution of people of faith; and the export, sale, transfer and servicing of its high-tech surveillance tools to other countries;

– RESPECT AND GUARANTEE all Human Rights, including the freedom of religion or belief and the right of the believers to choose their own religious leaders as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ensure personal data protection and maintain transparency in public affairs;

**Call Upon** the Governments and the European Union to create a binding human rights compliant safeguards regime for the investment, development, manufacture and export of surveillance tools and internet controls, and on the UN to provide all possible support and co-operation in this regard;

**Call Upon** the international community and organizations, governments, civil societies to press China to respect and guarantee human rights and to stop the export of tools of authoritarianism;

**Call Upon** governments, international institutions and business enterprises, including multi-national companies, to fully and meaningfully implement the UN Guiding Principles and relevant treaty obligations in their business dealings with China and to stop funding/investing in research and manufacturing of surveillance tools by China,

**And hereby so declared.**

## The Team at the Tibet Bureau Geneva



From left: Kalden Tsomo, Sonam Therchin, Chhimey Rigzen and Thinlay Chukki.

The Tibet Bureau Geneva, which is the official agency of H. H. the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration for Central and Eastern Europe, is headed by Representative Chhimey Rigzen. The office has three staff members: Sonam Therchin, the accounts officer; Kalden Tsomo, the UN Advocacy Officer; and Thinlay Chukki, the Special Appointee for Human Rights.

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For more information please visit: [www.tibetoffice.ch](http://www.tibetoffice.ch)

## End Notes:

<sup>1</sup> China's UPR report consideration- 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 40<sup>th</sup> Regular Session Human Rights Council, 15 March 2019. Available online < <http://webtv.un.org/search/china-upr-report-consideration-38th-meeting-40th-regular-session-human-rights-council/6014290354001/?term=&lan=English&cat=Human%20Rights%20Council&sort=date&page=44> >.

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Council, Working Group Report on the UPR, A/HRC/40/6, 26 December 2018. Available online < <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G18/446/59/PDF/G1844659.pdf?OpenElement> >.

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Council, Working Group Report on the UPR Addendum by China, 15 February 2019. Available online < <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/041/01/PDF/G1904101.pdf?OpenElement> >

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Council, General Debate- 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting, 41<sup>st</sup> Regular Session, 3 July 2019. Available online < <http://webtv.un.org/search/item4-general-debate-21st-meeting-41st-regular-session-human-rights-council/6055074714001/?term=&lan=english&cat=Human%20Rights%20Council&sort=date&page=30#player> >

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Human Rights Council, Item 4: General Debate- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 42<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session, 17 September 2019. Available online < <http://webtv.un.org/search/item4-general-debate-18th-meeting-42nd-regular-session-human-rights-council/6087286859001/?term=&lan=english&cat=Regular%2042nd%20session&sort=date&page=10#player> >

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/dhondup-wangchen-and-tibet-delegation-at-un-side-event/> >

<sup>19</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/religious-repression-and-tibets-missing-panchen-lama-raised-at-un-side-event/> >

<sup>20</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/development-at-the-cost-of-tibetan-peoples-rights-highlighted-at-un-side-event/> >

<sup>21</sup> Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, Special Procedures, Joint letter of Allegations, AL CHN 5/2019, 10 May 2019. Available online < <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24546> >

<sup>22</sup> Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, Special Procedures, Joint Other Letter, OL CHN 18/2019, 1 November 2019. Available online < <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24845> >

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, p. 2.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, p. 5.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*, p. 18.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, p. 19.

<sup>28</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/dear-united-nations-panchen-lamas-missing-case-is-unlike-any-other/> >

<sup>29</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/china-submits-insufficient-response-on-the-whereabouts-of-panchen-lama-yet-again-un-experts/> >

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<sup>30</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/tibetans-minoritized-by-china-face-imposition-of-mandarin-office-of-tibet-geneva-staff-at-un-forum-on-minority-issues/> >

<sup>31</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/signature-petition-for-immediate-release-of-panchen-lama-submitted-to-the-un/> >

<sup>32</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/monk-on-mission-urging-dialogue-for-peace-tour-final-leg-in-switzerland/> >

<sup>33</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/cta-president-inaugurates-2019-geneva-forum-on-chinas-high-tech-repression-and-freedom-of-religion/> >

<sup>34</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/cta-president-inaugurates-2019-geneva-forum-on-chinas-high-tech-repression-and-freedom-of-religion/> >

<sup>35</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/dhondup-wangchen-wins-geneva-summits-prestigious-courage-award/> >

<sup>36</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/tibetan-monks-and-nuns-are-human-rights-defenders-in-tibet-tibet-bureau-staff-at-human-rights-conference-in-un/> >

<sup>37</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/tibetan-community-of-switzerland-and-liechtenstein-march-to-the-un-on-international-human-rights-day/> >

<sup>38</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/tibetans-urge-un-member-states-to-call-china-to-end-60-years-of-human-rights-violations-in-tibet/> >

<sup>39</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/tibetans-call-on-united-nation-to-hold-china-accountable-for-violations-of-rights/> >

<sup>40</sup> For more information please visit the following link < <https://tibet.net/tibetans-in-europe-stage-protest-demand-un-to-engage-china-constructively/> >