

**3 July 2020**

**Oral Statement Delivered by Thinlay Chukki at the 44<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the  
UNHRC: Interactive Discussion by Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**

Thank you, madam Vice-President. We welcome the report of the special rapporteur. As rightly noted by the special rapporteur, the Covid-19 pandemic first detected in China has had an appalling impact on the marginalized suppressed people like the Tibetans who are suffering under double-lockdown by the government of China.

Even before the pandemic hit the world, Tibetan children were already deprived of studying in their mother tongue language, monasteries were already prohibited from admitting Tibetan novices wanting to pursue religious education and Tibetan education rights advocates were already being persecuted by the government of China. With the outbreak of the pandemic, it has become much worse. Tibetans are doubly disadvantaged and are subjected to much worse systemic racial discrimination by the government of China.

For 25 years Tibet's religious leader 11<sup>th</sup> Panchen Lama Gedhun Choekyi Nyima has been denied of religious education and is kept under enforced disappearance by China for 25 years now.

Madam Vice-President in view of this, we urge the UNHRC and the member states to heed the call of the special rapporteur on education and other 49 UN experts to hold a special UNHRC session and to establish a special rapporteur on the human rights violations in China including the violation of the right to education of the Tibetans, Uighurs, Hong Kongers and other peoples in China. We further urge the UNHRC to press China to free Panchen Lama and to release education rights advocates like Tashi Wangchuk, Sonam Palden and other Tibetan prisoners like A-nya Sengdra who have been sentenced on false charges without access to independent and fair judicial process and to stop the persecution of Tibetan human rights defenders including the education rights advocates. Thank you, madam Vice-president.