



Parliamentarians Network on Tibet (INPaT) Urge China to end Repression in Eastern Tibet

The International Parliamentarians Network on Tibet (INPaT) today urge the Chinese authorities to immediately end repression against peaceful protesters in Kardze (Chinese: Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in present-day Sichuan province of the People's Republic of China. INPaT is deeply concerned about the continuing arrests of Tibetans, including nuns and youths who courageously took to the streets to openly express their aspirations for human rights and fundamental freedoms and their wish to see the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet.

INPaT believes that China's policy of taking forceful measures to crackdown on these peaceful demonstrations in Kardze is like a state-sponsored form of terrorism. China must learn to respect rights of Tibetans to express their opinion freely if the Chinese leadership really hope for a harmonious society. The use of force to stop the peaceful vigils by Tibetans also violates China's obligations to implement international human rights standards and norms and its own Constitution.

INPaT has been informed that between 6 and 26 June, more than 30 Tibetans, including some senior monks, nuns and laypeople, have been detained in at least 15 separate peaceful demonstrations, calling for freedom, the release of local and respected religious teachers, and for the Dalai Lama to return home. According to radio station Voice of Tibet (VOT), two young Tibetan women named as Dheyang, 18, and Bomo, 17, staged a protest on June 26 in Kardze County town by shouting slogans including "Tibet is independent," "Long live the Dalai Lama," and "Permit the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet," and by throwing leaflets in the air. Both were detained by People's Armed Police (Chinese: Wu Jing). The VOT report added that Bomo's father, Taghu, was sentenced to six years in prison for participating in the protests of 2008, and is currently serving his sentence in Mianyang Prison in Chengdu; and Taghu's brother, named as Khadro, was sentenced to seven years, and is now incapacitated following prolonged beatings and torture by police.

While deploring the systematic and gross violations of human rights in Tibet being committed by the Chinese authorities, INPaT calls upon governments, parliamentarians, NGOs and United Nations human rights mechanism to immediately intervene to end the harsh repression currently faced by Tibetans in Kardze where a massive presence of Chinese security forces have been deployed.

Matteo Mecacci, Co-Chair
Thomas Mann, Co-Chair

Note: -- 133 Members from 33 worldwide Parliaments who took part in the 5th World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet (18/19 November 2009, Rome) adopted the "Rome Declaration on Tibet" which constituted the International Network for Parliamentarians on Tibet (INPaT)