

56th TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY



On 10th of March 1959, the Tibetan Nation rose up against the communist Chinese aggression on Tibet. Tibetans from all walks of life made a beeline to Norbu Lingka, to protect their sovereign leader; HH The Dalai Lama who they feared was about to be kidnapped by the Chinese communists. The communists used brute force and massacred 87, 000 Tibetans on this fateful day. It culminated in the flight of HH The Dalai Lama into exile followed by 80,000 Tibetans. Today there are some 150,000 Tibetans spread across the globe. All of them will be remembering this dark day with immense sadness, while at the same time fired by patriotism for their lost nation.

Tibetans both inside and outside of Tibet have never given up the rightful ownership of their nation. Despite the brutality and inhumanity they've suffered at the hands of Chinese dominance for more than half a century, Tibetans are more united and more determined than ever to restore their country to its rightful owners; that is, the Tibetan people. Since 2009, 136 Tibetans have torched themselves to let the outside world know of the extreme suffering of their people under Chinese Communism. No nation on this planet has had such a phenomenal number of self-immolations.

The situation in the whole of Tibet - Amdo, Kham and U-Tsang is so dire, that Tibetans have no other means of expressing their misery than to burn themselves. The treatment of Tibetans in Tibet takes place with impunity and bears similarities to Nazi Germany's Gestapo style killing of Jews in WW2.

On April 21st 2011, two Tibetans from Amdo Ngaba were beaten to death. Radio Free Asia reported the case with footage of Chinese security forces in full gear. This was an attempt to intimidate the Tibetan population. Similarly, on December 30th 2014, Chinese police beat Tibetans severely, leaving them in a critical condition for not selling their land to build police barracks in Dzamthang, Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous prefecture. The Chinese have built police stations virtually in every monastery. A vast network of surveillance is in place throughout Tibet in the name of 'social stability'. On

February 17th 2013, Yu Zhengsheng, standing committee Member of the Political Bureau, declared that these security measures are like 'NETS IN THE SKY AND TRAPS ON THE GROUND'.

Chinese are extracting Tibetan natural resources all over Tibet causing irreparable environmental damage by poisoning rivers and land. An example of this is the case of the disaster on 29th of March 2013 when 83 gold miners were killed in a massive landslide 70 kilometres from Lhasa. Whenever Tibetans protest, they are silenced with intimidation and accusations of separatism.

Many young Tibetans, who protested their grievances by simply writing lyrics to highlight their plight, have been arrested by the authorities and are receiving prison sentences that range from 2 years to 13 years. Lolo (30 yrs) from Kyegudo, who wrote the song 'RAISE THE FLAG' (urging Tibetans to raise our national Snow Lion flag) was arrested on April 19th 2012 and sentenced to 6 years in prison. Another well-known singer is Gebe who produced songs and put out a CD. As soon as it went on sale, he disappeared and no one knows what happened to him. Kelsang Yarphel was arrested November 27th for asking fellow Tibetans to speak their language in his lyrics. He was sentenced to four years and fined 200,000 yuan, while another singer, Rigzin was sentenced to two and half years imprisonment with a fine of 50,000 yuan. It is a well-known fact that Tibetans are now a marginalized population. In an effort to enforce control, the Chinese Government's tactic has been to deliberately demoralize and degrade them as a people.

There are over 70 Tibetan writers, singers and bloggers who have been imprisoned for the 'crime' of trying to preserve their culture and way of life. Any show of strength or frustration is against the law. The occupying Chinese Government hides these acts of suppression behind a smoke screen of 'internal affairs of China' or 'sovereignty' and blame HH The Dalai Lama (rather than themselves) as the source of this unrest. They have criminalised self-immolators and punished and imprisoned their families. Those who try to save these burning people are thrown into jail, and the sanctioned and brutal reaction of police is to beat them with truncheons as they writhe in pain.

In a cynical ploy to stem the flow of those who try and escape the brutality, the Chinese authorities have 'gifted' a police Academy to Nepal to monitor the borders. It has also increased the official aid to Nepal from \$24 million to \$ 128 million in 2015/2016. The result has been devastating for Tibetans who would dare to find refuge elsewhere. The number of escapees has dramatically plummeted from 2-3,000 per year to a mere trickle.

Tibetans are at present facing the dire consequences of an oppressed and imprisoned people. There is now no escape from their situation, as China has built the equivalent of the Berlin Wall along the border of Tibet - with the cooperation of cash starved Nepal. The Tibetan culture continues to be eroded and the people are gagged and held captive under Communist China's *war of attrition*.

Which each remembrance of this tragic day, the Tibetan people simply ask that others be aware of the human rights violations that have taken place and continue to this day, and that when countries choose to recognize Chinese 'sovereignty' (for whatever reason) it is an endorsement of a brutal, unjustified and disrespectful form of colonisation.

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