



འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་དང་ནིལུ་ཇར་སི་ས་གནས་བོད་གྱི་གཞིན་རུའི་ལྷན་ཚོགས།
Regional Tibetan Youth Congress of New York & New Jersey

Immediate Press Release:

March 10, 2008 marks the 49th Tibetan National Uprising Day. A half century ago on this day in Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet, more than 30,000 Tibetans voluntarily rose up against the illegal occupation of Tibet by China and called for the Tibet's Independence. They surrounded the Norbulinga (summer palace) to protect HH the Dalai Lama who is the spiritual and temporal head of the Tibetans from being abducted by the Chinese Army. HH the Dalai Lama and hundreds of thousands of Tibetans were forced to flee into exile. The Tibetan Govt. in Exile was established in India in 1959 to continue the Tibetan Movement.

For the next half century, Tibetans have been suffering immensely under the Chinese Occupation. More than 1.2 Million Tibetans had lost their lives as a direct result of the Chinese Occupation of Tibet.

Tibetans can no longer freely practice their religion. They cannot even keep the portrait of the Dalai Lama. Possession of his picture is a crime and could face imprisonment. The Panchen Lama, one of Tibet's most important religious figures, was kidnapped by the Chinese Authorities on May 17, 1995. His whereabouts is not known even today. Now in their attempt to grip hold of the Dalai Lama, they introduced a new law where Tibetans are required to seek the authorization from the Chinese Regime to recognize any reincarnation of the living Buddha. This is a direct attempt by the Chinese Authorities to involve in the selection of the Dalai Lama's successor.

The lack of freedom of expression in Tibet was justified when Rongye Adrak was arrested on August 1, 2007 for asking the fellow Tibetan audience if they all agree with him in longing for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet. He is currently serving sentences in the Chinese Prison.

The IOC awarded the 2008 Olympics to Beijing under the condition that the China makes significant improvement in Human Rights Abuses. Instead, in their run up to the Olympics,

- China intensified the persecution and crackdown on Tibetans in Tibet.
- China continues to execute several times more people than the rest of the world combined. According to Amnesty International estimates, this is 8,000-10,000 people each year.
- Torture continues to be widespread, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.
- China is involved with the Darfur Genocide, Burma Crackdown on Democracy Movement, Tiananmen Square Massacre 1989 and Falung Gong Executions.

As such we question how the world is going to celebrate the Olympic ideals of "human dignity" and "universal ethical principles" amidst such background of the host country?

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