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**Promotion and protection of all human rights,
civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[18 May 2010]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Detentions and expulsions of Tibetan students and teachers in People's Republic in China*

Detentions and Expulsions of Tibetan students and teachers in Tibetan Autonomous Region in March and April 2010 saw a huge number of detentions and expulsions of Tibetan students and teachers from schools and academic institutions in Tibetan Autonomous Region. These incidences took place in Machu Tibetan Nationality Middle School, Kanlho Tibetan Middle School no 3, Primary School in Driru County, Khar Primary School in Serthar County, Serthar Buddhist Institute, Barkham Teachers Training Institute and Northwest National Minorities' University in Lanzhou.

These expulsions and detentions are characterized by the minimal tolerance showed by the authorities in regard to dissent voices in the academic institutions in Tibetan areas under the present day China. In total contradiction of showing respect and addressing the grievances, the authorities held students as young as between 11 to 15 years old in detention and expelled several Tibetan school teachers from their jobs. In some instances there has been ethnic discrimination while implementing measures.

Intellectual freedom is sharply missing on the Tibetan plateau.

Academic and university students have been targeted for their writings. This is a direct attack on the young and refreshing minds in society which is otherwise characterised strongly by rule of official diktats. The young academics have written boldly challenging the official version of the events of spring 2008 uprising in Tibet. Tashi Rabten, Droklu and Kunga Tsangyang are the budding voices resonating the minds and hearts of the Tibetan people but these voices have been crushed severely by the government.

In most of the incidences, the students simply showed their dissent over the government's portrayal and dealings with fellow Tibetans. For instance, the protest by the Khar Primary School in Serthar County was sparked after the government's parading of two monks in a vehicle for propaganda purposes. Such an exercise creates huge resentments in the society and the students reacted boldly despite their tender age.

On 14 March 2010, around 30 students from the Tibetan Nationality Middle School in Machu County staged a peaceful protest against the "lack of freedom". The students were angered in part by an official rebuff of a planned forum on the topic "Tibetan experiences of joy and sorrow," as well as a ban on any commemoration of the March 10, 1959 uprising that forced the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, into exile. The protest was joined by around 550 Tibetans. The security forces detained at least 40 protestors and a huge contingent of around 3000 armed police was deployed in the town. The school was surrounded by armed security forces and all the students were locked inside the campus. The school's headmaster, Kyabchen Dedrol, and two assistants-Do Re and Choekyong Tsering-were dismissed from their jobs and relieved Sonam Tse, head of the Machu Public Security Office, of his title. On 3 April 2010 the students staged another protest over the firing of the school's head master and two of his Tibetan assistants. On 6 April 2010, Tsering Dhondup belonging to Ngulra Rulsa Village and Thupten Nyima of Muru Ngakor Village were expelled from the Machu Tibetan middle school over their participation in the protest on 14 March 2010. Both were later detained in the Machu Public Security Bureau Detention Centre.

* International Campaign for Tibet, Tibetan UN Advocacy and Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy, NGOs without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

On 28 March 2010, a teacher of Machu Tibetan Nationality Primary School, Ngulra Topden, was arrested without any reason.

On 16 March 2010, students of Kanlho Tibetan Middle School no.3 staged a protest but were stopped from leaving school grounds by school security officials and teachers.

Recently a Tibetan school in Barkham County staged a protest due to which over 10 students were detained.

A primary school in Tsala Township, Driru County, held a bold protest on 22 March 2010. Around 20 students were arrested by the police. Some of the students identified were Thupten Jungjey, Thupten Wangchuk, Norbu Tenzin, Thekchok Gyatso, Rinchen Phuntsok, Yeten Lhundup and Tseten Dorjee. All the students arrested were aged between 11-15 years old.

The authorities in Zoege County in Ngaba Prefecture arrested three teachers, Kirti Kyab, Sonam and Dolha of Barkham Nationality Teacher Training Institute on 27 March 2010. Their arrest came in the aftermath of students in their respective teaching schools wore traditional Tibetan dresses and lit butter lamps on 10 March 2010 as a mark of respect for the Tibetans who died in spring 2008 uprising in Tibet.

Around 10 April 2010, about 30 students of a Khar Primary School in Sertha County were detained by the security forces. The students staged a protest and threw stones on government vehicles in reaction to the authority's parading of two monks on a vehicle. Although most of the students were released after brief detention, around 10 students are still being held. It was announced that the remaining students won't be released until they pay monetary fine of 2000 Yuan each and sign surety letter by their parents guaranteeing non participation by their children in such activities. Dhonyoe, a 16-year-old student of class VI who participated in the protest was expelled from the school. Dhonyoe hails from Thatsi Township, Sertha County. Following the incident Khar Primary school administration was fined 10,000 Chinese Yuan for students' indiscipline.

On 6 April 2010, two Tibetan students, Tashi Rabten (pen name -Teurang) and Druklo (pen name - Shokjang) of Northwest National Minorities University in Lanzhou were arrested. The duo was arrested after 16 police officers arrived in the university hostel and ransacked students rooms. The officials confiscated cellular phones, laptops and books from the students' rooms. Tashi was editor of the banned literary magazine Shar Dungri (Eastern Snow Mountain) and also edited a collection of work called "Written in Blood". He had earlier been arrested in July 2009 for his writings entitled "Fearless".

Two Teenage students of Serthar Buddhist Institute staged a protest at the county market on 30 March 2010. The teenagers, Tenzin Gyamtso, 16, is a monk of Nedo Monastery in Dzatoe County and Gawa Wangchen Topgyal, 15, a monk of Jeytrung Monastery in Dzatoe County, Jyekundo (Ch: Yushu/Jiegu) "Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture" (TAP) under Qinghai Province. There is no information on their current whereabouts.