



# TIBET INTERGROUP

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To the  
High Representative of the Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Mrs. Catherine Margaret Ashton,  
Baroness Ashton of Upholland

BERL 12/196

Brussels 18 October 2011

## **Self-Immolation of Tibetan Monks**

Dear Baroness Ashton,

On the Occasion of several reports by the Tibetan Parliament in Exile on the dramatic Self-Immolations of Tibetan Monks, we are writing you, asking for a strong response to the dramatic situation by the EU.

Kirti Monks live in fear of being arrested and mistreated constantly. Based on the reports by our colleagues of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile Self-Immolation as a form of protest against the incomparable oppression is now observed at increasingly short intervals:

The 19-year old Phuntsog and Tsewang Norbu, aged 29, burned themselves to death March 16 and August 15 to protest against the repressive policies of the Chinese government inside Tibet.

On September 27 Lobsang Kalsang, 18 years old and younger brother of Phuntsog, as well as Lobsang Kunchok, 19 years old, followed their example in the Ngaba County market. Chinese security officials are said to have doused the fire. Both are said to have survived the self-immolation but their present condition remains unknown.

Kesang Wangchuk, aged 17, a monk of Kirti monastery is reported to have set himself ablaze on the third October this year. He was immediately surrounded by Chinese soldiers, who extinguished the flames, beat him severely and took him away so that the extent of his injuries cannot be known.

Only four days later, Choephel, age 19 and Kayang age 18, former monks of Kirti monastery, have walked into the central town calling for religious freedom and the return of the Dalai Lama to Tibet just like their predecessors before self-immolating. It is reported that the Chinese Security personnel indiscriminately beat them while dousing the fire. Choephel is said to have succumbed to his injuries half an hour later while Khayang died on 11 October.

The eighth Tibetan self-immolated in the Ngaba region of north-eastern Tibet on Saturday, 15 October 2011. Norbu Damdul, aged 19, a former monk of Kirti monastery set himself on fire in the central town of. According to eye witnesses, the police doused the flame and knocked him to the ground by hitting him with the fire extinguisher. He was believed to be alive despite being severely burned. He was then bundled into a small police van and taken away in the opposite direction of the local hospital. His condition and whereabouts is still unknown.

All Monks have reportedly called for religious freedom in Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Tibet before setting themselves on fire.

Such drastic form of protest illustrates the degree of despair and helplessness of the Tibetan people inside Tibet whose fundamental rights are violated profoundly.

The Tibet Intergroup of the EP is deeply concerned about the situation described and we hope that you share our opinion.

Yours sincerely,

*Members of the Tibet Intergroup*