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**HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S
ATTENTION**

**Joint written statement* submitted by France Libertés : Fondation Danielle
Mitterrand a non-governmental organization in special consultative status and
Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAP),
a non-governmental organization on the Roster**

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

[21 May 2008]

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

The Human Rights violations in Tibet deserve the Council's attention

A Rare Testimony of a Tibetan Youth in Lhasa

A rare testimony¹ from a Tibetan youth detained by the Chinese authorities following the 14 March disturbances in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, has been obtained by the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (www.tchrd.org). The testimony which is reproduced below has been dictated to a third party and edited by TCHRD to protect the identity of this Tibetan youth. While (***) denotes information withheld, further details,

comments or explanations are provided in square brackets. MRAP believes such testimonies can shed more light to the ground realities of current and urgent human rights situation confronted by the Tibetan people, especially when no independent monitors has been allowed to enter Tibet.

MRAP calls upon the relevant Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Council to take serious note of this testimony whose

Excerpts of the testimony

"On (***) March, around one hundred soldiers entered my house, broke down five doors, checked everything and threw it all on the floor and hit everyone present there. It was like a robbery or burglary. There were a lot of firearms and they were very rough with us. I was arrested. They took me with them, with my thumbs tied behind my back, very tightly, resulting in the whole area being numb... They treated us very harshly.

Talking to each other, they said, "This is our chance", and they beat us. At first I thought that they were going to kill me, they hit my head a lot, and skull can be broken easily. It is not like the rest of the body. They took me to prison. For four days they didn't ask me anything, they just threw me in. They gave us half a steamed bun a day. That's very small. Everyone were very thirsty and a lot of people drank their urine [the detainees were not provided with water] . We had no clothes, no blankets, nothing to lie down on, nothing [just cement floors] and it was very cold. For four days nobody spoke to us, they just left us there."

"During the day it's quiet, there's nothing in Lhasa during the day. Between 11:00 at night and 5-6:00 [in the morning] they arrest thousands of people. In that room, after four or five days, they gave us two steamed buns with hot water. We were (***) people in that room. Very bad. We heard a lot of things. Many people had their arms or legs broken or gunshot wounds but they weren't taken to hospital. They were there with us. It was really terrible. I can't believe that we are in the 21st century. For instance, one boy who was shot four times, one from here to there [the bullet entered from the left side of his back and exited from the left side of his chest, near his heart], one from here to here [from inner left elbow to inner left wrist], and one here [a horizontal wound on his upper right arm]. Some people had their ribs broken. One man was punched in his [right] eye, and it was all swollen and black and blue, very bad. People had their teeth broken, these are just examples. A lot of terrible things were done."

"One of the problems is that people have no food, they are very hungry, they are just falling over. One boy fell into the toilet, all in the same room, and he was cut right across his face [under his chin along the jaw]. For instance, a lot of people have psychological problems, and they're the first to collapse. A boy from Tse-Tang, he has a problem of the "heart", a

psychological problem, and he was very thin. At first he fell two or three times every day but they didn't care."

"The worst thing – this is Gondzhe [the name of the prison] , in Lhasa there are nineteen prisons, the biggest is Drapchi and there is one in Chushul [Ch: Qushu County] , they are empty, they showed the visitors that nobody is in prison, it's just for show. Usually there is no prison at the train station, but they rented a very big building and they put people there and in Du-Long [Toelung Dechen County] and at the train station, and in Gondzhe ; they put people in these three places. At night they bring a big bus, and many soldiers come, and one hundred to one hundred and fifteen go to Du-Long. They say it's time to go home, " You haven't done anything wrong, you're going home, " but they put them in a huge bus to Du-Long or to the train station. They've mixed up the people and transferred people from here to there [from prison to prison] . I didn't see this myself, but friends told me what they saw at Du-Long. Some monks had sacks put over their heads and they were taken away and didn't come back, so maybe they were killed."

"I met an old man, 65 years old, who had two ribs broken and he was all bent over [demonstrates a bent man] , and he couldn't stand up straight, he was dying, so the police took him to People's Hospital, where one or two people die every day [due to police violence] . The people who are taken to hospital are usually people who have been shot or beaten, and they usually die there. A brother and sister from (***) , the brother was younger, were sleeping in the same room and all of a sudden soldiers came and threw them out of the window from a high floor to the ground, the brother was killed on the spot. Yes, right outside the building. The sister didn't die, but she can't lie down, she has to remain in a sitting position all the time. They took the body away and told her that she is forbidden to tell anyone. (***) These are just a few examples. There are many problems like this." "Many questions were asked of people who were not guilty of anything. They are just [guilty of being] Tibetans. "

"Many young people in Lhasa, for example, if we were together on the 14th [of March] , I was beaten, so I was " sold " and then you're with me [with the prison warden doing the beating] . But I have friends in (***) monastery, I would rather die than give them away. I saw a lot of things that they did in prison. A guy from Dhadezhe [possibly Dartsedo County] had a new jacket, so they beat him and he died, because of the jacket, because it was very new, so they said he stole it, so because of his new coat he was killed."

"There are a lot of high school students from Sauko . A seventeen-year-old who had not participated in the events of the 14th [of March] , all his clothes were taken away, they tied his hands and they pushed a wagon at him until he fell, there are all kinds of torture methods. This kid was very young and he didn't even do anything. Afterwards he said that he'd done all kinds of things, that happens to a lot of people, they pressure people to admit things they never did. I didn't see the dead people, but in prison people called out to the police or soldiers, " Someone's dead !" , every day people shout that. At Gondzhe there are nine buildings, and each building has eleven rooms and in each room there are twenty or thirty people.

And one day, a Chinese man was asked some questions, someone called and asked how many people had been arrested and he said less than ten thousand... When I got out [of prison] I heard that many were arrested at Drepung Monastery. I was released on (***) April ."

(***) So I walk in the streets and I see the soldiers asking me for my identity papers, they look at my card and ask me, " When were you born ?" and if there's the smallest mistake you're finished. They check the picture and your face, but a Chinese person can pass right by [without identity papers] , that's okay...When I was in prison, a Tibetan policeman told me " Kneel down here !" , I had my thumbs tied behind my back. He sat down [on a chair in front of me] , put his foot on my head and kicked my forehead with his foot, pushed my head back and slapped my face over and over again, and I saw this man and I was very sad. He's Tibetan and now I see him every day, I've seen him many times [since then] .

A lot of Chinese and Tibetans jumped on my back and kicked me and beat me over the head, they twisted my head back so I couldn't see their faces, but to show me your face and to do those bad things – that's the worst thing."

"This is just an experience, I could learn a lot from it. In prison sometimes I dreamed about food and I remembered the food we cook at home, my mother and my sister's cooking and I could smell it, and then I really appreciated how tasty the food is at home. I usually eat everything and then I say " That wasn't so good, " and now I've learnt that it's very, very good. These are the worst things that I've ever seen in my life, but you learn how to be a good person. Sometimes, when my (***)'s children are here, and they don't do their schoolwork, I yell at them and hit them.

But now if I yell at them it pains me sometimes. I've learned a lot... Many people are dying today or being crippled with broken arms and legs, and that's very bad. And people are in prison, like me, and I think about the people in prison all the time.

I think about the terrible state they are in. Young people, 16 or 17 years old, crying all the time – it makes me really sad. I saw people with broken limbs and people who'd been shot – seeing their pale faces is very, very sad."

¹ The full text of the testimony is available at: <http://www.tchrd.org/press/2008/pr20080519.html>